

BRITISH DRIVING SOCIETY



**ASSESSMENT OF ELEMENTARY COMPETENCE
WITH THE DRIVEN HORSE**

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Version 1.1

The British Driving Society Ltd

Hoste House

Whiting Street

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk, IP33 1NR

www.britishdrivingsociety.co.uk | 01284 630591

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This assessment is a Unit based competence. Candidates may take all units together or separately. Candidates will receive a record of units achieved but certification will only be received when all units are in place.

NB For a unit to be achieved the candidate must complete all the elements in that unit successfully.

INTRODUCTION

Objective

To be capable of harnessing up, putting to and driving a single turnout to a safe standard, using the candidate's own turnout or one borrowed or hired for the occasion.

Unit 1 Driving – Prepare to Drive Elements 1.1 and 1.2

Unit 2 Driving – Practical Driving Elements 2.1 and 2.3

Unit 3 Horse Knowledge and Care Unit

Section 1 Practical Performance

Elements 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3

Section 2 General Knowledge and Understanding

Elements 3.4 to 3.10

UNIT 1 DRIVING – PREPARE TO DRIVE

ELEMENT 1.1 Clean Some Items from a Set of Single Leather Harness

Equipment

A set of traditional English leather harness with full and breast collars.

Harness cleaning equipment.

Performance Criteria

- a. Selected items from a set of single harness are cleaned.
- b. A set of harness is correctly assembled.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a. Reason for cleaning and inspecting is discussed.
- b. Range of cleaning materials is identified.
- c. Drying procedure is discussed.
- d. Storage is discussed.
- e. All parts of a set of single harness are named.

ELEMENT 1.2 Harness Up and Put to with an Assistant, Using Planned Procedure**Equipment**

Single harness: traditional leather or synthetic harness.
Vehicle: two wheeled traditional- style vehicle.

Performance Criteria

- a. Control of horse is maintained at all times.
- b. Harness is selected and fitted to the horse.
- c. Adjustments are made where necessary.
- d. Horse is safely put to the vehicle.
- e. Areas of potential weakness on vehicle are identified.
- f. Health and Safety of horse, self and others is maintained at all times
- g. Spare equipment is discussed and identified.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a. Safe fitting of harness demonstrated and discussed.
- b. Dangers of inappropriate procedures when making adjustments discussed
- c. Balancing a vehicle demonstrated and discussed.
- d. Mounting and dismounting procedure. The pros and cons of the different methods are discussed

- e. The importance of adopting a safe driving position is discussed.
- f. The role of the groom/passenger is discussed in broad terms.
 - (a) During a cross country competition.
 - (b) General safety aspects during recreational/private driving.

UNIT 2 DRIVING – PRACTICAL DRIVING

ELEMENT 2.1 Carry out Road Driving Manoeuvres using any Suitable Turnout from the List Below and the English Coaching Style of Rein-Handling. (Reins held in the left hand with right hand supporting)

Equipment and Location

- Location simulated road conditions – see page
- Single vehicle 2 or 4 wheeled, traditional, exercise or competition.
 - o (Pneumatic tyres are allowed but not single seater vehicles. The assessor **MUST** be able to sit beside the candidate.)
- Single harness traditional or synthetic.

Performance Criteria

- a. Reins and whip are taken up appropriately.
- b. Horse and vehicle are driven safely and smoothly at an appropriate speed to road conditions.
- c. Simulated road hazards and signs etc negotiated safely.
- d. A correct position on the simulated road is maintained.
- e. Road safety procedure is followed.
- f. Appropriate hand signals are used.
- g. Health and safety of horse, self and others is maintained throughout.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a. Horse's reaction to working alone or in company is discussed.
- b. Application of the Highway Code and Road Traffic Act are discussed

- c. Use and identification of the aids including the use of the whip is discussed.
- d. Procedure to be undertaken in the event of a road traffic accident is discussed
- e. Methods of general accident prevention are discussed.
- f. The range of hand signals is discussed and demonstrated.
- g. Some do's and don'ts of driving are identified.

ELEMENT 2.2 Drive a simple test using any safe style of rein-handling using any turnout from the list below.

Equipment and Location

Location an enclosed arena approximately 60 x 40m, ménage or level fenced field.

Equipment road cones and markers.

Single vehicle 2 or 4 wheeled, traditional, exercise or competition.

Performance Criteria

- a. Carry out a series of movements on both reins including:
 - 20 metre circles.
 - A serpentine.
 - A halt.
- b. A halt is maintained and an appropriate salute is given.
- c. Three sets of markers or cones are negotiated.
- d. The Health and Safety of horse, self and others is maintained at all times.
- e. Agreed cooling down procedures is followed on completion.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a. The use of the aids is discussed.
- b. The working trot is discussed.
- c. Lengthening and shortening strides, correct bends and a progressive halt are discussed.

ELEMENT 2.3 Take Out and Attend to Horse and Vehicle After Use.

Equipment

Single vehicle 2 or 4 wheeled, traditional, exercise or competition.

Single harness traditional or synthetic.

Performance Criteria

- a. Vehicle is halted in an appropriate location for taking out.
- b. Safe dismounting procedure is followed.
- c. Horse is taken out of the vehicle and led away.
- d. Harness is removed using safe procedure.
- e. Control of the horse is maintained at all times.
- f. Health and Safety of horse, self and others is maintained at all times.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a. Safety procedure when taking out is identified.
- b. Inspecting vehicle for wear and tear discussed.
- c. Care of vehicle after use is discussed.
- d. Storage of vehicle after use is discussed.
- e. Storage and care of whip after use is discussed.
- f. Care of the horse after work is discussed.

UNIT 3 HORSE KNOWLEDGE AND CARE**Section 1 Practical Performance****ELEMENT 3.1 Groom the Stabled Horse****Equipment and Location**

All items of grooming equipment, head collar and lead rope, loose box.

Performance Criteria

- a. A head collar is put on using safe practice.
- b. The horse is tied up using safe procedure.
- c. Use of each item of grooming equipment is demonstrated.
- d. Control of the horse is maintained throughout.
- e. Health and Safety of horse, self and others is maintained at all times.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a. All items of a grooming kit are named.
- b. Use of grooming kit identified.
- c. Strapping and quartering is discussed.
- d. The reasons for grooming are discussed.
- e. Care of the grooming equipment is discussed.

ELEMENT 3.2 Lead a Horse In Hand from an Open Bridle.**Equipment and Location**

Open bridle, enclosed environment.

Performance Criteria

- a. A bridle is fitted on the horse.
- b. Horse is lead away and returned at the walk
- c. Control of the horse is maintained at all times
- d. Health and Safety of horse, self and others is maintained at all times.
- e. Bridle is removed using safe practice.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a. Fitting and adjustment of the bridle is discussed.
- b. The importance of using sound equipment is recognised.
- c. The importance of an alert handler is recognised.
- d. Appropriate procedure for changing direction is discussed.
- e. Safety footwear is discussed.

ELEMENT 3.3 Fill and Tie Up a Hay Net

Equipment

Bale of hay, spring balance for weighing, hay net, tie ring.

Performance Criteria

- a. Select hay for use.
- b. Fill and weigh hay net.
- c. Tie up using safe practice.

Knowledge and Understanding

- a. When and how to soak hay is discussed and the reason for doing so.
- b. Reason for selecting hay is discussed.
- c. How and why to weigh hay is discussed.
- d. Position and height of net when tied is identified.
- e. Method of securing hay net is discussed.
- f. The use of dust masks is discussed.

SECTION 2 General Knowledge and Understanding

ELEMENT 3.4 Feeding and Watering the Stabled Horse

- a. At least 4 common feed samples are identified.
- b. Storage of hard feed is discussed.

- c. Taint, mould and foreign bodies are discussed.
- d. Safe preparation of linseed, bran, whole barley and sugar beet pulp are discussed and the reasons for feeding each.
- e. Different samples of hay and haylage are identified.
- f. The quantity and type of feed to be given related to size of animal and workload is discussed in broad terms.
- g. Different methods of providing water to the stabled horse and its importance are discussed.

ELEMENT 3.5 The Horse at Grass

- a. How and when to supplement the horse's food at grass are discussed.
- b. Feeding several horses turned out together is discussed.
- c. The reason for checking water supply is discussed.
- d. The different methods of providing water to the grass kept horse, the merits or otherwise are discussed.
- e. The reasons for frequent checks on horses at grass are identified.
 - In summer
 - In winter
- f. The different types of fencing available are discussed suggesting orders of preference.
- g. Some poisonous plants are identified.
- h. Grooming the horse at grass is discussed.

ELEMENT 3.6 Stable Care

- a. Items of stable tools and their use are identified.
- b. The importance of well-managed beds is discussed.
- c. Three types of bedding materials and their management are discussed
- d. The functions of "bankings" are discussed.

ELEMENT 3.7 The Horse's Health

- a. Some points in the conformation of the horse are named.
- b. What to look for when inspecting a horse first thing in the morning and last thing at night is discussed.

- c. The detection of heat and swelling in the horse's leg is discussed and possible reasons and treatment are discussed.
- d. How to recognise colic and when to call the vet is discussed.
- e. Some common causes of lameness/ailments in the harness horse are suggested and their possible treatment discussed.
- g. Equine flu and tetanus prevention and vaccinations are discussed.
- h. Internal parasites, a programme for prevention, what to use and how often is discussed.
- i. At least 4 items kept in an equine first aid cupboard are discussed.

Element 3.8 Foot Care

- a. How to recognise a worn shoe and when to call the farrier is explained.
- b. Signs to look for in a well shod foot are described.
- c. The stages of shoeing are explained.
- d. The farrier's tools are identified.

Element 3.9 The Competition Horse

- a. The requirement for a fit horse is discussed in general terms including the dangers of using overweight, unfit horses in competitions.
- b. Some basic ways to achieve fitness are suggested.
- c. Why have a rest period during a marathon or long distance drive is discussed.
- d. The care of a horse during a rest period is discussed.
- e. The reasons why water should always be available are discussed.
- f. Signs of distress are recognised
- g. The need to call a vet is discussed.

Element 3.10 Health and Safety

- a. Some items of protective clothing are suggested for:
 - The whip
 - The groom/passenger
 - The stable hand
 - The horse
- b. How to make an emergency services call is discussed in detail.

- c. The planned procedure in the event of a stable fire is identified.

- d. At least 2 different types of fire fighting equipment and their use are identified.