



Stage 7

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

~Harold R. McAlindon

Student Name:

Date:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

Pass/Resubmit:

Pass/Resubmit:

Pass/Resubmit:

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FREESTYLE

Tools: Bareback & Bridleless

FS1. MOUNT YOUR HORSE FROM BOTH SIDES.

STAGE 7:

- Student mounts without assistance (unless can provide sufficient medical reason.)
- Student shows some athletic ability and/or savvy by teaching horse to get lower.
- It's permissible to stand horse on a downhill slope or in a small ditch in the ground.
- Student can vault on or teach horse to lift them up with their neck.
- Horse stands still.

PRE STAGE 7:

- Using a fence or mounting block, or having help from another (unless medical condition dictates.)
- Horse does not stand still.
- Student is noticeably unfit and has not put effort into learning how to get on their horse unassisted.

RESULT:

__STAGE 7 PASS __PLEASE RESUBMIT

FREESTYLE

CONTINUED

FS4. WALK FORWARD, TURN LEFT, TURN RIGHT, TURN A FULL CIRCLE (PIVOT) AND BACK UP.

STAGE 7:

- Student shows balance and confidence.
- Impulsion is good; horse not trying to run off.
- Each turn is completed with rider focusing ahead (not looking at horse) and riding with whole body: arms, legs, and belly button.
- Pivot is close to horse planting a hind foot, should not exceed a circle size determined by a hula hoop (approx. 3' diameter)
- Back up is willing; steps flow in succession without faltering.

PRE STAGE 7:

- Student loses balance.
- Pivot is inadequate horse spins back end around, exceeds circle of 3' diameter.
- Horse gets faster when student puts a leg on for turns.
- Horse puts ears back when rider puts legs on or asks the horse to back up.

RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FREESTYLE

CONTINUED

Tools: Saddle, Horseman’s Sticks (2)

FS6. BACK YOUR HORSE UP IN A STRAIGHT LINE (FACING ASSESSOR) FOR AT LEAST 10 FEET.

STAGE 7:

- Low phases, Horseman’s Sticks can drive in small circles or slightly up and down. Must not contact horse or be vigorous.
- Straight.
- Horse is confident and responsive, head reasonably level.
- Steps flow, do not stop.
- Student is focusing ahead.
- Does not use feet to drive horse backwards, only Horseman’s Sticks as isolation.

PRE STAGE 7:

- High Phases. Horseman’s Sticks contact horse.
- Crooked back up.
- Horse puts head in the air, avoiding communication. Acts head shy.
- Faltering back up, horse stops now and then instead of maintaining continuous flow.
- Student looking at horse.
- Use of feet for driving backwards.
- Using feet instead of Horseman’s Stick.

RESULT:

__STAGE 7 PASS __PLEASE RESUBMIT

FREESTYLE

CONTINUED

FS7. TRANSITION FROM HALT TO CANTER.

STAGE 7:

- Horse goes directly from halt to canter, no walk or trot steps in between.
- Horse is willing to go forward, takes low phases, 1 or 2.

PRE STAGE 7:

- Horse walks or trots two or more steps in transition.
- Student kicks horse to go.
- Student is looking down.
- Horse puts ears back or swishes tail violently/angrily.
- Phases too high.

RESULT:

 STAGE 7 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FS8. SHOW THREE SIMPLE (DROP TO TROT) LEAD CHANGES.

STAGE 7:

- Transitions are smooth and flowing, horse comes out on correct leads.
- May be in serpentine form or in a straight line.
- No more than 5 trot strides.

PRE STAGE 7:

- Horse resists transition by running through Horseman's Sticks.
- Horse resists canter again, trots for more than 4 strides after asking for the canter.
- Wrong lead is taken in canter transition.
- Tossing head.

RESULT:

 STAGE 7 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FREESTYLE

CONTINUED

FS12. GALLOP A BARREL PATTERN WITH FOUR BARRELS 90' APART. SHOW TWO TURNS TO THE RIGHT AND TWO TURNS TO THE LEFT. STOP YOUR HORSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BARRELS AND COME DOWN TO A 9 STEP BACK UP.

STAGE 7:

- Student gallops, it's a fast exercise.
- Student “pushes” turns rather than leans into them.
- Horse is not impulsive, stops willingly using 9 steps. Slide stop is acceptable.
- Direct and supporting rein is used.

PRE STAGE 7:

- Student goes too slow, canters to medium speed only.
- Reins positions inaccurate.
- Leaning into turns rather than pushing turns.
- Reins too tight, no longer freestyle.
- Horse won't stop, pushes on bit.
- Turns required are not shown.
- Cross-firing or counter cantering not accepted.

RESULT:

__STAGE 7 PASS __PLEASE RESUBMIT

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

- Please video the tasks in order and avoid editing.
- Enclose task sheet with your choice of either a DVD or Computer Stick and mail to the office. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of assessment sheet and video. You may also provide a Youtube submission via email, however please make sure to include your task sheet as an attachment and email to info@thehorseranch.com.
- Assessment cost is \$2 per taped minute plus GST. Please make cheques payable to: The 2005 Horse Ranch Inc. or contact The Horse Ranch directly for Credit Card payment.

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