Horse Skillathon Study Guide 2017

The Horse Skillathon will take place on Friday, July 21, at the Union County Fairgrounds Livestock Show Arena. The Skillathon is open to all 4-H and FFA members with horse and horseless horse projects. An exhibitor must participate in the Horse Skillathon in order to receive a fair premium from the Union County Fair Board. All ages, Junior (8-10 year olds), Intermediate (11-13 year olds) and Senior (14-18 year olds) will begin the Skillathon at 7:00 p.m. Exhibitors should be present, on the bleachers in the Livestock Show Arena, at 6:30 p.m. for Orientation. (Age divisions for the skillathon are your age as of January 1, 2016). Date and time for Richwood Fair Horse Skillathon will be announced.

Horse project members should bring only their completed **2017 Equine Project Record Book**. Horseless Horse project members should bring their completed project book #173.

For Union County Fair: Awards will be given to the 1st-6th place scorers in each age division.

For Richwood Fair: Awards will be given to the 1st-5th place scorers in each age division.

Outstanding rosettes will be awarded to all participants who score 85% (approx. % at this time) and higher in each age division. Members must be in good standing with their club/chapter to be eligible to receive awards.

**Station Break Down:**

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Tie Breaker (same for everyone):

**Station 1 Record Book**

Present your completed Record Book to the judge. Your book must be completed prior to arrival at the Skillathon. Your book will be scored on completeness and neatness.

**Horse Project Members:** Bring Equine Record Book. You need only one record book per member, not per horse project.

**Horseless Horse Project Members:** Bring your completed Project Book #173. Completion requirements are as follows (also found in Member Project Guide in your book): Step 1 & 2: complete 10 interest areas, Step 3: complete 3 activities, Step 4: complete 2 activities.

**Station 2 Interview Station**

You will have an interview for each horse project or horseless horse project you are enrolled in. You will be asked 5 questions by an interview judge based on your project book(s). It will be up to you to properly state which project(s) you are taking when you arrive at the Interview Station. You will have a 5 question interview for each project. Sample questions are included in this Study Guide. FFA horse project members will be asked questions from #175 Light Horse Selection.
Station 3  Safety Sense

You will be asked questions about Horse Safety. You may be asked various types of questions, be asked to identify mistakes in horse safety based on photos and/or identify other horse safety problems. Information for this station can be found in Horses, Safety & You, and pages 19-21 of Beginning Horse Management #174.

Station 4  Parts of the Horse

**Juniors:** You will be asked to identify 20 parts of the horse.
**Intermediates:** You will be asked to identify 30 parts of the horse.
**Seniors:** You will be asked to identify 40 parts of the horse.

You will not know which parts you will be asked so you should study all parts. A horse parts diagram can be found on page 81 in Beginning Horse Management (#174).

Station 5 – Horse Nutrition

You will be responsible for identifying feed samples and knowing the nutritional information associated with those samples. This material is available from the Union County Extension Office. There are sample feed kits available for sign-out by 4-H members for studying.

Station 6 – Intermediates & Seniors  Hoof Anatomy

You will be responsible for identifying parts of the lower leg and hoof. The resources for study are the two diagrams located on page 104 in Beginning Horse Management (#174).

Station 7 - Seniors  Diseases

You will be asked questions on diseases. Information on this station can be found on pages 122-127 of Beginning Horse Management and pages 88-91 of Horse Nutrition.

Tie Breaker Station (Optional)

At the tie breaker station, you will be asked to identify a variety of horse related things such as tack, bits, plants, feedstuff and farrier tools. Scores from this station will only be used in the event of a tie for award placings.
Horse Skillathon Questions

#173 Horseless Horse Project
1. The first horse to look like the modern horse was known as ________?
2. True or False  You should approach a horse from directly in front of or behind it.
3. What is the safe distance to keep between you and another horse if riding single file, head to tail?
4. Male horses are called either __________ or __________. Female horses are called __________.
5. When referring to the color of a horse, the term “points” means that a horse has what?
6. One “hand”, used to measure horses, is equal to how many inches? What is the minimum height for a horse? If an equine is not this tall, it is known as a what?
7. Which color of horse has black points and zebra stripes on their legs and whithers?
8. What body part is at easiest to watch to tell an equine’s mood?
9. Name two of the four main diseases that can be prevented by vaccination.
10. What are the four gaits, in order of speed, from slowest to fastest?

#174 Beginning Horse Management (First Year pages 19-79)
1. Why should you use a bowline knot if you are going to use a neck rope?
2. This basic aid needs reinforcement from other natural aids and should be used as little as possible when riding.
3. Describe the difference between a pinto and a paint horse?
4. A turn should always be made in what direction during showmanship? What is the exception to this rule?
5. When mounting, make sure the reins have _______ _______ with the horse’s mouth. Why?
6. In order to condition a soft horse, it is best to spend hours walking and trotting it. This is called __________. Besides improved conditioning, what is the other benefit for this process?
7. What percent of body weight is consumed each day in dry feed? How much does YOUR horse weigh? __________ How much dry feed should be fed then based on its weight? __________
8. State the two reasons given in the book for checking after feeding to see that feed is not being refused.
9. What nutrient is consumed at a rate of 12-20 gallons per day and should be available at all times?
10. Name and describe the five basic coat colors.

#174 Beginning Horse Management (Second Year pages 81-156)
1. Describe the difference between the canter (lope) and the gallop (run).
2. What is the normal range for the horse’s temperature? Describe the four factors that can increase the temperature. At what temperature should a equine be immediately seen by a veterinarian?
3. What term is used to describe some sort of abdominal pain due to a digestive disturbance in the horse? List five symptoms of this condition.
4. How high should you hold a rear foot when providing hoof care?
5. What is a Galvayne’s Groove and what does it tell you?
6. What test is used to identify Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)? How do you treat/cure EIA?
7. True or False  The Intestinal Ascarid is the most common and harmful internal parasite. If false, what is the correct answer?
8. At what age should fillies and colts be separated? Why?
9. What are two ways foals may become infected with Threadworms?
10. What is the difference between the “Produce” and the “Get”?

#175 Light Horse Selection
1. What are the five considerations in judging halter classes?
2. What three terms are used to describe muscling?
3. Judges in non-reason classes have how long to determine placings? How long in classes with oral reasons?
4. Describe the two distinct types of Shetland pony.
5. True or False  You may physically inspect or touch an equine during a 4-H judging contest.
6. Why is it bad for a horse to "run downhill"?
7. Why is it objectionable for a horse to be “weak topped”?
8. In halter/performance classes, what are the four disqualifications?
9. Horses with a distinct depression just in front of the withers are called __________ or __________. What is unique about the muscling of this animal?
10. In oral reasons, what is a “grant”?

#177 Horse Training
1. What three things do you need to understand to train your horse?
2. What is a “cue”?
3. How long, after an undesirable act, do you have to provide a negative reinforce to a horse?
4. What is the recommended way to punish a horse for reacting with fear to something?
5. What is et-epimeletic behavior? Why is it useful? What basic need can it meet and how?
6. Describe the merry-go-round horse concept.
7. How much force should be ideally exerted in a cue? Name two common things this amount of force is equivalent to.
8. Two training procedures to desensitize your equine to their environment are _________ & _________.
9. What is the benefit to teaching a horse to hobble? In what specific environment could this be a benefit?
10. What is a pulley rein? When is it used?

#180 Learning to Jump
1. According to the Resource Guide, jumping helps develop what 3 things?
2. If a horse is giving a rider trouble, it is often the fault of the rider. Name 4 things, according to your book, the rider can do to influence the horse.
3. What equipment should be used by the rider when jumping?
4. Bumping the horse in the mouth can cause what? When working to correct these behaviors, what stage do you stop at until they have been corrected?
5. What is the proper correction for a horse that is having trouble taking off, either too close or too far from the jumps?
6. What happens when you look to the side while jumping? Why is this a problem?
7. When balanced over your horse while jumping, where should your eyes be?
8. This gait is the proper gait for cavaletti work.
9. How high should new jumps be when starting to work them?
10. When you cannot get the feel of the rhythm and balance of your horse, what 2 things can you do?

#181 Draft Horse
1. Identify four of the five draft horse breeds.
2. If fungus is present in the feathers, how is it treated?
3. What is Azoturia? What is another name for it?
4. Most draft horses eat about how much of their weight in feed daily?
5. What are the five nutrients needed for proper nutrition? Which one should always be available?
6. Describe a calf-kneed horse. Why is it a problem?
7. Describe the general shape of a draft horseshoe. Why is this shape necessary?
8. What are the uses for the basic types of collars?
9. Name the parts of a bitting harness. When is a bitting harness used?
10. What is the heaviest of all draft breeds?

#182 Horse Nutrition
1. What is colostrum? Why is it important?
2. What is the general amount of water a horse will consume?
3. What are two potential problems from allowing a horse that has been worked and is very hot unlimited access to water?
4. In Ohio, how much acreage is needed to support one horse during the summer?
5. In a normal feeding program with good quality feeds, horses need how many vitamins added to their rations?
6. Horses eat what percent of their weight in dry feed per day?
7. An equine’s energy needs are best met by __________ , and their protein needs are best met by ______________.
8. This tree is often used for shavings and is poisonous to horses in amounts as little as 20%.
9. The five characteristics of hay to consider when evaluating it are what? Describe each characteristic.
10. True or False A feed ration should be at least 75% roughage to ensure proper digestive tract function. Why or why not.

#184 Standardbred Horses
1. What three breeds primarily influenced the breed and why?
2. Describe the “masculine” features desirable in an equine.
3. The Pacer’s side-to-side motion of their gate has earned the nickname _______.
4. This interference, common in both Trotters and Pacers, occurs when the front foot, as it’s raised, rotates inward and hits the inside of the opposite knee.
5. Why is “grabbing on” considered undesirable?
6. What is worn by almost all pacers to help them stay in their winging, lateral gait?
7. This is known as the natural “shock absorber” of a horse’s hoof?
8. A horse is said to be “breaking over” when _______________.
9. Most pacers will wear a shadow roll for what reason?
10. Describe the Trotter’s gait.

#185 Equine Reproduction and Genetics
1. When does a mare ovulate?
2. What is the length of a normal estrus?
3. After what age does a mare’s uterus begin to deteriorate if not in foal?
4. Why is Red Bagging a concern?
5. When does the mare’s milk production begin to drop off?
6. What are three reasons for increased maternal effects on foal makeup?
7. What is prepotency? When is this most observed in breeding programs?
8. Which gene is responsible for producing the Rabicano pattern? Describe the pattern.
9. What is an allele?
10. A mature stallion may be hand bred to a maximum of _____ mares in a season or pasture bred to a maximum of _____ mares each year.

#188 Trail Riding
1. Why does the ideal trail horse have large nostrils and a trim throat latch?
2. What should be the soundest part of a trail horse? Why?
3. For every one mile of a competitive trail ride, you need to ride how many miles in preparation?
4. What is the length of time given for horse recovery at PR stops?
5. Besides cooling, how can walking benefit a horse at a PR stop?
6. List three reasons for elimination at the Pre-Ride check.
7. When may a 15 year old ride in the junior ride?
8. On a picket line, allow at least _________ between horses to prevent fighting.
9. True or False  All horses will swim.
10. What material is often melted on to horseshoes to give traction on hard surfaces and extend shoe life?

#189 Dressage
1. The US has how many levels of competition?
2. How many flying lead changes of leg may be required during a Grand Prix test?
3. List the natural aids which may always be used in dressage to get a horse to perform.
4. Describe the posture needed when correctly mounted for dressage.
5. What is the recommended method to learn how to separate your hands from your body when riding, give the hands to the horse’s head and mouth, and never allowing them to bounce along during the trot?
6. What score is considered sufficient during a dressage competition?
7. How many errors may be made before being eliminated from a competition?
8. How long may a whip be that is used as an aid?
9. Once the horse understands the turn on the forehand, the next step taught in lateral aids is __________.
10. What movement is used during all transitions?