Horse Skillathon Study Guide 2019

The Horse Skillathon will take place on Friday, July 19, 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, 2019). Date and time for Richwood Fair Horse Skillathon will be announced.

Horse project members should bring only their completed 2019 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.

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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

Juniors: You will be asked to identify 20 parts of the horse.
Intermediates: You will be asked to identify 20 parts of the horse & 10 parts of saddles.
Seniors: You will be asked to identify 20 parts of the horse and 20 tack parts.

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).

Intermediates: Saddle parts are found on pages 23 and 24 of Beginning Horse Management (#174).

Seniors: Tack parts pages 23-27 of 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  Body Conditioning Score

You will be responsible for knowing the information found on the Scoring Your Horse’s Body Condition adapted from the Henneke System BCS, 1983. You may be required to calculate a body condition score for an animal based on a series of photos, match the explanations for each condition score based on the various parts of the animal, explain the difference between body scores based on a particular body part and/or tips to increase/decrease body score.

The mentioned reference material is found at https://www.platinumperformance.com/body-condition-score

Station 7 - Seniors  Lameness

You will be asked 10 questions regarding lameness. They will be from the article found at American Association of Equine Practitioners. The link for this article “Lameness Exams: Evaluating the Lame Horse” is: https://aaep.org/horsehealth/lameness-exams-evaluating-lame-horse

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. Name two of the four main diseases that can be prevented by vaccinations.
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. What is a farrier’s job and how often does it need done?
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 withers?
8. What body part is at easiest to watch to tell an equine’s mood?
9. The first set of teeth that a horse gets are temporary and called what?
10. What are the four gaits, in order of speed, from slowest to fastest?

#174 Beginning Horse Management (First Year pages 19-79)
1. The___________is an excellent tool to remove dirt, mud, loose hair, and sweat marks.
2. Name the four basic aids used to cue a horse.
3. What breed is known for their stamina and endurance and excel in competitive trail riding?
4. A turn should always be made in what direction during showmanship? What is the exception to this rule?
5. Describe the proper position of the western rider and hunt seat rider
6. What method is used for showmanship that determines where the exhibitor stands in relationship to the judge? Where does the exhibitor stand in relation to the judge using this method?
7. Name the five essential nutrients that all animals need
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. Using color terms, how would you tell a bay and chestnut apart?

#174 Beginning Horse Management (Second Year pages 81-156)
1. Name the following defects in the horse’s way of going and in what horses are they most common:
   a. Throwing the front feet forward as the foot moves forward
   b. A short, quick choppy stride
2. What is the normal range for the horse’s temperature? Describe the four factors that can increase the temperature. At what temperature should an 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. What is the common name for pulmonary emphysema? What is the cause?
5. The___________should have the same angle of the pastern.
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. Name two internal parasites that are more common in younger horses.
9. ____________is the process of filing off sharp points on the teeth. Give one reason why this is necessary.
10. What is the normal range of hoof growth per month?
#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. What term describes the crest of the neck when it becomes invaded with fat tissue?
5. What joint is known as the pivot of action in the horse?
6. Name the six features of the horse’s stride
7. Why is it objectionable for a horse to be “weak topped”
8. In halter/performance classes, what are the four disqualifications?
9. Name the four classifications of horse types by size.
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. When should training begin in young horses?
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. What is the first bit that should be used when training a horse? Give two examples
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. While cantering, what is the horse’s stride length? Name three of the four things this is based on.
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. Why are paddock books and bald chaps only acceptable for schooling but not at shows?
7. When balanced over your horse while jumping, where should your eyes be?
8. This gait is the proper gait for cavaletti work.
9. What can occur when you start to jump without sufficient warm-up?
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. What are the two breeds of draft horses that originated in England?
2. What are the two appearances that you should look for in a draft horse and why?
3. What is the purpose of braiding the draft horse tail while showing?
4. What are the differences between long legged and short legged low set draft horses?
5. What is the average weight range for draft horses?
6. Explain what splay footed and pigeon toed means and what may result.
7. What are wind puffs?
8. Name the three types of collars and their uses for draft horses.
9. What is the appropriate length of ribbon for the mane roll?
10. Why should the forearm be longer that the cannon bone?
#182 Small Equine
1. List the three things you need to determine before deciding how much to feed your miniature horse/small equine.
2. Miniature horses have more dystocia than other breeds. What is dystocia and what are two causes of dystocia in small equines?
3. How is the height for a miniature measured?
4. Why is it important to condition your small equine? Name one way to condition your project?
5. True or False, you are allowed to touch your animal while completing obstacles in the Trail in Hand Class.
6. Name two types of carts that are available for pleasure driving.
7. Describe what parrot mouth is and why it is undesirable.
8. Why is it important to limit a small equine’s access to pasture? Name one way to control grazing.
9. When driving your small equine, describe how do you change direction in an arena.
10. Why do miniature horses tend to have more problems with their teeth than full size horses?

#762 Horse Nutrition
1. What is colostrum? Why is it important?
2. What is the general amount of water a horse will consume?
3. Explain why horses without adequate water are likely candidates for colic.
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. Identify each of the following plants as useful plant, weed or poisonous plant: Chicory, Hemp Dogbane, Bittersweet Nightshade, Smooth Bromegrass

#184 Standardbred Horses
1. What three breeds primarily influenced the breed and why?
2. Name the two goals of using a blind bridle.
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. What are the six parts of the quick hitch harness?
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.
**Equine Reproduction and Genetics**

1. When does a mare ovulate?
2. What is the normal gestation length in the mare?
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 crossbreeding and what is its major advantage?
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.

**Trail Riding**

1. Name the 5 traits of a good trail horse.
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. Generally, the horse should not be asked to carry more than _____% of its body weight.
5. Besides cooling, how can walking benefit a horse at a PR stop?
6. Name three essential equipment items for any ride?
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. What is the normal at rest respiration rate for the horse?
10. What material is often melted on to horseshoes to give traction on hard surfaces and extend shoe life?

**Dressage**

1. At this gate, the horse is allowed the most freedom and relaxation possible.
2. What is a volte?
3. List the natural aids which may always be used in dressage to get a horse to perform.
4. What are the measurements of the small dressage arena and the large dressage arena?
5. What tests require a double bridle?
6. Are any classical dressage tests available at the walk trot level? If so name them and at what type of shows they may be offered
7. What is a coefficient?
8. How long may a whip be that is used as an aid in Training through Fourth Levels?
9. Describe “above the bit” and “behind the bit”.
10. What movement is used during all transitions?