



Proficiency Certificates

Pony Club encourages riders to learn about horse and pony care as well as riding. To do this, it provides tests which are designed to allow riders to progress from one standard of learning to the next. The PCAQ provides further details about the proficiency tests in the *"Syllabus of Instruction"*:

<http://www.pcaq.asn.au/Rule%20Books/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20PCA%20Syllabus%20of%20Inst.%20final%202006.pdf>

Workbooks are available for each certificate. These can be purchased from the club or from PCAQ for \$5, and are designed to be worked through at home and during musters. When you have covered all of the topics in the workbook, you are ready to sit the test.

D and D Star Certificates

Members doing their D and D* are tested during organised assessments at the club.

These certificates cover basic skills in riding, horse care and basic knowledge, and are intended to help the riders gain confidence in riding, handling and caring for their pony, and to encourage them to learn and improve. Here is a brief summary of the requirements:

To sit for D level, you must be 7 yrs or over

To sit for D* level, you must hold D Certificate (or be taking D certificate in conjunction with D*) and be 9 yrs or over

D Level certificate cover basic skills in riding, horse care and basic knowledge, and is intended to help the riders gain confidence in riding, handling and caring for their pony.

D level assessment includes:

- Mounting and dismounting
- Using reins in one or two hands
- Halt, walk, trot and canter without being led, in an enclosed area
- Road safety rules and hand signals for riding on the road
- Rider exercises
- Riding in a mounted game
- Handling and horse care as per list in level D workbook.

D* certificate encourages more rider control and development of a more secure seat, including a small jump. The certificate is **optional** (not a pre-requisite for subsequent certificates).

D* level assessment includes:

- Mounting and dismounting from both sides
- Walk, trot and canter in an open area
- Upward and downward transitions
- Trot and canter at varying speeds
- Trot on a loose rein
- Riding over trot poles
- Jumping to 45cm
- Knowledge of road rules
- Handling and horse care as per list in level D book.

C and C Star Certificates

Testing for C & C* Proficiency Certificates is usually held at another club and assessed by Zone 1 examiners. Here is a brief summary of the requirements:

To sit for C level, you must hold D Certificate and be 11yrs or over

To sit for C* level, you must hold C Certificate and be 12yrs or over

C Level assessment includes:

- Rein Drill
- Footfalls
- Alter stirrups and girth whilst mounted
- Know correct diagonals and canter leads
- Jump up to 70cm
- Bandaging for training and travel
- Health and Horsemanship as per list in Level C workbook

C*Level assessment includes:

- Diagonals and Canter leads by feel
- Circles – 10m walk, 15m trot, 20m canter
- Serpentine
- Lengthen strides
- Lead horse from another
- Jumping to 85cm
- Lungeing
- Health and Horsemanship as per list in Level C* workbook

K, B and A Certificates

Further certificate work can be studied and assessed, and is particularly recommended for riders considering becoming instructors. These certificates encourage continual improvement in knowledge, horsemastership and riding skills.

Recommended Reading

Riding – The Pony Club Association of NSW (“Green book”)

Pony Club Manual 1 – D, D+ and C Certificates

Pony Club Manual 2 – C+, B, A and H Certificates

These books are fantastic long term references that cover both riding skills and horse management. ‘*Riding*’ is a more general reference book for riding and horse management (very good for younger riders) and originates in Australia, while the two Pony Club Manuals originate from NZ and are more detailed with more up-to-date illustrations and photographs.

You could purchase ‘*Riding*’ OR one or two of the Pony Club Manuals. The books can be purchased from the club, obtained directly from the PCAQ office in Fortitude Valley, or can be posted out from PCAQ at an extra cost. The price list and order form can be found at:

<http://www.pcaq.asn.au/Forms/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Stationery%20Price%20List%2027.%2007%202011.pdf>

<http://www.pcaq.asn.au/Forms/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20PCAQ%20FORM%2043%20-%20Stationery%20Order%20Form.pdf>