



# British Horseback Archery Association

## Syllabus A – including notes for Riding Instructors assessing the equine knowledge / ridden modules

The *BHAA Club Horseback Archer qualifications* confirm that the participant holds basic competencies to allow him/her to participate safely in horseback archery training sessions with a degree of autonomy from the instructor. It may be taken at walk, trot or canter.

The text in blue is the *Notes for Assessors*.

Text in red duplicates the *Notes for Candidates* from the candidate version of Syllabus A.

- Assessment for the Equine Knowledge and Riding modules of the Club Horseback Archery Qualification should be by Riding Instructors holding one of the following:  
BHS PTT, BHS AI, BHS I, BHS II, BHS F  
ABRS ITA, ABRS TC, ABRS F  
RDA GI (can only assess RDA participants)
- Riding module - section 5.4 (or section 3.1 of the walk/trot/RDA test) must also be assessed by a BHAA Mounted Range Safety Officer - RSO(m). If it isn't possible for this to happen in person then it may be that a video assessment can be arranged.

### Accreditation of prior learning

People in possession of: BHS stages 1, 2 or 3; Pony Club C+; ABRS Test 6  
get an automatic pass on:

- the whole Equine Knowledge module
- the Riding module \*with the exception of section 5.4 (or section 3.1 of the walk/trot/RDA test) which must be assessed by a BHAA RSO(m)

## EQUINE KNOWLEDGE

**For all Club Horseback Archer qualifications**

### Unit purpose and aims

Learners should be able to safely and effectively perform basic activities on the yard; handling and grooming horses. They should appreciate yard health and safety considerations.

### ASSESSOR NOTES

The candidate should be able to demonstrate and/or discuss the above.

In the case of young age or disability the assessor may settle for a description of how and why, if it is not possible for the candidate to demonstrate something practically.

### PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

Practical assessment and discussions with a riding instructor

<b>Learner Outcomes</b> The learner will	<b>Assessment Criteria</b> The learner can
1. Understand safe work practices	1.1 Operate safely around horses, with regard to: - appropriate personal dress and conduct, - yard setup - tidiness and cleanliness. Consider the safety and welfare of horses and others as well as oneself.
	1.2 Lift in a manner to avoid back injuries and recognise potential hazardous situations
	1.3 Identify fire precautions
2. Be able to handle a horse within the stable and yard	2.1 Approach and catch a horse safely in the stable. Put on a headcollar, ensuring correct fit
	2.2 Tie up the horse, using a quick release knot, noting the safety considerations of how and where it is tied up
3. Be able to groom a horse	3.1 Groom a horse and identify items of grooming kit and know how they are used
	3.2 Pick out a horse's feet
4. Be able to lead a horse	4.1 Safely and effectively lead a horse in walk
	4.2 Turn the horse safely and correctly when leading in hand

## RIDING (for canter applicants)

**For Club Horseback Archer (canter)**

### Unit purpose and aims

Learners will be able to lead and mount a horse safely. They can demonstrate correct basic riding skills but most importantly show good balance and sympathetic riding style without reliance on the reins. Learners are able to enter the demarcated track at a suitable speed and show appropriate acceleration & deceleration at the start and towards the finish; they can ride at the chosen speed, with hands off the reins and raised, going through the motions of drawing and shooting an imaginary bow and arrow, with no balance concerns.

### ASSESSOR NOTES

The riding in this assessment should be undertaken as the first of a series of progressive tests and while true balance and harmony is the ultimate goal, at this level candidates should be able to ride without negatively impacting on the horse's natural way of going, and with enough stability to be able to safely carry out the task.

### PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

Candidates will ride in a group of up to six candidates. The session will last approximately forty minutes. They will ride with stirrups both in the school and on the track in the light seat. Canter work will be shown on both reins in the school. An instructor will be in the school to call out the exercises to be ridden.

The track must be of a minimum length of 40m. This may be straight or curved, and may be around a school.

CANTER APPLICANTS	
Learner Outcomes The learner will	Assessment Criteria The learner can
1. Be able to lead a saddled and bridled horse in hand	1.1 Lead the horse safely and effectively in walk <i>Taking the horse to the riding session, having secured the stirrups and where appropriate taking the reins over the horses head.</i>
	1.2 Turn the horse safely and correctly in walk when leading in hand <i>Demonstrate and discuss</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Leading a saddled and bridled horse in hand.</b> The horse must be seen to move actively and be turned in the correct direction.</li> </ul>	
2. Be able to mount and dismount a horse.	2.1 Check the bridle, saddle, girth and stirrups for safety prior to mounting <i>Check that stitching is sound, especially reins and stirrups. Check girth for safety and comfort.</i>
	2.2 Mount a horse safely and correctly using a mounting block <i>Using correct mounting procedure</i>
	2.3 Dismount a horse safely and correctly <i>Using correct procedure</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Checking saddlery for its fitting and soundness.</b> A quick check of the saddled horse which will be standing in the school.</li> <li>• <b>Mounting and dismounting from the ground or from a mounting block.</b> Mounting should be quick and agile, with care taken how the weight is lowered onto the horse's back. When dismounting the candidate should land on the ground in a light and balanced manner.</li> </ul>	
3. Be able to warm up the	3.1 Use a progressive warm up system to warm up the horse

horse	<p><i>Show progression through walk, trot and canter, turns and circles</i></p> <p>3.2 Discuss what warming up is, and why we do it <i>Discuss and demonstrate 3.1</i></p>
4. Be able to maintain a secure and balanced position that is independent of the reins	<p>4.1 Walk, trot and canter in a secure and balanced position <i>Position is described as balanced when the rider does not interfere with the horses natural way of going and is stable enough to canter the appropriate distance - including corners if in a school.</i></p> <p>4.2 Use an appropriate technique to help ensure a correct strike off in canter <i>Corners of the school or a circle in the open</i></p> <p>4.3 Use a suitable stirrup length for the work undertaken <i>Horseback archery usually uses a light seat so stirrups maybe shortened to what would be considered a jumping or xc length. The rider should remain stable during transitions and school movements.</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The correct basics in the ability to maintain a correct, secure and balanced position when riding with stirrups.</b> Showing some ability to maintain a straight line from ear – shoulder – hip – heel, and move in harmony with the horse which is the result of a balanced position.</li> <li>• <b>The correct basics in the ability to maintain a correct, balanced position in light seat.</b> Showing some ability to ride the horse forward in light seat, with a steady lower leg and independent hand.</li> <li>• <b>A basic but effective use of the natural aids, and appropriate technique to achieve a correct canter lead.</b> In event of an incorrect strike off the candidate should trot and then try again for a correct canter.</li> </ul>
5. Be able to maintain a balanced seat, in preparation for shooting on the track	<p>5.1 Maintain a balanced position at trot/canter in the light seat with stirrups at a suitable length. <i>Balanced is defined as not negatively impacting on the horses way of going and remaining stable during gait and transitions.</i></p> <p>5.2 Enter the track at a suitable gait, and proceed to canter up the track in a balanced seat <i>The track is usually grass and the turn in maybe tight and become slippery, so control over the pace is needed. The rider should be stable enough to ride through the transitions without the reins.</i></p> <p>5.3 At the end of the track, ride safe downwards transitions to trot and walk, in a straight line <i>Again this can become slippery so should be ridden as if the horse could slip and without collapsing forward through the downward transitions.</i></p> <p>5.4 Be comfortable to ride the track, without reins, shooting an imaginary bow, re-taking the reins at the end of the track and stopping as per 5.3 <i>This could be a grass track or a long side of the school. *THIS MUST ALSO BE ASSESSED BY A BHAA RSO(m) on the same / a different occasion, or possibly using a video of this part of the assessment by the Riding Instructor assessor</i></p>
6. Be able to show a basic understanding of natural aids	<p>6.1 Use natural aids for riding the horse forward <i>Using the legs and seat and when appropriate the voice. Demonstrate and discuss</i></p> <p>6.2 Use natural aids for riding circles, turns and straight lines <i>Demonstrate and discuss</i></p>

7. Be able to ride on the correct diagonal	7.1 Use the correct diagonal for rising trot <i>Be aware which diagonal is being used and how to change</i>
8. Be able to ride safely and in harmony with the horse	8.1 Show respect for the horse and build up a basic rapport when riding <i>Demonstrate and discuss</i>
9. Know that horses are herd animals, and be able to ride sympathetically to this.	9.1 Understand that some horses may be uncomfortable leaving the group, so the order you are sent up the track in will often reflect this <i>Be able to discuss specific horse behaviour</i>
	9.2 Be aware that although herd animals, they appreciate their own space. Ride with at least one horse's distance (the approximate length of a horse, nose to tail) between you and other riders, as some horses may kick or bite <i>Be able to discuss specific horse behaviour and recognize signs that a horse is not happy.</i>
10. Be able to cool down the horse	10.1 Understand why we cool the horse down after work, and what would be suitable <i>Be able to demonstrate and discuss</i>
11. Know the footfalls of the horse's normal gaits and whether the horse is balanced	11.1 State the beats and footfalls of the horse's gaits <i>Be able to discuss</i>
	11.2 Give an example of when the horse may be unbalanced <i>Be able to discuss</i>

## RIDING (for disabled / walk / trot applicants)

- For Club Horseback Archer (Walk)
- For Club Horseback Archer (Trot)

### Unit purpose and aims

Learners will be able to lead and mount a horse safely. They can demonstrate correct basic riding skills but most importantly show good balance and sympathetic riding style without reliance on the reins. Learners are able to enter the demarcated track at a suitable speed and show appropriate acceleration & deceleration at the start and towards the finish; they can ride at the chosen speed, with hands off the reins and raised, going through the motions of drawing and shooting an imaginary bow and arrow, with no balance concerns.

### ASSESSOR NOTES

As with the canter candidates, we are looking to provide a good base to progress from, so balance and position are to be correct (If disabled, as correct as they can physically achieve, but balance is key.)

### PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

Candidates will ride in a group of up to six candidates. The session will last up to forty minutes. They will ride with stirrups both in the school and on the track in the light seat. An instructor will be in the school to call out the exercises to be ridden.

The track must be of a minimum length of 40m. This may be straight or curved, and may be around a school.

Learner Outcomes The learner will	Assessment Criteria The learner can
1. Be able to mount and dismount a horse.	1.1 Mount a horse safely and correctly with assistance <i>Using correct mounting procedures</i>
	1.2 Dismount a horse safely and correctly with assistance if needed <i>Using correct procedures</i>
2. Be able to maintain a secure and balanced position that is independent of the reins	2.1 Be able to walk (and trot if applicable) in a secure and balanced position <i>Position is described as balanced when the rider does not interfere with the horses natural way of going and is stable enough to walk/trot the appropriate distance - including corners if in a school.</i>
	2.2 Use a suitable stirrup length for the work undertaken <i>This will vary according to seat used and disability, stirrups may not be even.</i>
3. Be able to maintain a balanced seat that is independent of the reins, in preparation for shooting	3.1 Be able to walk/trot up a 40m track without hands shooting an imaginary bow <i>*THIS MUST ALSO BE ASSESSED BY A BHAA RSO(m) on the same / a different occasion, or possibly using a video of this part of the assessment by the Riding Instructor assessor</i>
	3.2 Keep a regular forward movement in the required gait <i>Discuss the best way of maintaining the gait for their own specific needs.</i>
<i>(note: the above can be done with assistance, if it is needed)</i>	
4. Show a basic understanding of natural aids	4.1 Use natural aids for riding the horse forward <i>Using the legs, seat and voice when appropriate.</i>
5. Know the footfalls of the horse's normal gaits	5.1 Know the footfalls and beats of walk and trot <i>Be able to discuss</i>

6. Know that horses are herd animals, and be able to ride sympathetically to this.	6.1 Understand that some horses may be uncomfortable leaving the group, so the order you are sent up the track in will often reflect this <i>Be able to discuss specific horse behaviours</i>
	6.2 Be aware that although herd animals, they appreciate their own space. Ride with at least one horse's distance (the approximate length of a horse, nose to tail) between you and other riders, as some horses may kick or bite <i>Be able to discuss specific horse behaviours and recognize when a horse is unhappy</i>