

Certified Public Horse Trainer

TQA Industry Test

I. Scoring System

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

Scoring system functions similar to reining cow horse where a person starts at a “70” and then receives a plus or minus on the particular maneuver or variable being judged.

II. Areas Being Tested

A) Task Completions (25% of Score)

1. Catch
2. Lead
3. Stand to Saddle
4. Accept Bridle
5. Stand to Get On
6. Lope in a Straight Line Away From the Barn
7. Open and Close Gate
8. Take a Tarp off Fence
9. Pick up Feet
10. Load in Trailer
11. Freestyle 1 (Catered to discipline)
12. Freestyle 2 (Catered to discipline)

- **Must score a 12 or higher to pass “Task Completion” segment of test.**

B) Foundation (25% of Score)

1. Walk a Circle
2. Trot a Circle
3. Lope a Circle (Correct lead)
4. Pivot Around Inside Front Foot
5. Pivot Around Inside Hind Foot
6. Side Pass
7. Back
8. Stop at a Walk (Using both reins)
9. Stop at a Trot (Using both reins)
10. Stop at a Lope (Using both reins)
11. Overall Willing Submission (Ridden on a loose rein)
12. Overall Vertical Flexion (Collection)

- **Must score a 12 or higher to pass “Foundation” segment of test.**

C) Temperament (25% of Score)

1. Fear/Confidence
2. Resentment/Willing
3. Nervous/Calm
4. Dull/Sensitive
5. Lazy/Life
6. Degree of Difficulty (Day 1 Video)

- **Must score a 12 or higher to pass “Temperament” segment of test.**
- **Only 6 variables under temperament so double score to match the overall points for task completion and foundation scores.**
- All six variables are judged on a scale and with some variables the ideal number would be somewhere in the middle (i.e. Dull/Sensitive). When judging temperament remember the goal is to prepare the horse for an inexperienced horse owner and judge accordingly.

D) Client Education/Interaction (12.5% of Score)

- 1) Explanation of Training Philosophy
- 2) Education of Training Process (Foundation to Finish)
- 3) Follow up Training and Expectations When Taken Home
- 4) Answers to Questions
- 5) Overall Demeanor
- 6) Business Transaction

- **Must score a 6 or higher to pass “Client Education/Interaction” segment of test.**
- Remember this test is to certify people to train horses for the public. There are 7.1 million people in the equine industry in the U.S. and 85 – 90% of these horse owners are inexperienced. Certified Public Horse Trainers must not only train the horse, but educate the client and make sure that the horse is a safe fit for the client. If the experience of the client does not match the experience of the horse, a plan must be developed for further training to ensure the success of the horse and client.
- Certified Public Horse Trainers must be honest and have integrity in training horses, and do not take advantage of their clients. Certified Public Horse Trainers need to be comfortable talking about the financial aspect of running a business honestly, and be straight forward with their clients about how much it will cost to reach the desired end product.

E) Horse Health and Welfare (12.5% of Score)

- 1) Body Condition
- 2) Mane and Tail
- 3) Cuts or Scrapes
- 4) Housing Conditions
- 5) Feet, Teeth and Chiropractic Care
- 6) Documentation

- Housing and training a young horse for two to three months introduces the possibility of losing weight, or getting injured. The main area being tested in this category is neglect by the Trainer. If there is an issue, the Trainer needs to document any incidents and record what was done to ensure the health and welfare of the horse.
- **Must score a 6 or higher to pass “Horse Health and Welfare” segment of test.**

F) Weight of Test

- The main criteria to become a Certified Public Horse Trainer, is achieving the “Training Trifecta:” task completion, foundation, and temperament.
- A student can still receive the certification after doing an outstanding job training a horse and struggling a little bit explaining the training process, or having a horse receive a minor injury.
 - Major points should be deducted on health and welfare due to blatant neglect.
 - Major points should be deducted on client education due to a poor attitude or inability to interact positively and productively with clients.

III) Structure of Test

A) Timeline

- 3-month Testing Period
- 40 Ride Minimum, 52 Ride Maximum
 - 40 Rides – Horse ridden five days in a row and given the weekend off.
 - 52 Rides – Horse ridden six days in a row and given one day off.
 - The main criteria of this certification is to achieve the Training Trifecta (task completion, foundation and temperament) in two months. Some may argue that a horse needs the extra ride in order to get a full two months, and others may argue that a young horse does better the other five days with two days of rest physically, mentally and emotionally.
 - The time frame set by TQA to set a foundation on an average horse is two months.
 - However, for the sake of the industry test, the testing period will be three months.
 - This allows time if the horse gets sick or becomes unsound during the three months, for the horse to be given time off to get sound/healthy.
 - If sickness or unsoundness continues, the student may be given an extension or may reschedule with another horse during another training period.
- 4 testing periods per year:
 - January – March
 - April – June
 - July – September
 - October – December

B) Horses Used on Test

- Not handled other than halter training
- May be halter broke but not introduced to any other training
- Ideally horse should only be handled for 1-2 weeks of halter training

C) Testing Site

- To host a Certified Public Horse Trainer certification test the institution must be certified through TQA.
- Judges must also be certified through TQA and must have two judges per site visit.