



Lead Rein Test 1: Walk, turn, halt and trot: modified for a 60X20m arena

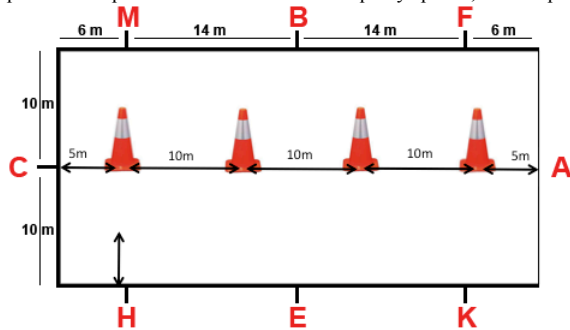
1.	A	Enter at walk down the centreline with handler leading from the left. Bend in and out of 4 markers, rider controlling horse, passing on the right first. At C, track right. CBP Proceed in walk.	Straightness of Rider.			
			Aids to turn.			
2.	P	Turn right. Halt, immobility. Rider controls horse. Handler swaps to right side. Track left.	Shoulder-hip-heel line (halt)			
	L		Aids to halt.			
	V					
3.	KAF	Slow sitting trot on a loose rein, Handler controls horse. Walk at F. Take up reins before P. Can halt to take up reins if required.	Position			
			Synchronisation			
4.	PV	Change the rein. Rider controls horse.	Position			
			Synchronisation			
			Accuracy			
5.	C	Halt. Handler swaps to left side. Rider strokes and praises horse while in halt. Proceed on a loose rein allowing the horse freedom to stretch. Handler controls the horse.	Praising the horse			
	CBP		Lengthening the reins.			
6.	PFAK	Trot – choice of slow sitting, or slow or working trot rising. Handler controls horse. Rider’s reins still loose. Walk at K.	Position			
			Synchronisation			
7.	V	Still on a loose rein, turn right, handler controlling horse. Halt, handler controlling horse. Handler swaps sides. Rider praises horse, then takes up rein contact and asks the horse to walk on. Track right, rider controlling horse. Leave the arena on a long rein.	Praising the horse.			
	L		Shortening the reins			
	P		Aids to walk on			
Total						Maximum 48



Lead Rein Test 1

The aim of this test is to encourage young children to ride in balance, use light aids and above all be considerate to the horse. The test is aimed at beginner riders of any age who are able to control the horse with help in walk and halt, and maintain balance for short periods of trot. The horse or pony must be trained to go from light aids or voice aids.

The arena should be set out as in the diagram, using low cones or markers, not poles. This enables the handler to walk alongside the markers while the rider weaves in and out. The exact measurements are not important except that the cones should be equally spaced, with a space in the middle of the arena as the rider needs to be able to ride across here.



Children of any size can be taught light aids, including weight aids. Any horse or pony can be trained to respond to light aids even from a tiny person.

Correct aids to walk are an invisible squeeze of the calf, and/or a voice aid. Kicking, flapping legs and whipping are not allowed.

Correct aids to halt are a quick squeeze and release of the rider's buttocks, with a voice aid if needed. A light rein aid can be used, but most horses will quickly learn from the seat aid alone.

Correct weight aids to turn are an advance of the seatbone on the side you are turning, in time with the walk. This is only slight, and can be taught, for example, as "right bottom forward" after the rider has been taught to feel the "two halves of their bottom" being moved separately in time with the walk. The rider may also use their rein to indicate the turn, by opening the hand outwards slightly in the direction of the turn, keeping the other hand still, and returning both hands to normal position as soon as the turn has begun. The hands must not cross over the neck, and must not pull back, up or down. The rider should look where they want to go, but should not turn their shoulders excessively.

When shortening the reins, method is not important, but reins must be shortened smoothly and gently, to an appropriate length. If the rider has not yet developed co-ordination for a contact, the reins should be slightly loose even after shortening, and the handler can assist a little with control of the horse – in this case, the rider will be assessed on the correctness of aids, not the effectiveness. When lengthening the reins to a loose rein, the rider should allow the reins to slip all the way to the buckle.

When praising the horse, the rider should gently stroke the neck or scratch the withers, and say "Good boy/girl" or similar. The rider should not pat the horse hard on the neck as this is not usually enjoyable for the horse.

All walk work is controlled by the rider, except when riding on a loose rein. The handler should hold the lead rope loosely at the end, and only intervene if needed.

All trot work is controlled by the handler. The rider should hold the reins at the buckle, and use a balance strap fitted to the front of the saddle if necessary. The reins must never be used for balance.

Although there are a lot of guidelines for this test, they are designed to help, and flexibility will be given provided the rider is considerate to the pony and quiet in their riding.



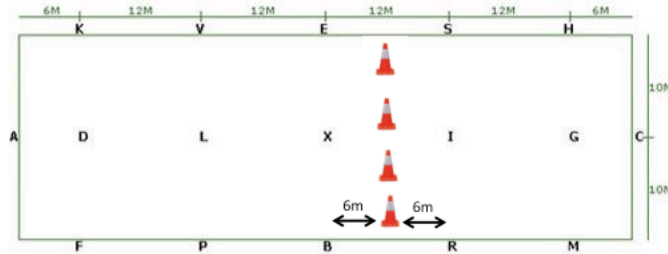
How to ride a test designed for a 20m x 40m arena, in a 20m x 60m arena.

The Sentient Riding Tests are designed for a 20 x 40m arena, because it is better suited to the nature of the tests, which have shorter periods of fast work than a traditional test.

It is possible to mark out a 20 x 40 arena in a 20 x 60 arena, but this is time consuming and confusing because you also have 2 sets of letters to worry about.

To make things simpler, we have rewritten the tests to suit a 20 x 60 arena. The newly marked arena is 36m long, with the letters spaced 2m closer than in a 20 x 40. This enables the rider to use the existing letters, which have been replaced on the test sheet as follows:

H becomes E
E becomes V
B becomes P
M becomes B
X becomes L
G becomes X
A,F,K,C and D remain the same.



The modified test for the 20 x 60 arena uses the replacement letters to make things easier. So, all you have to do is section off the bottom of the arena halfway between B and R across to halfway between E and S. Then ride the test as instructed .

If your 20 x 60 arenas does not already have letters, you may prefer to use the original version of the test with the traditional markers.