



## Walk Test 4: Shoulder-In, Turn on Haunches, Rein Back and Half Pass.

1.	A	Enter at walk and proceed down the centre line.	Straightness of rider			
			Rhythm and tempo			
2.	C	Track left.	Position (x2)			
			Shoulder-in			
3	Between V and K	Shoulder-in left.	Straightness of rider			
			Synchronisation (x2)			
			Shoulder-in			
4.	K	Half turn on haunches left	Straightness of rider			
			Turn on haunches			
5.	Between V and E	Shoulder-in right	Shoulder-in			
			Rhythm and tempo			
			Aids			
6.	E	Half turn on haunches right	Aids			
			Turn on haunches			
7.	V	Halt, immobility Rein-back, 3-5 steps Walk forwards	Halt transition			
			Rein back			
			Aids for rein back			
8	VL LP	Half circle left Half circle right	Accuracy			
			Position (x2)			
			Synchronisation (x2)			
9.	F	Halt, immobility Rein-back, 3-5 steps Walk forwards	Rein-back			
			Aids			
			Contact			
10.	A B	Turn up centreline Half pass right to B. Track left.	Half Pass			
			Rhythm and tempo			
			Contact			
11	C F	Turn up centreline Half pass left to F. Track right.	Half Pass			
			Straightness of rider			
			Aids			
12.	A	Circle right 20m, allowing the horse to stretch forward and down on a long rein. Retake the contact before A.	Rhythm and Tempo			
			Relaxation			
			Stretching Down			
	A L	Proceed down centreline Halt, immobility 3-5 seconds, salute.	Accuracy of turn			
			Walk-Halt transition			
Total						Max 111



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This test is designed to assess more advanced lateral skills at walk. The horse has developed more balance and flexibility and is established in leg yield and shoulder-in. It is very helpful if the horse has already learned the movements in-hand.

We prefer to see lateral work performed at a slow, cadenced walk. The slower tempo of the walk improves core strength and balance. It is permissible for the horse to slow his tempo slightly when performing shoulder-in, walk pirouette or half pass. This slowing of tempo will not be penalised provided the rhythm and tempo are consistent within the movement. For both shoulder-in and half pass, walk a few steps straight before riding the next movement.

In the shoulder-in, the horse should travel on three tracks – the outside hind on the outer track, the inside hind and outside fore on the middle track, and the inside fore on the inner track. The inside hind stepping under the horse's centre of mass begins to teach collection. The horse should have uniform lateral bend in his body, neck and head. The rider asks for shoulder-in by turning their shoulders to the inside. The inside leg remains on the girth maintaining bend and preventing the horse from stepping in. The outside leg behind the girth prevents the hindquarters from falling out. The inside rein must be very light, asking for bend as needed, and the outside rein can be used to help bring the shoulders off the track, but the hands must remain equal on either side of the neck, and must not cross over. Care must be taken to sit centrally on the horse, with equal weight on both seatbones, and not leaning to one side or the other.

In half pass, the horse's hindquarters point straight forward more or less parallel with the long side of the arena, with the shoulders pointing towards the letter you are aiming for. The horse is bent in the direction of movement with the outside hind crossing over, in the direction of movement.

The rider looks between the horse's ears at the letter they are aiming for. Inside seatbone is slightly advanced, inside leg passively on the girth creates bend and outside leg behind the girth asks for sideways movement. Great care must be taken not to fall to the outside.

The rider uses their outside leg in time with the swing of the belly – as the belly swings under, the rider's inside leg asks the inside hind to step under. The aid is then released as the belly swings back. The timing of the aid is important – the leg should neither be niggling or consistently pushing.

For the turn on the haunches, use the outside rein against the neck, without crossing over the neck, to bring the shoulders over to the inside. The inside rein and leg maintain bend to the inside. Outside leg behind the girth prevents the horse falling out with the quarters, and maintains the rhythm. Inside leg on the girth maintains the bend. The tempo should be slow and even, allowing the horse time to complete each step before beginning the next one. The forehand moves in semicircle around the haunches, which describe a smaller semicircle. All 4 legs maintain the rhythm of the walk.

Rein back must be calm and measured. The legs move in diagonal pairs, slow and unrushed. To ask for rein-back, lighten the seat by leaning forward slightly, move the legs back slightly, create energy with a light leg aid, into lightly restraining hands.