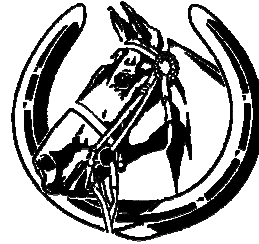


**HORSE KNOWLEDGE CARE & RIDING  
EXAMINATION**



# STAGE 4

**The British Horse Society**

Registered Charity No. 210504

# Syllabus

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***Stage 4 Riding is open to members of the BHS who have reached the age of 18 years. Stage 4 Horse Knowledge & Care is open to members who have reached the age of 19 years.***

Pre-requisites - Horse Knowledge, Care & Riding Stage 3  
or S/NVQ Level 3 (Riding / Schooling Horses)

It may be possible to apply for direct entry to this examination if you have proven experience and/or hold recognised equivalent qualifications, *(please contact the Examinations Office for further information.)*

***The Riding and Care sections may be taken as separate tests***

Pre-requisite - Horse Knowledge & Care Stage 3 for Care Section  
Riding Stage 3 for Riding Section

## **FEES: Apply to the BHS**

**Requirements** - The candidate must be capable of taking sole charge of a group of horses of various types in stables and at grass. They must be an educated rider capable of training and improving horses in their work on the flat, over fences and on the lunge.

***The Examinations Office will forward the BHSII Certificate when the complete Stage 4 and Intermediate Teaching certificates have been achieved.***

## STAGE FOUR - Syllabus

### Stage 4 – Horse Knowledge and Care (Intermediate Stable Manager’s)

Experience and therefore efficiency should be shown. Candidates will show their capability of; taking charge of and looking after a number of horses and ponies in a variety of situations ensuring that horses, stables, yard and fields are safe and in good order. In addition, candidates should have experience of managing staff/ students and show an all round knowledge of business matters relating to the equine industry.

Unit code number S4CARE			
Learning Outcomes	Element	Assessment criteria	Influence
<i>The candidate should be able to:</i>		<b><i>The candidate has achieved this outcome because s/he can:</i></b>	
Evaluate and apply a variety of equipment employed in the training and use of horses in a variety of disciplines and health care.	1.1.1	Select and fit tack appropriate for various disciplines	Compulsory
	1.1.2	Evaluate and fit saddlery suitable for improving safety, control and performance	Compulsory
	1.1.3	Relate items of tack suitable to specific conformational aspects of the horse and/ or rider	Supporting
	1.2.1	Appraise a presented horse’s mouth identifying potential problems and/or relate the structure to successful biting	Supporting
	1.2.2	Identify the merits of a variety of bits suitable for use in various disciplines	Compulsory
	1.2.3	Discuss bits intended to rectify or improve performance	Supporting
	1.3.1	Distinguish between boots and bandages for support and/or protection and identify their strengths and weaknesses	Supporting
	1.3.2	Select and fit leg protection appropriate to specific disciplines	Compulsory
	1.4.1	Demonstrate efficient methods of applying safe, secure knee and hock bandages	Compulsory
	1.4.2	Modify basic bandaging technique, enabling safe secure dressing retention	Supporting
	1.5.1	Interpret instructions and impart information whilst building good working relations with other people	Compulsory
Judge the various aspects of health, and static/dynamic conformation by examination and assessment  Plan stable construction and yard design.	2.1.1	Describe a presented horse for purposes of identification and suitability for use	Supporting
	2.1.2	Appraise conformational strengths and weaknesses	Compulsory
	2.2.1	Evaluate a presented horses condition	Supporting
	2.2.2	Assess a presented horse for soundness, identifying potential causes of lameness	Compulsory
	2.2.3	Assess a presented horse’s health using monitoring procedures (T.P.R.)	Compulsory
	2.2.4	Compare and /or demonstrate a variety of worming methods	Compulsory
	2.3.1	Explain the function of the various muscle types	Supporting
	2.3.2	Describe the inter-relationship between muscles, tendons, ligaments, and the skeletal frame	Supporting
	2.3.3	Summarise the common forms of injury to tendons/ligaments and give the procedures of their repair	Compulsory
	2.4.1	Give a critical analysis of the balance of a presented horses feet	Compulsory
	2.4.2	Relate specific foot problems to identified shoes/remedial shoes	Supporting
	2.5.1	Compare and make recommendations on a variety of methods of restraint	Supporting
	2.6.1	Outline an on-going plan for the upgrading of selected stabling facilities	Supporting
2.7.1	Show a responsible attitude towards and an understanding of problems, which may arise in daily yard work	Compulsory	
Formulate appropriate plans/ programmes to maintain health and fitness in horses from a variety of disciplines.  <i>continued on page 2</i>	3.1.1	Classify feed-stuffs suitable for horses and distinguish the nutritional components	Compulsory
	3.1.2	Characterise specific nutritional components to the requirements of identified categories of horses	Compulsory
	3.1.3	Relate feed-stuffs to horses with specific nutritional requirements	Compulsory
	3.2.1	Outline natural sources of vitamins/minerals	Supporting
	3.2.2	Identify categories of horses and/or their environmental conditions that may require specific vitamin/mineral supplementation	Supporting

Unit code number S4CARE			
Learning Outcomes	Element	Assessment criteria	Influence
<b><i>The candidate should be able to:</i></b>		<b><i>The candidate has achieved this outcome because s/he can:</i></b>	
<i>continued from page 1</i>	3.3.1	Compile suitable diets for various types of horses	Compulsory
	3.3.2	Compile suitable diets for horses taking part in specific disciplines	Supporting
	3.4.1	Outline the progressive symptoms of dehydration in horses, relating possible causes to the symptoms	Supporting
	3.4.2	Explain suitable practices carried out when preventing dehydration in horses from a range of environments	Compulsory
	3.5.1	Differentiate between terms of reference when discussing a horse's physical condition and readiness for work	Supporting
	3.5.2	Categorise discernible aspects of a horse's fitness as required for a variety of specific disciplines	Supporting
	3.5.3	Relate a horse's fittening programme to the requirements of specific disciplines	Compulsory
	3.5.4	Outline procedures for maintaining specified levels of fitness	Compulsory
	3.6.1	Explain post performance procedures suitable for horses from a variety of disciplines	Compulsory
Recognise the relationship between equine Psychology/ behaviour and good practice in horse management.	4.1.1	Differentiate between the horse's natural instincts and the effects of domestication	Supporting
	4.2.1	Identify expressive behaviour in the horse resulting from instinctive reactions from the five senses	Supporting
	4.3.1	Summarise details of good handling and management of young and highly-strung horses	Compulsory
Formulate suitable schemes of business management.	5.1.1	Categorise details of insurance required in a small business	Compulsory
	5.1.2	Explain the importance of accident/ incident reporting	Compulsory
	5.2.1	Devise day to day systems designed to maintain school facilities	Supporting
	5.3.1	Discuss creating good yard management by effective communication and public relations	Compulsory
	5.4.1	Give examples of the relevance of membership to the British Horse Society for the professional equestrian	Supporting
Analyse the physiology of the horse in sickness, in health, and the Broodmare.  Plan for the annual management of grassland.	6.1.1	Identify risks to resident horse's health from transient horses within a livery yard	Supporting
	6.2.1	Summarise the problems incurred when box resting a horse and/ or give a suggested management regime to offset those problems	Compulsory
	6.3.1	Outline the basic functions of the; Nervous & sensory, Support & movement, Circulatory, Lymphatic, Respiratory, Dental, Skin, Reproductive, Mammary and Urinary systems	Compulsory
	6.4.1	Classify suitability of various breed types when considering choice of a covering stallion	Supporting
	6.4.2	Differentiate between desirable and undesirable aspects when considering the suitability of a mare for breeding purposes	Compulsory
	6.4.3	Organise an appropriate swabbing routine to coincide with the mares oestrus cycle for natural covering or artificial insemination	Compulsory
	6.4.4	Classify the information to be sought when taking charge of mares at varying stages of their gestation period	Supporting
	6.4.5	Categorise various foaling environments and facilities and highlight those you consider essential	Supporting
	6.4.6	Identify the progressive indicators of parturition	Compulsory
	6.4.7	Differentiate between the indications of a normal and complicated birth	Supporting
	6.4.8	Outline indications that veterinary assistance may be required	Compulsory
	6.4.9	Describe post parturition routines applicable to maintaining the well-being of the mare and/or foal	Compulsory
	6.4.10	Calculate a system of routine health programmes for breeding stock	Supporting
	6.5.1	Explain appropriate methods of regeneration for poor and/or excessively wet and/or weed infested grazing land	Supporting
	6.5.2	Construct an annual grassland maintenance programme showing appropriate consideration for seasonal activities	Compulsory
6.5.3	Discuss a detailed grassland maintenance plan, which allows for seasonal variations in stocking rates	Supporting	

## **STAGE FOUR - Syllabus**

### **Stage 4 - Riding**

Ability to ride and improve horses both on the flat and over fences effectively with style and equestrian tact. Assessing horse's performance, present standard, problems and the type of work for which they are best suited. Ability to ride and train horses for Elementary Dressage tests, Novice Horse Trials and Newcomers Show Jumping competitions.

**Candidates who are considered to be below the standard may be asked to retire.**

<b>Unit code number S4RIDI</b>			
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Element</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<b>Influence</b>
<b><i>The candidate should be able to:</i></b>		<b><i>The candidate has achieved this outcome because s/he can:</i></b>	
<p><b>RIDING ON THE FLAT</b></p> <p>Ride a variety of horses to produce the best from them in their basic gaits and way of going, discover any problems, discuss their findings, and give plans to resolve or improve the problems.</p> <p>Develop work to Elementary level including 'Walk Pirouettes' if and when the horse is working well enough.</p>	1.1.1	Ride in harmony following the movement of the horse with ease and smoothness showing good rein co-ordination	Compulsory
	1.1.2	Show a well balanced position with an effective and secure lower leg	Supporting
	1.1.3	Demonstrate an ability to apply imperceptible aids	Compulsory
	1.2.1	Assess and give an evaluation of the horse's basic gaits	Compulsory
	1.2.2	Recognise aspects of quality in the horses' Rhythm, Suppleness, Contact, Impulsion, and Straightness	Supporting
	1.2.3	Identify problems and or faults in the horses' Rhythm, Suppleness, Contact, Impulsion, and Straightness	Supporting
	1.3.1	Relate work plans to the horses strengths and weaknesses	Compulsory
	1.3.2	Select work appropriate to the horses mental and physical ability	Supporting
	1.3.3	Demonstrate a planned progression of work at elementary dressage level with consideration for the horse's level of training and balance	Compulsory
	1.4.1	Assess and give an evaluation of the horse as a competition prospect and/or for training students	Supporting
<p><b>SHOW JUMPING and CROSS-COUNTRY JUMPING</b></p> <p>Be effective and knowledgeable, over show jumps and cross-country fences, riding with balance, harmony and enthusiasm.</p> <p>Assess and discuss horses balance, rhythm, straightness, boldness, scope, and acceptance of aids.</p>	2.1.1	Demonstrate a confirmed jumping position that is balanced, secure and of influence, without adverse effect	Compulsory
	2.2.1	Evaluate and accommodate the horse's responses to being ridden and jumped as well as his reactions to the environment	Supporting
	2.2.2	Give an appraisal of the horse's level of balance, rhythm, straightness and acceptance of aids	Supporting
	2.3.1	Show appropriate influence and control when jumping a course of fences	Compulsory
	2.3.2	Demonstrate an ability in influencing gaits to produce appropriate quality in jumping paces	Compulsory
	2.3.3	Demonstrate an ability to appreciate the specific demands of a variety of types of fence	Supporting
	2.3.4	Give an appraisal of a horse's strengths and weaknesses when jumping a course of fences and or combination of related fences	Supporting
	2.4.1	Demonstrate a confirmed cross-country position that is balanced, secure and of influence, free from hindrance to the horse	Compulsory
	2.5.1	Evaluate and accommodate the horse's responses to being ridden and jumped across country as well as his reactions to the environment	Supporting
	2.5.2	Show appropriate influence and control when riding a cross-country course	Compulsory
	2.6.1	Demonstrate appreciation of the ground conditions and type of terrain	Compulsory
	2.6.2	Demonstrate an ability to accommodate the specific demands of a variety of cross-country fences	Compulsory
	2.7.1	Give an appraisal of a horse's strengths and weaknesses when jumping a cross-country course of varied fences and combination of related fences	Supporting
	2.8.1	Give an appraisal of the horse's boldness, acceptance of aids, level of balance, rhythm, and straightness	Supporting
	2.9.1	Show appropriate immediate aftercare of a cross-country horse	Supporting

Unit code number S4RIDI			
Learning Outcomes	Element	Assessment criteria	Influence
<i>The candidate should be able to:</i>		<i>The candidate has achieved this outcome because s/he can:</i>	
<p><b>LUNGEING</b></p> <p>Lunge horses effectively showing experience and efficiency in handling the lunge equipment and the horse.</p> <p>Assess and develop the gaits of the horse.</p> <p>Discuss performance and future work.</p>	3.1.1	Demonstrate safe, efficient and effective methods of handling the equipment	Compulsory
	3.2.1	Modify their manner as necessary to develop an effective rapport with the horse	Compulsory
	3.3.1	Identify areas of good and poor quality in the horse's form and gaits	Supporting
	3.3.2	Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of rhythm, suppleness and balance within the horse's way of going	Supporting
	3.4.1	Select work designed to bring about improvement in the horse's obedience and work	Compulsory
	3.4.2	Relate work to show improvement in the horse's rhythm, suppleness and balance	Supporting
	3.5.1	Plan future work for the horse's continued physical and psychological development	Supporting
<p><b>RIDING THEORY</b></p> <p>Show a sound knowledge and experience of training horses from early handling to maturity and for competition up to Elementary Dressage; Novice Horse Trials; Newcomers SJ and Endurance Riding.</p> <p>Speak from experience on problems encountered and corrective exercises in the work on the flat, over Show Jumps and Cross-country.</p>	4.1.1	Categorise the ideal minimum training of a horse under 3 years old and explain the methods used	Compulsory
	4.1.2	Appraise the value of showing young horses in hand	Supporting
	4.2.1	Compile a suitable programme for 'backing' and 'riding away' young horses in a variety of environments	Compulsory
	4.3.1	Compare a horse's natural paces with those enhanced by correct training	Supporting
	4.3.2	Give a critical analysis of Rhythm, Suppleness, Contact, Impulsion and Tempo	Compulsory
	4.3.3	Summarise the indications that a young horse is ready to start learning lateral work	Supporting
	4.3.4	Relate specific lateral work (including rein back & counter canter) to levels of training and development	Supporting
	4.3.5	Outline methods of training lateral work (including rein back & counter canter) and any possible problems	Compulsory
	4.4.1	Compile a suitable programme for introducing the young horse to jumping	Supporting
	4.4.2	Summarise common problems experienced when introducing the young horse to jumping and give methods of overcoming them	Compulsory
	4.5.1	Give a critical analysis of the value grid work for a variety of horses	Compulsory
	4.6.1	Compare and make recommendations on schooling and competition distances used in a variety of fences with related elements	Compulsory
	4.7.1	Outline the progressive introduction of horses to a variety of basic cross-country fences and discuss any possible problems	Supporting
	4.8.1	Summarise the effects of fences situated on various types of undulating terrain	Supporting
	4.9.1	Outline methods of training over technical fences (arrowhead, corner, angled combinations etc.)	Compulsory
	4.10.1	Outline a suitable method of training to gain the optimum time in competition	Supporting
	4.11.1	Distinguish between a variety of competition rides used in the development of the novice to gold award Endurance horse	Supporting
4.12.1	Explain the complexities involved in the development of speed and pace ratios	Supporting	
4.12.2	Summarise effective training to accommodate various types of terrain	Compulsory	

## IMPORTANT NOTES

1. **DRESS:** A properly well-fitted hat to current BSI or Euro standard must be worn. It is **strongly recommended** that hats should have shock absorbing material down to the lower rim. Body Protectors are mandatory in some examinations. **Candidates are strongly advised to read the 'Guidelines on Dress for BHS Examinations' (available from the Examinations Office)**
2. **BOOKING CONFIRMATION:** Candidates will receive written notification of an examination date/venue. Candidates who do not receive written confirmation within 10 working days are asked to contact the Examinations Office as failure to arrive at an examination may result in loss of exam fee.
3. **RETIRING FROM EXAMINATIONS:** Candidates who are well below standard may be asked to retire from the examination by the Chief Examiner, to avoid risk of an accident to candidates and / or to school horses (applicable for all examinations).
4. **BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Candidates are advised that in the event of ice and snow examinations may be cancelled or postponed. Whilst the Examinations Office will then try to notify all candidates, candidates are advised to telephone the centre the day before if there is doubt in view of the weather. If the examination does take place, candidates who fail to arrive for any reason (and this includes the weather conditions), are liable to forfeit their fee. Candidates are, therefore, advised to bear this point in mind when choosing to book their examination during the winter months.
5. **EXAMINATION CANCELLATIONS:** All examinations are subject to cancellation / alteration / postponement should circumstances make it necessary. The BHS is unable to reimburse costs for travel (flight/rail tickets, etc) or accommodation and candidates may wish to arrange independent insurance to cover their costs in the event that an exam is cancelled or postponed.
6. **CONDITIONS FOR CANCELLING OR TRANSFERRING EXAMINATION BOOKINGS:** The following notification in respect of cancelling or transferring exam bookings is applicable to all examination applications. In all cases, written notification must be made to the Examinations Office and should be accompanied by the appropriate fee and medical certificate where applicable.

**Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3, PTT** = Candidates are required to give a minimum of 4 weeks written notice before the exam date if they wish to transfer their examination or obtain a part refund. Candidates wishing to cancel/transfer within 4 weeks of the exam date will forfeit their examination fee unless on medical grounds – see Medical Refunds.

**Stage 4, Int. Teach, BHS SM and E & T** = Candidates are required to give a minimum of 8 weeks written notice before the exam date if they wish to transfer their examination or obtain a part refund. Candidates wishing to cancel/transfer within 8 weeks of the exam date will forfeit their examination fee. **Candidates wishing to cancel on medical grounds within 4 weeks of their examination date will forfeit their fee.**

**Refunds:** All refunds are subject to an administration charge of 50% of the original exam fee. (Subject to the above conditions).

**Transfers:** Candidates wishing to transfer to another examination will be charged a transfer fee of 25% of their original fee. (Subject to the above conditions).

**Medical Refunds:** Candidates who are unable to attend their examination due to medical reasons are required to forward evidence of this (i.e. doctor's note/medical certificate) no later than 14 days after the intended examination date, along with a fee of 25% of their original exam fee in order to obtain another exam booking. Alternatively, a refund (less 25% admin charge) may be obtained.

7. All Exam results and certificates will be sent by post from the Examinations Office. Results for all exams will not be issued on the day. The Examinations Office regrets it is unable to give out results over the telephone or by e-mail, therefore please allow **10 working days** for delivery before contacting the office.
8. Non-English speaking candidates may request an interpreter. The Exams Office requires a minimum of three months written notice and will be responsible for arranging the interpreter. The candidate should then liaise with the interpreter with regards to date, venue and costs. Assessment will be provided through the medium of Welsh/Irish upon request.
9. **CANDIDATES MAY NOT TAKE ANY EXAMINATION IF THEY ARE PREGNANT.**
10. **MEDICAL CERTIFICATES:** Examiners are unable to accept any medical certificates produced by candidates on the day. If a candidate wishes an injury or disability to be taken into account by the examiners, they should complete the medical questionnaire, which is sent out with all confirmation letters, and return along with a medical certificate or official report confirming their injury or disability. The Examinations Office must receive these documents at least three weeks before the intended examination date. If a candidate is unable to submit a Medical Certificate in time, they should contact the Examinations Office immediately.
11. In the case of a riding examination, candidates must provide their accurate **height and weight**. Candidates who are found to considerably exceed their stated weight may be asked to withdraw from the exam to ensure that neither they or the exam centre's horses are put at risk.
12. **APPEALS PROCEDURE:** If you consider your examination was not conducted in line with the syllabi requirements, you may wish to appeal against this. To do so please obtain an Appeals Form from the BHS Examinations Office. This must be completed and submitted, along with the relevant fee to the BHS Examinations Office within four weeks of the date of your examination.