

‘The Canadian’ Triple Challenge Liberty Level 1

The following elements will be used in evaluation. Overall body language is paramount in all elements.

- a. Relationship between horse and human – trusting, respectful, connected, confident, willing partnership, relaxation
- b. Rapport – communication, willingness, working together, partnership, relaxation
- c. Respect – mutual between horse and human, space boundaries established and maintained, relaxation
- d. Overall expression – focused, connected, confident, relaxed and engaged as opposed to bored, unresponsive, aggressive.
- e. Exuberance – enjoyment, joie de vivre on part of horse and human. (Minimal exuberance at level 1, moderate at level 2 and high at level 3)
- f. Technical - the correctness of the technique but overall body language was exaggerated or weak (technical failure), relaxation
- g. Technique - appropriate for the task
- h. Draw – connection of horse to human, relaxation
- i. Drive – response to pressure and body language, relaxation.
- j. Impulsion – balance and forward movement, relaxation
- k. Fluidity –moving as a team without hesitation

Level 1 - Tasks

Enclosed area

The horse is haltered and online with a 12 foot line.

Requirement	What will be Evaluated	Comments
1. Rub your hands all over the horse's body in a friendly manner. .	The horse should show engagement with the human and not be looking away as if rewarded for looking away and not being with the human. Show the rapport you have already established with your liberty partner. Response should be friendly, accepting, trusting and non-aggressive.	
2. Hold the lead rope in your hand. Rub the training aid all over the body of the horse - legs, neck, tail, hindquarters, forequarters, etc	Show the rapport you have already established with your liberty partner. Response should be friendly, accepting, trusting and non-aggressive.	
3. Ask your horse to lower his head using hand pressure gently on his poll allowing the horse to respond softly and willingly without resistance. Walk forward 20 feet and repeat the exercise. Change direction and repeat the exercise	The horse gives to pressure softly and willingly.	
4. Demonstrate your horse can stand still on the end of a lead rope while you are standing in front about 9 feet away. Allow the horse to relax. Stand for 1 minutes. Ask the horse to come to you. Lead forward 20 feet with a slack rope and demonstrate your horse can stand still on the end of a lead rope while you are standing in front about 9 feet away. Stand relaxed for 1 minutes. Ask the horse to come to you. Change direction and repeat the exercise.		

<p>5. Stand at the horse's left shoulder and ask the horse to flex his head to the left side. Horses ears should be level</p> <p>Stand at the horse's right shoulder and ask the horse to flex his head to the right side. Horses ears should be level</p>	Technique, technical, respect	
<p>6. Stand on the right side of the horse with your hand on the rope halter or on the lead shank and ask the horse to back up with or without the slightest pressure. Stand for 20 seconds and repeat the back up.</p> <p>Stand on the left side of the horse with your hand on the rope halter or on the lead shank and ask the horse to back up with or without the slightest pressure. Stand for 20 seconds and repeat the back up.</p> <p>Stand in front of the horse and ask the horse to back up by putting your hand on the horse's face, wiggling the lead rope or simply a finger at the horse.</p>	<p>The horse gives to pressure softly and willingly</p> <p>The horse backs in a straight line and in a 2 beat gait. Ideally his body should show 'collection', with a tucked tummy and raised topline as opposed to strung out with a sunken back and high head. Ideally the head should be flexed at the poll near to vertical.</p>	
<p>7. Ask the horse to yield his front quarters. Both directions for about 90 degrees, 180 degrees, 360 degrees for a full circle. Hind legs move a minimal amount. (This can be done with direct pressure or rhythmic pressure with lightness as the goal)</p> <p>Repeat in the opposite direction.</p>	<p>Technique, technical, respect</p> <p>Drive, technique, technical, rapport, fluidity, respect</p>	
<p>8. Ask the horse to yield his hind quarters. Both directions for about 90 degrees, 180 degrees and 360 degrees for a full circle. Front legs move a minimal amount. This can</p>	Technique, technical, respect	

<p>be done with direct pressure or rhythmic pressure while looking for lightness</p> <p>Repeat in the opposite direction</p>	<p>Drive, technique, technical, rapport, fluidity, respect</p>	
<p>9. Stand beside the horse so his head is level with your shoulder. With a slack lead line or rope ask the horse to lead forward demonstrating that he is soft and willing to follow.</p> <p>Change speeds and demonstrate the horse is willing to change speeds along with your change of speeds while maintaining slack in the lead rope.</p> <p>Change directions again demonstrating the horse will change directions with you.</p> <p>Do a 180 degree change in direction and demonstrate the horse will change directions willingly with a slack lead rope.</p> <p>Halt and demonstrate that the horse will halt when you halt.</p> <p>Back up a few steps and demonstrate the horse will back up when you back up while maintaining slack in the lead rope.</p>	<p>Drive and draw, technique, rapport, technical, respect</p> <p>Do not use a verbal cue for the halt.</p>	
<p>10. With a 12 foot lead line and a training aid ask</p> <p>the horse to go around you on a circle. Do not drive the horse around with a whip as in lunging but trust that the horse will circle around you while you remain relaxed. The goal is to stand still as the horse circles around you. At Level 1, it is permissible for you to make a small circle as the horse circles.</p> <p>Ask for six circles.</p>	<p>Rapport, trust, drive and draw, respect</p>	

Demonstrate the horse will stop on command in front of you, and disengage and turn and face you		
<p>11. With a 12 foot lead line ask the horse to pass between you and an obstacle. You should stand about six feet away from the obstacle. The horse should disengage and turn and face you after passing between you and the obstacle. Keep the lead line slack.</p> <p>Repeat in the opposite direction.</p>		
<p>12. The handler is on the right side of the horse with a long lead line in one hand and the training aid in the other hand.</p> <p>Demonstrate the horse can move sideways to the left while disengaging and crossing his hind legs. You may use a fence, or a wall a wall to prevent the horse from moving forward.</p> <p>Move along the wall or fence taking 6 steps in the direction you are travelling while the horse crosses over.</p> <p>Repeat with handler on the left side of the horse.</p> <p>(Bonus if your horse will move back towards you when asked while you back up.)</p>		

Level 1

- All online ground work in preparation for Level 2

Level 2 –

- Lead line and halter off for most exercises
- In a safe fenced space.
- Possible work with obstacles, in particular the figure eight around two barrels first while on line and then offline.

Level 3

- Possibly higher level liberty
- A performance in front of an audience of at least ten people.