

Questioning

Skilful questioning will allow us to find out what riders actually know about a topic.

Questions come in two general categories. Closed questions that usually require a limited answer such as yes or no and open questions that encourage deeper thinking and discussion.

Open questions might include the starters:

What?

can you tell me about....
would you be looking for
was your plan....
else could you have done....
did you think about
would you like to improve....
would happen if.....
signs would you look for....
if

When?

would you use
might.....

How?

could you....
would you know....
would you use....
would you develop....

Why?

did you think....

Where?

would.....
else could.....

It is helpful to also further divide questions up into short or long answer and practical. When examining it is important to have a balance of question types.

Workshop: Horsemastership

How would you classify the questions noted below? (long, short, practical). What answers might you expect? How might you improve the questions?

Question: C+ Phase 4 - Paddock, feeding, exercise and conditioning	Type/Comment
1. What would you look for when checking your pony/horse and paddock each day?	
2. The water supply in your horse/pony paddock is a running stream. What will you need to check to make sure your horse/pony has an adequate water supply?	
3. What poisonous plants would you look for when checking paddocks?	
4. What poisonous plants do you recognize in this selection?	

C+ Phase 4 - Paddock, Feeding, exercising and conditioning	Type/Comment
1. How do you decide how much to feed your horse/pony?	
2. Why is it important to feed your horse/pony according to the work they are doing? Give me some examples of the type of feed you might use.	
3. Look at these hay samples and tell me which one you would feed your horse/pony and why?	
4. What feeds are classified as bulk foods? Why is it important to feed your horse/pony bulk foods?	
5. Your horse/pony is working hard and requires feed that will give energy. Which of these feeds would you choose and why? (pellets, oats, barley, maize, bran, linseed, chaff, molasses and salt).	

Workshop: Riding

Questions about:

- Rider position
- Horse/Pony's way of going
- Aids for various movements
- Ways to improve the outcome

Consider whether the questions are open or closed and the answer you might give. Improve questions that you are not happy about. Make up your own questions for those indicated?

1. Why is it important to have your lower leg underneath your seat? What exercises could you use to improve your lower leg position? What do you have to remember about the position of your lower leg??	
2. Do you think your pony's paces are even? Improve this question.	
3. What are the aids you would use to ask your horse to lengthen? What did you think about your lengthening? How might you improve this movement?	
4. Bend	

5. Serpentine	
6. Correct contact in jumping or comment on a show jumping round	
5. Canter on a named leg	

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