



Changes to the 2023 Dressage Tests

Changes to the Purpose of the Levels

Introductory Level

To introduce the rider and/or horse to the sport of dressage, confirming that they are beginning to develop an understanding of correct dressage basics. The horse should be ridden freely forward in a steady tempo and clear rhythm, accepting contact with the bit. An understanding of test accuracy and geometry should be demonstrated.

Training Level

To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics by showing suppleness both laterally and longitudinally, moving freely forward in a clear rhythm with a steady tempo, and readily accepting contact with the bit. Correct geometry and lines of travel should be shown.

First Level

To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and in addition to the requirements of Training Level, has developed the improved balance, lateral suppleness and throughness, as well as the thrust to perform lengthenings of stride. The horse should be on the bit.

Second Level

To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and now begins to accept more weight on the hindquarters as the collected and medium gaits develop. A greater degree of straightness, suppleness, throughness, and balance are required to perform the movements with ease and self-carriage.

Third Level

To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics while maintaining consistent uphill balance and self-carriage. Increased engagement facilitates clear differences in collected, medium, and extended gaits with well-defined, balanced transitions. Movements should be accomplished with harmony and ease due to the increased balance and collection. The horse must demonstrate a greater degree of throughness, suppleness, straightness and bending.

Fourth Level

To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and has developed sufficient throughness, suppleness, balance, and impulsion to perform with ease the exercises at this medium level of difficulty. The horse has established consistent self-carriage and lightness through improved connection, engagement, and collection. The movements and transitions are performed with greater straightness, impulsion, and cadence.



Changes to the Tests by Level

Introductory Level

The directive for Medium Walk (where visible to the Judge at C) and Free Walk now include “overtrack”

The directives were updated to be more cohesive with Training Level.

Training Level

Test 1 - Movement # 6 - The walk transition is now between C &H instead of at C.

Test 2- no changes

Training Level

Test 3- Revised similar to the 2015 version with a new description for the shallow loop at trot.

First Level

Test 1- Lengthen stride at canter was removed.

Test 2- The score for “leg-yield ” and “Turn down centerline” were combined.

Test 3- Trot work is more balanced and canter work is divided for better balance. Both leg-yields go towards the judge. Stretch circle was moved for better transitions between movements before and after

New description of shallow loop in canter. Diagram added to score sheet for clarification.

Second Level

Test 1- The end of the test was shortened to make a more fluid finish.

The last canter to walk was removed and replaced with a transition to trot.

Second Level

Test 2- Medium Trot was added between the shoulder-in and travers.

The pattern was changed to put both shoulder-ins and travers together separated by 1/2 ten-meter circles.

Test 3- No changes to the pattern

Third Level

There are no changes to the patterns at Third Level.

In all Third Level Test- Flying Lead Changes now have a coefficient.



Changes to Second and Third Level

The directive “Shorten the walk stride” was removed in walk to canter transition movements.

“Shorten the walk” was replaced with “Collect” prior to Turn on the Haunches.

Fourth Level

- **Test 1-** The Shoulder-in was moved from the centerline to the rail.
- Extended walk moved to diagonal instead of half-circle.
- The coefficients were moved from the shoulder-in to the trot half passes.

Fourth Level

- **Test 2 -** Extended canter is now before the working pirouettes.
- The coefficients were moved from the trot half passes to the canter half passes.

Fourth Level

- **Test 3-**Shoulder-in moved from centerline to rail
- Half-circles at canter/counter- canter were removed.
- Working half- pirouettes at canter were moved to a more “open” diagonal line.
- The coefficients were moved from the shoulder-in to the rein back and transitions to and from extended trot.

Changes to the Four-Year-Old and Developing Tests

Four-Year-Old

- The distance of the free walk was increased.
- The canter transition was changed from at the letter to the between the letters.
- General Impression changed to Perspective to match FEI Young Horse tests.

Developing Prix St. George & Developing Grand Prix

Artistic Marks

The Artistic Impression Marks were revised to be closer to FEI Freestyles except for a reduced Coefficient in Degree of Difficulty

Training =1

First Level =2

Second Level =3



Technical Marks by Level

Training Level

- ❖ A coefficient of 2 was added to medium walk and canter circles.
- ❖ Additional descriptive information added to serpentines and Transitions
- ❖ Canter-Trot-Canter (12m min of trot) was added to additionally allowed

Technical Marks by Level

Second Level

- ❖ A coefficient of 2 was added to Medium Walk and Simple Change of Lead (right and left).
- ❖ Transitions in and out of Medium Trot and Medium Canter were both added as Compulsory Elements.