



## CLASSICAL DRESSAGE INTRO WALK/TROT

These tests are suitable for any horse 5 years old or above, in standard or small arena. Trot can be ridden rising or sitting.

### Introducing:

Balanced walk and trot, half-stride walk, lengthening the neck at trot, volte. (Instructions on Page 3)

	Movement	Directive	Points	Comments
1 A	Enter balanced walk	Tempo, regularity, impulsion, and straightness on centerline		
2 I	Halt 4 seconds while softening the rein, proceed balanced walk ( <i>salute is optional</i> )	Balance of the halt, obedience, relaxation.		
3 C	Track right	Correct bend and balance in turn and corner, consistent tempo and impulsion.		
4 M - X	Develop half-stride walk	Smooth transition to half-stride walk, regularity, balance, softness to the connection.		
5 X - K	Return to balanced walk	Smooth transition to balanced walk, regularity, balance, softness to the connection, bend in turns.		
6 At corner between A & F	6-meter volte on the left hand	Consistent balance, tempo, and bend.		
7 B	Turn left, develop half-stride walk across the centerline	Smooth transition to half-stride walk, regularity, balance, softness to an elastic connection.		
8 Before E	Return to balanced walk	Smooth transition to balanced walk, regularity, balance, softness to the connection, bend in turns.		
9 E	Turn right, continue balanced walk	Regularity, balance, impulsion, softness to an elastic connection		
10 At corner between H & C	6-meter volte on the right hand	Consistent balance, tempo, and bend.		



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11	C	Balanced trot	Smooth balanced transition, consistent tempo and impulsion		
12	B	20-meter circle right, lengthening neck and topline	Consistent balance, elastic connection, developing more impulsion.		
13	Before B	Balanced trot	Smooth transition to balanced trot, relaxation, and consistent tempo and impulsion.		
14	A	Down centerline	Straightness, balance, impulsion, connection.		
15	G	Halt 4 seconds while softening the rein. <i>(salute is optional)</i>	Balance of the halt, obedience, relaxation.		

### Collective Marks:

<b>Gaits and Impulsion</b> (Regularity, relaxation, energy)		
<b>Balance and Straightness</b> (horse is supple with symmetric movement in both directions)		
<b>Connection</b> (elastic rein contact with effective communication without resistance)		
<b>Rider's Seat</b> (Posture, balance, stability, effectiveness)		

### FURTHER REMARKS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

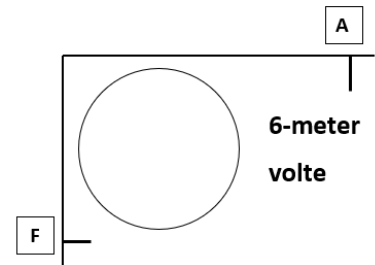
Rider: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Points (max 190): \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



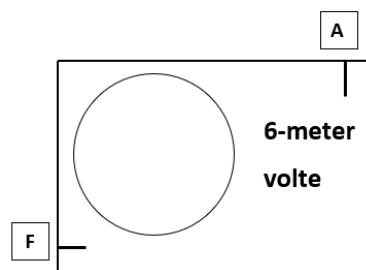


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## Instructions

This test is based on a blending of many of the Classical methods as well as current biomechanical knowledge of the way horses move. The test is to illustrate some concepts that should be incorporated into any training program for health, wellness, and longevity of the horse.

A **VOLTE** is a 6-meter circle or the smallest circle your horse can make in twelve strides of the inside hind. The size should be small, but the regularity and steadiness of the stride is what is important. The bend should be appropriate for the small size circle so the horse's body makes an arc around the circle.



The 6-meter Volte can be easily shown in the corner of the regulation arena where the distance from the corner to the first letter on the long side ("F" in the figure to the left) is 6-meters.

The **GAITS WITHIN THE GAITS** are emphasized by the **HALF STRIDE WALK** and the **LENGTHENING OF THE NECK AT THE TROT**. The horse should be developing longitudinal suppleness as shown by changing the stride length during the gaits.

The **HALF STRIDE WALK** is not a collected gait, but a precursor to collection. It is achieved by asking for a shorter step but keeping tempo, regularity, and impulsion. It should be aided by the rider's seat. Pulling on the reins to slow the horse is not correct.

The **LENGTHENING OF THE NECK IN THE TROT** is not the traditional "stretch" as shown in other tests. It is not an extended trot. The purpose of lengthening the neck is to allow the frame of the horse to lengthen and the stride to also become more reaching. The connection to the bridle must be maintained as the impulsion is increased. The horse's nose should not lower below the level of its knee, but should reach out and open, maintaining longitudinal balance back to front.

The Collective Marks are explained on the score sheet. Proper connection should be always maintained. Intentionally pulling the horse's head behind the vertical will be marked down.