

BHS Examinations and Qualifications



Welcome to one of the best examination systems in the world. The British Horse Society (BHS) vocational examinations and qualifications are recognised internationally. All the awards detailed in this booklet follow an established, tried and tested method of exploring candidates' equitation, coaching and stable management skills which is unsurpassed anywhere in the world. BHS examinations are understandably popular with overseas candidates and we currently have Examination Centres in the USA, Hong Kong, Italy and Singapore.

Equestrian Qualifications GB Limited (EQL) is a subsidiary of the BHS but stands alone in its remit to award equestrian qualifications. EQL is an Awarding Body recognised by Ofqual and, as such, must comply with a range of conditions, including robust assurance for developing and awarding qualifications. EQL also awards Work Based Diplomas (NVQs), Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) and UKCC endorsed Certificates in Coaching.

To view the examination syllabi and guidelines, or to find out how to enter for BHS examinations, please visit our website at www.bhs.org.uk, call the Examinations Department on 02476 840508, or send an email to exams@bhs.org.uk.

Fulfilling your passion for horses

There are a number of BHS examinations towards which you can work, depending on your aspirations. Before embarking on a career with horses it is important to select carefully your place of training. While it is not obligatory for candidates to be trained at a BHS Approved Centre, we strongly recommend it. Details of Approved BHS Training Centres can be found on our website, www.bhs.org.uk. EQL awards the following exams and qualifications. These should be read in conjunction with the current exam syllabus and guidelines.

Stage 1

- **EQL Level 1 Certificate in BHS Riding Horses**
Riding horses on the flat/over ground poles in the light seat
 To be successful you must be able to ride schooled horses in an enclosed environment in a balanced sympathetic manner. You will need to have sound basic principles and skills in riding horses on the flat and over poles on the ground in the light seat, from which you can build on and improve your riding. Your balance and security will show a correct foundation for future progression. You will also be expected to show work without stirrups in walk and trot.
- **EQL Level 1 Certificate in BHS Horse Knowledge and Care**
Brushing off horses, including putting on/taking off equipment
Horse husbandry identification and handling
The principles of caring for horses
 To be successful you must be able to safely and efficiently undertake routine daily tasks, under supervision, with horses in the stable and at grass. This qualification provides a sound foundation, giving you the knowledge and skills to progress into employment and for future learning and development.



Stage 2

- **EQL Level 2 Diploma in BHS Riding Horses**
EQL Level 2 Certificate in BHS Riding Horses on the flat
Ride horses on the flat in an enclosed area
Ride horses over fences in an enclosed area
 This award is for candidates with improving riding skills and knowledge who may have achieved a Stage 1 qualification and who wish to progress to a higher level qualification. You will be able to ride schooled horses independently and as a ride in an enclosed environment. You will be confident and competent riding horses with and without stirrups in all three paces and with the reins in one hand. Your position will be established, showing balance, security and a degree of feel. You will be able to build up a rapport and work in harmony with various types of horses, showing an understanding of the basic principles of riding from leg to hand. In addition, you will be able to show a secure and balanced jumping position. You will be confident and competent jumping various types of horses in harmony, showing an ability to assist the horse in keeping its balance round a course of fences up to 2' 6" (76cm).
- **EQL Level 2 Diploma in BHS Horse Knowledge and Care**
EQL Level 2 Certificate in Horse Care
Groom and plait horses and fit equipment
The principles of horse health and anatomy
The principles of shoeing, clipping and trimming horses
Fit, remove and maintain tack for exercise
Lunge a horse under supervision
EQL Level 2 Award in the Principles of Horse Care
The principles of watering, feeding and fitting horses
The principles of stabling and grassland care for horses
 To be successful you must be able to safely and competently apply skills and knowledge relating to the care of horses through a range of well-defined tasks under limited supervision. You will be able to select and use relevant equipment and show efficient use of time as required by industry. You will display a level of competence and autonomy for entry to, or progression within employment. You will be fully aware of the importance of health and safety in connection with the work carried out.

Stage 3

- **EQL Level 3 Diploma in BHS Riding Horses**
EQL Level 3 Certificate in Riding Horses on the flat
Ride horses on the flat
Ride horses over fences
 To be successful you must be able to prepare for and ride a variety of horses over a course of show jumps up to 1m/3'3" and a cross-country course up to 0.9m/3' in a confident, secure, balanced and independent position, taking the welfare of the horse into consideration. You will also understand how to evaluate and progress horses' work. You will know how to and be able to ride and work a variety of horses to 'Novice Dressage' level. You will have a degree of 'feel' to allow you to recognise the horse's way of going. You will be able to utilise a plan of work including transitions and exercises to maintain the horse's way of going. You will be able to build up a rapport and respect for the horse being ridden. This qualification will allow you to progress onto refining the co-ordination of aids, feel, suppleness and understanding of a horse's way of going in order to develop the skill of riding higher level movements.
- **EQL Level 3 Diploma in BHS Horse Knowledge and Care**
EQL Level 3 Certificate in Horse Care
Fit tack and equipment and care for the competition horse
Horse health, anatomy and physiology
Lunge a fit horse for exercise
EQL Level 3 Award in the Principles of Horse Care
The principles of feeding and fitting horses
The principles of stabling and grassland care for horses
 You will be able to manage your work safely and efficiently, applying skills and knowledge relating to the care and management of horses through a range of tasks under minimal supervision. You will be able to select and use relevant equipment and manage your use of time according to industry practice. You will exhibit competence and autonomy to the level required by industry to enable you to enter into a more senior under-management post. The qualification will provide you with the opportunity to develop further skills and knowledge in order to progress to a Level 4 qualification and/or management position. This qualification will also allow progression to further learning including the Advanced Equine Apprenticeship.

Key

Red text: "Traditional" BHS exams

Blue text: Small, "new" qualifications

Bold black text: Units

To achieve the traditional qualifications, candidates must achieve all the smaller qualifications and all the units. In order to achieve the smaller qualifications candidates must achieve all the units listed underneath them.





EQL Level 3 Certificate in BHS Preliminary Teaching of Horse Riding

Coach a group of riders for improvement
Coach an inexperienced rider for improvement

EQL Level 2 Award in the Principles of Coaching Sport

Understanding the fundamentals of coaching sport
Understanding how to develop participants through coaching sport
Supporting participant's lifestyle through coaching sport

Understanding the principles of safe and equitable coaching practice

Achievement of this Certificate will provide you with the skills and knowledge to coach riders of varying abilities from the beginner through to the more experienced rider on the flat and over fences. Your coaching skills will enable you to plan, deliver and evaluate the coaching session. Working unsupervised, you will create a positive and safe environment where learning can take place.

You will also have the opportunity to register and gain the Level 2 UKCC Endorsed Certificate in Coaching by completing a portfolio of evidence.

BHS Assistant Instructor Certificate (BHSAI)

The BHSAI certificate will be awarded when you have successfully achieved EQL Level 3 Diploma in BHS Riding Horses, EQL Level 3 Diploma in BHS Horse Knowledge and Care, EQL Level 3 Certificate in BHS Preliminary Teaching of Horse Riding, and completed a Coaching Portfolio.

You will be required to complete a number of tasks for your portfolio, which will be externally assessed by an independent assessor. The following documents also need to be submitted, along with the Coaching Portfolio:

- BHS First Aid certificate or HSE First Aid at Work Certificate
- BEF or Sports Coach UK Safeguarding and Protecting Children – certificate of attendance (previously Child Protection Workshop)

BHS Stage 4 Horse Knowledge Care Certificate

To achieve this certificate you will have already fulfilled the criteria of a Level 3 qualification and you will now be ready to further develop your skills and knowledge to progress to this higher level qualification. Working alone and unsupervised you will be able to take full responsibility for managing an equestrian business. You will understand the insurance requirements, accident and incident reporting, relevant health and safety legislation, yard security and yard and stable construction and design. In addition you will be able to develop a plan to maintain yard facilities and develop annual grassland maintenance programmes.

BHS Stable Manager's Certificate

To be successful you must have sound experience and knowledge in all aspects of horse care. You will be a competent manager, able to supervise and train staff and students. You will be able to examine horses for purchase and discuss and advise on maintaining horse health, care of competition horses for all disciplines and the breeding and management of young stock. On completion of this qualification you will be able to run a private or commercial yard, competition yard or riding establishment.

BHS Senior Equitation Certificate

You will be a competent and knowledgeable horse person with a sound grasp of the principles of training horses on the flat and over fences up to and including movements at British Dressage Advanced/Medium, British Eventing Intermediate Horse Trials and BS Foxhunter. You will also be capable of training young and spoiled horses from the ground.

BHS Senior Coach Certificate

You will be an effective coach with sound teaching and equitation principles. You will be able to give lessons up to and including British Dressage Advanced/Medium, British Eventing Intermediate Horse Trials and BS Foxhunter. You will have the ability to train students and pupils for BHS examinations and competitions and coach private and class lessons. In addition, you will be able to offer advice on training and careers.

BHS Instructor's Certificate (BHSI)

The BHSI Certificate is awarded when you have achieved the BHS Stable Manager Certificate, BHS Senior Equitation Certificate and BHS Senior Coach Certificate.

Hard work and dedication are required to achieve the BHSI examination – normally, you will already be working in the industry, training riders and horses to a Level 4 or equivalent standard.

Fellow of The British Horse Society (FBHS)

The Fellowship is the final step on the equestrian qualification ladder in the UK and is the highest teaching qualification within the BHS System. There are fewer than 100 Fellows throughout the world.

To be eligible to apply for this exam you will hold your BHSI and will be working full-time in the horse industry. You will already be training riders and horses to a high level, both on the flat and over fences, and have sound training and management principles. You will be up-to-date with new ideas, theories, doctrines and inventions. A good ambassador for the BHS, you will believe in the Society and all it works for, its systems and beliefs.

There is the General Fellowship for trainers who are training riders and horses to a high level in both dressage and jumping. There is also the Specialist Fellowship for trainers in Dressage, Showjumping and Eventing.

It is impossible to 'train' for this examination – from the day you start with horses the Fellowship should be your ambition, your goal, the jewel in your equestrian crown. Only by dedication, hard work, open-mindedness, fairness and a willingness to never stop learning, will you pass this extremely prestigious examination.



Fulfilling your passion for horses

Fulfilling your passion for horses

Recreational Qualifications

EQL Level 2 Award in BHS Riding Horses Safely on the Public Highway (BHS Riding and Road Safety Test)

The principles of riding horses on the highway Ride a horse in an enclosed area and on the highway

Taken by more than 4,000 candidates a year, the BHS Riding and Road Safety Test helps educate riders in road safety in order to minimise the risk involved when riding on the roads. The test is available to all riders from 12 years of age and is supported by the Department for Transport.

You do not need to own a horse in order to take the test as many riding schools and centres organise them for their pupils. You may attend one of the published dates or, if a group of eight or more people get together, many trainers and examiners are happy – subject to a satisfactory BHS Riding and Road Safety risk assessment being carried out – to come to your centre. To achieve this test you must show that you are able to maintain control of your horse, while showing a secure riding position, through turns and manoeuvres, using appropriate observation and signalling procedures. In addition, you will know the legislative requirements for riding on the public highway and put this knowledge into practice.

You must hold the BHS Riding and Road Safety Test in order to sit EQL Level 2 Diploma in BHS Riding Horses and EQL Level 2 Certificate in Riding Horses on the Flat.

Horse Owner's Certificate

The Horse Owner's Certificates are offered at four levels of knowledge with regard to the care and management of the horse – but you don't need to own a horse to sit them! Each level will be assessed in the form of a written paper, which should be completed under examination conditions with an adjudicator present.

Courses are held throughout the country, but the person who takes overall responsibility for the training and the course must be a member of the BHS Register of Instructors. During the course the instructor will follow the syllabus appropriate for each of the levels. You can also purchase books to accompany the course through the BHS Bookshop.

The examination papers will be set and marked by the registered instructor in charge of the course and then sent to EQL for moderation before certificates are awarded.

British Equestrian Tourism (BET)

Assistant Ride Leader
Ride Leader
Riding Holiday Centre manager

Since the introduction of Equestrian Tourism Qualifications in 1997, many professionals have taken the exams, which are seen as necessary to anyone wishing to work at a holiday riding centre or taking out hacks. Equestrian Tourism is growing fast in the UK and overseas.

These qualifications were especially developed to provide industry relevant, recognised standards at three levels for those working in equestrian tourism – Assistant Ride Leader, Ride Leader and Riding Holiday Centre Manager. It is recommended that candidates undertake relevant training.

Do you hold the complete Stage 2 examination? You can turn your BHS Stage 2 exam into an Assistant Ride Leader qualification! The Stage 2 Exam has been mapped against the Assistant Ride Leader qualification, and successful completion of a simple half day exam is all you need to do. Please contact the BHS Approvals Department on 02476 840509 for further information.

You must hold your BHS Riding & Road Safety examination before you can enter for and take any of the British Equestrian Tourism Examinations.

Work Based Diplomas

Work based diplomas replaced National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 1 January 2011. Assessment takes place either in the workplace or in an approved assessment location on a continuous basis. These qualifications have been developed by the equine industry from the equine National Occupational Standards.

EQL Level 1 Diploma in Work Based Horse Care

This qualification is specifically aimed at those between 14-19 years of age. You will possess the skills and knowledge required to care for horses under supervision and to carry out general stable management routines. The qualification is made up of 10 practical units and 10 principle units, covering the knowledge-based elements of the practical delivery. There are also four additional units, which do not form part of the qualification but are available to you if you have an interest in achieving some basic riding units

EQL Level 2 Diploma in Work Based Horse Care

This qualification is primarily for candidates aged 16 plus, although it is also suitable for competent and more advanced 14-16-year-olds as it lends itself well into the remit for schools to be able to offer more vocationally based awards.

You will be able to safely and efficiently demonstrate skills and apply knowledge through a range of work activities and routine tasks related to the care and use of horses under limited supervision.



On achieving this qualification you will be able to further your training and competence by progressing onto a Level 3 qualification. You will be able to obtain work as a groom in a variety of job roles on any equine establishment

EQL Level 3 Diploma in Work Based Horse Care and Management

This qualification is suitable for post-16 candidates who are working at Level 2 and wish to further develop their skills, knowledge and competence in order to progress their career or obtain employment.

You will be responsible for supervising and guiding staff, organising work and have a broad range of knowledge and skills which you will apply to a variety of work routines. You will be able to assume responsibility for others and run a small yard.

On achieving this qualification you will also be able to further your training and competence by progressing on to a number of equine awards available at Levels 4 and 5. These might be academic HNC/HND type courses or other practical based awards. You should be able to obtain employment in a variety of equine establishments as a Horse Groom or Yard Manager (in a variety of job roles), Trek Centre Operator, Trek leader, Horse Riding Instructor or Horse Trainer.

Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) are awarded by EQL. Similar to Workbased Diplomas, SVQs are available to candidates registered with EQL's approved SVQ Centres. A full list of these centres may be viewed on our website, www.equestrian-qualifications.org.uk



Fulfilling your passion for horses

Fulfilling your passion for horses

UKCC (Endorsed) Certificates in Coaching

EQL awards the following Equestrian Coaching Certificates on behalf of the British Equestrian Federation.

- EQL Level 1 Award in Coaching Equestrian Riding**
- EQL Level 1 Award in Coaching Equestrian Vaulting**
- EQL Level 1 Award in Coaching Equestrian Driving**
- EQL Level 1 Award in the Principles in Coaching Sport**
- EQL Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Equestrian Riding**
- EQL Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Equestrian Vaulting**
- EQL Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Equestrian Driving**
- EQL Level 2 Award in the Principles in Coaching Sport**
- EQL Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Equestrian Riding**
- EQL Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Equestrian Vaulting**
- EQL Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Equestrian Driving**
- EQL Level 3 Award in the Principles of Coaching Sport**

Within each qualification there are specialist pathways. Which one you choose will depend upon your involvement within equestrian sport. The routes to qualification will allow you to be assessed working within your own environment and also facilitates an appreciation of the breadth of the industry, allowing flexible routes to learning and qualification.

For example, a Level 1 Coach who has an award in generic riding, may choose at Level 2 to have a specific award working within a particular context, such as Vaulting. All technical syllabi have been approved and mapped for parity and consistency. Fundamentally, you will be required to demonstrate your competence in the coaching environment and your ability to coach participants within an equestrian context. Evidence of coaching practice may come from a variety of sources, including observation by a competent assessor or via a recorded log book of experience conducted as part of a learning programme. It is essential that you are able to coach safely and effectively within an appropriate coaching environment.

Assessment methods can vary, as can the materials for providing evidence that you can meet the learning



outcomes of a coaching qualification.

Where situations within coaching cannot necessarily be replicated e.g. emergency procedures, questioning, role-play or simulation can be used and recorded to demonstrate competence and/or knowledge. All methods of assessment will need to be recorded for purposes of evidence and quality assurance. If you are interested in the UKCC Coaching Certificates you should contact a UKCC Centre, a list of EQL Approved Centres is on the EQL website www.equestrian-qualifications.org.uk

The British Horse Society
Abbey Park
Stareton
Kenilworth CV8 2XZ
Call: 02476 840500
www.bhs.org.uk



Fulfilling your passion for horses