

NCSSEL Questions

- 1) Name four natural gaits of the horse.
Walk, trot, canter, and gallop
- 2) How many beats (footfalls) to the walk?
Four
- 3) How many beats (footfalls) to the trot?
Two
- 4) How many beats (footfalls) to the canter?
Three
- 5) Name three different coat colors of the horse.
Bay, Dark Brown, Black, Grey, Palomino, Chestnut, Sorrel, Buckskin, etc
- 6) What predominant skin color do grey horses have?
Black
- 7) Describe the difference between a chestnut colored horse and a sorrel colored horse.
 - a) Chestnut horses have reddish-brown body color with manes and tails of almost identical color.
 - b) Sorrel horses also have reddish-brown body color, but their manes and tails are much lighter than their body color.
- 8) Name three common facial markings in horses.
Star, stripe, snip, blaze, bald face
- 9) Name two common leg markings in horses and describe which has more white in it (which is bigger).
Coronet, anklet, sock, stocking
- 10) What is the normal temperature range for a horse?
99° to 101°
- 11) Name three general signs that a horse is sick.
 - a) A temperature over 101° degrees or under 99°
 - b) Cold and patchy sweating
 - c) A pulse rate greater than 60 that is weak and irregular
 - d) Heavy nasal discharge
 - e) Little or no intestinal sounds
 - f) Lower limbs puffy or full of swelling
 - g) Weak or irregular respiration

- 12) What are some signs of colic?
Persistent pawing and rolling, profuse sweating, looking at sides, kicking belly.
- 13) How do you estimate a horse's age?
By examining his teeth.
- 14) Name one joint in the horse's hind leg.
Pastern, fetlock, hock, stifle, hip
- 15) Name one joint in the horse's front leg.
Pastern, fetlock, knee, elbow, shoulder
- 16) What does the word "aid" mean?
Two things: (1) Natural aids are what the rider uses to tell his horse his intentions; they are typically things a rider is born with and (2) artificial aids are things used for reinforcing the natural aids; they are typically things the rider was not born with.
- 17) Give an example of a "natural aid".
Hand, seat, leg, voice
- 18) Give an example of an "artificial aid".
Spurs, crop, whip
- 19) What is a simple change of lead?
For hunters, it is changing the lead by executing a downward transition from a canter to trot for not more than three steps and then picking up the opposite lead.
- 20) Why should there be a ground line for each fence?
Ground lines help a horse in judging how big the fence is and finding the right take-off spot.
- 21) What 5 stages does a horse go through when it is jumping?
Approach, take-off, flight, landing, departure
- 22) What is a disunited or cross-canter?
A disunited or cross-canter occurs when it appears the horse is cantering on one lead on the forehand and on the other lead on the hindquarters.
- 23) What is a counter-canter?
A counter-canter occurs when the horse is on the left lead when going to the right or vice versa – like being on the wrong lead on purpose
- 24) Name 2 basic types of hay.

- a) Grass, ex: Timothy or Orchard grass
 - b) Legume, ex: alfalfa
- 25) What is the most vital nutrient for a horse to have?
Water
- 26) List at least two common forms of bedding.
Straw, sawdust and shavings
- 27) What are the purposes of grooming?
To increase the blood supply to the skin; to remove the dirt and dandruff; to give a good shine to the coat and to lubricate the skin; and to help prevent skin disease.