

# Scoring Guidelines - all scores under 7.0 require a comment



<b>Movement</b>	<b>8.0-10</b>	<b>7-7.5</b>	<b>6-6.5</b>	<i>&lt;----(Depending on the severity of the deviation from the criteria or training basics)----&gt;</i> <b>4.5-5.5</b>	<b>&lt;4.0</b>
1 loop 10m off the track - Working Jog	Has balance and fluid changes of bend on 1/4 line. Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Accurate geometry.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, connection, engagement.	Fairly accurate but may lack suppleness in changes of bend or have slight connection issues.	Very little change of bend shown Tempo varies Clearly not 10m loop	Above bit for most of the movement Disobediences Irregular/break of gait
1 Loop 5m. off the track in Working Jog	Gaits are free, fluid, active, and elastic. Two (2) fluid changes of bend High level of balance and harmony	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, connection, balance, engagement.	Accurate geometry Maintains quality of gait Shows some change of bend Performs the movement, but may lack suppleness in the change of bend, slight connection issues, could have more impulsion	Ridden as a V with no change of bend Inaccurate geometry Lacks balance Tension during changes of bend Open mouth Leg Yielding	Breaks gait Severe connection issues Disobedience
3 loop serpentine - Working Jog	Symmetric, accurate geometry Smooth changes of bend, over the quarter lines On the aids Soft in the bridle Balanced with a steady tempo	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of accuracy, harmony, connection, engagement.	Fairly accurate but may lack suppleness in changes of bend or have slight connection issues.	Very little change of bend shown Tempo varies Loop size varies	Ridden as straight lines, no change of bend Above bit for most of the movement Disobediences Irregular Break of gait
Back	Straight, balanced halt. Prompt, smooth, fluent transitions. Willing, Back with diagonal Pairs, correct step count. Lowered haunches	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Less fluid or prompt.	Fairly balanced halt Diagonal pairs, but slight crookedness. Momentary open mouth or behind the vertical.	Resistant in one direction. Hollow Not diagonal pairs. Dragging either fore or hind limbs. Consistently behind the vertical	Very crooked. Resistant in and out of back Disobedient
Back Series	Looks harmonious and effortless. Consistent connection and topline, diagonal pairs, engagement in rein back, willingness in forward steps. Straight	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Eg. Fairly willing backs, correct count, could have slight bobbles in between or some small variance in contact or tempo.	One willing back, one less fluid or slight resistance at the start of the rein back, or diagonal pairs not always secure, or slight swing of haunches.	Reluctant at start of backs Walk rhythm not quite clear Against bit, but goes backwards.	Against bit throughout most of the movement, braced Incorrect count Not diagonal pairs Very crooked or disobedient

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Change of Lead through Walk	Gaits are free, active, and elastic with a 3-beat rhythm in lope and a 4 beat walk. Transitions are direct from Lope to Walk to Lope with 3-5 walk steps. Straight with fluidity and balance.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree.	Shows 1-2 jog steps either into OR out of the Walk. Not quite straight. Could be a bit hollow in 1 transition. Abrupt but clean transitions Too many walk steps.	Shows 1-2 jog steps into AND out of the Walk More than 2 jog steps Loss of balance Hollow throughout.	Disunited or wrong lead. Lateral walk rhythm No walk shown Resistant or disobedient 2nd lope not shown Flying change of lead
Change of Rein at Working Jog	Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Travels straight on the diagonal with consistent energy and impulsion Supple back Well engaged hindquarters Bend and balance in corners No change in tempo	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, connection, balance & engagement.	Active jog, but slight bracing or loss of balance in corners Line fairly straight but with inconsistent tempo or connection	Lacks balance in corners Diagonal line not followed Rushes Counter bent in corners	Breaks gait Disobedient Off line of travel
Collected Jog	Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Well-engaged with shorter steps than the working jog. Shows clear self-carriage with an uphill balance. Accurate geometry.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree.	Collection is not always maintained Could have more bend and/or flexion Tempo and/or impulsion can vary	Little difference from working jog	Level balance or on the forehand Resistant Breaks gait
Collected Lope	Gaits are free, active, and elastic with a 3-beat rhythm. Well-engaged with shorter steps than the working lope. Shows clear self-carriage with an uphill balance. Accurate geometry.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree.	Collection is not always maintained Could have more bend and/or flexion Tempo and/or impulsion can vary	Little difference from working lope	Level balance or on the forehand Resistant or disobedient Breaks gait or swaps leads Disunited lope
Collected Walk	The horse moves resolutely forward with its neck raise and showing clear self-carriage. The hind legs are engaged with good flexion of the joints and the horse maintained a marching/vigorous 4-beat walk	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree.	Slight connection issues Small loss of round topline, suppleness or straightness, but rhythm remains clear.	Rhythm not always clear Some bracing or tension Loses activity	Rhythm not clear Much tension, resistance or disobedience Loses gait/jogs or stalls
Counter Lope Loop	Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Accurate geometry and balance throughout. Maintains bend toward leading leg.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, connection, balance & engagement.	Slightly labored in counter lope Slight loss of alignment or connection	Some lack of clarity in lope rhythm Counter bent Geometry issues	Above bit for most of the movement Disobediences, Irregular/disunited/break of gait Swapped leads

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Extended Walk	Exceptional suppleness of the back. Lengthened frame with convincing reach to the contact with balance, freedom and optimum ground cover with clear overtrack and transitions.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Eg. Lower degree of suppleness of the back and ground cover	Could have longer strides, more reach and stretch, more activity, etc.	Walk rhythm not always clear, marginal reach/stretch Loses activity Fussy to contact Little difference between walks shown	Rhythm not pure Loses gait Resistant/disobedient Inverted, disobedient No difference shown
Flying Change of Lead	Exceptional fluidity, suppleness, and balance. Shows engagement with harmonious clean changes.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Eg. Clean change, may be a bit flat or lacks some ground cover or suppleness.	Tight topline, stride shortens but fairly united in the change Slight bracing to contact Clean change, but strung out or needs more engagement	Together behind, needs greater separation of hind legs Hollowed Leaped through change	Late behind or in front Through the jog Very braced Disobedient No change shown or attempted.
Flying Changes of Lead in a Series	Exceptional fluidity, suppleness, and balance. Shows engagement, with harmonious clean changes. Straight. Correct count. Evenly spaced.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Eg. Clean changes, may be less engaged or lacks some ground cover, suppleness, or straightness	Tight topline/slight bracing to contact Stride shortens but fairly united in the change Fairly straight. Correct count	Together behind, needs greater separation of hind legs Hollowed Leaped through change 1 incorrect count	Late behind or in front Through the jog Very braced Disobedient No change shown or attempted. 2 incorrect counts
Free Jog	Shows a forward and down stretch over a supple topline while maintaining impulsion & balance. Horse's frame and strides moderately lengthened with a steady tempo throughout. Demonstrated a smooth take-up of the reins afterwards with a clear start and finish to the movement.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, stretch, and balance.	Shows willingness to stretch, but may not be consistent. May show limited stretch and swing over the back, but stays balanced with a slightly longer stride.	Unsuccessful attempt made Little stretch shown May be restricted by rider's aids.	No attempt to stretch made by rider. (No clear release or take-up of reins) Or horse raises head, has a hollow back or is disobedient when release is attempted.
Free Walk	Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Accurate geometry and balance throughout. Fluid changes into and out of Free Walk. Willingness to stretch his neck forward and down with relaxation.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, connection, balance & engagement. Transitions into and out of Free Walk lacks tension	Modest lengthening of frame and stride Accurate shape and size circle (if required) Inconsistent stretch or slow to develop stretch.	Stretches only forward Stretches only down Tense Tempo changes Half circle not round Horse restricted by rider	No visible change between walks No lengthening of rein No stretch shown. Tight back Lateral walk Breaks gait
Half Pass in Collected Jog	Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Exceptional fluidity, suppleness, balance with increased reach of the limbs in crossover. Demonstrates bend in the direction of travel of travel with even crossing.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Not as fluid.	Minor contact/tension issues Minor rhythm and tempo variation Alignment varies Needs better bend Head tilt, shortening of neck limited crossing	Lacking impulsion, engagement, or thoroughness Haunches leading or trailing	Lack of bend or counter bent resembling a leg yield Major loss of rhythm Major contact/tension issues Evading or resisting the aids

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Half Pass in Collected Lope	Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Exceptional fluidity, suppleness, balance with increased reach and crossing of the fore and hindlegs. Demonstrates bend in the direction of travel with even tempo	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Not as fluid.	Minor contact/tension issues Minor rhythm and tempo variation Alignment varies Needs better bend Head tilt, shortening of neck limited crossing	Lacking impulsion, engagement, or thoroughness Haunches leading or trailing	Lack of bend or counter bent Major loss of rhythm or breaks gait Major contact/tension issues Evading or resisting the aids
Halt	Balanced on all 4 legs, straight and square, attentive, maintains immobility. Prompt obedient transitions in and out	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, connection, & balance	May not be on centerline or quite straight, but immobile Straight on centerline, but one leg out in halt Slight leaning on bit into fairly straight halt	Inattentiveness and lack of immobility at the halt Horse resists the aids (above bit, hollow) in the transitions into and out of halt Horse lacks straightness Horse slow to settle into halt, wiggly	Halt not established Resistant and/or disobedient Backing Very crooked or sideways Well off centerline
Halt/Jog or Jog/Halt	Smooth and direct transitions into and out of the halt. The immobile halt is well balanced, at attention, straight & square, and ready to move off the rider's aids. High quality of the gait before and after the halt.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of balance, promptness of the transition, straightness, and immobility in the halt	Halt is firmly established, but may not be completely straight/square Jog transitions into and out of the halt Could be more direct or more responsive to the aids.	Halt may be at an angle or not well balanced (eg. 1 hind leg resting) Transitions include some walk steps or the quality of the jog may be lacking.	Halt not established Resistant and/or disobedient. Backing Very crooked or sideways Well off centerline Transitions include many walk steps
Haunches-in & Renvers	Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Shoulders are straight in the direction of travel and haunches are displaced onto 4 tracks throughout the movement. Shows bend around the rider's inside leg. Fluid.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree.	Little bend Minor contact or tension issues Minor rhythm and tempo variation	Too little displacement of haunches off the track Number of tracks varies, angle fading Lacks bend Exaggerated bend, impeding the balance and fluency of the movement Lacking impulsion/engagement Too much bend in the neck	Not on four tracks Major contact tension issues evading or resisting the aids Major loss of rhythm Only neck bend without angle Leg Yielding Breaks gait
Leg Yield	Fluid crossing with balance Supple with soft flexion in the poll Horse must go forward and sideways in approx. a 2:1 ratio Horse is parallel to the track & has a consistent tempo with impulsion and engagement	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of accuracy, harmony, connection, engagement.	Lacks energy or engagement Incorrect flexion Alignment or tempo varies slightly	Bracing against the aids Hindquarter trail Excessive neck bend Geometry not accurate	Ridden as a diagonal line No crossing Resistant/disobedient

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Lengthening of the Jog	Has impulsion & push from behind, maintaining a soft contact. Supple back. Balanced with clearly longer, not faster strides. Ridden letter to letter. Responsive to the aids	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of accuracy, harmony, connection, engagement. Slight quickening of tempo or either fades a little at end or is slow to develop	Quite slow to develop or fades at end, but some lengthening of strides shown	Irregular steps Quickens more than lengthens Hollow topline	Quick/short steps Strides do not clearly lengthen Disobedient Breaks gait
Lengthening of the Strides at Lope	Has impulsion & push from behind, maintaining a soft contact. Clear 3-beat rhythm. Supple back. Balanced with clearly longer, not faster strides. Ridden letter to letter. Responsive to the aids	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of accuracy, harmony, connection, engagement. Slight quickening of tempo or either fades a little at end or is slow to develop	Quite slow to develop or fades at end, but some lengthening of strides shown Lacks engagement	Irregular steps Quickens more than lengthens Hollow topline	Quick/short steps Strides do not clearly lengthen Disobedient Breaks gait Disunited or change of lead
Lope Pirouette	Exceptional fluidity, suppleness, and balance. Haunches are lowered and body is bent in the direction of the turn. Shoulders turn around the inside hind leg. 3-beat rhythm with forward intention is maintained. Each quarter turn can be 2-3 strides	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree.	Could be better engaged More than 3 strides per quarter turn Slight lean on bit Loses round topline	Makes the turn, but little difference in engagement Very large Starts as circle then makes turn around hind legs Against bit	Swaps leads or loses gait Disobedient/very resistant Haunches swing out Circle rather than pirouette
Pivot	Horse moves around a stationary inside hind foot. Shows inside bend with forward intention. Horse is willing and responsive to the aids. Exceptional fluidity and reach.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, fluidity, bend, or connection. Fluid turn but not always on inside hind.	Minor contact or tension issues. Needs better bend. Always pivots on outside hind. Energy/activity fades	Tempo varies Doesn't finish or overturns Steps out a small step or two Switching pivot feet or walking behind Backward tendency	Started as a pivot and ended as a TOH Turn on the middle Resistance with poor bend Backing Slower or faster than a walk tempo
Rein Release at the Lope on a Circle	Exceptional fluidity & suppleness. Horse remains in an uphill balance demonstrating self-carriage with clear release of both reins.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree.	Minor contact/balance/tension issues Circle geometry changes slightly	Minimal release shown Loss of balance, tempo and/or rhythm changes Horse falls in or out on the circle	Rider continuing to maintain contact No release shown Breaks gait Resistance.
Renvers & Haunches-In	Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Shoulders are straight in the direction of travel and haunches are displaced onto 4 tracks throughout the movement. Shows bend around the rider's inside leg. Fluid.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree.	Little bend Minor contact or tension issues Minor rhythm and tempo variation	Too little displacement of haunches off the track Number of tracks varies, angle fading Lacks bend Exaggerated bend, impeding the balance and fluency of the movement Lacking impulsion/engagement Too much bend in the neck	Not on four tracks Major contact tension issues evading or resisting the aids Major loss of rhythm Only neck bend without angle Leg Yielding Breaks gait

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Shoulder-in	Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Horse must be connected into the outside rein from the rider's inside leg, engaging and lowering its inside hind leg and carrying more weight on it Three tracks with a consistent 30 degree angle Fluid	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Three tracks with approximately a 30 degree angle	Angle varies slightly, but identifiable as a shoulder-in. Minor contact or tension issues. Minor rhythm and tempo variation	Too little displacement of shoulders off the track Not on three tracks Angle varies, angle fading Lacks bend Exaggerated bend, impeding the balance and fluency of the movement Lacking impulsion/engagement Too much bend in the neck	Major contact tension issues evading or resisting the aids Major loss of rhythm Only neck bend without angle Too much angle deteriorating into a leg yield Breaks gait
Sidepass	Horse is perfectly straight (or slightly flexed in the direction of travel) with even crossing of front and hind legs. Steps are of equal distance with a steady tempo. Outside legs cross in front of inside legs.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Not as fluid.	May occasionally step together Crossing or alignment fades	Counter-flexed or counter bent Moves sideways without crossing Slow to start	Resistant Backing Against the hand
Turn on the Forehand (TOF)	Exceptional fluidity, balance and willingness. The inside hind crosses in front of the outside hind Horse exhibits straight alignment with slight flexion in the poll to the inside Acceptance of the outside rein	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, connection, engagement.	Minor contact or tension issues. Energy/activity fades Under turning by 1 step Tempo varies slightly	Hind limbs stepping together at times Front legs step wide (one time) Loss of balance Incorrect flexion Resistant to the aids	No cross-over Backing Turn on the middle Over or under-turning a quarter turn Disobedience
Turn on the Haunches (TOH)	Horse moves around the inside hind leg with an active walk rhythm, while showing inside bend with forward intention. Horse is willing and responsive to the aids. The size is approx. one meter	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, fluidity, bend, or connection	Minor contact or tension issues Needs better bend Slightly large Energy/activity fades	The horse sticks one step, but no serious bend or contact problems Tempo and/or walk rhythm varies Doesn't finish Steps out a small step or two	Started as a TOH and ended as a pivot Turn on middle Backward tendency
Working Jog	Gaits are free, active, and elastic. Steady tempo that shows impulsion. Hind legs step actively up under the horse. Accurate figure.	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of harmony, connection, engagement.	Inside bend or contact varies at times but maintains rhythm and suppleness of gait Figure asked for is clearly identifiable	Horse counter bent or haunches in on the circle Tempo changes Unclear start and finish to figure Tension	Irregular gait Disobedient/Resistant Very poor geometry
Working Lope	Balanced with free & supple gaits Relaxed tempo (neither rushed nor too slow) Accurate geometry & bend Shows engagement	All of the criteria of an 8, but to a lesser degree. Lower degree of accuracy, harmony, connection, engagement.	Fairly active and balanced, but may lack some suppleness OR bend OR have slight connection issues.	Horse becomes heavy on the forehand Slight or occasional loss of rhythm Labored Counter-bent at times Contact issues	Breaks gait Disobedient Disunited or 4 beat lope Wrong lead Inverted connection