

NOVA SCOTIA PONY CLUB
REGIONAL QUIZ
AND NATIONAL QUIZ INFORMATION

The aim of clubs hosting a quiz should be to give members an opportunity to compete with other Pony Club members by demonstrating their knowledge of horses and of Pony Club through a Regional Quiz, whether it be at 'E', 'D' or 'C' level. It allows them to improve their knowledge in a fun, educational and competitive setting.

The CPC National Quiz handbook is available for download from the CPC website. It can help with running a quiz, scoring and provides ideas for stations.

Quiz is divided into 3 sections; the written phase is worth 40%, the artifacts/visuals phase is worth 30% and the station/games phase is worth 30%. This method of scoring is in line with National Quiz scoring rules (see CPC National Quiz Handbook).

WRITTEN PHASE

The most important section of quiz is the written test. It is important that someone with a solid Pony Club background be the person who prepares the test, and has knowledge and experience in various question formats and ease and consistency of marking. This person(s) will have knowledge of the levels and have access to all reading materials that are required for the level of the test. Answers from all listed resource materials must be accepted as 'correct'. It is highly suggested that this person(s) be available to mark the tests during the day of quiz. This same person(s) should also be available for questions during the test review.

For D and C level tests respectively, each should consist of 50% (D) or (C) level material, 25% (D1) or (C1) level material, and 25% (D2) or (C2) level material. There is a big gap between D and D2 level and between C and C2 level. If there is only one test for each level, then it should be written in such a manner so that a straight D or C level member should be able to get about 50%. We want to challenge, not discourage. Therefore, a D level test would contain questions based on 50% D level material, 25% D1 level material and 25% D2 level material. The same would apply to C level. The test should cover a wide range of topics. This will reward the most well-rounded competitors.

When preparing the written test it is suggested that the questions be of 'fill in the blank' type questions, which will make for easy marking. Multiple choice questions provide too much opportunity for guessing. Short answer or essay type questions are difficult to mark with consistency. For these reasons, these types of questions should be avoided. Take extra care in the wording of questions being

specific as to what is being requested, so as to avoid confusion. Perhaps have a second person review the prepared test for clarity in what is being asked. The written test must be kept confidential.

For marking purposes and review, it is helpful to record the reference source (book and page number of the answer) next to the question on the test. Please remember that a question may have varying answers from different books (USPC manuals vs. Manual of Horsemanship) also, using updated editions is recommended. All correct answers found in the required/recommended reading for the level must be given full marks.

The person(s) preparing the written test should also prepare an answer key ahead of time. This key should include all possible answers, keeping in mind that there are always other logical and reasonable answers that may come up and be acceptable. Preparing this key is a good way of discovering mistakes too.

After all written tests have been marked it is very important to pass tests back to members for their review. They can then challenge the marking (before final tallying of scores) if they feel that their answer is correct to a review person (s) through the Captain of their team. If it is decided that the answer is an acceptable answer then the test goes back to the scoring room for an updated mark. It is strongly advised that the person(s) reviewing tests be the person(s) who wrote the test.

All required/recommended books for the level of the test should be available on quiz day, in this way the person(s) marking and reviewing the test may use them as reference.

Because technology within the horse industry is advancing rapidly and because members at 'C' level are encouraged to think and work independently, all logical and reasonable answers to questions could/should be considered when marking written tests.

For 'C' quiz qualifiers, the written test could contain extra questions that would be necessary for National Quiz applicants to complete (would not be included in the team mark). Also, preparing an extra test (15-20 minutes) just for National quiz applicants to write is an option.

It is most important to be consistent and fair when marking written tests.

ARTIFACTS/VISUALS PHASE

The artifacts section should contain items from as many areas of horsemanship as possible; tack or equipment from any discipline, farrier's tools, vet utensils, x-rays, bones etc. This section should test the member's practical working knowledge of horses and riding. The artifacts need to be kept confidential, it is

essential that scheduling allow for this. Also, using a separate room for artifacts has worked well in the past.

It is critical that all names for an item are researched and all correct names are given equal marks (ex. Bell boot is also called an over-reach boot). Keep in mind, when marking that the answer is the **name** of the item, not what the item is used for or what it does.

This is an individual test, each member completes the artifacts phase on their own and it should be set up in such a way to encourage this..

STATIONS/ GAMES PHASE

The stations are done together as a team and are meant to be fun, educational, and challenging. Providing a wide range of subjects for the stations will enable members to add to their knowledge of Pony Club. For host clubs, keep in mind that stations are to be kept confidential.

There can be as many stations as the organizer wishes, but in the past hosts usually provided an average of 10 -12 stations.

At 'E' and 'D' level quizzes, the idea of non-scoring stations and activities such as crafts, puzzles, information stations and skits have been popular. The age range of members at these levels can be varied, and in order to keep it fun and entertaining, it is a good idea to somehow incorporate fun stations into quiz.

However, at our 'C' Regional quizzes, where the members are older, and usually these quizzes are 'C' Qualifier quizzes, it is not so important to offer non-scoring stations. Most members at this level want to be challenged by a scoring station. Clubs are encouraged to really challenge participants at a 'C' qualifier quiz, the knowledge of a participant wishing to qualify for the National Quiz team should be extensive.

Organizers of Regional quizzes have sometimes asked that attending clubs bring along a station (and someone to run it) as their contribution toward the quiz.

SCORING

Members will do the written and artifacts phases individually, then work as a team for the station phase of the competition.

Individual placings are determined from the total of the written score (40%) and artifacts score (30%). Team placings are determined from the total of the members written scores (40%), artifacts scores (30%), and station score (30%). Ties are broken based on written scores, if still tied, then on artifacts score.

At some of our Regional quizzes, teams possibly may have differing numbers of members on each team. Host branches may allow novice and D level teams to have 4, 5 or even 6 team members to allow more members to participate (keeps the number of teams down to help with scheduling) C level quizzes may have 3 or 4 members to a team.

Clubs need to think of a fair scoring process, (scoring a team of 3 vs. a team of 4). It is suggested that using the top 3 scores (in the case of a team of 4 members) or 4 top scores (in the case of a team with 5 members) from each team (use top written and artifacts scores). In this way, all teams have equal advantage. If a host club had made the decision to make all scores count, then possibly the average of the team members scores could be used as the 4th or 5th score.

A scoresheet for quiz in our Region has been developed. A few clubs have used it in the past and find it very helpful while scoring at quiz. A new and improved 2007 version is available for host clubs on the NSPC web page.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AT QUIZ

A suggestion from a Pony Club individual who attended a Developing Sportmanship seminar was to divide into small groups (each team) and put on a skit (2-3 minutes). These activities are a very good group activity, and if done with scramble groups can get members from differing clubs meeting and working together. They are also very entertaining and educational. This activity can be done while waiting for results.

Other ideas are videos of dressage and x-country, horsey magazines to look at, horsey coloring pages for younger members, puzzles, etc.

HOSTING 'E' (NOVICE) AND 'D' QUIZ

For clubs hosting Novice 'E' and 'D' level quizzes, because there is a varying age difference at this level and also quite a major gap between 'D' and 'D2' level, it is recommended maybe to offer two or three written tests (novice/D,D1/D2). This takes more time for host clubs, but provides encouragement for younger members at the Novice and D/D1 level.

Clubs that have hosted Novice/D quizzes in the past have each done quiz a little differently, whether it be providing 2 or 3 written tests for the different levels or 2 separate sets of stations, novice and D level.

We really do want to encourage participation at all levels, especially at the lower levels and really want clubs to feel confident that they can host a quiz.

HOSTING 'C' QUIZ QUALIFIERS

For clubs hosting a 'C' Quiz Qualifier, keep in mind that we wish to send our best, well-rounded 'C' members to represent Nova Scotia at National Quiz. Members wishing to qualify for National Quiz need to be very knowledgeable with information including C2 level and above.

The content of the written test and artifacts should be challenging at a 'C' Quiz Qualifier. The written test and artifacts could include an extra section just for members wishing to qualify for National Quiz.

The station or games phase should include a wide variety of challenging topics. In this way it allows members to broaden their Pony Club knowledge and prepares them for National Quiz.

Competition at National Quiz is fun, tough, but very competitive.

SELECTING THE NATIONAL QUIZ TEAM

Individual's written test marks and artifacts/visual marks only will be used to qualify for this National Competition. The marking will be weighted to keep in line with National Rules. National Quiz rules are available on the website. Points are awarded on a "points above the average mark"*** at each quiz (**the average mark of members competing at each quiz who have expressed an interest in National Quiz by returning an application form prior to the deadline). Candidates must attend at least one qualifying quiz in the year in order to have marks to be considered.

Applicants will be awarded with 1 (one) bonus point for attending extra quizzes in the year. The bonus point will be added to the individuals score before the "points above average mark is calculated at each Regional quiz.

In order for applicants to gain the bonus point, they must have already attended one qualifying quiz in that year. Applicants will be awarded with 1 (one) bonus point when they attend their second quiz, and again at their third quiz and so on. The idea of the bonus point is to encourage applicants to attend all quizzes in the year. To clarify, no bonus points will be awarded at the applicant's first quiz.

See below for the step by step process and examples of how the "points above the average mark" at each quiz is calculated.

1) The Quiz rep will request individual scores of National quiz applicants (written and artifacts) from the scoring person (s) from each quiz qualifier (to be requested when quiz is complete).

2) A bonus point is then added to an applicant's individual score for attending extra quizzes. (See paragraphs above for details)

3) The applicant's scores (individual score plus bonus point) at each quiz are averaged. This mark is the average mark at that quiz. (eg. 79 points)

4) The applicants score (eg. 82 points) is then compared to the 'average score/mark' (eg. 79 re: above) at that particular quiz and will be +3 (three points above the average mark). An individual mark of 75 would be -4 (4 points below average). An individual mark of 79 would be '0' and the number line indicates where it would stand.....-4, -3, -2, -1, 0, +1, +2, +3, +4 etc.....

5) The applicants with the most "points above the average mark" from any quiz will qualify for the team.

6) Steps 1-4 will be completed for each Quiz qualifier that is offered in the year. The Quiz rep will keep a record of all marks/scores and "points above the average mark" from each quiz qualifier for all National Quiz applicants. Each member's highest 'points above average mark' regardless of which quiz the mark was earned at will be their mark towards qualifying for the National Quiz team. The 'points above average' deals with the varying difficulty incurred from one quiz to the next.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE:

The applicants for the National Quiz team and their scores from their second quiz are as follows :

Name	written score	40%	artifacts score	30%	Individual score	bonus point For attending	Score for this quiz
Jane	80/100	32	17/35	14.6	46.6	1.0	47.6
Joan	84/100	33.6	20/35	17.1	50.7	1.0	51.7
June	92/100	36.8	23/35	19.7	56.5	1.0	57.5
Jill	did not attend						
John	52/100	20.8	20/35	17.1	37.9	1.0	38.9
Jake	94/100	37.6	21/35	18	55.6	1.0	
	56.6						

252.3 divided by 5 = 50.46

Average mark this quiz 50.46

Name	Score for This quiz	minus:average mark this quiz	Points above/below average mark this quiz
Jane	47.6	50.46	-2.86
Joan	51.7	50.46	1.24
June	57.5	50.46	7.04
Jill	did not attend		
John	38.9	50.46	-11.56
Jake	56.6	50.46	6.14

The National Quiz is held over Thanksgiving weekend. Unfortunately this coincides with the Maritime Fall Fair in Halifax and is also during the same time as most University mid-term exams. Members who wish to qualify for the NS “C” level Quiz team should consider this before they apply. Should a member agree to participate on the NSPC Regional Quiz team (at the time of being notified of qualifying) and then change their mind for other than medical/acceptable reasons, they will not be permitted to participate on the team the following year.

It is advantageous to attend as many quizzes as possible in case marks from one are low, but marks from only one quiz may be used to qualify. It is highly recommended that members attend as many quizzes as possible in the event that they do poorly on any quiz. Past participation at Regional Quizzes will be considered including attendance at the qualifiers in the case of a tie. So, members who are serious about competing at National “C” Level Quiz, should make the commitment to attend all quizzes.

Marks from any qualifying quizzes will count toward qualifying for National Quiz. Members need to apply for National Quiz prior to the deadline indicated each year. The applications for the National Quiz team will be available early in the year from Regional Quiz rep, DC’s and on the CPC/NS Regional website. The applications are then forwarded back to Regional Quiz rep before the deadline. No late applications regardless of the reason will be accepted, so please read the application carefully and do not leave to the last day to mail.

Eligibility of Competitors for National Quiz – Members may compete at a level above their own Pony Club level, however, they may not compete at a level below their Pony Club level. If a “C” member attains his/her “B” level after having qualified for the Regional “C” team, he/she may compete at “C” level

NATIONAL QUIZ

Members of the Nova Scotia Quiz team are responsible for their own transportation to National Quiz, perhaps a meal or two and miscellaneous

expenses. Our Region will pay the entry fees (includes accommodations and most meals) for members and chaperone and all chaperone expenses. Branches have the option of assisting members and having fundraisers.

National Quiz runs from Friday evening to Monday morning on Thanksgiving weekend. If the team decides to extend their stay, the cost will be their own responsibility.

National Quiz is a great way to improve a member's Pony Club knowledge, to travel, to meet Pony Club members from all over Canada and United States and have fun. We urge all 'C' level members to apply for the Nova Scotia Regional Quiz team.

HELPING MEMBERS PREPARE FOR QUIZ

There are numerous resources that are available to help members prepare for quiz, some include:

- a) **all** books from the required/recommended reading lists for the level (updated editions), also check out resource reading material for the level (these lists are found in the testing procedures).
- b) old written tests (available from club test rep or DC)
- c) old National quiz written tests (available from Regional quiz rep)
- d) lecture materials
- e) National and Regional websites, including Youth web pages
- f) Rule books for all disciplines (can be downloaded from National website)
- g) magazines such as Practical Horseman, Horse Sport and Equus
- h) it may be helpful to have quiz study sessions
- i) keeping up to date on current events in the horse world (ex. Rolex, Kentucky Derby, WEG, and Olympics)
- j) the CPC National Quiz Handbook (can be downloaded from National website)

FOR CLUBS ORGANIZING A REGIONAL QUIZ

So your club has taken on the job of hosting a Regional quiz.....Where do you start??

The key to hosting a well-run quiz is lots and lots of preparation and organization. It takes quite a bit of time and effort to get ready to host quiz, whether it be 'E', 'D', or 'C' level. The following may be helpful to your club:

Start organizing early, don't let it be a last minute affair. For those of us that know; what can go wrong, will go wrong at quiz.....

Pick a key person, someone who has experience of being at quiz and who is knowledgeable of how quiz is run, someone who can bring the whole quiz together and oversee quiz on quiz day.

Pick a quiz committee, and meet 3-4 times prior to quiz to plan and organize all aspects of quiz. Take a look at the jobs that need to be done and assign parents, older members, volunteers to a job. Make deadlines and stick to them, leave yourself enough time.

Make a list and keep it updated as things get finished. Ex: location, Entries, trophies/ribbons, prizes, person(s) to write the written test, scorers, who is making stations, who is running stations, timer, food, schedule, the list goes on and on.

Get people signed on from your own club to be responsible for certain jobs. Make it known in your entry that you'll need volunteers to help from other clubs. Even non-horsey people can help out at quiz.

Get entry forms out early (6-8 weeks in advance), it will give clubs access to all information regarding your quiz, such as date (you may want to set a storm date), time, location, directions to quiz, information regarding make-up of teams, divisions offered, entry fee, awards, you may want to ask participating clubs for help ex: running stations, help in the scoring room, you may want to ask participating clubs for assistance by bringing along food or drinks for lunch. Many quiz organizers reduce their work load and expenses by asking each quiz team to bring a plate of sweets or sandwiches to the quiz (organizers can provide drinks).

Check out location, it can be helpful to go to the location of the quiz before hand and have a look at the area you will use for quiz, think about where stations will be situated, consider that some stations can get quite noisy, you may want to have these stations in a room by themselves, where the written test will be held, where artifacts are set up and is it in a relatively quiet place (maybe a room on its own), where food will be set up etc., does the traffic flow in one direction when members are doing stations? It can get congested and confusing with participants going in all directions when switching to stations, it is helpful to have a floor plan of the area indicating where stations are situated.

Have a schedule for the day, helps to keep things running efficient and on time.

If your club is new to hosting quiz, do not hesitate to ask for help or ask questions.

Remember, we are due to host National Quiz in 2010