

2024 Horse Skillathon Study Guide

The Morgan County Jr. Fair Skillathons will take place on Saturday, August 17 at the fairgrounds. All horse exhibitors should bring their completed Equine record book and project book. Note: ***All youth must have their project books with them and completed or else they will be turned away at Skillathon.***

Age divisions for Skillathon are as follows (your age as of January 1): Juniors 8-11, Intermediates 12-14, and Seniors 15+

This study guide describes each station that will be included in the Horse Skillathon. The Horse Skillathon is for all youth in 4-H with horses to exhibit at the fair. If your animal is unable to exhibit at the fair, skillathon will serve as a judging requirement.

Station 1: Project Record Book

Present your completed equine record book and project book to the judge. Your book must be completed prior to arrival at the skillathon. Your books will be scored on completeness and neatness. You need only one record book per member, not per horse project.

Station 2: Project Interview & Safety Sense

You will have an interview for the horse project you are exhibiting at the Morgan County Jr. Fair. You will be asked 5 questions by an interview judge. It will be up to you to properly state which equine project(s) you are enrolled in. Sample interview questions are included in this study guide. All questions are based on your project book.

You will be asked questions about Horse Safety. Information for this station can be found in Beginning Horse Management #174 page 63 and EquiStep.

Station 3: Hands-On Activity

Juniors: Grooming tools and equipment. - You will be asked to identify 8 pieces of tools and equipment. Information can be found on page 55 in the Beginning Horse Management #174 project book. The pictures will represent the items on the page they will not be the identical pictures.

Intermediates: Parts of a horse- You will be asked to identify 20 parts of a horse. Information can be found on page 81 in the Beginning Horse Management #174 project book.

Seniors: Horse Breed Terms - You will be asked to match 15 terms and definitions. Information can be found on pages 67-68 in the Beginning Horse Management #174 project book.

Horse Study Guide Sample Questions

174 Beginning Horse Management (First Year pages 19-79)

1. Name the four basic aids used to cue a horse.
2. This part of the horse indicates where he is looking, how he is feeling, and what he is thinking.
3. Showmanship classes are judged on what three things.
4. What breed was developed as comfortable mounts for pleasure and trail riding. They are known for their smooth, ground-covering, easy-traveling gaits.
5. A turn should always be made in what direction during showmanship? What is the exception to this rule?
6. Name the essential nutrient that plays an important role in the horse's body chemistry, and in building teeth and bones.
7. What nutrient is consumed at a rate of 12-20 gallons per day and should be available at all times?

174 Beginning Horse Management (Second Year pages 81-156)

1. The characteristic rhythmic movements of horse's legs and feet in motion.
2. What is the normal range for the horse's temperature?
3. What is the normal resting heart rate of a mature horse?
4. How can you determine if a horse is dehydrated?
5. This condition is most likely to strike a horse that is poorly conditioned, worked hard, and in a hot humid environment.
6. Is the process of filing off sharp points on the teeth. Give one reason why this is necessary.
7. What is the normal range of hoof growth per month?
8. An organism living in, on, or around another organism (the host) at the expense of the host.

175 Light Horse Selection

1. What are the five considerations in judging halter classes?
2. The primary trait difference among breeds are
3. Name the six features of the horse's stride.
4. Name the four classifications of horse types by size.
5. The most popular breed in the United States today, with annual registration about equal to all other light horse breeds combined.
6. In halter/performance classes, what are the four disqualifications?
7. Muscle is described by three terms.

177 Horse Training

1. When should training begin in young horses?
2. How long, after an undesirable act, do you have to provide a negative reinforce to a horse?
3. What is the first bit that should be used when training a horse?
4. Two training procedures to desensitize your equine to their environment are.
5. What is the benefit to teaching a horse to hobbie?

180 Learning to Jump

1. What type of ground should you work/jump in?
2. What is a caveletti?
3. Caveletti work teaches the horse what three things?
4. If the horse does something wrong, rush to punish him right away? True or False? Why?
5. One mistake a rider can make is jumping without sufficient warm-up. What are the potential results of this mistake?

181 Draft Horse

1. What are the two breeds of draft horses that originated in England?
2. What are the two appearances that you should look for in a draft horse and why?
3. What is the purpose of braiding the draft horse tail while showing?
4. What are the differences between long legged and short legged low set draft horses?
5. What is the average weight range for draft horses?
6. Explain what splay footed and pigeon-toed means and what may result.
7. What are wind puffs?
8. Name the three types of collars and their uses for draft horses.
9. What is the appropriate length of ribbon for the mane roll?
10. Why should the forearm be longer than the cannon bone?

182 Small Equine

1. List two things you need to determine before deciding how much to feed your miniature horse/equine?
2. Miniature horses have more dystocia than other breeds. What is dystocia and what are two causes of dystocia in small equines?
3. How is the height for a miniature measured?
4. Why is it important to condition your small equine? Name one way to condition your project.
5. Name two types of carts that are available for pleasure driving.
6. Describe what parrot mouth is and why is it undesirable.
7. How is height measured in a miniature?

184 Standardbred Horses

1. What three breeds primarily influenced the breed and why?
2. Name the two goals of using a blind bridle.
3. Why is "grabbing on" considered undesirable?
4. What is worn by almost all pacers to help them stay in their winging, lateral gait?
5. What are the six parts of the quick hitch harness?
6. Most pacers will wear a shadow roll for what reason?

186 Gymkhana

1. A term used to describe competitive games on horseback.
2. What book should you refer to for the current legal tack and equipment?
3. All horses are herbivore meaning they feed mainly on.
4. Horses should have access to fresh, clean water at all times. Daily water consumption may vary depending on these (3) things.
5. An excellent tool to remove dirt, mud, hair, and sweat marks.
6. Longeing is

187 Trail Riding

1. Name the 5 traits of a good trail horse.
2. What should be the soundest part of a trail horse? Why?
3. For every one mile of a competitive trail ride, you need to ride how many miles in preparation?
4. Generally, the horse should not be asked to carry more than % of its body weight.
5. Besides cooling, how can walking benefit a horse at a PR stop?
6. Name three essential equipment items for any ride?
7. When may a 15-year-old ride in the junior ride?
8. On a picket line, allow at least between horses to prevent fighting.

188 Dressage

1. At this gate, the horse is allowed the most freedom and relaxation possible.
2. What is a volte?
3. List the natural aids which may always be used in dressage to get a horse to perform.
4. What are the measurements of the small dressage arena and the large dressage arena?
5. What tests require a double bridle?
6. Are any classical dressage tests available at the walk trot level? If so name them and at what type of shows they may be offered
7. What is a coefficient?
8. How long may a whip be that is used as an aid in Training through Fourth Levels?
9. Describe "above the bit" and "behind the bit".
10. What movement is used during all transitions?

