

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION

The questions shown below are a sample of the type of questions that are used in the Fellowship Examination, they are not a definitive list of all of the questions used and they do not represent every subject that may be discussed. They are provided here to enable potential candidates to access them as a learning resource.

General

1. What has driven you to go through the Fellowship assessment process?
2. What do you see as your strengths as a Fellow of the BHS?
3. What will you bring to the Society and the horse industry as a whole?
4. Who in the industry do you admire?
5. What made you start in the industry?
6. Why do you want to coach?
7. Who has had the greatest influence on your career?
8. What makes you get up in the morning?
9. What aspect of your CV are you most proud of?
10. Where do you envisage your career developing from here?

HISTORY

1. Where did the Scales of Training originate from and when?
2. Which of the Masters of the last 300 to 400 hundred years, do you feel, has left the most lasting impression on modern day riding?
3. Discuss the influence of Federico Caprilli on the forward seat at the turn of the 20th century.
4. Which present day rider and/or trainer do you consider will go down in history as a 'Master' of the 21st century?

2015

1. There is much in the media on dressage judging at top level. What is your opinion of the JSP?
2. Recent changes in hat standards appear to have caused some confusion within the BEF member bodies. What are your thoughts on this?
3. A new structure of dressage competitions is about to go live. What do you identify as the strengths and weaknesses of the new system?
4. Recent criticism of the dressage judging at top 3 day events has prompted further discussion on the role of the ground jury. If you were involved in the evolution of top class eventing, what developments, if any would you like to see?
5. On cross country courses, the judging of "skinnies" particularly corners often caused discrepancies and complaints. Do you feel that the current FEI rules are sufficiently robust in this area or would you have suggestions for improvements?
6. There is an increasing shortage of qualified staff for riding schools to employ, particularly at BHS level. How do you account for this, and how would you remedy the situation?
7. Continued diversification amongst the BEF member bodies with regard to qualifications is having a considerable impact on the BHS exam system. What are your thoughts on this?
8. The training, development and qualification of dressage judges in the UK has had a fair amount of criticism over recent times. What are your thoughts on this?

- 9 There is a continuing trend of Riding Schools and competition venues closing, often with “insustainability” given as the reason. What are your thoughts on this?

2013

1. Over recent years we have seen a systematic “lowering of the bar” with regard to first levels of affiliated competition in the UK. What are your feelings about putting in further lower levels across the disciplines?
2. Many European countries have a mandatory “Rider License” that is required prior to competing in equestrian sports. What are your thoughts on the UK adopting such a scheme and what type of system would you want to implement?
3. The FEI are trying to make National Federations take greater responsibility for Rider Qualifications for Event Riders. The new FEI grading system for riders will have an effect immediately. What are your thoughts on these rule changes?
4. Para-equestrianism has grown considerably over recent years, and there are some that feel that it should be more integrated within the Olympics, or should take place prior to the Olympics. What are your thoughts on this?
5. What are your thoughts on Team GB’s results in London, and how would you mastermind the continuation of the success as we progress towards Rio 2016
6. Over recent years competition in the UK has been effected considerably by the weather. What strategies might you advise to help competitors, sponsors, organisers and traders involved in equestrian competitions?
7. With so much safety equipment available to riders, describe the benefits and drawbacks of some equipment. How might you advise a rider with a dilemma about whether or not to use some of this equipment?
8. BD has altered their system of recruiting and assessing dressage judges, with the aim of attracting more riders to the judge’s role. What are your thoughts on this?
9. Half marks for Dressage Judges have been in use for a while at FEI levels, and come into all levels during this year. Do you see this as a positive step in the development of the sport?
10. Do you consider the introduction (December 2013) of half marks in all BD dressage competitions to be a useful tool for indecisive dressage judges?
11. In line with current BD requirements do you feel it is necessary for judges to have ridden at the level they judge?
12. Discuss the origins of show jumping and some of the main influences that have affected its development up to the present day.
13. Discuss the selection of young stock as potential jumping horses. Describe the conformation, attitude and technique that you would look for.
14. Suggest exercises that you have found useful in addressing problems related to jumping technique. What signs might there be to indicate that a horse is loosing confidence in his jump?
15. Some horses struggle to cope with longer related distances, especially at Foxhunter level and beyond. How might you address this?
16. Discuss the use of related distances in training for show jump and event horses. Give examples of exercises that you have found beneficial in different situations.
17. Discuss jump off training for horse and rider.
18. Will event rider licensing improve the standard of riding in horse trials?
19. Talk about your understanding of the new FEI rider licensing system for event riders and how it may affect riders and the sport
20. Talk about the pros and cons of “Arena Cross Country” competitions.

2012

- 1 If you were team manager or team coach for any of the GB Olympic teams what would your strategies be for competing on home turf.
- 2 Outline the advantages and disadvantages to team GB of competing on home turf.
- 3 Dressage team GB do not actually have a team trainer. What are your thoughts on this?
- 4 Given the weather this year and therefore the limited runs available to our event team, what considerations would you have with regard to the team running in London?
- 5 Vastly reduced numbers of runs available to event horses will have a knock on effect on qualifications for FEI events. Do you think there is reason to modify MER for the next few months, and if so how and why?
- 6 There has been some bad press for showjumping for some nations regarding team selection, drug abuse and eligibility. What are your thoughts on the effect of negative press on the sport?
- 7 The arena in Greenwich Park is effectively a virgin surface, having been modified since the test event in 2011. What are your thoughts on this?
- 8 Paraequestrianism has grown considerably over recent years, and there are some that feel that it should be more integrated within the Olympics, or should take place prior to the Olympics. What are your thoughts on this?
- 9 Various versions and interpretations of Natural horsemanship continue to attract a considerable following. How do you rationalise this to your students?
- 10 Excessive rain has had a dramatic effect on crop yields, but has impacted hugely on harvesting. What strategies would you use to ensure survival a large commercial yard during the coming winter?
- 11 Over recent years we have seen a systematic “lowering of the bar” with regard to first levels of affiliated competition in the UK. What are your feelings about putting in further lower levels across the disciplines?
- 12 Many European countries have a mandatory “Rider License” that is required prior to competing in equestrian sports. What are your thoughts on the UK adopting such a scheme and what type of system would you want to implement?