

**LEVEL**  
*Refinement*

**3**

# **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Version: 11/1/2000



PNH Levels Program

# ON LINE PHASE

**Tools: Halter, 12' Line, 22' Line, 45' Line, 6' String, Carrot Stick, Flag or String.**

## With 45' Line

**OL1. Show the Yo Yo Game, sending your horse backwards and coming in to you at the trot.**

### LEVEL 3

- *Low phases, 1 or 2. If rope has to come off the ground, it should be brief and no more than one time necessary.*
- *Horse is straight.*
- *Horse goes all the way to the end of the line, but without lifting it off the ground.*
- *Horse comes in willingly, does not rely on the feel of the rope. One time limit for brief rope contact.*

### PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Phases too high, student has to wiggle whole rope, it comes off the ground more than once.*
- *Horse is crooked for more than a few steps and student does not correct it.*
- *Horse escapes backwards, strains against the line at the end.*
- *Horse unwilling to come in, student has to rely on rope to reel him in more than one brief time.*

**OL2. Send horse cantering in circles over an obstacle course: jumps, around trees, up and down hills.**

### LEVEL 3

- *Horse goes willingly, maintains canter most of the time (min. 75%).*
- *Jumps whatever is in front of him, does not try to avoid it (unless it is student error in setting it up).*
- *Belly of the rope is on the ground at least 75% of the time so horse is almost at liberty.*

### PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse mostly trots instead of cantering.*
- *Horse avoids jumps, scared to go around trees.*
- *Student uses only half the 45' line. Must use at least 75% of line, some coils permissible.*

**OL3. Include a jump that is at least 3 ft high.**

### LEVEL 3

- *Horse jumps willingly, without hesitation.*
- *Student does not need to be 40 feet away. Can get as close as 20 feet.*

### PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse refuses.*
- *Jump is too low, not 3 ft.*
- *Student stands right by jump to cause horse to go over it, as in a 12' rope Squeeze Game exercise.*

**OL4. Back him up a hill.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Low phases, 1 or 2.*
- *Straight.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Phases to high*
- *Horse resisting: head up or to the side, faltering steps, stops and starts.*
- *Crooked.*

**OL5 Send horse sideways without a fence for at least 20 ft.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse to be at least 30 feet away from student, that is, greater than half the length of the line.*
- *Little or no tension in line.*
- *Low phases, slapping ground with Carrot Stick and String in a rhythmic fashion is acceptable.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse too close.*
- *Horse escaping forward and needing repeated correction. One time brief correction is acceptable.*
- *Phases too high, vigorous rope or Carrot Stick usage.*
- *Horse won't stop going sideways.*

**OL6. Send horse into a horse trailer at the trot or canter and bring back to you.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Student at least 30 feet away.*
- *Little or no tension in the rope. The belly of the rope may be dragging.*
- *Horse enters trailer at the trot as minimum. If it breaks from canter to trot as it reaches the ramp or trailer door, this is acceptable.*

- *Horse stays in trailer until asked out.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Student too close, closer than 30 feet.*
- *Horse straining against end of rope.*
- *Horse escapes trailer, does not load.*
- *Horse stops at trailer entrance and then walks in. Must go in with "velocity" and intention.*
- *Horse won't stay in until asked out*
- *Horse backs out in a hurry, scared, escaping.*

**With 12' Line and 22' Line**

**OL7. Place the 12' Line on the halter and the 22' Line as a ring rope around horse's flanks. Play the Circling Game (#5) with slack in the 12' Line so you are circling horse mainly by the flanks. Stop horse by pulling on the flank rope.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse is undisturbed by flank rope, no tail swishing, raised head, resistance, bucking, etc.*
- *12' Line (if used) must be slack, no tension.*
- *Horse stops straight when flank rope is slowly pulled tighter. If horse faces in a little, this is acceptable.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse bucks, strains against flank rope, swishing, raised / tossing head, etc.*
- *12' line is shorter than flank rope so horse is responding to halter and line instead.*
- *Horse speeds up when tension applied to stop.*
- *Horse runs in to student, fearful.*

**With Snaffle and Partnership Reins extended into full length reins:**

**OL8. Drive your horse from Zone 5 forwards in a straight line, then backwards at least 10 feet.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Low phases, horse does not open mouth.*
- *Head is low, may be vertically flexed.*
- *Straight.*
- *Use of Carrot Stick permissible.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *High phases used: too much Carrot Stick for forward, too much rein pressure for backwards.*
- *Head is high or too low (between knees) trying to avoid pressure.*
- *Horse opens mouth.*
- *Horse travels crooked.*
- *Student uses halter and 22' line instead of snaffle bridle.*

**OL9. Stand in Zone 3 or 4 and play the Circling Game, sending your horse around you to the right at the trot.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Student keeps feet still, pivoting or handing rope behind back. Should not move out of a 3' diameter "circle".*
- *Rope is competently handled, does not fall below horse's hocks.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Student walks around instead of staying in their circle.*
- *Rope falls below horse's hocks and horse is resistant or scared.*

# LIBERTY PHASE

Tools: Round Corral, Carrot Stick, Horseman's String / Flag

## L1. Send horse around corral to right at trot.

### LEVEL 3

- *The send is correctly performed, zone 1 first, horse shifts weight backwards a little and leaves off.*

### PRE-LEVEL 3

- *The send is sloppy, horse leaves on front end and runs by student, zone 1 does not leave first and weight does not shift back.*

## L2. Transition to canter. Show 4 laps.

### LEVEL 3

- *Student asks for trot to canter correctly: direct (comes out of neutral, 'lead' zone 1) and support ('push' zone 5 at least 180 degrees from horse as phase 1).*
- *Horse maintains gait without breaking to a trot.*
- *Student is in complete neutral, relaxed, leaning on Stick for example.*

### PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Student uses incorrect methods for asking for transition, example: does not direct, stays in neutral, makes no body change; and support is directed at zone 4 instead of zone 5.*
- *Phases not used correctly.*
- *More than phase 2 is required.*

## L3. Change of direction to left with flying change.

### LEVEL 3

- *Flying change is executed. Being a little late behind is okay.*
- *Student does not have to run back further than half way across the corral.*

### PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse is disunited in change for more than a couple of strides.*
- *Horse does a simple change instead of a flying change. (Trotting before the change is okay as long as the change is made at the canter, therefore the horse trotted, then cantered again, then made the change).*
- *Student runs backwards in a drawing arc instead of a straight line.*
- *Student has to run all the way back across the corral, lacks refinement.*
- *Too much Carrot Stick (phase 3 or 4) used to make the change.*

#### **L4. Transitions to trot, walk, stop, back up.**

##### **LEVEL 3**

- *Smoothly executed, not more than phase 2 required.*
- *Student stays in their "circle".*
- *Each transition clearly shown for at least several steps.*

##### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Phases too high, student has to leave their circle.*
- *Transitions blurred together and not distinct enough for evaluation.*

#### **L5. Bring horse to you. Play Friendly Game with Carrot Stick.**

##### **LEVEL 3**

- *Draw needs to be willing, without hesitation, but not necessarily fast.*
- *Horse is confident during Friendly Game, relaxed, head may be slightly lowered, keeps feet still.*

##### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse does not draw well, takes student out of their circle to come in.*
- *Horse cannot maintain relaxation, feet still while Friendly Game being*

#### **L6. Lead horse by the lip.**

##### **LEVEL 3**

- *Top or bottom lip is acceptable.*
- *Horse does not resist, follows feel without hesitation.*
- *Constant feel is maintained and not broken.*

##### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Not a consistent feel, keeps breaking contact.*
- *Horse resists, breaks away.*

#### **L7. Lead horse backwards by hocks (22' line optional)**

##### **LEVEL 3**

- *Student is in zone 5, or at least the back of zone 4 if using hands on hocks instead of rope.*
- *Horse shows not resistance, comes backwards willingly.*

##### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Resistance, kicking, sluggish, etc.*
- *Only one or two steps shown, need to show several steps for evaluation clarity.*

## **L8. Lead horse backwards by tail**

### **LEVEL 3**

- *Tail only is used for this task (no additional ropes on hocks or halter).*
- *Horse shows no resistance, but it could be a little slow.*
- *Tapping horse or ground with Carrot Stick is acceptable.*

### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse resists, leans against pressure instead of yielding to it.*
- *Other physical assistance used, example: rope on hocks, around neck or pulling on halter. Carrot Stick permissible).*

# FREESTYLE PHASE

Bareback and bridle-less

## **FS1. Mount your horse from both sides.**

### **LEVEL 3**

- *Student mounts without assistance (unless can provide sufficient medical reason).*
- *Student shows some athletic ability and/or savvy by teaching horse to lift them up on the neck or get lower*
- *It's permissible to stand horse on a down hill slope or in a small ditch in the ground.*
- *Student can vault on or teach horse to lift them up with their neck.*
- *Horse stands still.*

### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Using a fence or mounting block, or having help from another (unless medical condition dictates).*
- *Horse does not stand still.*
- *Student is noticeably unfit and has not put effort into learning how to get on their horse unassisted.*

## **FS2. Climb all over him, rub his rump with your legs and feet, stand on his back.**

### **LEVEL 3**

- *Student proves the horse is confident by not sneaking. Climbs around confidently.*
- *Horse stands still, relaxed.*
- *Student shows enough balance to be able to stand up.*

### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Student falls off.*
- *Student sneaks around on the horse trying not to disturb him.*
- *Horse is bothered, can't stand still, head up and worried.*

## **FS3. Back him up 10 steps.**

### **LEVEL 3**

- *Student backs horse using rhythmic pressure with feet (phase 1 or 2) and / or lifts mane and rides backwards.*
- *Horse backs up willingly, but not necessarily fast. Steps must flow and not stop.*

### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Phases too high.*
- *String or other physical aid is still needing to be used.*
- *Horse is unwilling to back up, hesitates, stops, falters.*
- *Legs wrapped around horse's neck or shoulders... too high a phase.*



**FS4. Walk forward, turn left, turn right, turn a full circle (pivot) and back up.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Student shows balance and confidence.*
- *Impulsion is good, horse not trying to run off.*
- *Each turn is completed with rider focusing ahead (not looking at the horse) and riding with whole body: arms, legs, belly button.*
- *Pivot is close to horse planting hind foot, should not exceed a circle size determined by a hula hoop (approx. 3' diameter)*
- *Back up is willing, steps flow in succession without faltering.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Student loses balance.*
- *Pivot is inadequate, horse spins back en around, exceeds circle of 3' diameter.*
- *Horse gets faster when student puts leg on for turns.*
- *Horse puts ears back when rider puts leg on or asks horse to back up.*

**FS5 Move up into a canter. Canter 3 circuits (in a corral) and stop in the center.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Impulsion is good, horse canters without hesitation from the walk or trot.*
- *Student shows balance, does not get left behind at the transition. Okay to hold mane.*
- *Horse maintains gait.*
- *Stop in the center is achieved, may drift to a stop, does not have to be abrupt or a slide.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Student loses balance, independent seat not good enough.*
- *Student still needs to use Bareback Pad.*
- *Horse does not maintain canter, student has to obviously push him forward = impulsion problem.*
- *Horse does not stop in the center, stops on the perimeter, may have been asked to do so by student.*
- *Horse does not stop, takes a long time, obviously not responding to student.*

**Tools: Snaffle Bridle, Saddle, Carrot Sticks (2)** Leave your reins on your horse's neck or draped over the saddle horn.

**FS6. Back your horse up in a straight line (facing Assessor) for at least 10 ft.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Low phases, Carrot Sticks can drive in small circles or slightly up and down. Must not contact horse nor be vigorous.*
- *Straight.*
- *Horse is confident and responsive, head reasonably level.*
- *Steps flow, do not stop.*
- *Student is focusing ahead.*

- *Does not use feet to drive horse backwards, only Carrot Sticks as an isolation.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *High phases, Carrot Sticks contact horse.*
- *Crooked back up.*
- *Horse puts head in the air, avoiding communication. Acts head shy.*
- *Faltering back up, horse stops now and then instead of maintaining continuous flow.*
- *Student looking at horse.*
- *Use of feet for driving horse backwards.*
- *Using feet instead of Carrot Stick.*

**FS7. Transition from halt to canter.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse goes directly from halt to canter, no walk or trot steps in between.*
- *Horse is willing to go forward, takes low phases, 1 or 2.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse walks or trots a two or more steps in transition.*
- *Student kicks horse to go.*
- *Student looking down.*
- *Horse puts ears back or swishes tail violently / angrily.*
- *Phases too high.*

**FS8. Show 3 simple (drop to a trot) lead changes.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Transitions are smooth and flowing, horse comes out on correct leads.*
- *May be in a serpentine form or in a straight line.*
- *No more than 5 trot strides.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse resists transition by running through Carrot Sticks.*
- *Horse resists canter again, trots for more than 4 strides after asking for canter.*
- *Wrong lead taken in canter transition.*
- *Tossing head.*

**FS9. Ride over two jumps that are at least 2 ft high.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Student rides with confidence and balance.*
- *Carrot Sticks are relaxed in neutral during the jump (hanging forward and down or over shoulders).*

- Whole “picture” is pleasing and harmonious.

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- Student loses balance.
- Carrot Sticks flailing, lacking refinement.
- Horse refuses jump.
- Jump is too low, less than 2 feet high.

**FS10. Proceed toward Assessor in a straight line at the canter and come down to a back up.**

**LEVEL 3**

- Straight.
- Smooth transitions from canter through to back up. (Slide stop permissible).
- Student focusing ahead.

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- Crooked.
- Horse resists transition, head up and evasive.
- Faltering back up instead of flowing steps.
- Student looking down.

**FS11. Gallop a Barrel Pattern with four barrels 90 ‘ apart. Show two turns to the right and two to the left. Stop your horse in the middle of the barrels and come down to a 9 step back up.**

**LEVEL 3**

- Student gallops, it’s a fast exercise. (Minimum acceptable is a very fast canter).
- Student “pushes” turns rather than leans into them.
- Horse is not impulsive, stops willingly using 9 steps. Slide stop is acceptable.
- Direct and supporting rein used.

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- Student goes too slow, canters slow to medium speed only.
- Rein positions inaccurate.
- Leaning into turns rather than pushing turns.
- Reins too tight, no long FreeStyle.
- Horse won’t stop, pushes on bit.
- Turns required are not shown.

# FINESSE PHASE

**Tools: Snaffle Bridle, Saddle, 45' Line, Kite String.**

**Using the Snaffle Bridle with contact and a soft feel .....**

## **F1. Show a slow, medium and fast walk.**

### **LEVEL 3**

- *Must show a distinct difference in the three speeds of the gait.*
- *Vertical flexion is ideal, however a soft feel without a lot of flexion will pass at this level.*

### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *No contact on the reins, therefore no soft feel.*
- *Resistance such as open mouth, tossing head, pulling on reins.*
- *Not showing enough difference between each speed. The slow must be really slow, the fast must be as fast as possible.*
- *Rider position incorrect, elbows are relaxed and straight rather than bent and lifting, and back is slouched rather than very straight.*

## **F2. Show a slow, medium and fast trot.**

### **LEVEL 3**

- *Must show a distinct difference in the three speeds of the gait.*
- *Vertical flexion is ideal, however a soft feel without a lot of flexion will pass at this level.*

### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *No contact on the reins, therefore no soft feel.*
- *Resistance such as open mouth, tossing head, pulling on reins.*
- *Not showing enough difference between each of the speeds. The slow must be really slow, the fast must be as fast as possible.*
- *Horse breaks gait more than once (a minor one time break may still constitute a pass).*
- *Rider position incorrect, that is elbows are relaxed and straight rather than bent and lifting, and back is slouched rather than very straight.*

## **F3. Show a slow, medium and fast canter.**

### **LEVEL 3**

- *Must show a distinct difference in the three speeds of the gait.*
- *Vertical flexion is ideal, however a soft feel without a lot of flexion will pass at this level.*

### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *No contact on the reins, therefore no soft feel.*
- *Resistance such as open mouth, tossing head, pulling on reins.*

- *Not showing enough difference between each speed. The slow must be really slow, the fast must be as fast as possible.*
- *Rider position incorrect, elbows are relaxed and straight rather than bent and lifting, and back is slouched instead of straight.*

#### **F4. Come down to a graceful halt and backup.**

##### **LEVEL 3**

- *Must be graceful, not abrupt.*
- *Horse maintains soft feel into and throughout the back up.*
- *Rider position maintained, seat deep in saddle, hands not dropped nor pulling on reins. Should be almost invisible.*
- *Straight.*

##### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Transition is abrupt, horse's head flies up.*
- *Mouth opens in resistance.*
- *Soft feel not maintained due too much pressure required through reins to stop horse.*
- *Horse "dives" forward onto forehead pulling rider forward out of seat.*
- *Crooked halt and back up.*

#### **F5. Drop reins and stand still.**

##### **LEVEL 3**

- *Proves impulsion, horse can stand still.*
- *Reins are completely dropped.*

##### **PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse cannot / does not stand still (impulsive).*
- *Reins are not completely dropped, still holding horse back a little.*

*(Note: if reins are loose and horse is obviously standing still of his own responsibility, could be just a technical error on rider's part and therefore may still be passed).*

#### **F6. Obtain a soft feel.....**

##### **LEVEL 3**

- *Student goes through 7 steps to obtain the soft feel.*
- *Student grows tall in saddle, sits straight and to attention.*
- *Horse feels for student through the steps and gives vertically.*
- *Mouth is quiet, little or no movement.*
- *Horse stands still.*

- *Soft feel evident, horse not pushing against bit.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Reins taken up too quickly, 7 steps not evident.*
- *Horse does not feel for student, pushes nose out or is non-responsive.*
- *Horse champs on the bit repeatedly, tosses head, takes more than three seconds to find comfortable position.*
- *Horse moves feet, does not stand still, backs up.*
- *No soft feel, horse leaning or pushing against bit.*

**F7. Move your horse's right front leg and then left hind leg.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Each leg is isolated in turn, for one step.*
- *Rider's reins are very short.*
- *Direct rein used for front foot.*
- *Indirect rein used for hind foot.*
- *Student focuses ahead, does not look at horse.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse moves more than one foot at a time, shuffles around.*
- *Rider's reins too long, loses contact with horse's mouth.*
- *Incorrect rein positions.*
- *Student looking down.*

**F8. Rock him backwards and forwards and side to side.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse rocks body weight but does not take any steps.*
- *Short reins, concentrated position. Rider sitting upright.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse takes steps while rocking.*
- *Reins too long, contact becomes intermittent.*

**F9. Ride from a back up into a canter and back down to a back up three times: Canter Yo-Yo.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse goes from back up directly into a canter, no walk or trot steps.*
- *Reins are in concentrated position throughout exercise.*
- *Transition to back up is smooth, one or two trot or walk steps permissible.*
- *Straight lines.*

- *Vertical flexion an advantage but not essential for a pass.*
- *Student focuses straight ahead.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse does not go straight into the canter, shows walk and trot steps first. Not responsive enough.*
- *Reins alternate between casual and concentrated.*
- *Resistance in downward transition; horse opens mouth more than once, pulls against bit, pulls student out of seat.*
- *Student leans forward when making transition to back up.*
- *Student looking down at horse instead of maintaining long focus.*
- *Crooked line, horse drifting to left or right.*

**F10. Ride a serpentine at the canter showing 3 simple changes through the walk.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Smooth shaped serpentine, equal curves.*
- *Horse transitions directly from canter to walk and to canter again.*
- *Correct leads are taken.*
- *Concentrated rein position.*
- *Vertical flexion an advantage but not essential for a pass.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Uneven serpentine, small and large curves rather than equal dimensions = accuracy problem.*
- *Horse trots into walk transition and/or into canter transition.*
- *Incorrect leads.*
- *Reins too long, too loose.*
- *Horse's head too high, tossing, resistant, open mouth.*

**F11. Pick up a right lead. Demonstrate a counter canter to the left (maintain right lead) on a full circle.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Right lead can be taken from the halt, walk or trot.*
- *Counter canter maintained throughout a full circle. Circle may be fairly large (approx. 60' / 20m diameter).*
- *Student's dynamics are correct, they are "riding" on the right lead position (right shoulder forward, etc.), focus.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Cannot pick up right lead on first try.*
- *Canter gait not maintained during counter canter, breaks to a trot.*
- *Student dynamics are incorrect: left shoulder forward.*
- *Full circle not demonstrated.*

- *Reins too long, horse strung out and not “collected” enough (complete vertical flexion not essential).*

**F12. At the canter, cause your horse’s hindquarters to come in off the track while the forehand travels straight.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Front end travels straight ahead and not at an angle.*
- *Hindquarters come in slightly, does not need to be exaggerated.*
- *Concentrated reins, slight to full vertical flexion.*
- *Student position is straight in the upper body and hand - rein position, legs controlling hindquarters.*
- *Straight ahead focus.*
- *Correct lead chosen for the bend: left lead for hindquarters coming in left, right for right.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Front end travels on a diagonal angle instead of straight (therefore no bend in the horse’s body).*
- *Hindquarters do not come in off the track.*
- *Reins too long, no vertical flexion at all.*
- *Student twists body, uses indirect rein to control shoulder instead of riding straight.*
- *Student is looking at horse.*

**F13. Trot your horse in a figure of eight showing two changes of diagonals.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Figure of 8 is even in shape.*
- *Correct diagonals displayed: left hind for going left, right for right.*
- *Diagonal change is smoothly executed, two bounces only.*
- *Student does not look down to check diagonal*
- *Concentrated reins.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Figure of 8 is untidy, large and small loops instead of being even.*
- *Incorrect diagonals selected.*
- *Diagonal change is rough, needs more than two bounces.*
- *Incorrect diagonal change, diagonal not changed.*
- *Student looks down to check or select diagonal.*
- *Casual rein or loose concentrated rein position.*



**F14. Trot your horse diagonally sideways across a space of at least 25 ft.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse moves diagonally, not less than 30 degree angle.*
- *Head and neck are straight or bent in the direction of travel.*
- *Student is focusing on diagonal path.*
- *Slight or full vertical flexion; concentrated reins.*
- *Rhythm and soft feel maintained*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Not enough diagonal movement shown, too straight.*
- *Horse's head and neck are bent away from direction of travel, more like counter arc.*
- *Student looking down.*
- *No flexion, reins too long.*
- *Horse takes short, tight steps rather than maintaining flow and rhythm of stride as before.*
- *Soft feel lost, resistance, open mouth, etc*

**F15. Canter your horse diagonally sideways, on the left lead, across a distance of at least 25ft.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse moves diagonally, not less than 30 degree angle.*
- *Head and neck are straight or bent in the direction of travel.*
- *Student is focusing on diagonal path.*
- *Slight or full vertical flexion; concentrated reins.*
- *Rhythm and soft feel maintained.*
- *Enough distance covered to show task proficiency.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Not enough diagonal movement shown, too straight.*
- *Horse's head and neck are bent away from direction of travel, more like counter arc.*
- *Student looking down.*
- *No flexion, reins too long.*
- *Horse takes short, tight steps rather than maintaining flow and rhythm of stride as before.*
- *Soft feel lost, resistance, open mouth, etc.*
- *Not enough distance shown to judge task efficiency.*

**F16. Show a flying change from left to right, canter diagonally sideways to the right then show another flying change from right to left.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Flying change cleanly executed.*

- *Head and neck are steady, no resistance (mild tail swish will pass, but not more).*
- *Student uses correct dynamics, pushes the change.*
- *Dynamics are refined, not exaggerated. Concentrated rein position.*
- *Both changes are equally good, to left and right.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Flying changes not clean. Horse is late behind or disunites.*
- *Horse shows resistance through change; throws head, opens mouth, swishes tail.*
- *Incorrect riding dynamics, leans into change, direct rein lower than supporting rein.*
- *Changes are not equally good to left and to right.*

**F17. Bring your horse gracefully down to a back up.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Graceful transition, soft feel maintained.*
- *Back up is willing, smooth flow to steps.*
- *No resistance.*
- *Student focusing ahead, using correct dynamics: sitting straight, elbows bent, slight lift to reins.*
- *Straightness maintained.*
- *One or two walk and trot steps will pass.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Difficult transition, horse impulsive.*
- *Resistance; open mouth, pulling against bit.*
- *Student looking down, incorrect dynamics: leaning forward, seat comes out of saddle, straight elbows.*
- *Crooked transition and back up.*
- *Too many forward steps between canter and back up (three steps or more in walk and trot).*

**Using the 45' Line**

**F18. Drag a log or tire, etc. while riding your horse. Drag it forwards for 30ft then turn and face it.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse is confident.*
- *Student uses saddle horn correctly, min. two wraps around horn.*  
(*If no horn, student uses "power position" with bent elbow to pull rope.*)
- *Student focuses ahead while dragging.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse spooks, is scared, not confident.*
- *Student looks behind as they drag.*

- *No power position used, elbow is straight putting shoulder at risk.*
- *Rope tied onto horn, rest of rope crossed or tangled into dallies.*

**F19. Drag it while backing your horse for another 15ft.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse backs confidently and without resistance.*
- *Straight line.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse scared of object while backing.*
- *Resistance: open mouth, trying to escape sideways.*
- *Crooked back up.*

**F20 Dismount your horse and ask him to back up with your Partnership Reins, cause him to drag the object a little backwards and hold it while you go and pet the object.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Student backs horse up with lead rope part of Horseman's Reins.*
- *Horse "works" the rope, maintaining tension and pulling object as you ask.*
- *Confident.*
- *If no saddle horn, student asks horse to back up and walks slowly with horse dragging object by hand.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse will not maintain tension in the line.*
- *Horse gets scared.*
- *Student uses reins instead of lead rope to back horse up.*

**F21. Bring him forward while you are at the object and untie the 45' Line.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse comes forward willingly, without hesitation, when asked.*
- *Stands patiently while you untie the line.*

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- *Horse reluctant to come forward, resists.*

**F22. Mount your horse and gather up your rope.**

**LEVEL 3**

- *Horse stands still.*

- Correct mounting dynamics shown.
- Coils rope smoothly.

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- Horse does not stand still, afraid or disturbed by rope, etc.
- Incorrect mounting dynamics, especially holding pommel / horn and cantle while mounting; roughness, etc.
- Coils rope incorrectly, does not flip rope as they coil to prevent twists and figure 8's.

**Using a 9' length of Kite String**

**F23. Take your bridle off while mounted and place the kite string in your horse's mouth. Walk, trot and canter a circle, then come down to a backup.**

**LEVEL 3**

- Horse releases bit and bridle calmly, student waits for horse to release bit when lowering bridle.
- Horse takes string without resistance.
- Student waits for horse to accept feel of string before proceeding.
- Smooth transitions up and down to back up.
- No resistance.
- Student uses correct dynamics, that is, direct and supporting reins as necessary.

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- Student doesn't wait for horse to release bit, pulls it out of the mouth.
- Horse resists string going into mouth.
- Transitions difficult or impulsive.
- Student does not wait for acceptance of the string before walking out.
- Resistance: chomping at the string, open mouth, horse bites string and breaks it.
- Incorrect dynamics: direct rein is lower than outside (supporting) rein.

**F24. Dismount, rub your horse on the head, then turn and leave with your horse following you freely.**

**LEVEL 3**

- Correct dismounting dynamics.
- Horse follows closely.

**PRE-LEVEL 3**

- Incorrect dismounting dynamics: does not hold mane, stirrup dropped from foot, focus is not on horse's eye.
- Horse does not follow or is more than four feet away from student, reluctant, etc.