

**GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING PRACTICAL WORK
IN THE DIPLOMA EXAM**

SECTION A – FOOT PREPARATION

Medio-lateral Balance.

- 10 Balance is a subjective subject and there are different approaches to correct balance:
 - a. Long axis (T square – fore limbs only)
 - b. Level landing/level wear
 - c. Long axis/short axisThe horse must be assessed as an individual animal, and the method of balancing the horse and foot that makes the horse most comfortable and gives it a free gait should be applied.
- 8.6.4 Varying degrees of error in balance that could be corrected without harming the horse.
- 2 One side of the foot is lowered to the point that correction without laming the horse is not possible.

Anterior/posterior.

- 10 Hoof, pastern and shoulder angles are parallel.
- 8,6,4 Varying degree of error that could be corrected without harming the horse.
2. Hoof deviates from the pastern and shoulder angle due to poor foot dressing and cannot be corrected.

Solar Shape/Outline

- 10 The Solar Shape/Outline is correctly maintained in relation to the white line.
- 8,6,4 Over or under dressing of Solar Shape to the detriment of the horse.
- 2 Under dressing resulting in future hoof wall flares and possible white line disease, over dressing subsequently leaving too little hoof wall to accommodate the nailing on of a shoe (possible nail bind).

Wall length/shape.

- 10 All flares and dishes removed. The hoof wall has been dressed only to improve the shape of the hoof. Wall length should be appropriate for the type of horse & the style of shoe.
- 8.6.4.2 Flares and dishes have not been removed. Over or under dressing of the hoof relative to the severity of the error.

Level.

- 10 The entire ground-bearing surface of the hoof wall should be on a level plane (flat) before the application of a shoe.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of unevenness.
- 2 The snipping and rasping is rough and uneven around the entire hoof wall, with no level surfaces apparent.

Sole/frog Trim.

- 10 The sole, bars and frog are pared neat and smooth and not weakened by excessive paring.
- 8,6,4 Paring is rough and uneven. Varying degrees of error that could be corrected without harming the horse. The frog is very raggy and not neat and smooth, or has been slightly over pared.
- 2 Sole is pared too thin (yields under thumb pressure). Sole is not pared to relieve pressure from the shoe and correction is not possible without harming the horse. The frog has been excessively over pared exposing sensitive structures that could cause lameness.

SECTION B - SHOEMAKING

Forging Quality.

- 10 The shoe is well forged from toe to heel, and the thickness of the shoe is constant. There are no forging mistakes. The shoe will function according to the style required.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of forging mistakes are present but within safe tolerances.

Shape/Balance/Function.

- 10 Shoe is symmetrical with appropriate toe bend and flowing branches without distortion. The centre of the section is in the middle of the heel. The shoe is smoothly finished without any sharp edges, burns, hammer, or rasp marks.
- 8,6,4, Varying degrees of error in balance that could be corrected with more or better work. Bad finish to the shoe that could have been avoided by more or better work.
- 2 Very unbalanced shoes with distorted Medial or Lateral branches. Shoe has a very bad finish.

Heels.

10. Heels are smoothly finished. The profile straight, the sides blending with the contours of the inside and outside of the branch. Heels to be formed in accordance with the function of the shoe.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of error that could have been corrected with more or better work.
- 2 Edges rough, poorly formed, poorly finished off.

Nail Holes.

- 10 The nail fits the fullering well. The depth of fullering remains the same through the nail holes. Position of the fullering allows nails to exit on the white line; the web of the shoe is not wider where fullered. Nail holes on plain stamped shoes hold the nail secure and are not too deep or tight.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of error resulting in insecure nailing. Web is not the same where fullered.
- 2 Bad features predominate. The shoe should not be nailed on if it would cause injury to the horse (loose nails, prick).

Level.

- 10 Shoe is flat in all respects.
- 8,6,4,2 Varying degree of error, which could have been corrected with more or better work.

Clip(s).

- 10 The clip is properly located on the shoe. Should be thick at the base and tapers to a thin peak. It should not be sharply pointed but should be in proportion to the shoe and foot.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees or error in location, thickness, size and shape.
- 2 Gross exaggeration or poor quality and size.

SECTION C – SHOE FITTING

Outline Fit.

- 10 The shape of the shoe is determined by the white line of the correctly trimmed foot and the conformation of the limb. The shoe is in contact with the wall unless the wall is missing. No daylight should appear between foot and shoe.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of error in fitting the foot; toe too narrow/wide; branches do not follow the quarters, heels too long/short, or the heel angle of the shoe is incorrect (stone carriers). Slight lack of contact with the hoof wall; can be corrected.
- 2. Most of the poor characteristics are present in the fit. Gross lack of contact that cannot be corrected. The shoe would cause injury if nailed on.

Clip(s) Fit.

- 10 The clip is at the correct angle and has been cut/burnt flush into the wall to the correct amount. The clip secures the shoe.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of error from the angle to the clip being flush.
- 2 Gross error in the fit and will not secure the shoe.

Heel Fit.

- 10 Both heels fitted up to the buttresses of the foot, if appropriate.
- 8,6,4,2 Varying degrees of error. Heels either too long or too short.

Shoe Contact.

- 10 The shoe has even contact on the weight-bearing structures of the hoof.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of contact; too much or too little sole clearance, sprung heel, gaps between shoe and hoof wall.
- 2 There is excessive sole pressure and cannot be pared. If the shoe was nailed on it would cause lameness.

Nail Position.

- 10 Nail holes are properly located and are evenly spaced from toe to heel quarter unless prevented by hoof condition. They are located over the white line.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of error in the location of the nail holes that are not justified by hoof conditions and varying degree of fine or course nails, but would not cause harm to the horse.
- 2 Gross error in the location of the nail holes. Use of these nail holes would cause harm to the horse.

SECTION D - NAILING & FINISHING

Nail Height/Alignment.

- 10 Nails exit the hoof wall one third the height of the wall. They should be parallel to the ground or the coronary band. They should be well spaced and in good wall.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of error in height, alignment, spacing, quality of wall nailed into.
- 2 Extremely poor quality of nailing on. Shoe not secure.

Clench Quality & Finish.

- 10 Clenches are square, strong and set into the wall with a smooth finish. The hoof wall is smooth with no rasp marks and has not been excessively rasped after nailing and finishing off.
- 8,6,4 Clenches are weak, rasped thin, irregular in shape or dragged down the wall and not smooth. The hoof wall is not smooth and rasp marks are present around the hoof under the clenches.
- 2. Most of the above characteristics exist and the clenches would not hold the shoe in place for a serviceable period, or are dangerous. The hoof wall has been excessively rasped since being trimmed. Clenches have sharp edges that could cause injury.

Shoe Position.

- 10 The shoe exactly corresponds with the bearing surface of the hoof. Its outer edge resembles very closely a continuation of the wall, where appropriate. There is an exact fit between the shoe and the wall ensuring that the pressure of weight bearing is equally distributed over the whole of the hoof wall.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of error. The shoe has been fitted with a bias to one side or the other. The clip is not central.
- 2. Gross error in the positioning of the shoe, with one branch extending and likely to result in it being trodden on and the shoe loosened. Dangerous if left uncorrected.

SECTION E – SHOE DISPLAY

The examples in the portfolio are important as Examiners will compare the standard of the samples with that achieved in the practical examination. If the examiners doubt the authenticity of any shoe, the candidate will be asked to make another shoe to the same standard in order to achieve the required standard in the Practical Test. Candidates must therefore be able to reproduce to the same standard any shoe on their shoe board at the examination.

Forging Quality.

- 10 Shoes well forged, with no forging mistakes. Shoes are without any sharp edges, burns, hammer, or rasp marks.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of forging mistakes are present but within safe tolerances.
- 2,0 Shoes do not match the forging quality witnessed in Live Shoeing Test leading to authenticity concerns.

Shape/Balance

- 10 Shoes are symmetrical, flowing branches without distortion.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of error in balance that could be corrected with more or better work. Bad finish to the shoes that could have been avoided by more or better work.
- 2 Very unbalanced shoes with distorted Medial or Lateral branches.

Mechanical Function

- 10. Shoe should enhance foot balance and foot fall when applied to foot.
- 8,6 Shoe will mechanically assist equine, and would not be detrimental when applied to foot.
- 4,2,0 Shoe detrimental to mechanical function.

Nail Holes.

- 10 The nail fits the fullering well. The depth of fullering remains the same through the nail holes. Position of the fullering allows nails to exit on the white line; the web of the shoe is not wider where fullered. Nail holes on plain stamped shoes hold the nail secure and are not too deep or tight.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of error resulting in insecure nailing. Web is not the same where fullered.
- 2 Bad features predominate. The shoe should not be nailed on if it would cause injury to the horse (loose nails, prick).

Overall Finish Quality.

- 10 Shoes well presented and all smoothly finished.
- 8,6,4 Varying degrees of finish quality are present.
- 2,0 Shoes do not match the finish quality witnessed in Live Shoeing Test leading to authenticity concerns. Finish quality well below standard.