



● WHITE LESSON LEVEL — FOUNDATION

Training Emphasis: Communication & Control

Purpose of This Level

White Level establishes the communication system that everything else depends on. The goal is not speed or exposure, but clarity. Horses and riders must understand pressure, release, and basic cues without tension.

Teaching Focus (Instructor Guidance)

Instructors should prioritize:

- Clear, consistent cues
- Immediate and complete release
- Calm repetition over variety
- Resetting quickly after mistakes

At this level, instructors should slow things down deliberately. Progress is measured by the horse's willingness and understanding, not how much material is covered.

Instructor Evaluation Checklist

An instructor should feel confident moving a rider beyond White Level when:

- Rider applies pressure softly and releases immediately upon response
- Horse responds predictably to steering and stopping cues
- Rhythm at walk and trot remains consistent
- Horse stays mentally calm around equipment and noise
- Rider can calmly reset after mistakes without escalation
- Horse finishes lessons relaxed and willing

Instructor note:

If the horse shows tension, confusion, or shutdown, remain at White Level and simplify.



BLUE LESSON LEVEL — PREPARATION

Training Emphasis: Consistency & Readiness

Purpose of This Level

Blue Level prepares the horse and rider for more intentional work. Skills must be repeatable, not occasional.

Teaching Focus (Instructor Guidance)

Instructors should focus on:

- Predictable transitions
- Intentional lines
- Repetition with minor variations
- Consistency before adding speed

Single-gun work may be introduced, but only when it does not disrupt rhythm or communication.

Instructor Evaluation Checklist

A rider is generally ready to move beyond Blue Level when:

- Horse maintains balance at the lope in both directions
- Transitions remain predictable without rushing
- Rider rides lines intentionally, not reactively
- Shooting exercises remain accurate at controlled speed
- Rider corrects mistakes without increasing pressure
- Horse remains confident through repetition

Instructor note:

If consistency drops between sessions, return to Blue priorities before advancing.



GREEN LESSON LEVEL — PERFORMANCE

Training Emphasis: Speed with Accuracy

Purpose of This Level

Green Level introduces speed as a training variable. Accuracy and composure must remain intact as pressure increases.

Teaching Focus (Instructor Guidance)

Instructors should:

- Introduce speed gradually
- Watch accuracy trends closely
- Emphasize decision-making
- Reinforce efficient lines and turns

Mistakes should be treated as feedback, not failure.

Instructor Evaluation Checklist

A rider is typically ready to progress when:

- Accuracy remains consistent as speed increases
- Turns are smooth and efficient
- Rider links multiple exercises together successfully
- Rider makes independent decisions mid-run
- Errors are corrected calmly
- Horse stays forward, responsive, and confident

Instructor note:

Speed should never increase faster than accuracy can be maintained.



RED LESSON LEVEL — PRECISION

Training Emphasis: Execution Under Pressure

Purpose of This Level

Red Level refines performance. Small inefficiencies matter, and pressure is intentionally introduced.

Teaching Focus (Instructor Guidance)

Instructors should:

- Focus on efficiency and timing
- Refine lines and transitions
- Introduce time pressure thoughtfully
- Observe subtle communication breakdowns

Instructor Evaluation Checklist

A rider may be ready to advance when:

- Accuracy holds under time pressure
- Rider maintains cadence through complex patterns
- Communication becomes subtle and efficient
- Strategic choices improve outcomes
- Horse remains mentally steady
- Performance is repeatable across sessions

Instructor note:

If precision deteriorates under pressure, reduce complexity before increasing speed.



● **BLACK LESSON LEVEL — MASTERY**

Training Emphasis: Strategy, Longevity & Leadership

Purpose of This Level

Black Level reflects advanced performance and responsibility. The focus is long-term soundness, adaptability, and leadership.

Teaching Focus (Instructor Guidance)

Instructors at this level act more as coaches:

- Refining strategy
- Supporting longevity
- Adjusting for different arenas
- Encouraging rider leadership

Instructor Evaluation Indicators

Riders at this level demonstrate:

- Precision at competitive speed
- Adaptability across environments
- Strategic execution
- Consistency across events
- Awareness of horse management and longevity
- Leadership by example

Instructor note:

Advancement here is less about “moving up” and more about sustaining excellence.