



## Stage 7

*“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”*

~Harold R. McAlindon

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:**  
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\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pass/Resubmit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pass/Resubmit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pass/Resubmit:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# FREESTYLE

## Tools: Bareback & Bridleless

## **FS1. MOUNT YOUR HORSE FROM BOTH SIDES.**

## STAGE 7:

- Student mounts without assistance (unless can provide sufficient medical reason.)
- Student shows some athletic ability and/or savvy by teaching horse to get lower.
- It's permissible to stand horse on a downhill 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 STAGE 7:

- 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.

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FREESTYLE

*CONTINUED*

**FS2. CLIMB ALL OVER HIM, RUB HIS RUMP WITH YOUR LEGS AND FEET, STAND ON HIS BACK.**

## STAGE 7:

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

## PRE STAGE 7:

- 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.

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

### **FS3. BACK HIM UP 10 STEPS.**

## STAGE 7:

- 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 STAGE 7:

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

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FREESTYLE

*CONTINUED*

**FS4. WALK FORWARD, TURN LEFT,  
TURN RIGHT, TURN A FULL CIRCLE  
(PIVOT) AND BACK UP.**

## STAGE 7:

- 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 horse) and riding with whole body: arms, legs, and belly button.
- Pivot is close to horse planting a 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 STAGE 7:

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

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS       PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FREESTYLE

*CONTINUED*

**FS5. MOVE UP INTO A CANTER.  
CANTER 3 CIRCUITS (IN A CORRAL)  
AND STOP IN THE CENTRE.**

## STAGE 7:

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

## PRE STAGE 7:

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

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS       PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FREESTYLE

*CONTINUED*

## Tools: Saddle, Horseman's Sticks (2)

**FS6. BACK YOUR HORSE UP IN A STRAIGHT LINE (FACING ASSESSOR) FOR AT LEAST 10 FEET.**

## STAGE 7:

- Low phases, Horseman's Sticks can drive in small circles or slightly up and down. Must not contact horse or 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 Horseman's Sticks as isolation.

## PRE STAGE 7:

- High Phases. Horseman's 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 backwards.
- Using feet instead of Horseman's Stick.

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS      PLEASE RESUBMIT

## FREESTYLE

*CONTINUED*

## FS7. TRANSITION FROM HALT TO CANTER.

## STAGE 7:

- 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 STAGE 7:

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

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

## FS8. SHOW THREE SIMPLE (DROP TO TROT) LEAD CHANGES.

## STAGE 7:

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

## PRE STAGE 7:

- Horse resists transition by running through Horseman's Sticks.
- Horse resists canter again, trots for more than 4 strides after asking for the canter.
- Wrong lead is taken in canter transition.
- Tossing head.

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

## FREESTYLE

*CONTINUED*

**FS9. RIDE OVER 2 JUMPS THAT ARE AT LEAST 2 FEET HIGH.**

## STAGE 7:

- Student rides with confidence and balance.
- Horseman's Sticks are relaxed in neutral during the jump (hanging forward and down or over the shoulders.)
- Whole “picture” is pleasing and harmonious.

## PRE STAGE 7:

- Student loses balance.
- Horseman's Sticks are flailing, lacking refinement.
- Horse refuses to jump.
- Jump is too low, less than 2 feet.

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

**FS10. PROCEED TOWARD ASSESSOR IN A STRAIGHT LINE AT THE CANTER AND COME DOWN TO A BACK UP.**

## STAGE 7:

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

## PRE STAGE 7:

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

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS      PLEASE RESUBMIT

## FREESTYLE

*CONTINUED*

**FS11. DEMONSTRATE FOUR FLYING LEAD CHANGES ON A CASUAL REIN IN A STRAIGHT LINE, COME DOWN TO A GRACEFUL 9 STEP BACKUP TO PROVE YOUR HORSE IS SETTLED.**

## STAGE 7:

- Straight.
- Flying changes are executed; horse not later than one stride in change behind.
- Horse has impulsion.

## PRE STAGE 7:

- Horse does not make changes, changes only in the front, hind end takes two or more strides to change.
- Student leaning into changes rather than pushing.
- Student does not use legs to push, only upper body.
- Horse is impulsive or breaks down to the trot.
- Rider grips reins with both hands.

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS       PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FREESTYLE

*CONTINUED*

**FS12. GALLOP A BARREL PATTERN WITH FOUR BARRELS 90' APART. SHOW TWO TURNS TO THE RIGHT AND TWO TURNS TO THE LEFT. STOP YOUR HORSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BARRELS AND COME DOWN TO A 9 STEP BACK UP.**

## STAGE 7:

- Student gallops, it's a fast exercise.
- 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 is used.

## PRE STAGE 7:

- Student goes too slow, canters to medium speed only.
- Reins positions inaccurate.
- Leaning into turns rather than pushing turns.
- Reins too tight, no longer freestyle.
- Horse won't stop, pushes on bit.
- Turns required are not shown.
- Cross-firing or counter cantering not accepted.

## RESULT:

STAGE 7 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

## ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

- Please video the tasks in order and avoid editing.
- Enclose task sheet with your choice of either a DVD or Computer Stick and mail to the office. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of assessment sheet and video. You may also provide a YouTube submission via email, however, please make sure to include your task sheet as an attachment and email to [info@thehorseranch.com](mailto:info@thehorseranch.com).
- Assessment cost is \$3 per taped minute plus GST. Please make cheques payable to: The 2005 Horse Ranch Inc., contact The Horse Ranch directly for Credit Card payment, or E-transfer to: [glenn@thehorseranch.com](mailto:glenn@thehorseranch.com)

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