



# **Level 2 Equine Groom**

## **End-Point Assessment Specification**

## About Us

1st4sport is an industry specialist recognised awarding organisation regulated in England by Ofqual, in Wales by Qualifications Wales, and in Northern Ireland by CCEA Regulation. We are committed to delivering high-quality educational solutions within the equine industry.

## EPA Overview

EPA Title:	1st4sport Level 2 End Point Assessment Equine Groom
EPA Regulation Number:	ST0166/AP02
Level:	2
On-Programme Duration:	Typical: 12-18 months   Minimum: 12 months
Total EPA Timeframe:	EPA must be completed within 3 months once gateway requirements are met

## EPA Objective

The 1st4sport Level 2 Equine Groom EPA is designed to assess apprentices against the apprenticeship standard, ensuring that they can demonstrate competence in their chosen equine specialism within an operational workplace environment.

## EPA Purpose

This EPA validates that apprentices have developed the practical skills, knowledge, and professional behaviours required to work effectively as an equine groom. Additionally, it ensures apprentices understand safe working practices, equine welfare, and the core responsibilities of the role.

## EPA Gateway Requirements

Before entering the End-Point Assessment, apprentices must:

- Complete at least 12 months of training.
- Achieve Level 1 English and Maths and attempt Level 2 tests.

- Submit a portfolio of evidence (for the Professional Discussion).
- Employer must confirm the apprentice is ready for EPA.

Once all gateway requirements are met, the 3-month EPA period begins.

## Knowledge Test

The knowledge test assesses the apprentice's understanding of key concepts required for professional equine grooming.

- Format: 50 multiple-choice questions (MCQs).
- Duration: 75 minutes.
- Pass Mark: 70% required for a pass; 90% required for a distinction.
- Topics Covered:
  - Safe working practices.
  - Yard and field routines.
  - Horse anatomy, physiology, and welfare.
  - Saddlery and equipment.
  - Horse handling, care, and transport.

## Practical Observation

This assessment method evaluates the apprentice's practical ability to perform routine equine grooming tasks.

- Format: Five-hour structured workplace observation.
- Activities Include:
  - Mucking out, feeding, and stable management.
  - Grooming, hoof care, and equine welfare practices.
  - Safe horse handling and leading techniques.
  - Preparing horses for transport or exercise.

- Using and maintaining saddlery and equipment.
- Key Areas Assessed:
  - Safe working practices and adherence to industry regulations.
  - Practical competence in equine care, health, and stable management.
  - Ability to follow workplace procedures and instructions.
  - Communication and teamwork within an equine environment.

## Professional Discussion

The professional discussion assesses the apprentice's ability to reflect on their knowledge and practical experience, supported by their portfolio of evidence.

- Format: 60-75-minute structured interview.
- Portfolio Use: The apprentice can refer to their portfolio, but it is not directly assessed.
- Key Topics:
  - Workplace procedures and responsibilities.
  - Equine welfare, behaviour, and safe handling.
  - Problem-solving in daily yard routines.
  - Effective communication and teamwork.

## Pathways Available

The Equine Groom apprenticeship is a core and occupational standard.

### Core

The Equine Groom apprentice will need to decide in which sector of the industry they wish to progress and select the appropriate occupational route.

Duty	Knowledge	Skills
Safe Working Practices	Current health, safety and security requirements, policies and procedures including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Rules and Codes of Practice and ethics relevant to the workplace.	Work safely and efficiently at all times and comply with current health, safety and security policies and procedures (including PPE).
Yard and Field Routines and Duties	Routine yard and field duties and horse husbandry. The principles of stabling and grassland care. Policies and procedures for new horse(s) arriving on the yard. How to minimise waste and environmental and sustainable working practices.	Carry out all yard and field duties to include mucking out, skipping out, tidying and cleaning the yard, watering and feeding. Assess suitability of stabling and grassland environments for horses including checking for hazards etc. Assist with the arrival of a new horse to the yard, following current yard procedures and measures to prevent and control the spread of disease.
Horse Anatomy, Physiology and Welfare	Equine terminology used to describe horses. Basic anatomy and physiology, including the digestive and skeletal systems. The core principles of horse welfare (including health) and care of the sick horse. The basics of current	Recognise, identify and describe horses including sex, height, type, colours and markings. Identify basic anatomy, to include points of the horse. Recognise signs of good and poor welfare (including ill health) and check for

	legal welfare requirements. The importance of routine health care and record keeping including veterinary reports, passports, vaccinations, worming, farriery and dentistry, etc.	injuries. Report relevant information and assist with medical treatment and other industry specialists, including Senior Groom, Dentist, Farrier, Veterinary surgeon. Ensure the horses' welfare before and after exercise or travel.
Horse Handling, Care and Appearance	The horses' natural instincts, mental abilities and the principles of how horses behave and learn; the different methods of safe handling in various situations. The core principles of horse care including feeding, watering, grooming and foot care. The basics of trimming, clipping and plaiting.	Handle a variety of horses in the workplace to include tying up, leading, trotting up, turning out and catching in. Recognise different types of feed and hay and check their quality. Groom a horse including checking feet and shoes. Demonstrate trimming and plaiting.
Saddlery and Equipment	Common workplace saddlery, equipment and clothing used and how to maintain it. A basic awareness of discipline-specific saddlery and equipment.	Fit a variety of common saddlery, equipment and horse clothing. Remove, clean and store common saddlery and equipment. Check the safe and effective working condition of all saddlery, equipment and clothing
Travelling Horses	Current workplace principles and legal requirements relating	Prepare horse(s) for travel using appropriate clothing



	to commercial transport of horses.	and equipment. Assist with loading and unloading before and after travel.
Non-Ridden Exercise	A variety of non-ridden exercise procedures used in the different workplaces.	Prepare for and provide a variety of appropriate non-ridden exercise including an introduction to lungeing.
Duty	Knowledge Skills	
Safe Working	Maintain safe working practices, which must be adhered to at all times with constant situational awareness and adaptability to ensure safety of the horse, themselves and others. Have the ability to work efficiently to meet time deadlines and organisational requirements.	
Work Ethic	Have a strong work ethic, a willingness to learn. Be respectful, punctual, reliable, trustworthy and diligent and prepared to work irregular hours, in all weathers. Take a pride in their work, showing commitment and loyalty, whilst conducting themselves in a professional manner.	
Responsibility	Have responsibility for themselves, others and the equines in their care, showing respect, empathy, patience and tolerance in all situations. Work with methods that reduce any risk of injury to horses, themselves or others. Develop the life skills required to live independently.	
Team Work	Have the ability to work both individually and as part of a diverse team as required, understanding their role and changing priorities when the situation dictates. Show respect to their fellow workers.	

Communication	Respect the need for confidentiality and adhere to data protection policies. Communicate effectively with colleagues, supervisors, visitors and clients. Show good interpersonal skills and accurately report any concerns, incidents and abnormalities. Know when to ask for advice or guidance. Use social media responsibly.
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## Occupational

Apprentices are assessed against core knowledge, skills, and behaviours (KSBs) and must select one of the following specialisms:

Duty	Route specific knowledge	Route specific skills
1. Breeding	Principles of equine reproduction to include the initial mating decisions, the importance of teasing, monitoring pregnancy and weaning. Specific principles of care and welfare including health related to maintaining breeding equines and offspring. Methods, equipment and technology currently used to breed and register equines. The basics of preparing equines for commercial or private sale. The main diseases relating to breeding equines and the relevant industry Codes of Practice. Problems that may happen with covering	Demonstrate basic safe competence in handling equines used for breeding purposes including assisting with teasing and covering. Observe the onset of, and assist if required, foaling of an equine and following on procedures. Demonstrate an awareness of reproductive status; including the interpretation of teasing results and the specialist care of breeding equines at all stages of the reproductive cycle. Recognise the importance of; and participate in, the maintenance of disease control within



	stallions, foaling mares and youngstock throughout their early years.	an equine breeding population. Assist with the work of breeding industry specialists; using equipment, machinery and technology appropriately as directed. Assist with the preparation and show of equines of varying ages, as directed, for commercial and/or private sale.
2. Driving	All parts of a single set of harness. The correct single harness to use with two and four wheeled vehicles with independent shafts. Correct fit of single harness to two and four wheeled vehicles. The procedures for harnessing up and putting to with an assistant and safe areas to do so. The basic principles of cleaning leather and composite leather harness. Cleaning of wooden and metal vehicles, safe storage of two and four wheeled vehicles. The core principles of long reining for exercise and the equipment used.	Harness up and put to with an assistant a single turnout in both a two and four wheeled vehicle. Act as a groom/backstepper in exercising/show/trials (select one discipline). Exercise horses/ponies in a non driving environment, to be able to lunge or longrein in an enclosed area, in a circle for exercise purposes. Drive a quiet pleasure single turnout in an enclosed area demonstrating safe rein handling, turns to the left and right, in the walk and trot. To be able to halt. Mount and dismount in a safe manner. Demonstrate

		safe use of the whip. Take horse out of vehicle with assistance and unharness horse in a safe manner.
3.Racing	The Thoroughbred racehorse as a high performance equine athlete and the specific exercise regimes used in the racing industry to prepare and train horses to race. The specific routines for working in a racing yard and taking horses racing including how to care for horses prior to and after strenuous work and racecourse performance. The regulatory requirements for adhering to industry policy and practice, including security procedures in the yard, at the races and at public sales venues. Technical racing terms and vocabulary, the racing industry structure and key organisations. The industry protocol for taking a horse racing and how to lead up a Thoroughbred racehorse at the races	Handle Thoroughbred racehorses in and out of full training. Fit a variety of specialist racing equipment and tack. Carry out the specific routines required in a racing yard and in taking horses racing, complying with industry regulatory requirements, policy and practice. Provide exercise regimes to racehorses as directed and effectively care for horses prior to and after strenuous work and racecourse performance. Prepare and lead up a Thoroughbred racehorse at the races in accordance with industry practice and the Rules of Racing. Provide after race care including compliance with industry regulations and post-race dope testing procedures.

<p>4. Riding</p>	<p>The fundamental importance of adopting a correct riding position. Different riding styles appropriate to different disciplines and situations. School rules and regulations. Riding terminology including paces/ aids/ school figures. How to ride in the open with consideration for weather, hazards and varied terrain. The use of pole work to include distances of trot poles and basic principles of jumping The Highway and Country Code and safe protocol for riding on the road and public places. The importance of riding according to instruction. An awareness of customer needs and how this can influence customer care.</p>	<p>Adopt an appropriate basic riding position. Ride an experienced/schooled horse according to instruction, independently and as part of a group in an enclosed area. Ride in a balanced, secure position showing control in walk, trot and canter, working with and without stirrups whilst demonstrating movements i.e. circles, turns, etc. Ride in the open, in a forward seat according to instruction with control, security and balance. Ride with a balanced, secure, forward seat over ground poles at trot to enable progression to ride, where practical, over a short course of fences with control, security and balance. Ride on the road or in public places according to laid down procedures, Highway and Country Codes. Open &amp; close a gate whilst mounted. Negotiate everyday obstacles/hazards with control, security and balance. Ride a</p>
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		quiet horse whilst leading another quiet horse or pony.
5. Non-Riding	<p>The importance of stock rotation and maintenance and storage of supplies and equipment. What is involved in maintaining an establishment and how this can be organised. An awareness of customer needs and how this can influence customer care. Appropriate office duties including answering the telephone, processing information and basic IT system and skills used in the workplace. The benefits and practice of lungeing and the equipment involved.</p>	<p>Assist with storage of supplies and stock rotation. Contribute to the organisation and maintenance of establishment. Engage with customers and identify their needs. Assist with appropriate office duties including answering the telephone, processing information and use workplace IT systems. Contribute to yard based records including passports, vaccinations, worming, farriery, dentistry etc. Assist and support Riding Grooms and provide non-ridden exercise regimes. Prepare for and lunge a horse for exercise in an enclosed area according to instruction.</p>

## Overall EPA Grading

The following table shows the combination of Assessment Method grades to determine the overall grade:

Overall Grade	Knowledge Test	Practical Observation	Professional Discussion (informed by portfolio)
Distinction	90%	Distinction	Distinction
Pass	70%	Pass	Pass
Fail	The apprentice has not achieved a minimum of 70% in the Knowledge Test		

## EPA Method

Assessment Method	Format	Grading
Knowledge Test	50 Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)	Fail / Pass / Distinction
Practical Observation	Direct workplace observation of skills & behaviours	Fail / Pass / Distinction
Professional Discussion	Structured discussion based on portfolio evidence	Fail / Pass / Distinction



**1st4sport** offers you an extensive range of qualifications for the Active Leisure, Learning and Well-being sector. Our qualifications are proof to employers of practical knowledge, ability and skill and are delivered part-time and full-time at centres throughout the UK.

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