



# Level 3 Senior 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 3 End Point Assessment Senior Equine Groom
EPA Regulation Number:	ST0167/AP02
Level:	3
On-Programme Duration:	Typical: 18-24 months   Minimum: 12 months
Total EPA Timeframe:	EPA must be completed within three months once gateway requirements are met

## EPA Objective

The 1st4sport Level 3 Senior 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 a Senior Equine Groom. Additionally, it ensures apprentices understand equine welfare, safe working practices, and the managerial responsibilities of the role.

## EPA Gateway Requirements

Before entering the End-Point Assessment, apprentices must:

- Complete at least 12 months of training.

- English and Maths requirements:
  - Apprentices aged 16 to 18 (or where required by the employer): Achieve Level 2 English and Maths.
  - Apprentices with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA): The minimum requirement is Entry Level 3 in English and Maths instead of Level 1.
- Submit a **work-based project outline**.
- Submit a **coaching session outline** in preparation for the practical observation.
- 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 6-month EPA period begins.

## Knowledge Test

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

- Format: 45 multiple-choice questions (MCQs) and five extended answer questions.
- Duration: 90 minutes.
- Pass Mark: 70% required for a pass; 90% required for a distinction.
- Topics Covered:
  - Equine welfare and health management.
  - Yard and field management.
  - Feeding, nutrition, and conditioning.
  - Leadership and management responsibilities.
  - Safe handling, horse training, and exercise management.

## Practical Observation

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

- Format: Six-hour structured workplace observation.
- Activities Include:
  - Managing and organising yard duties.
  - Supervising and coaching junior staff.
  - Equine health checks and welfare management.
  - Handling and preparing horses for transport or competition.
  - Use and maintenance of equestrian equipment.
- Key Areas Assessed:
  - Managerial and leadership skills in an equine setting.
  - Equine welfare, behaviour, and professional standards.
  - Effective supervision of staff and apprentices.
  - Adherence to industry health and safety regulations.



## 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: 75-90-minute structured interview.
- Portfolio Use: The apprentice can refer to their portfolio, but it is not directly assessed.
- Key Topics:
  - Yard and field management planning.
  - Professional decision-making and leadership responsibilities.
  - Seasonal equine care and emergency planning.
  - Ethical and welfare considerations in equine management.

## Pathways Available

The Senior Equine Groom apprenticeship is a core and occupational standard. Apprentices are assessed against core knowledge, skills, and behaviours (KSBs) and must select one of the following specialisms:

### Core

Knowledge and skills	On completion of the apprenticeship, newly qualified Senior Equine Grooms will possess the CORE knowledge to understand:	On completion of the apprenticeship, newly qualified Senior Equine grooms will have proven CORE skills enabling them to competently:
Safe Working Practices	Current health, safety and security requirements, policies and procedures including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Current Rules	Promote, monitor and maintain safe working practices at all times and comply with current health, safety and security policies and procedures

	and Codes of Practice and ethics relevant to the workplace. The principles of current employment rights and responsibilities.	(including PPE). Contribute to risk assessments.
Yard and Field Routines and Duties	The organisation of yard and field duties, rotas and routines. Requirements for stocks and supplies of feed and bedding. The preparation and maintenance of different types of stabling and grassland. How to assess the risk of disease outbreak and the measures to prevent and control the spread of disease. The need for and how to work in an environmentally sustainable manner	Organise, supervise and carry out all yard and field duties, day to day rotas and routines including liaising with vet, farrier and other visiting specialists. Maintain and organise basic yard based records including farrier, worming, vaccinations, etc. Monitor, maintain and assess quality of stocks and supplies of feed and bedding. Evaluate, prepare and maintain stabling and grassland for horses. Manage horses stabled and at grass. Implement measures to prevent and control the spread of disease. Coordinate waste minimisation, environmental and sustainable working practices. Supervise admission of a new horse and carry out an initial assessment, to include record keeping and health status.

<p>Horse Anatomy, Physiology and Welfare</p>	<p>Anatomy and physiology, to include conformation, main superficial muscles, structure of the lower leg and the respiratory and circulatory systems. How to assess welfare (including health), condition and fitness. Common minor ailments, injuries and administering first aid and treatments. Procedures for isolation and sick nursing. The importance of monitoring temperature, pulse and respiration rates. Medication control procedures and accepted protocol.</p>	<p>Identify and discuss main superficial muscles and structure of the lower leg and foot. Assess and evaluate a horse including conformation, action, condition and fitness. Assess welfare (including health), recognise and treat common minor ailments and injuries. Administer first aid and treatments under veterinary advice to include, poultices, dressings and bandages. Administer permitted oral and topical treatments under direction. Take temperature, pulse and respiration rates of the horse.</p>
<p>Horse Handling, Care and Appearance</p>	<p>Appropriate methods of handling and restraint and their use in different circumstances. Procedures for grooming, clipping, trimming, pulling and plaiting a range of horses in preparation for different types of work, competition, public appearance and veterinary procedures. The horses foot, shoeing and different</p>	<p>Identify and use appropriate methods to handle or restrain a horse. Prepare a range of horses for different types of work or competition to include grooming, clipping, trimming, pulling and plaiting. Recognise and discuss hoof balance. Demonstrate the correct procedure for removal of a shoe in line with current legislation.</p>

	types of shoes and how to remove a loose or twisted shoe.	
Nutrition and Fitness	Nutritional requirements including hydration for a variety of horses in different types of work. Fitness requirements and programmes for a variety of horses in different disciplines.	Plan and implement diets and feeding regimes. Organise the feed room and stock rotation.
Travelling Horses	Requirements when planning travel for horses including equipment, supplies and documentation. The current legislation and procedures relating to loading, unloading and travelling horses.	Coordinate the preparation for travelling horses including supplies, equipment etc. Plan the transportation of horses by road taking into account current guidelines, documentation requirements and procedures. Prepare a horse for transport, load and unload safely following current health and safety protocol. Supervise and care for horses during and after transportation.
Non-Ridden Exercise	The benefits and practice of various forms of non ridden exercise including lungeing and long reining. Different lungeing/ long reining equipment and methods.	Prepare and lunge a horse for exercise using various types of equipment appropriately.



<b>Behaviours</b>	
On completion of the apprenticeship, Senior Equine Grooms will display CORE behaviours enabling them to:	
Safe Working	Promote, monitor and enhance 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.
Work Ethic	Have a strong work ethic, be a good role model and mentor for others. Be respectful, punctual, reliable, trustworthy and diligent and be prepared to work irregular hours, in all weather conditions. Work effectively and encourage efficiency to meet time deadlines and organisational requirements. Take a pride in their work showing commitment and loyalty whilst conducting themselves in a professional manner.
Responsibility	Assume a role of responsibility in the workplace. Organise themselves, delegate tasks, supervise and monitor others and the equines in their care. Show respect, empathy, patience and tolerance in all situations. Work with methods that reduce risk of injury to the horse, themselves or others.
Team Work	Have the ability to work in, lead, support and motivate a diverse team. Understand their role within the team and their impact on others. Promote good working relationships, reduce, manage and report conflict within the team when necessary. Contribute to and support the training and development of others.
Communication	Respect the need for confidentiality and adhere to data protection policies. Confidently and respectfully communicate with all colleagues, visitors, clients and industry specialists. Show good interpersonal skills and accurately report any concerns, incidents and abnormalities. Know when to ask for, offer and give advice and guidance. Use social media responsibly.

## Occupational

The apprentice will select one of the five specialised routes with additional knowledge and skills:

Specialised route	On completion of the apprenticeship, newly qualified Senior Equine Grooms will possess the ROUTE SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE to understand:	On completion of the apprenticeship, newly qualified Senior Equine Grooms will have proven ROUTE SPECIFIC SKILLS enabling them to competently
1. Breeding	<p>Pedigrees, stud contracts, Codes of Practice, veterinary certificates and the importance of accurate, confidential recording in a global industry.</p> <p>Reproductive anatomy and physiology of both sexes; gestation and parturition processes. Artificial manipulation of the reproductive processes and common veterinary and stud work techniques. The benefits and drawbacks of natural and non-natural covering methods including artificial insemination techniques, embryo transfer and semen collection, evaluation and freezing.</p> <p>Routine management</p>	<p>Use correct terminology, paperwork, pedigree knowledge and hygiene practices within regular stud work. Assist with recording breeding information as appropriate. Be able to tease and make recommendations on subsequent actions. Assist with the preparation for coverings. Prepare a foaling environment and assist during normal foaling, to include examination of the placenta.</p> <p>Recognise non-normal foaling events and the actions to be taken. Manage, monitor and maintain routine care, well-being and handling of breeding and youngstock. Assist with successful</p>

	<p>of all breeding and youngstock at grass or stabled throughout the year to include weaning methods and issues. Foaling and the care of mares and neonates to include the management of emergency foaling situations and fostering. Common developmental issues in foals and growing youngstock.</p>	<p>weaning processes and implement fostering programmes and care of orphan foals. Monitor, maintain and manage the health and well-being of breeding and youngstock. Present a male horse correctly for inspection.</p>
2. Driving	<p>The correct use of full, breast and empathy collars, open and quick release tugs and a variety of driving bits. All parts of a single set of modern composite competition harness including modern adaptations for specific competition vehicles. The fit of a variety of single harness to two and four wheeled vehicles and correct fit of pairs harness. The cleaning of competition harness including patent leather and brass furniture (buckles) to show/ presentation standard. The cleaning and presentation of vehicles for competition to show/</p>	<p>Prepare a turnout for exercise and competition. Harness up and put to with an assistant a pair turnout. Drive a single turnout in a training area and on the highway demonstrating safe rein handling and whip use. School the turnout in basic correct way of going. Exercise horses/ponies in a non driving environment, including being able to lunge or Long rein in an enclosed area to improve the horse and to maintain and embed the horse in correct way of going, using a variety of equipment. Prepare comprehensive</p>

	<p>presentation standard including appropriate storage. The extensive requirements of equipment for a show/ turn out including listing all necessary equipment for drivers, horses, carriages and portable stabling. The clothing requirements for both driver and groom for showing/ driving/ trials/ pleasure driving.</p>	<p>equipment lists for shows and events for drivers, horses, carriages and portable stabling. Discuss and initiate methods of loading and transportation of equipment. Design, coordinate and review a fittening and feeding programme for competition turnout including physiotherapy where necessary. Evaluate the use of specialist equipment in the fittening and training of driving horses.</p>
3.Racing	<p>The supervision of 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 early education of the racehorse including the breaking and training process. The effective supervision of horses and staff in the racing yard, on the gallops, at the races and at public sales venues.</p> <p>The Orders and Rules of Racing, technical</p>	<p>Handle Thoroughbred racehorses in and out of full training including young horses and those with training problems. Contribute to the early education and effective training of the horse to prepare for, and improve racecourse performance. Assist in introducing young horses to equipment and tack. Ensure compliance with all industry regulatory requirements at the races or sales. Prepare horses at the race and</p>

	<p>racing terms and vocabulary, racing industry structure and organisation.</p> <p>Racecourse procedures including saddling up and parade ring protocol.</p>	<p>assist with saddling up and the parade ring procedures.</p>
<p>In addition to the above specialist Racing knowledge and skills, Equine Groom apprentices taking the Racing Route will be required to select one of the two racing pathways as follows:-</p> <p>i) Senior Racing Exercise Grooms:- Ride racehorses effectively to improve performance including riding at speed, on all types of surface or any type of horse including young horses, unfit and race fit horses and those with training problems. Ride alone, in groups and in a string. Ride fast work and school horses through the stalls or over obstacles. Provide accurate feedback on horse performance. Maintain own health and fitness to adhere to industry weight requirements and physical demands of riding for up to six hours a day.</p> <p>ii) Senior Yard Based Grooms:-Contribute to the design, implementation, evaluation and modification of individual training programmes for racehorses. Assist with preparing a horse to race fitness through careful consideration of correct work, feeding and healthcare. Assess a horse's current condition, fitness and educational needs prior to planning an appropriate work programme. Assist with the implementation of training programmes. Supervise the effective organisation and maintenance of facilities and resources used to train horses in the commercial racing premises.</p>		
4. Riding	<p>The cleaning and preparation of saddlery and equipment for work and competition to the appropriate standard required. Different saddlery and equipment requirements for work and competition. The influence of rider position. The principles of</p>	<p>Clean and prepare equipment for work and competition to the appropriate standard. Prepare horses for work and competition including selecting and fitting correct discipline specific saddlery and equipment. Exercise a variety of horses in all paces with and without stirrups</p>

	<p>equitation theory. The principles of training to include rhythm, balance, suppleness, straightness and impulsion, the reasons for them and how they influence and develop the horses way of going. The use of exercises such as transitions, variation of pace and lateral movements to improve, develop and enhance performance. The use of exercises over ground poles, understanding related distances/striding to improve, develop and enhance performance. The different types of jumps and courses for show jumping and cross country. The importance of following owner's, employer's and manager's instructions for schooling or exercising.</p>	<p>maintaining an established position showing balance, independence and a supple seat. Ride horses of varying levels of fitness and training for exercise, understanding the type of work needed to maintain fitness. School a variety of fit horses with refined and coordinated aids showing feel, respect and an understanding of the horse's way of going to develop the horse appropriately and according to instruction. Ride appropriate exercises including transitions, variation of pace, lateral movements to improve and develop work. Ride a variety of exercises over ground poles at canter, to enable progression to ride, where practical, over a course of show jumps and cross country fences, showing confidence and control, in a balanced and secure position. Design, implement and review work and fitness programmes.</p>
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5. Non-Riding	<p>The cleaning and preparation of saddlery and equipment for work and competition to the appropriate standard required. Different saddlery and equipment requirements for work and competition. The importance and requirements of maintenance programmes and how to action and implement them. The importance of tendering and checking quality of supplies and suppliers. The significance and benefits of promoting the business through various channels. The need for, and methods of diversification and the on-going impact on the business. What is involved in, and how to plan and organise an event, show or activity. The need for, and methods of delivering and monitoring customer care and satisfaction. IT skills and use of current workplace software and databases. Office duties including</p>	<p>Clean and prepare equipment for work and competition to the appropriate standard. Prepare horses for work and competition including selecting and fitting correct discipline specific saddlery and equipment. Coordinate and supervise maintenance programmes for the establishment. Monitor the choice and quality of supplies and suppliers. Promote the business through word of mouth, advertising, social media and the internet. Plan, organise and implement a variety of events/ shows or activities, whilst constantly looking for ways to diversify and improve the business. Deliver, monitor, review and improve customer care and satisfaction. Carry out office duties including using IT for budgets and record keeping. Implement, record and review a programme for recovery, recuperation or rehabilitation. Design</p>
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	simple record keeping such as budgets and staff records. The need for, design of and implementation of programmes for recovery, recuperation and rehabilitation. The principles of equitation theory.	and review work and fitness programmes and implement non-ridden exercise regimes. Prepare and long rein a horse for exercise.
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## 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 or a pass in the practical observation or professional discussion.		

## EPA Method

Assessment Method	Format	Grading
Knowledge Test	45 Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs) + five Extended Answer Questions	Fail / Pass / Distinction
Practical Observation	Direct workplace observation of skills and 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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