



# British Horse Driving Trials Association

[www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk](http://www.horsedrivingtrials.co.uk)

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## Introductory Safety/Competence Assessment for Clubs

**Purpose of assessment :** The objective of this assessment process is to ascertain whether a driver and his turnout are sufficiently competent and safe to take part in any Public Outing organised by the Club.

**Assessment Procedure:** Candidate is asked to produce his horse, harness and vehicle for inspection, harness up and to carry out a simple driving test. He can be questioned to get an insight into his basic knowledge but unlike a test, is not required to talk himself through all his procedures.

*The Assessor should feel free to give helpful advice where necessary.*

### Part I: Inspection of the Horse, Harness, and Vehicle.

Assess	Particular points to look for and advise on
Horse secured at all times.	<i>Safe practice tying up and leading</i>
Condition	<i>Cleanliness particularly important under harness. Check for sores and rubs. Condition of feet and shoeing.</i>
Suitability of horse for required activity.	
Harness inspected for suitability, cleanliness, condition, wear and tear.	
Vehicle inspected for suitability for the work required and size /weight in relation to horse. Condition and wear.	<i>Loose nuts and bolts, slack wheels.</i>

### Part II: Harnessing Up and Correct Fitting of Harness

Assess	Particular points to look for and advise on
Harness up in correct sequence.	<i>Collar/traces, saddle, reins, bridle. Aware of danger of tying up with bridle on.</i>
Checking correct fit of harness.	<i>Importance of correct fitting collar, breeching, bridle and bit. Adjust where necessary.</i>

### **Part III: Putting Horse to Vehicle**

<b>Assess</b>	<b>Particular points to look for and advise on</b>
Horse under control throughout procedure.	<i>Horse with bridle on and reins attached. Position of groom at horse's head.</i>
Suitable place.	<i>Level. Awareness of surroundings.</i>
Correct sequence of putting to.	<i>Traces , breeching straps, belly band.</i>
Adjustment of vehicle and harness to fit horse.	<i>Length of traces, breeching, distance of horse from vehicle. Height and width of shafts.</i>
Mounting of vehicle by driver (either side).	<i>Taking up reins, mounting safely, position on seat, whip.</i>
Balance of vehicle with driver and groom on board. Alterations for groom on backstep.	

### **Part IV: Safe Driving Techniques**

*Carry out a series of movements on both reins including walk, trot and halt with some up and down hill included if possible.*

*A few sets of cones or simple obstacle to be driven to show the ability to negotiate gateways and accurately manoeuvre the turnout.*

<b>Assess</b>
The use and understanding of the aids, the control of the horse at the halt walk and trot using any style of driving.
The reaction of the horse and driver to other turnouts, potential hazards, variable terrain and motorised vehicles.
Demonstration of the appropriate hand signals according to the Highway Code.

### **Part V : Take out and unharness**

<b>Assess</b>	<b>Particular points to look for and advise on</b>
Horse under control throughout procedure.	<i>Position of groom at horse's head.</i>
Driver dismounting.	<i>Put down whip, reins in one hand, dismount, put up reins.</i>
Disconnecting of harness in correct order, and horse taken out.	<i>Belly band ,breeching straps, traces.</i>
Horse led away and harness removed.	
Care of horse after work.	