

Bronze Level (Level 2)

All entrants must attend the Judges Briefing at the appointed time. Entrants who miss the Briefing will only be admitted under special circumstances and at the discretion of the Test Manager.

Purpose - To demonstrate a dog's ability to respond to the owner's commands and to safely pull draught apparatus over a short level course.

Control Section (Level 2)

Desired performance - A control course will be set in the test area by the two judges with the following elements:

- over a distance of between 100 and 150 metres,
- with changes of pace to slow and back to normal,
- there will be between 7 and 9 turns made up from
 - between 2 and 3 left turns, (with at least 1 at slow pace)
 - between 2 and 3 right turns (with at least 1 at slow pace) and
 - between 2 and 3 about turns, (with at least 1 at slow pace)
- a one minute halt,
- 2 waits (5 secs. each) at a junction, (1 at each pace)
- a random, unexpected stop (during normal pace) that may be different for each entrant,
- and a recall from 5 metres.

Before entering the test area, the handler will hand the harness to the steward. The dog will be walked into the test area and left in a "stay", standing, sitting or down position as the handler wishes. The handler will take the harness from the steward who will be positioned 5 metres away and then return to harness the dog. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection. One of the Judges (Judge A) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will walk the designated course, responding to the instructions that will be given by the steward.

A separate element of this section is a group down-stay of 2 minutes duration in a group of manageable size. The dogs will be within 2m of each other. The handlers will be in sight of the dogs, approximately 5m away.

Scoring - It is expected that 1) the dog will wait calmly while they are harnessed and 2) the dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control. 45 points will be allocated for this section.

Points will be lost for:-

- lack of control;
- incorrect harnessing;
- using a non-directional command more than twice before a response,
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- the dog not staying alongside the handler;
- getting up while in the group down-stay;
- distracting another dog or dogs whilst in the group down-stay;
- the handler adapting his pace to that of the dog.

Failure - The dog will either pass or fail this section; getting at least 30 points will mean a pass. If the dog does not reach a sufficiently high standard, then it will NOT be allowed to enter the next section of this test.

Pull Section (Level 2)

Desired performance - A manoeuvring course will be set by the two judges. It will be in two parts. The first part will cover approximately 150 metres, and will incorporate circular patterns, broad curves, at least 2 right-angle turns, narrow areas, a wait at a removable obstacle and will include as many of these as natural features as possible.

To commence the manoeuvring course, the handler will take the dog to the apparatus, and when instructed will hitch it up. When they are ready, the handler will inform the Judges the dog is ready for inspection. The other Judge (Judge B) will then carry out the formal inspection.

If this is passed satisfactorily, then the handler, with their dog alongside them, will get the dog to pull the apparatus through the designated course, responding to instructions given by the steward and/or Judges. This is to satisfy the judges that the dog can safely and capably pull the apparatus on the following haul. Only when this part has been completed satisfactorily will the dog and handler be directed to a waiting area ready for the next part; failure to perform satisfactorily will mean they will not go onto the next part.

The second part of the manoeuvring course will be in a rural environment (or simulated) and will be over a distance of at least 1 mile, with at least one change of surface and minimal inclines. A load (which will be inspected prior to the commencement of this section), comprising two articles with a total weight of 10 kilograms and a maximum volume of 0.125 cu. metres (half a metre cubed), will be transported for 25% of the course (the load may, if the owner wishes, be removed after this). During the course some natural obstacles may be encountered. People and/or dogs may be used to line the route at various places and provide a natural distraction.

This part will be carried out in one or more convoys of manageable size, with handlers accompanied by safety stewards and the Judges. The Judges will position themselves ahead of the convoy at any encountered obstacles. On reaching any obstacle the convoy will be halted by the steward and necessary instructions given. The dogs and handlers will then negotiate them while being observed by the judges.

When the convoy has completed the course, each handler in turn will be instructed by the steward to unhitch and unharness the dog before walking away from the test area in a controlled manner.

Scoring - It is expected that;

- The dog will wait calmly while they are harnessed and hitched
- The dog will walk at the side of the handler and respond to their commands, thus demonstrating that they are under control. At the end of the course, the dog will again wait calmly while it is unhitched and unharnessed.

55 points are allocated for this section.

Points will be lost for -

- lack of control;
- incorrect harnessing;
- using a non-directional command more than three times before a response;
- each time the lead is tightened to obtain conformity to the handler's wishes;
- incorrect and/or unsafe loading;

Failure –

- The dog will either pass or fail this section by obtaining at least 40 points.