

Dressage Scoring

Dressage test forms have the scoring formula built right in. There are a couple of tricks, but they are really fairly straightforward once you get the hang of it.

The first part of a dressage test form is a list of the movements. Each movement of the dressage test is scored. A “10” is listed where that is the best score possible. Some have “co-efficient” marks, e.g. “10x2” which means that whatever the score for the movement is, must be multiplied by 2 (the maximum score possible being 20). So, if a movement with a x2 co-efficient is scored a “6”, that is multiplied by 2 to get 12, which will be the actual score for the movement.

Example of a portion of the movement section of a dressage test form:

		TEST	Directive ideas	Max Pnts	Points	Remarks
1.	A-K-X X	Proceed working trot from free warm-up Halt, salute	Quality of trot Balance in transition Quality of Halt	10		
2.	X-M-C-E	Working trot	Quality of trot and turns	10		
3.	E-B-E E-K-A	Circle left width of arena Working trot	Quality of trot and figure. Consistent Rhythm and suppleness	10		
4.	A-F F-X X	Working Walk Free Walk Working Walk	Balance in transition and quality of walk Length of frame & stride, Relaxation, rhythm	10x2		

The second part of the dressage test form is the section for “collective remarks”. Each score in the collective remarks section is modified by a coefficient – usually an x2.

COLLECTIVE REMARKS

GAITS	Freedom & regularity, if a team or pair: maintenance of even pace and equality of work	10x2		
IMPULSION	Desire to move forward. Elasticity of steps. Relaxation of back. Engagement of hindquarters.	10x2		
SUBMISSION	Acceptance of bit. Correctness of lateral bend. Attention and confidence. Calmness, lightness and ease of movements.	10x2		
DRIVER	Use of aids, handling of reins, whip and voice. Driver’s position.	10x2		

The scorer adds up all the actual points, including the co-efficients for a “raw” score. It is sometimes useful to circle those scores that need to be doubled or actually write down the doubled score to make sure they are not missed in making the tally. An adding machine tape is always attached to the test sheet so the scores can be easily double checked. Once the actual scores, taking into account the coefficients, are tallied then the scorer can go to the third portion of the test, the formula.

