



# So you want to ride a dressage test....

Eastern Iowa Dressage and Eventing Association

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Thank you to Charles Abraham DVM and Nelson's Meat Market!

# Where to begin . . .

Most people hear about dressage from a friend or trainer -

Come join [Eastern Iowa Dressage and Eventing Association](#) to connect with your local dressage community and join in on fun events like . . .

- ❖ EIDEA's [New Test Dressage Symposium](#) on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- ❖ EIDEA's Annual event: *Ride a Test, Try a Cheese and Taste a Wine!*

Access online information on our [EIDEA Resources Links](#) page

Learn more at USDF's national outreach web site [Your Dressage](#)

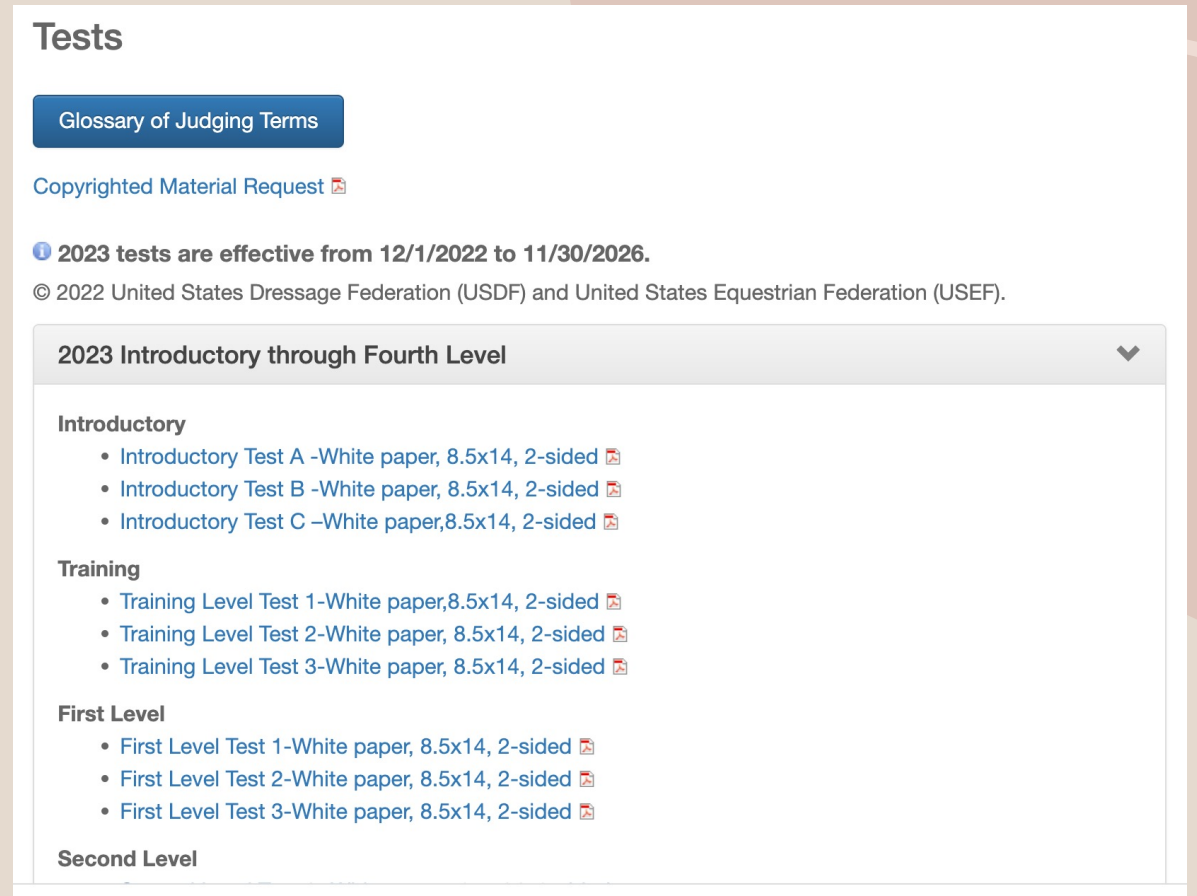
[USDF Official Podcast](#) – The Dressage Radio Show

[USDF Education Library](#) - videos, articles, helpful documents, and audio clips.

# Dressage Tests Score Sheets

The best resource is the [USDF](#)

1. Get the test you plan to ride
2. Study the directives to know what is expected
3. Study and memorize the movements
4. Pay attention to movements with coefficients
5. Ride it at home & during lessons



**Tests**

[Glossary of Judging Terms](#)

[Copyrighted Material Request](#)

**2023 tests are effective from 12/1/2022 to 11/30/2026.**

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**2023 Introductory through Fourth Level**

**Introductory**

- [Introductory Test A -White paper, 8.5x14, 2-sided](#)
- [Introductory Test B -White paper, 8.5x14, 2-sided](#)
- [Introductory Test C -White paper,8.5x14, 2-sided](#)

**Training**

- [Training Level Test 1-White paper,8.5x14, 2-sided](#)
- [Training Level Test 2-White paper, 8.5x14, 2-sided](#)
- [Training Level Test 3-White paper, 8.5x14, 2-sided](#)

**First Level**

- [First Level Test 1-White paper, 8.5x14, 2-sided](#)
- [First Level Test 2-White paper, 8.5x14, 2-sided](#)
- [First Level Test 3-White paper, 8.5x14, 2-sided](#)

**Second Level**

# What's with the “salute”?

The salute signals the start and end of a dressage test. It is a sign of mutual respect to the judge, officials, competitor and the sport of dressage.

The symbolism of respect is captured in the logo of the United States Dressage Federation.

The judge stands as you enter and sits after your salute. They will again stand as you come down the center line for your final salute.

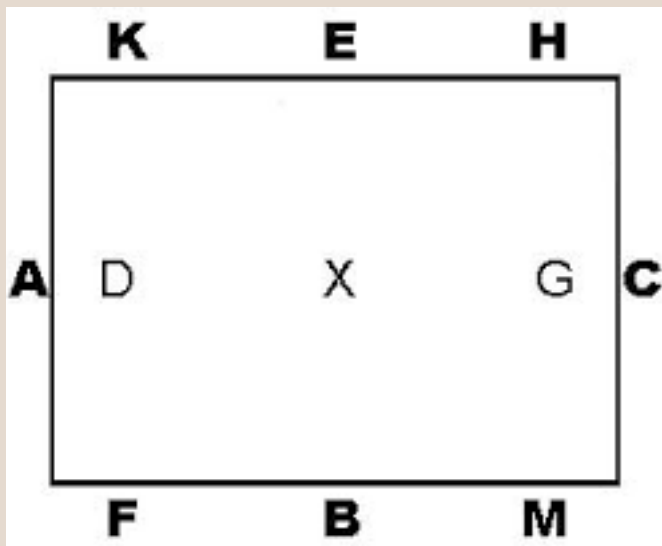
From the USEF rule book: DR 122

2. Salute. At the salute riders must take the reins in one hand. All riders shall let one arm drop loosely along his/her body and then incline his/her head in a slight bow. The military salute is only permissible when riding in uniform.



# What's with the crazy letters????

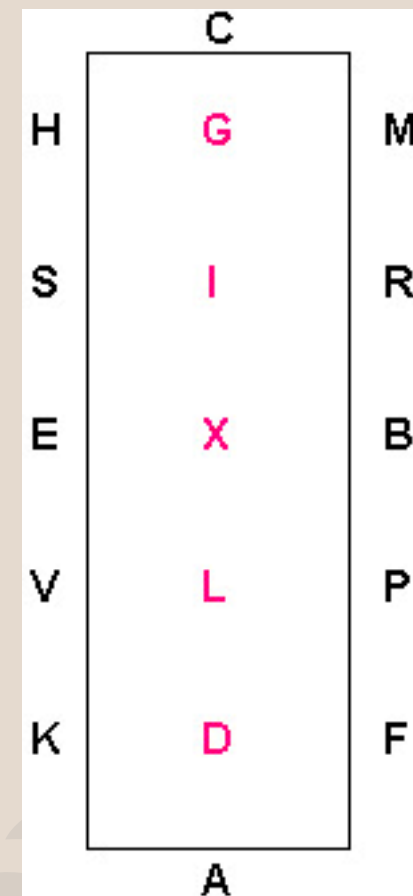
The letters guide the rider through dressage test movements.



## Learn the History

To remember the letter location . . .

- All King Edward's Horses Can Manage Big Fences
- RSVP



# Bells, horns, whistles.....



Signals you may enter the ring to start your test.

During the test it signals going off course or an issue with horse or rider. Consult with the judge for directions.

You have 45 sec to enter the ring. No need to hurry as you can canter the entire ring perimeter in 30 - 45 seconds.

Each arena uses a unique sound. Are you a bell or whistle?

# Warm up tips

- Check in and introduce yourself to the ring steward so they know you are there and what you look like.
- Listen for competitor number announcements . . .
  - Hearing your number is 'In the Hole' means there are 2 rides in front of you.
  - Hearing your number is On Deck mean you are next
- Pace your warm-up so horse and rider are ready at the right time.
- You can enter the arena area at any gait, walk, trot or canter.
- Practice a warm-up routine at home.

# It's your turn.....

- You can enter the arena area once the previous rider has finished their final salute.
- Proceed to the judge's box and tell the scribe your number, your name, your horse's name and what test you are riding. Starting with good morning/afternoon and adding thank you is always appreciated.
- Work your horse around the outside of the arena while the judge finishes writing their comments for the previous rider.
- Listen for the bell or whistle which signals you may enter the ring.
- The test movements start with Enter at A. Your entry into the arena is your first impression and score. Make it a 10!
- When ever possible, use a reader so you can be in the moment with your horse instead of remembering the next movement.
- When you exit, a ring steward may check equipment and horse well fare. At recognized shows the Technical Delegate (TD) oversees adherence to rules.





Any Questions?  
*Ask EIDEA!*

***Hope to see you at our next event!***

Special thanks to Tammy Lisi for hosting EIDEA  
and to Charles Abraham DVM and Nelson's Meat Market!