



**HARMONY**  
**Level 2**  
**OFFICIAL ASSESSMENT**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

- |          |                                    |      |                |
|----------|------------------------------------|------|----------------|
| Results: | <input type="checkbox"/> On Line   | Pass | Some Resubmits |
|          | <input type="checkbox"/> Liberty   | Pass | Some Resubmits |
|          | <input type="checkbox"/> Freestyle | Pass | Some Resubmits |
|          | <input type="checkbox"/> Finesse   | Pass | Some Resubmits |

*Note: Please clearly mark tasks being demonstrated unless submitting a complete test or savvy.*



## Assessment Definitions

*In Level 2, it's not just about getting the task done, it's also about the quality of how you communicate that shows your savvy.*

*The goal of Parell Natural Horsemanship is to put the relationship first. If your horse is not confident and happy then it doesn't matter how much you can get him to do... anyone can "make" a horse do things, but can you get a horse to "want" to do it?*

*Please refer to "Assessing the qualities of Level 2" in DVD#8 of the Level 2 Program.*

*This page outlines some definitions to help you be clear about reading the horse.*

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### What does "confident" and "attentive" look like?

- Horse's ears are forward or focused on task
  - Horse is calm, responsive to direction/communication
  - Horse can look at student with two eyes
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### What does "unconfident" look like?

- Horse feels need to escape
  - Horse cannot give two eyes, will not look at student
  - Horse appears tight and tense, evasive
  - Horse's ears are back and tight or pinned back
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### What does "dull" look like?

- Horse looks bored
  - Horse is slow to respond
  - Horse is distracted, disinterested vs. escapist/pressured
  - Student works harder than the horse!
  - Higher phases produce little to no result
  - Actions/responses of horse are slow  
vs. quick for an unconfident/right brain horse
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### Define "Displaced behavior: ears back or tail swishing:"

- Pinned ears: Aggressive appearance (which may be dominant or defensive/scared). Horse has an unpleasant or distinctly unhappy expression. The ears are obviously exerted backwards as opposed to slightly/softly back or to the side which may indicate focus on direction
  - Tail swishing: Repetitive, fast or single "hard" swishes (this is different from when a horse is swatting flies) and indicates obvious displeasure and can be linked to unjust use of higher phases or lack of feel (student was too quick with stick or legs)
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# HARMONY *Level* **On Line continued**

## **Tools**



Halter and 22-foot Line, Carrot Stick and String.

**OL3. Send your horse over a 18"-24" jump, Squeeze Game style.**

### **LEVEL 2:**

- Student sends horse clearly
- Allows horse to jump without using stick
- Student stands relaxed
- Turn, face and wait is completed
- Best if slack in the Line

### **PRE-LEVEL 2:**

- Student uses stick during the allow and pushes horse over jump
- Student drags horse over during the allow
- Student goes beyond Phase 2 for the Send or Bring Back
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident
- Horse's expression appears dull

**OL4. Play the Circling Game in both directions showing transitions from canter to trot to walk and back to the trot to canter.**

### **LEVEL 2:**

- Correct Send: Zone 1 or 2
- Horse maintains gait as asked
- Downward transition is made with rope wiggling in Zone 1, using phases, student is pivoting to face horse
- Upward transition is made by leading Zone 1 and supporting Zone 5 if necessary
- Transitions occur within half a circle
- Phase 4 is used only once if necessary

### **PRE-LEVEL 2:**

- Incorrect Send: Zone 3 or 4
- Horse cannot maintain gait
- Incorrect technique for downward transition, example: pulling Zone 1 inward (use of Carrot Stick is okay in Zone 1 area)
- Incorrect technique for upward transition: not leading Zone 1 first, supports Zone 4 not Zone 5
- Phase 4 used more than once
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident
- Horse's expression appears dull

**Signed:**

# HARMONY *Level* **On Line continued**

## **Tools**



Halter and 22-foot Line, Carrot Stick and String.

**OL5. Change direction at the trot, maintaining gait.**

### **LEVEL 2:**

- Horse comes in willingly and goes out smoothly, maintains trot
- Student runs backwards as necessary but returns to original spot

### **PRE-LEVEL 2:**

- Horse resists coming in
- Horse changes gait to walk or stop
- Student loses awareness of center position and does not return there
- Student gets tangled or clumsy with equipment
- Horse is unconfident
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse's expression appears dull

**OL6. Go sideways without a fence for at least 20 feet, both ways.**

### **LEVEL 2:**

- Horse goes sideways willingly
- If horse tries to go forward, appropriate correction is made with rope, but no more than twice
- At least 3/4 length of the 22-foot Line is used
- Belly of the rope should be touching the ground showing horse is not trying to escape
- Student shows awareness of correct zones to use (1 and 4, 3)


### **PRE-LEVEL 2:**

- Horse keeps trying to go forward, has to be corrected more than twice
- Rope is stretched taut, horse trying to get away
- Only 12-feet of rope is given to the horse
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident
- Horse's expression appears dull

**Signed:**

# HARMONY *Level* **On Line continued**

## Tools

 Halter and 22-foot Line, Carrot Stick and String.

**OL7. Send your horse under a hanging tarp (level with horse's withers) or into a trailer.**

### LEVEL 2:

- Horse approaches confidently and with interest
- Student uses no more than Phase 2, does not force the horse

### PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Horse will not go under/load by third attempt
- Student forces horse
- Student pushes horse when feet are stopped or going backwards (vs. when going forwards)
- Horse rushes through tarp or out of trailer
- Horse is not left brain
- Horse is unconfident
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse's expression appears dull

**OL8. Place the 22-foot Line around a front leg, behind the knee or fetlock, and lead your horse by the front leg. Lift leg up and forward, ask horse to follow the feel forward one step at a time for three steps.**

### LEVEL 2:

- Horse lifts leg in response to light-medium pressure
- Student can "lead" leg forward and at an angle, horse follows feel and takes a step at a time
- Both right and left front legs are shown

### PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Horse resists strongly or panics and student does not resolve the problem within three tries showing appropriate savvy
- Student is rude/clumsy in approach and execution
- Horse is forced and does not show understanding and compliance
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident
- Horse's expression appears dull

**Signed:**



# HARMONY *Level* **Liberty continued**

## **Tools**

 Round Corral, Carrot Stick and Savvy String.

**L3. Cause your horse to "smell his tail" for 10 seconds each side.**

### **LEVEL 2:**

- Task is achieved without opposition reflex
- Horse yields head willingly and stands still

### **PRE-LEVEL 2:**

- Horse is resistant, unconfident, cannot stand still, keeps moving feet
- Student is forcing horse
- Both sides are not equally good
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse's expression appears dull

**L4. Hold your horse's tongue.**

### **LEVEL 2:**

- Student can reach in and grasp tongue without any problems
- Horse is calm and responsive

### **PRE-LEVEL 2:**

- Student has trouble getting tongue
- Student forces horse to keep his head still
- Horse is resistant and fights it, trying to get tongue back
- Student shows lack of "feel"
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident

**L5. Pinch your horse's neck and show that he relaxes and yields to it (needle prep. as in new L2 Program).**

### **LEVEL 2:**

- Horse turns head toward student, relaxes—a positive reflex to a potentially negative stimulus

### **PRE-LEVEL 2:**

- Horse braces
- Horse is unconfident, panics or leaves
- Student is rude and abrupt (no Friendly Games before or after)
- Student shows lack of "feel"
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail

**Signed:**



# HARMONY *Level* **Freestyle continued**

## Tools



Saddle, Hackamore or Bridle.

FS3. *Bridle your horse (using Hackamore or Snaffle Bridle) from your knees or while sitting in a chair.*

### LEVEL 2:

- Student maintains kneeling/sitting position
- Student brings head down to them, horse keeps head there (as opposed to student physically holding head down)
- Horse accepts process willingly
- For bridle: Student lifts headpiece and pushes ears through politely and is considerate of the horse's experience

### PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Student does not stay on knees/in chair or manages mistakes badly
- Holds horse's head down physically
- Horse resists, turns head, lifts head
- For bit: Horse won't open mouth
- For bridle: Student pulls ears through roughly, is inconsiderate of the horse's comfort
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident

FS4. *Mount your horse from the ground or from a fence/platform.*

### LEVEL 2:

- Student mounts athletically and safely (belly button forward as in Level 1)
- Student starts the fence/platform mounting by bringing horse toward them and positions horse sideways ready for mounting
- Horse stands still allowing rider to get on

### PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Student mounts incorrectly with hands in the wrong position holding only saddle vs. saddle and mane, or has to try several times to get on
- Horse won't stand still for mounting and student gets on anyway
- Horse resists coming to the fence, and won't stand still by the fence for mounting
- Rider has trouble getting on, uncoordinated or clumsy and rough and/or tolerates dangerous situation (ex. Right Brain horse)
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident

Signed:

# HARMONY *Level* **Freestyle continued**

## Tools



Saddle, Hackamore or Bridle.

FS5. Trot a figure-8 on a Casual Rein around two markers (barrels/cones/buckets) set 50 feet apart.

### LEVEL 2:

- Student can complete on a Casual Rein (one hand with loose reins vs. two hands with tight reins or one hand with tight reins)
- Student shows minimum two circles and maximum four circles around each barrel before changing to the other barrel
- Student shows four changes of direction (from one barrel to the other)

### PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Student cannot maintain Casual Rein
- Student continues despite impulsiveness in horse
- Student continues while constantly reassuring horse to keep moving (kicking/squeezing)
- Four changes of direction are not shown
- Minimum two or maximum four is not met
- Kicking, constant urging or squeezing horse, holding back with reins or legs
- Horse is unconfident
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



