



Professional Association of
Therapeutic Horsemanship
International

Preparing for the Online PATH Intl. CTRI Credential Transition Test

As part of the processes to transition to or maintain the PATH Intl. CTRI credential, a 25 multiple-choice question test must be completed. The open-book online test is meant to serve as a refresher/review of critical entry-level therapeutic riding instructor knowledge such as, but not limited to:

- 1) safety awareness
- 2) PATH Intl. mandatory standards
- 3) precautions and contraindications
- 4) lesson planning concepts
- 5) task analysis
- 6) measurable objectives
- 7) riding theory

Most certified instructors should find that their current knowledge and experience level allow them to successfully complete the test with ease. To date, 97.5% of certified instructors have passed the exam on their first attempt. Still, we know that it is helpful to have some direction when preparing for any test, so we offer the following tips:

- 1) Read the [PATH Intl. CTRI criteria](#). The criteria should be regarded as the primary 'study guide' because it defines the scope of knowledge, skills and abilities required for the credential.
- 2) Have your PATH Intl. Standards for Certification & Accreditation handy and review all mandatory standards related to mounted activities. The standards supply essential information regarding safety for equines and riders, both within the standards and in the precautions and contraindications section.
- 3) *The PATH Intl. Registered Instructor Workshop Manual* provides helpful reminders relevant to the expectations of the test, particularly regarding lesson planning, task analysis and measurable objectives.
- 4) Review basic equine welfare concepts such as normal TPR, identifying lameness, evaluating if an equine is ready to resume work after a mild bout of colic, assessing saddle fit, etc.

With these four simple steps and tapping into your instructional experience, you will be prepared to successfully complete the online test.

Interested in obtaining additional resources to help you prepare?

- Check out the [new PATH Intl. Instructor Education Guide](#)! This handbook for novice and experienced therapeutic horsemanship professionals covers topics such as the equine partner, tack and equipment, participants, teaching in a therapeutic setting, behavior and emotional regulation, volunteers, entering the ring, considerations for instructors and instructor development. Also included are a glossary and tools such as those to help conduct a successful participant screening process, teaching methods that encompass pedagogy, behavior management strategies, tactics for participant performance assessment and documentation as well as supporting sample forms for lesson plans, observations and reflections.
- The resources below were consulted during development of the questions on this test. *NOTE: instructors are NOT expected to purchase any of these resources in order to successfully complete the test.*
 - ❖ Dewkett, M., Brady, H., & Hernandez, H. (2016). *The Comprehensive Guide to Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies*. Indianapolis, IN: Dog Ear Publishing.
 - ❖ Ensminger, M.E. (1969). *Horses and Horsemanship*. Danville, IL: Interstate Printers.
 - ❖ Ensminger, M.E. (1990). *Horses and Horsemanship*. Danville, IL: Interstate Printers.
 - ❖ Harris, S. E. (1994). *The United States Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship, Basics for Beginners, D Level*. Broadway, NY: Howell Book House.
 - ❖ Harris, S. E. (2012). *The United States Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship, Basics for Beginners, D Level*. Broadway, NY: Howell Book House.
 - ❖ Hass, J., & Dawson, J. (1994). *Safe Horse, Safe Rider*. North Adams, MA: Storey Publishing.
 - ❖ Hayes, K. E., DVM, & Copeland, S. M. (2001). *Hands-On Senior Horse Care*. Gaithersburg, MD: Primedia.
 - ❖ Hill, C. (1995). *101 Arena Exercises*. Pownal, VT: Storey Communications.
 - ❖ Loving, N. S., DVM. (1993). *Veterinary Manual for the Performance Horse*. Grand Prairie, TX: Equine Research.
 - ❖ Meyer, J. (2018, June 17). *Horse and Rider*. *Equus*, (489).
 - ❖ Young, J. (n.d.). Retrieved January 10, 2019, from <https://www.learn-about-horses.com/horse-communication.html>