

Why



What



Where



**& Who
of**

**Education supporting
Working with Horses in Harness**



BDS EDUCATION Working with Horses in Harness



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BDS Education

The British Driving Society is currently the only specialised Harness Horse Driving Awarding Organisation which offers the opportunity to gain accredited qualifications designed to enable the Learner to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to carry out the roles and responsibilities of a Harness Driver and Harness Groom as part of the Qualification Credits Framework regulated by OFQUAL.

Why?

The need for this type of National Qualification is due to the previous absence of a formal suite of qualifications for the training and competence recognition of those working with horses in harness.



This leads to an inability for people to work towards enhanced skills which would lead to promotion within their current employment, or being able to compete for equestrian management jobs.

There is a substantial scope for people with recognized UK qualifications in this sector to secure employment in the EU and USA, where there are thriving working horse industries, both in agriculture, passenger carrying work and in driving as a sport and exhibition.

In addition these qualifications will help to provide a viable niche in order to preserve use of the larger heavy horses e.g. Shire and Suffolk Punch which are important parts of our living heritage, together with helping to reduce the dwindling numbers of experienced workers of horses in harness for agricultural and forestry operations and the absence of qualifications to record skills succession.

What?

Candidates are able to take a range of units according to their specialist need, building up their skills levels from entry to top level or as required.



Various Levels have already been set with others to follow, comprising:-

- Harness Horse Grooms Diploma
- Diploma in Principals of Training Horses to Harness
- Basic Driving Skills Certificate
- Diploma in Working with Horses in Agriculture and land based activities
- Driving and working with Harness Horses Diploma
- Assistant Harness horse Trainers Diploma
- Road Safety Certificate for Singles
- Road Safety Certificate for Pairs

A clear Pass must be obtained in each of three Assessment Tasks:

- Task 1: Log Book & 5 written accounts
- Task 2: Submission of the required Number of Evidence Certificates
- Task 3: Final Practical exam plus Oral Questioning

BDS Exams are not graded, candidates will either pass or Fail

Where?

A list of approved Yards and Qualified training Providers authorised by the BDS is available on request or can be viewed on the BDS website:- www.britishdrivingsociety.co.uk

Who?

Members and non members of the BDS from the age of 14 years may start to work towards gaining general experience which is recorded in a Log Book and candidates from 16 years old may register as a trainee, then be given a Unique learner number if not already allocated one. A minimum number of QCF Credits must be achieved via a modular training system to be awarded the relevant Certificate or Diploma.



Recognition of Prior Learning exists for those with existing BDS examination qualifications which may be transferred access to the new system. Additional modules may be necessary to complete this transference.

Reduced Qualifications fees for current BDS members will apply.

We therefore look forward to receiving applications for Registration from existing BDS members, non members and college students of all ages.

Contact the BDS for an application form.