



THE BAROQUE EQUESTRIAN GAMES & INSTITUTE™

*Rewarding, Teaching & Celebrating
The Elegance & Artistry of Classical Horsemanship*

Glossary of Paces, Figures, and Terms for the Initiate Phase

Goals to achieve in the Initiate Phase:

To find lateral and longitudinal balance as well as suppleness and bending at the walk and trot. By performing square turns the rider begins to produce lateral balance and transitions will create longitudinal balance introducing the horse to collection. Riding 20M circles and changes of direction allow the rider to establish suppleness (pliability). Demi-Voltes in the corner allow the rider to generate bending in the horse's body and loops will establish the bend. The above exercises and qualities will encourage the horse and rider to construct a road map to find gracefulness.

Paces and Figures in the Initiate Phase:

▪ **School Walk.**

The horse walks in a natural relaxed tempo (four-beat gait), with enough activity and collection to track up to the front hoof prints. Rider preserves the horse in its natural frame while maintaining roundness through its body.

▪ **School Trot.**

The horse trots in a natural relaxed tempo (two-beat diagonal gait), with enough activity and collection to track up to the front hoof prints. Rider preserves the horse in its natural frame while maintaining roundness through its body.

▪ **Square Turn.**

The rider lifts and directs the shoulders of the horse in the direction of the turn; the rider teaches the horse to balance on the inside hind leg as the forward movement is preserved.

▪ **Halt.**

In response to the rider's lifting the horse's neck the horse arrives at a standstill by shifting its balance from the rider's hands to the hindquarters.

▪ **Circles (20M)**

By directing the horse's shoulders as we do in the square turns, we bring the horse onto the circle. At the same time the rider's leg aids encourage the horse's hind legs to find and track on the circumference of the circle.

▪ **Loop Figure.**

The rider creates bending in order to direct the horse into the curves of the loop. The alternating of bending through the figure will increase suppleness and conformed bending in the horse's body.

▪ **Demi-Volte into Corner.**

The rider creates bending and rides the horse into the corner in order to establish the bending through the natural movement of the horse.

Terms of Classical Horsemanship:

- **Balance.**
The degree of collection required for the specific situation to encourage the horse to sustain its energy and position without the support of the rider.
- **Brilliance.**
Conspicuous presence, talent and expressiveness.
- **Collection.**
The process use to bring the horse in to balance. The horse elevates the shoulders and shifts the weight of its body to the hindquarters.
- **Quality of Bend.**
The horse is able to bend its entire body in order to follow the circumference of the circle or curved line without losing lateral balance.
- **Flexibility.**
The ability to bend laterally and longitudinally throughout the body without the loss of movement.
- **Lightness.**
The rider uses and the horse responds to very light, almost imperceptible aids.
- **Pliability.**
The horse's body becomes soft from the pressure of the leg and hand of the rider.
- **Relaxation.**
The rider and the horse are free from tension. The horse shows confidence and suppleness in its way of moving.
- **Roundness.**
The rider gathers the horse's energy between the leg and hand and as a result the horse brings its hind legs further under the body and softens its neck.
- **Self-carriage.**
The horse sustains movement and balance without the support from the rider.
- **Softness of Aids.**
The rider's ability to coordinate the aids (Seat, Legs, Hands and Voice) with subtlety and competence so that the horse can respond with minimal effort from the rider.
- **Straightness.**
The horse shows the ability to bend equally on both sides of the body.
- **Suppleness.**
The horse is relaxed and pliable throughout the body, molding to the rider's aids.
- **Use of the Seat.**
The ability of the rider to follow the movement of the horse, as well as engage the hindquarters. The balance of the horse is influenced by the weight of the rider's upper body.
- **Lateral balance on the track.**
The horse maintains the haunches in line with the shoulders on the track without leaning or drifting left or right.
- **Alignment of horse's shoulders.**
The ability of the rider to laterally influence the horse's shoulders in order to turn or direct the horse onto a new the track.