



Example Showmanship Written Reasons

Grant Alexander – 13 & under division – score: 44

I placed the showmanship class 2-1-4-3.

In the case of my initial pair, it was a more challenging pair and I put 2 over 1 as 2 had a quick straight back and stayed with the handler in movement. I do admit that 1 had quicker quartering. However, 1 still goes second because he stepped out of his pivot and did not always stay near his handler.

In my middle pair it was simpler to come to my conclusion where I put 1 over 4 because 1 was much more precise in his pattern in the way that he stopped and started at the cones. Although 4 did have a much better pivot because his foot did not come up out of the ground during his pivot. Even though 4 had a better pivot he still goes 3rd because he had a break of pattern on the last maneuver because he did not trot for many strides.

In the even more obvious bottom pair, I put 4 over 3 because 4 was much more precise in his pattern and had a very good cadenced back. Granted, 3 did have a very nice cadenced trot that moved right with his handler. Despite this 3 still goes last because of his handler touching him multiple times and a very large break of pattern in his 3rd maneuver.

Thank you.

Stacey McKnight – 14-18 division – score: 47.5

Good afternoon,

I placed this class of showmanship 1-2-4-3. Starting my class with an obvious top pair of more confident handlers who completed a higher quality, more functional pattern and ending with an obvious bottom pair who showed a severe lack of control and precision throughout the class.

In my initial pair I find handler 1--showing the bay with four socks-- over handler 2-- showing the long- maned bay. Handler number 1 was the most effective in today's class, showing her horse to its highest potential. Her poised and confident body position allowed her to complete a clean and precise pattern drawing straight lines throughout. In addition, she exhibited the highest level of control over her horse, being able to consistently perform high quality maneuvers, especially shown in her sharper, more accurate pivots and straighter back. I will admit that it is handler number 2 who performed quicker, more seamless transitions between maneuvers, however I fault her for lacking confidence during her inspection and failing to maintain a consistent speed at the trot, showing a lack of control.

Despite these shortcomings, it is still handler 2 who falls over handler number 4-- showing the palomino—in my intermediate pair. Handler number 2 was able to cue her horse to complete sharper and more responsive maneuvers. She displayed a quicker and straighter back and was able to maintain more correct and stylish pivots. Her horse was quieter and less resistant at the stop and maintained a higher quality, more functional gait



that had a more fluid and forward moving motion. I will admit that it is handler number 2 who maintained squarer shoulders and quieter hands, however I fault her for being late in her transitions and ineffectively cuing her horse, failing to obtain responsive maneuvers which became especially evident in her horses sluggish movement and crooked back. Even with these criticisms, I still find handler number 4 over handler number 3—showing bay with a snip-- in my final pair. Overall handler number 4 showed the quieter, better mannered horse in today's class. She completed a more accurate pattern at a more relaxed and consistent pace and showed a higher quality of control and precision throughout the class. Handler number 3 falls at the bottom of my class today as I find no obvious grants for her. She clearly the least confident exhibitor who showed a severe loss of control as her horse exhibited blatant disobedience which resulted in her disqualification. In addition, she was ineffective in obtaining a correct set up and consistently cued her horse to complete extremely low quality, sloppy maneuvers which resulted in many penalties. It is for all these reasons that I warrant her no higher placing in this class of showmanship which I again placed 1-2-4-3. Thank you.

Amy Wyse – 19-30 division – score: 48

Handler poise, pattern correctness, and safety place this Showmanship class 1243.

In my competitive initial pairing, handler poise and smoothness bring 1 over 2. At the trot, 1 is the more confident and attentive individual, moving more naturally with a quieter upper body, and more in sync with her horse. Additionally, 1 has the more controlled pattern, with a more stationary pivot, synchronous back, and overall fluidity throughout the pattern, all the while demonstrating greater pattern accuracy by not stopping past the cone and being straight in line towards the ring steward. Now, I do concede 2 to be quicker in the back, pivot, and trot-offs; however, her more abrupt moves, higher arms, and unnatural movement at the trot leave her second.

Nevertheless, in my middle pairing, quality and consistency place 2 over 4. 2 is the more precise individual, with a more swift back, relaxed pivot, and greater finesse. Additionally, 2 is the more sportsmanlike handler, quartering more accurately with added confidence. I do grant 4 to be more proper through the pivot, with the haunches remaining more stationary; however, she falls third today being more hesitant and sloppy throughout the pattern, quartering incorrectly, lacking straightness in the back and walk line, and lacking the poise of handler 2.

Even so, in my final pairing it is safety and correctness that brings 4 over 3. Although 4 incurs some minor faults, she is the more attentive handler, completing the pattern in a more safe and correct manner. 3 falls to the bottom of the class today, being the least safe and exhibiting a loss of control. The handler touches the horse, the horse exhibits extreme resistance, head tossing, and rearing, simply not being able to merit a higher placing today. Thank you.

Kari Albiol-miner – 31 & over division – score: 48

I placed this showmanship class 2 1 4 3

I started the class with the competitor who had the smoothest overall pattern combined with an excellent presentation that showed correctness and control.

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I placed 2 over 1 in a close decision because she did have the more correct performance. Although the video missed her departure at A, the trot to B was smooth and straight with the handler positioned correctly. Her back was the straightest in the class today, the pivot smooth and efficient, and her line of travel to the judge at the walk was executed in a straight line. Her set up for close inspection was very correct as was her final 90 degree turn and departure at the trot. I would have liked to see her settle her horse a bit before backing and I grant that number 1 was smoother at the halt and back, but I faulted 1 placing her second because her back was slightly crooked and when exiting at the trot she had a slight loss of control as her horse charged forward a bit.

In looking to my middle pair I went with 1 over 4, the Palomino, as 1 more closely followed the ideal performance of my top horse. 1 performed the pattern smoothly and efficiently with horse and handler working together as a team. The handler was properly positioned and lined up correctly to walk to the judge. 1 had an especially nice stop. I grant the Palomino also performed smoothly with nice straight lines, but I criticized 4 and placed her third for a slightly crooked back and because the handler had to pull the horse into the jog. This was especially evident as the horse was exiting to the line up.

My bottom pair was an obvious placing of 4 over 3. 4 was the smoother and more correct pattern that more closely followed the performances of my top pair. I left 3 at the bottom of the class today as she had many issues with control. It was evident as she trotted from A to B that there were going to be issues as she was holding tightly to the lead with an active chain. The horse soon reacted to the pressure from the chain when asked to back by popping up and rearing. The handler tried to calm the horse by touching with the free hand. After two attempts to finish a pivot she gave up and walked to the judge. By now the free end of her lead line was no longer held in a coil in her left hand and there was too much loose line hanging down in an unsafe manner. Although the handler and horse managed a somewhat smooth exit after a disaster pattern, the performance was easily the worst of the day.

For these reasons my placings for this class are 2 1 4 3