Horse racing

Horse racing is an equestrian sport that has a long history. Archaeological records indicate that horse racing occurred in ancient Greece, Babylon, Syria, and Egypt. Both chariot and mounted horse racing were events in the ancient Greek Olympics by 648 BC. In the Roman Empire, chariot and mounted horse racing were major industries. Thoroughbred racing was, and is, popular with the aristocrats and royalty of British society, earning it the title "Sport of Kings."

The style of racing, the distances and the type of events vary significantly by the country in which the race is occurring, and many countries offer different types of horse races. There are three major types of racing: flat racing, steeplechasing (racing over jumps), and harness racing, where horses trot or pace while pulling a driver in a sulky.

Historically, equestrians honed their skills through games and races. Equestrian sports provided entertainment for crowds and honed the excellent horsemanship that was needed in battle. Horse racing of all types evolved from impromptu competitions between riders or drivers.

In 1906 Equestrian sports were proposed as a permanent addition to Olympic competitions. These competitions gather large crowds of people who are interested in the sport.

Show jumping

In this event, horse and rider must jump several different fences and water pits within a certain period of time. The fences are made of wooden bars, reeds and other materials and put in sequence. If the horse knocks down the bars, lands in water, refuses to jump, or falls, the rider is awarded, penalty points for "faults." Also, if a ride does not start within one minute after the signal or takes a wrong course, he loses the right to compete further.

Competitors usually jump the course several times as the competition progresses. With each round the size of the jumps increases or the time allowed is decreased. In each round the number of competitors may be decreased, with the final rounds involving only those competitors who have completed "clear" rounds. The horse-and-rider team that covers the course in the shortest amount of time with the fewest faults wins the competition.

Dressage

Dressage is the French word for training horses. Dressage competitions show a series of special exercises for horses. All horses must perform at a walk, trot and canter, and demonstrate a number of patterns that include circles and figures of eights. At more advanced levels, the skills and patterns become more complicated, including agues, serpentines, flying changes, and pirouettes. It looks like the horse, not the rider does what is needed. Points are given for each
movement and for general impression.

Eventing

Three-day event is a competition which shows all the abilities of horses and riders over three days. This event includes dressage, endurance and show jumping.

The dressage competition consists of about 20 movements of medium difficulty, to be performed in a 60m competition arena. Three judges use standard dressage judging standards to award marks, which le competitors carry forward to the next day.

The speed and endurance phase is considered by many the most exciting day of the competition. It is here that many riders and horses can overcome a bad dressage test or be put out of the competition. Speed and endurance usually consists of 4 phases: Roads and Tracks, Steeplechase, another Roads and Tracks and Cross-country.

Each phase has a time limit and measures the ability of the rider to set a pace that allows the horse to conserve energy without incurring time penalties. Roads and track phases are generally ridden at a trot or slow canter. Steeplechase is a gallop and Cross-country requires a gallop between fences with the ability to balance the horse and negotiate difficult obstacles.

The show jumping phase is held on the last day. The objective of this test is to prove that after the hard endurance tests of the day before, the horses remain supple and energetic enough to jump a course of twelve unfixed obstacles. Before the show jumping the horses are examined by a veterinary surgeon.

II. Learn the words.

| Horse racing | скакчи     | a rider | всадник |
| Dressage     | выездка    | skill   | умение |
| equestrian   | конный     | medium  | средний |
| permanent    | постоянный | impression | впечатление |
| supple       | податливый | endurance | выносливость |

III. Answer the questions.

1. Do the style of racing, the distances and the type of events vary significantly by the country?
2. From what did Horse racing of all types evolve?
3. When were Equestrian sports proposed as a permanent addition to Olympic competitions?
4. What must horse and rider do in show jumping?
5. What do Dressage competitions show?
6. How many movements do the dressage competition consists of?

IV. Translate into Russian.

1. an equestrian sport
2. the horse-and-rider team
3. mounted horse racing
4. different fences and water pits
5. Sport of Kings
6. the number of competitors
7. flat racing
8. a number of patterns
9. racing over jumps
10. the speed and endurance phase
11. for general impression
12. for general impression

V. Connect the parts of sentences.

1. Horse racing is an equestrian sport
2. The style of racing, the distances and
3. The fences are made of wooden bars, reeds

1. addition to Olympic competitions
2. of 4 phases:
3. ridden at a trot or slow canter.
4. Speed and endurance usually consists of horseback riding, and other materials.
5. Roads and track phases are generally considered to have a long history.
6. In 1906 Equestrian sports were proposed as a permanent competition.

VI. Complete the sentences with the underlined verbs.
Loses, are examined, demonstrate, is considered, offer, become, must perform, can overcome.
1. Many countries … different types of horse races.
2. A rider … the right to compete further.
3. All horses … at a walk, trot and canter, and … a number of patterns.
4. The speed and endurance phase … by many the most exciting day of the competition.
5. Many riders and horses … a bad dressage test or be put out of the competition.
6. Before the show jumping the horses … by a veterinary surgeon.
7. The skills and patterns … more complicated

VII. Translate the sentences into English.
1. Конный спорт имеет свою историю.
2. Существует три главных вида соревнований.
3. Эти соревнования собирают большие толпы людей.
4. Соревнования по выездке показывают серию специальных упражнений для лошадей.
5. Все лошади должны показать прогулочный шаг, рысь и галоп.
6. Конкурс по выездке состоит из 20 движений средней сложности.
7. Каждая фаза имеет ограничение по времени.

VIII. Tell about Horse racing