Horse Judging
Conformation Defined

- The formation of something by appropriate arrangement of parts or elements: an assembling into a whole.
The four considerations

- Balance
- Structural Correctness
- Quality
- Muscling
Balance

- Level from withers to croup
- Divided into thirds
- Equal from front to rear
- Length of leg compared to depth of heart girth
Balance
Structural Correctness

- How the bone is put together
- Main part to look at:
  - Feet
  - Legs
Front View

- Ideal
- Toed-out (chest wide)
- Bow-kneed
- Toed-out (chest narrow)
- Bench-kneed
- Knock-kneed
- Toed-In (pigeon-toed)
Rear View

Ideal  Bow-legged  Cow-hocked
Rear Side

Ideal  Sickle-hocked  Camped out behind  Leg too straight
Quality

- Part to look at
  - Head
  - Neck

- Displays breed characteristics
  - Arabian – dish face

- Displays sex characteristics
  - Mare – looks feminine
  - Stallion – look masculine
Muscling

- Size and Substance
- Definition and Expression
- Length of muscle
Muscling Extremes
Terms – General Appearance

- The greatest combination of...
- Dominated the class in terms of...
- More correctly combined...
- Combined… to a higher degree
Terms – Balance

- More proportionate
- More balanced
- More sloping shoulder
- Longer, more desirable hip
- More level top line
- More level from wither to croup
- Flatter over the croup
Terms - Structure

- Stood straighter
- Stood more structurally correct
- Straighter through the knee
- More correct angle of the hock
- Moved out straighter and more correctly at the walk (trot)
Terms - Quality

- Higher quality
- More feminine or masculine
- More refined about the head and neck
- More prominent, larger, brighter eye
- Cleaner throatlatch
- Neck tied higher into the shoulder
- Displayed more breed character in the head and neck
Terms - Muscling

- Greater total volume of muscling over a larger frame
- More heavily muscled
- More tone and expression of muscle
- Heavier muscled forearm
- More powerfully built through the front
- Thicker, heavier muscled stifle
- Greater length of …