



## The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY FOR C-1/C-2 LEVELS

(Revised January 1, 2009)

The United States Pony Clubs, Inc., establishes Standards of Proficiency within the framework of the international Pony Club movement as the curriculum for a program of instruction and evaluation of its members for ratings.

**D Rating:** The D Ratings are an introduction to the fun and challenge of riding, establishing a foundation of safety habits and knowledge of the daily care of a pony and tack. The D-1 through D-3 Pony Club member learns to ride independently and with control, maintaining a reasonably secure position at the walk, trot and canter and over low fences. All D ratings are awarded at the club level.

**C-1 and C-2 Ratings:** The C-1 and C-2 is a Pony Club member learning to become an active horseman, to care independently for pony and tack and to understand the reasons for what he or she is doing. The C-1 and C-2 show development towards a secure, independent seat and increasing control and confidence in all phases of riding. The C-1 and C-2 ratings are awarded at the club level.

**The H-B, C-3, B, H/H-A and A Ratings** are facilitated on a national basis and require a greater depth of knowledge and proficiency than the earlier ratings. Successful candidates are competent, all-around horsemen, active and contributing members of USPC, who participate in a variety of Pony Club activities. They are also thoughtful leaders who set an example for all levels.

**The H-B Rating** covers Horse Management knowledge that demonstrates increasing knowledge and competence in the care and handling of horses.

**The H/H-A Rating** requires the knowledge, experience and maturity to evaluate and care for a mount's needs efficiently and in a variety of circumstances, and to teach riding and horse care to others.

*Pony Club members may choose to follow one or all of three riding tracks. They are: Traditional, Show Jumping or Dressage.*

**The C-3 Rating** reflects a basis of competence in riding and horse care that will make possible a lifetime of pleasure with horses. If the C-3 riding test is passed before the H-B, the member becomes a C+.

**The B Rating** is for the active horseman and Pony Club member who is interested in acquiring further knowledge and proficiency in riding. The B is able to ride experienced mounts with confidence and control. The B should be able to ride and care for another person's experienced mount, maintaining proper mental and physical condition without undoing any of the mount's education. The B understands and is able to explain the reasons for what he or she is doing and to contribute to the education of younger Pony Club members.

**The A Rating**, the highest rating, is divided into two parts: the H/H-A, which covers horse management, teaching and training and the A, which tests the riding phase. The A is able to ride mounts at various levels of schooling with judgement, tact and effectiveness; to train young mounts; and to retrain spoiled mounts. Like the B, the A understands and is able to explain the reasons for what he or she is doing and to contribute to the education of younger Pony Club members.

**NOTE:** In addition to its instructional programs, USPC offers a variety of activities at club, regional, inter-regional and national levels for team and individual participation. These activities include Eventing, Dressage, Foxhunting, Quiz, Mounted Games, Show Jumping, Tetrathlon, and Polocrosse. **Achieving a rating does not necessarily qualify the Pony Club member for competition in any horse sport.** Further study and preparation for a particular activity, including working as a team member, may be necessary.

### Dimensions of Fences D to A\* for Traditional Levels:

Rating	Height	Width at Top		Width at Base	
		CC	SJ	CC	SJ
D-2	18"	1'	1'	1'6"	1'6"
D-3	2'6"	2'6"	2'6"	4'3"	4'3"
C-1	2'9"	2'9"	2'9"	4'3"	4'3"
C-2	3'0"	3'3"	3'3"	4'7"	4'11"
C-3	3'3"	3'11"	3'9"	5'3"	5'7"
B	3'7"	4'7"	4'3"	6'7"	6'3"
A	3'9"	5'3"	4'9"	7'10"	6'11"

\*Based on USPC Eventing Rules and US Equestrian Eventing Rules. When a second height is required at any one level, use appropriate dimensions shown on the chart above.

### Dressage Specialty Levels:

C-3 = First Level\*\*  
B = Second Level\*\*  
A = Third Level\*\*

### Dimensions of Fences for Show Jumping Specialty Levels:

Rating	Height up to	Width at Top up to	Triple Bar up to
C-3	3'6"	3'9"	4'3"
B	3'9"	4'3"	4'6"
A	4'3"	4'9"	5'3"

C-3=Level II-III\*\*      B=Level III-IV\*\*      A=Level V-VI\*\*

\*\*See USEF Level Descriptions

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## THE C-1 STANDARD

## Horse Management Expectations

### Riding Test Expectations

*Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over fences, demonstrating a basic balanced position and use of natural aids. The candidate should begin riding mount freely forward in balance and rhythm while developing a light contact.*

### Riding on the Flat

Ride test consistently demonstrating riding test expectations. Demonstrate suppling exercises for rider without stirrups at walk. Demonstrate mount's warm-up routine for everyday work. Discuss candidate's warm-up for both rider and mount with examiner. Work mount at walk, trot and canter, with smooth transitions, demonstrating correct bend, performing straight lines on centerline, 20-meter circles, and figure eights with simple transitions at each gait. Demonstrate long rein, loose rein and light contact at walk. Demonstrate a rein back (2-3 simple steps back). Discuss aids for and then demonstrate a turn on the forehand. Discuss performance with examiner discussing the following; the rider's basic balanced position, whether or not mount was moving freely forward in balance and rhythm, and whether rider established a light contact.

### Riding Over Fences

Ride over fences using Riding Test Expectations. Ride over small gymnastic grid of three fences finishing with an ascending oxer set at, but not exceed, 2'9" set at appropriate distances for mount's stride. Ride over jump course of 6-8 obstacles; include a two-stride combination set at an appropriate distance for mount's stride. The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed, 2'9". Grid distances and two-stride combination may be adjusted for individual mounts. Discuss performance with Examiner, including steadiness of pace and ways ride could be improved.

### Riding in the Open

Ride safely with control in a group, on a suitable mount, at the walk, trot, and canter. C-1 speed should not exceed 325 meters per minute to 350 meters per minute. Discuss and demonstrate riding safely over varied terrain, incorporating as many of the following elements as local conditions allow: hills, small/shallow ditches, low banks, flat open areas and shallow streams. Ride over five to seven cross-country obstacles at appropriate speed (240-350 meters per minute). The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed, 2'9". Discuss performance with Examiner giving reasons for any disobediences.

*The candidate should show a developing awareness of cause and effect in the care of own pony. He/she should be familiar with local common horse terms. Assistance is recommended in demonstration of bandaging.*

### Turn Out/Tack

Attire to be correctly formal or informal. Pony Club pin. Long hair neatly up or back. No inappropriate jewelry. Mount to be well groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with little, if any, dandruff. External areas around sheath/udder clean. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, dock clean. Tack to be safe, properly adjusted, supple and reflecting regular care. No jockeys or dust. All stress points clean. No cracked leather. Metal clean and polished and stirrup pads clean. Identify tack on own mount and discuss fit. Demonstrate proper adjustment of blanket/sheet and halter.

### Conditioning

Discuss what is meant by conditioning and how to condition for a particular Pony Club activity of your choice.

### Nutrition

Describe how feeds are measured and weighed. Know amount and type of feed for own mount. Describe characteristics of good and bad feed, watering, and pasture.

### Stable Management

Discuss types of bedding appropriate for your area. Be able to put a blanket on mount safely. Discuss types and causes of stable vices. Describe and give reasons for three types of clipping. Describe conditions which foster internal and external parasites, procedure for parasite control in pasture and stall management, ways to control flies, bot eggs.

### Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

Identify good and bad points of basic leg conformation. Describe five common unsoundnesses as to location and outward appearance.

### Travel Safety

Discuss basic equipment needed for mount's safety and comfort during trailer travel. Demonstrate trailer safety check from trailer safety checklist (on USPC website under forms).

### Record Book

The C-1 is expected to keep a careful Record Book of all immunizations, veterinary visits, farrier visits, etc. The book must be brought to the test for review and critique. Must have records for at least 6 months. Records should reflect appropriate depth of knowledge for this level.

### Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

Describe how to treat minor wounds. Discuss: Regular worming control for own mount; how and why to deworm new mounts in barn.

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Know health care schedule for own mount including dates of inoculations (tetanus, encephalomyelitis, etc.), deworming, floating of teeth, shoeing.

Measure and record pulse, temperature and respiration of own mount at rest with assistance of examiner.

### **Introduction to Horse Sports**

List all the horse sports that are offered in USPC.

### **Teaching**

Demonstrate a safety and tack inspection for a D Pony Club member under direct supervision of Examiner.

Explain to the D member the reason for the check, the process, and any safety issues found.

### **Land Conservation**

Name three different uses of land on which you, or others, ride.

*Examples: Farmland, fair grounds, crops, etc.*

If your region conducts an Eventing Rally, determine who owns the land where the rally is held and the total amount of acres owned.

Identify one place in your area previously used for equestrian activities that is no longer available.

### **Leading & Longeing**

Discuss reasons for longeing.

Discuss equipment necessary and safety procedures.

Demonstrate jogging mount, moving mount actively forward from the whip, with smooth transitions.

### **Foot & Shoeing**

Discuss the five steps in shoeing.

Recognize farrier tools and know their uses.

### **Bandaging**

Apply stable bandage under direct supervision and with assistance of examiner.

## **THE C-2 STANDARD**

### **Riding Test Expectations**

*Candidate should ride with confidence and control on the flat and over fences, demonstrating a secure balanced position and progress toward an independent seat and coordinated use of aids. The candidate should begin to initiate free forward movement, establishing balance and rhythm while developing a light contact.*

### **Riding on the Flat**

Discuss the meaning of the Riding Test Expectations. Ride consistently demonstrating riding test expectations.

Demonstrate warm-up for flat work including rider exercises.

Discuss candidate's warm-up for rider and mount.

Discuss warm-up schedule for three different activities of candidate's choice.

Work mount at walk, trot and canter, changing directions at least twice in each gait, using coordinated aids, maintaining even rhythm, balance and impulsion and smooth transitions.

Demonstrate 15- and 20-meter circles, figure-8's, serpentines and work on the center or quarter lines to develop suppleness and straightness.

Demonstrate a free walk on a long rein, returning to a walk on contact.

Halt squarely on centerline and stand quietly for five seconds.

Ride mount without stirrups at all gaits.

Discuss aids for and demonstrate a rein-back of 2-3 steps.

Discuss aids for and then demonstrate leg yield at walk.

Develop a hand gallop from a canter and return to canter smoothly.

Discuss performance with examiner including the rider's position, and whether mount was moving forward in balance and rhythm.

### **Riding Over Fences**

Ride over fences using Riding Test Expectations.

Discuss reasons for adjusting stirrups for different types of work.

Perform simple gymnastic grid exercises set at appropriate distances for mount's stride at trot or canter, finishing with an ascending oxer set at 3'. Fences not to exceed 3'.

Develop a plan of how to ride a stadium course. Course to consist of 7-9 jumps. The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed, 3'.

Ride course according to plan.

Discuss performance with Examiner, including rhythm maintained throughout the course.

### **Riding in the Open**

Ride in a group at the walk, trot, and canter on a suitable mount. Demonstrate riding safely over varied terrain, as conditions allow. Discuss safety measures when riding over varied footing, i.e. water, mud, rocks, ice, bog, hard ground, sand, pavement.

Ride over five to seven cross-country obstacles, at appropriate speed (350-375 mpm) connecting fences as a course. The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed, 3'.

Discuss performance with Examiner, including reasons for any disobediences.

### **Horse Management Expectations**

*The candidate should show a solid awareness of cause and effect in horse management skills. Assistance/supervision is allowed in the demonstrations of bandaging, longeing, and loading mount.*

### **Turn Out/Tack**

Attire to be correctly formal or informal. Pony Club pin. Long hair neatly up or back. No inappropriate jewelry. Boots polished and in good repair. Spurs (if used) polished and put on properly.

Mount to be thoroughly groomed, reflecting regular care with a healthy coat; no sweat or dirt. Mane and tail brushed with no dandruff. Sheath or udder showing regular attention. Feet picked out and reflecting regular farrier care. Eyes, nose, lips, dock clean.

Tack to be safe, clean and properly adjusted, reflecting regular care/conditioning with metal polished. No jockeys or dust, no cracked leather, and all stress points clean.

Explain reasons for equipment used on own mount for flat work and over fences.

Demonstrate proper adjustment and reason for tack used on mount.

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**Conditioning**

Present a written outline of a six-to-eight-week conditioning and feeding program in preparation for a specific competition of candidate's choice.

Measure and record pulse, temperature and respiration of own pony at rest in front of Examiner.

Know vital signs of own mount at work.

**Nutrition**

Describe own mount's ration when developing fitness, maintaining fitness, taking day off, sick, roughed out.

**Stable Management**

Describe caring for a mount efficiently and economically when:

**Stabled** - feed and water schedule, minerals needed, clothing, exercise, grooming.

**At grass** - safety check of pasture, fencing, water, mineral supply, shelter, feed, and grooming.

Discuss knowledge of safety measures, preparation and care of mount and equipment on day of strenuous work, including feeding schedule, consideration of mount's condition, consideration of climate and terrain, cooling out, treatment of any injuries, and making mount comfortable.

Discuss pasture safety and fencing

Name three toxic plants in your area and describe appearance.

**Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness**

Name five basic conformation qualities that you want in a mount for your own use, and how they affect the basic movement and soundness (i.e., sloping shoulder means longer stride).

Name and locate on a mount the following unsoundnesses: ringbone, curb, bowed tendons, sidebone, spavin, navicular, splint, thoroughpin, sprains.

**Travel Safety**

Be able to load and unload, with assistance, an experienced, cooperative mount.

**Record Book**

Record Book (health, maintenance, immunizations) must be kept up to date and brought to test. Must have records for at least 9 months prior to test. Records should reflect appropriate depth of knowledge for this level.

**Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge**

List annual immunizations and health requirements appropriate for your area.

List prevalent internal parasites in your area.

Describe routine parasite prevention for your mount.

Describe how tetanus and strangles are transmitted.

Explain the need for the regular care of teeth.

**Teaching**

Demonstrate knowledge of safe grooming, handling and tacking up by assisting a D-1 or D-2 to prepare for turnout under direct supervision of Examiner. Explain to the D member what the appropriate steps are and what safety procedures should be followed. Assess turnout and equipment for safety and explain to the D member any safety concerns and how to fix them.

Candidate must bring a letter from DC that they are assisting in simple unmounted instructional programs for D-level Pony Club members with supervision.

**Land Conservation**

Name the zoning requirements for the county in which you keep your horse. *Example: A minimum of 10 acres is required to keep one horse.*

Know what public land is available to ride on in your county.

**Longeing**

Longe own mount for exercise in an enclosed area with assistance.

Discuss methods, equipment, and safety precautions for longeing.

**Foot & Shoeing**

Recognize and describe good and bad shoeing.

**Bandaging**

Apply a shipping and stable bandage, under supervision of examiner, and give reasons for use.

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## INFORMATION FOR C-1/C-2 LEVEL CANDIDATES

### Requirements for All Candidates

- Be a Pony Club Member in Good Standing, as defined by club policy, having paid local, regional and national dues and fees.
- C-1 and C-2: Be a member of Pony Club for at least 3 months.
- Attain each rating before next level is attempted.
- Have a thorough knowledge of requirements of the level being tested and be able to discuss and/or demonstrate any requirements from all previously attained standards.
- Candidate must be tested on and pass all sections of the test and in the appropriate area/arena/open terrain before being awarded the new Rating.
- Any special testing requests including exceptions or exemptions must be submitted to the USPC National Office, through the DC. These requests will be reviewed on an individual basis and the final decision for any exception will be the responsibility of the D-1 through C-2 Program Committee Chair and the Vice President of Instruction.

### Attire

Safe, workmanlike attire, including proper footwear, must be worn in the barn area and when working around mounts.

Correct formal or informal attire will be worn for formal inspection and presentation of mount at rating. Refer to the USPC Horse Management Handbook, section on Attire, and the USPC Manual of Horsemanship I and II.

ASTM/ SEI approved headgear with full harness and with chin strap in place must be worn at formal inspection, when mounted and when longeing.

### Equipment

Saddlery and biting for USPC Testing should comply with the Horse Management General Rules on Saddlery and Biting. Whips, no longer than 43.3 inches (110 cm) including lash, will be allowed on the flat section of testings. Any discipline rule change following publication of the current Horse Management Handbook will supersede these rules.

At the C-1 and C-2 levels, all bits with more than one point of attachment (i.e. gag, Pessoa, elevators) must have one rein attached so that the snaffle action of the bit is in effect. If other bit actions are to be used, two reins will be required. (At the D levels only, converters are allowed on Pelham bits.) If the Pessoa type bit is used, a single rein may be attached to the first or second ring. If a third or lower ring is used, a second rein must be attached higher so that the snaffle action can be in effect.

### Testing Information (C-1 and C-2)

Testings may be held more often if practical for the club, but must be offered a minimum of twice a year. Testing dates are determined by the DC(s). By networking with other clubs within the Region to establish group ratings with other clubs, increased opportunities to rate can be made available to members.

A testing is designed to and should be conducted in one day if possible, or, if due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather or footing, it is not possible to complete a test in one day, all sections must be tested/completed within a one-month period.

A testing shall be an instructional, working session, covering only requirements listed in the Standards but must not become a “lesson” on each section.

Oral testing or demonstration is required for all parts of the horse management phases. Written tests are not allowed.

Upon recommendation of the Examiner only, a candidate who does not meet standards on not more than one-third of tested sections may be retested within one month on only the requirements not passed including riding sections (D-1 through C-2).

There is no set time limit between taking any of the C-level tests, but each level is attained at a separate testing, and rating levels may not be skipped.

Sharing of mounts for the C-level testings is not allowed.

### Appropriate Horse

It is the responsibility of the candidate and his/ her parent(s) or guardian to bring an appropriate mount(s) to the testing. The conditioned mount(s) must be capable of completing the flat, longeing and jumping phases at the heights indicated at the appropriate skill levels. Embracing USPC’s commitment to safety for all horses and riders is of the utmost importance. Failing to follow these guidelines will make it difficult for the candidate to meet the standard on that given day.

### Presentation of Mount for Inspection

Braiding is not allowed.

All tack must be clean, show regular care and suppleness, and be well adjusted, and in good repair.

Stand by mount, on near side, with Examiner, facing rear, reins in left hand below bit, slack in right, changing sides with Examiner.

### Examiners (D-1 through C-2)

D-1 through C-2 Examiners are chosen by the DC(s).

Examiners should be selected with care, should be completely knowledgeable of the Standards of Proficiency at the level(s) they are testing, as well as the level(s) above and below the one(s) they are testing.

Examiners should be familiar with the Standards D through A. Examiners should be sensitive to young people and conduct the test in an educational framework.

Examiners must be furnished a copy of all the USPC Standards, test, and study guides prior to testing.

The Examiners must set the tone of the testing as a teaching situation, making every effort to draw the best from each candidate, without allowing the test to become a lesson on the skill in question.

Care should be taken throughout a testing to encourage the candidates to express what they know, rather than what the Examiner knows.

Examiners should bear in mind that there may be a range from adequate to superior, and anyone within that range, i.e. that meets Standard or better, should pass.

Refer to the current D-1 through C-2 testing guidelines, test organizers guide, and the USPC Examiners Handbook, available online at [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org) under Forms and Publications.

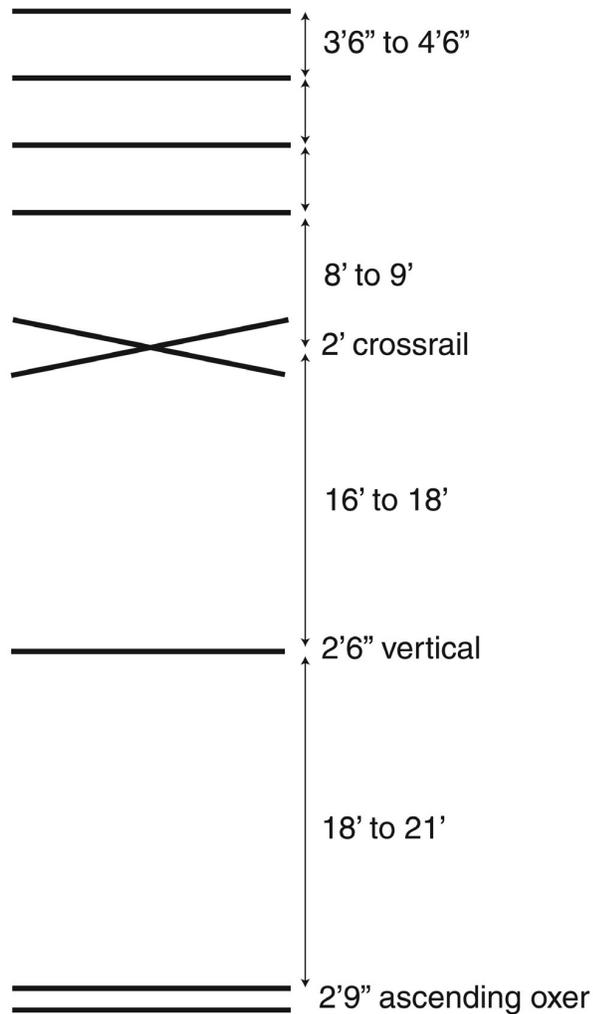
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## Over Fences

### C-1 Level

a. Gymnastic Jumping Exercises

Use 4 trot poles placed at 3'6" to 4'6" apart, according to mount's size. You might need to set different distances inside the gymnastic line as well.



b. Course work: 8 to 10 fences, 1/3 of which should be oxers. Set the majority at 2'9". Course should include related distances and 1 two-stride combination.

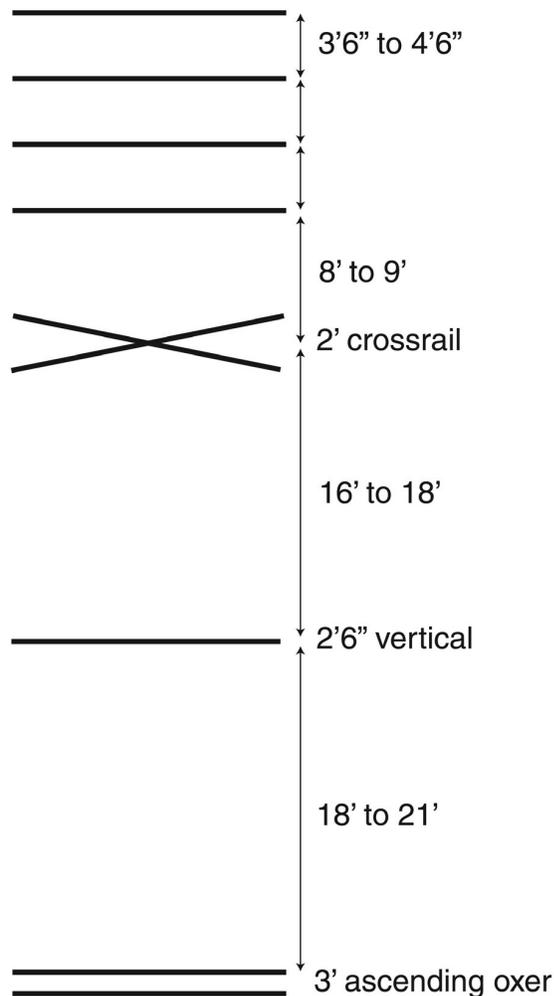
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## Over Fences

### C-2 Level

a. Gymnastic Jumping Exercises

Use 4 trot poles placed at 3'6" to 4'6" apart, according to mount's size. You might need to set different distances inside the gymnastic line as well.



- b. Course work: 8 to 10 fences, 1/3 of which should be oxers. Set the majority at 3'. Course should include related distances, bending line and 1 one-stride combination.

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