

MASTERS TITLE - Level 4

Location	All exercises must take place away from home and must not be a location used in any earlier trial videos submitted for a passing level.
Equipment	Retrieve object (x2), broad jump, scent articles (x4) Optional: Target/Platform/Box, Distraction Bowl (x2)
Cues	Cues may be verbal and/or signal unless specified differently in the described exercise.
+R	Four external reinforcers (including distraction reinforcers) located off handler body: Handler may use external reinforcers to reward the dog's behavior for up to four exercises. The reinforcer (food or toy) may NOT be kept on the handler's body and must be located within the video testing area. In exercises where a visible distraction is required, then the distraction, when given to the dog, IS counted as one of the external reinforcers. The reinforcer MUST be the same food or toy that is used in any distraction work. One reinforcer = one food reward, ball toss or toy play up to 10 seconds. Reinforcement may only be given in between exercises.
Exercise 4-1	Hand signals or verbal at 30 feet (x3), signal recall to front and finish with distractions: An optional target/cone/platform is placed 30 feet (6 m) away with distractions (at least one open food) placed 10 feet left AND 10 feet right of the centerline, midway between the dog and the handler (creating a diamond shape). Handler starts with dog in any position at heel and begins by sending their dog 30 feet to an optional target. From that distance the handler will cue their dog with a verbal OR signal to stand, down and sit, with one hand signal or verbal cue for each position and a two second pause between them. The dog's starting position counts as the first position. Handler will then pause for one second and then recall their dog to front or directly to finish with a hand signal only.
Exercise 4-2	Heel - Dog is called to heel, followed by a figure eight around distractions. Using the same setup with distractions from exercise one the dog is placed on a sit, down or stand stay, centered about 5 feet back from the midline of the distractions and facing the handler. The handler will then walk across to the other side, face their dog, and then "call their dog to heel position." The dog must go around behind the handler. As soon as the dog goes behind the handler, the handler will move directly into the figure eight pattern around the distractions without a pause, using the distraction to the right first, followed by the distraction to the left. After heeling the pattern around both distractions, the team will make a 360 degree right pivot circle in the center and then halt.
Exercise 4-3	Retrieve one of two thrown objects on the flat with a formal front or directly to heel: Handler starts with dog in heel position and throws an object 15 feet (4.5m) forward. Handler and dog then pivot 180 degrees and throw a second object 15 feet (4.5m) forwards Handler then pivots 180 back to the first object, showing the opposite pivot that they used in the first pivot. Dog is then sent to fetch the first thrown object. Dog returns to a formal front or directly to heel and must hold the object two seconds before releasing to the handler hands.
Exercise 4-4	Moving stand, drop at 20 ft. distance, handler return to heel: Walk forward with dog approximately 10 feet and cue a moving stand. Handler must not stop and proceeds 20 feet (6m) and pivots to face dog. Handler then must pause three seconds and then cue a drop in place. Handler then returns to heel position while dog maintains down.
Exercise 4-5	Stay, back up, position change, recall over broad jump, front or finish: Place dog an appropriate distance from the front of the broad jump (see definitions) on a stay in any position. Handler proceeds to the other side of the jump a minimum of 10 feet (3 m). Before jumping, dog will demonstrate back up two feet (target optional - continuous cue allowed) and then demonstrate one cued position. Dog is then recalled over the jump to the handler and offers a straight sit in front or goes directly to finish position.
Exercise 4-6	Formal scent discrimination with retrieve: Handler places their dog on a stay in any position facing away from the article pile location. The handler will place four objects of any material on the ground 10 feet from the dog. The dog must remain in a sit stay while the handler places the three non-scented objects on the ground and then scents the correct article for approximately ten seconds, at which time it will be added to the pile. The handler then returns to their dog, pauses for one second and then sends the dog to find the correct article. The dog may be sent directly to the pile or the handler may pivot 180 degrees first, so that the dog is facing the articles. The dog must go directly to the articles, find the correct article and return directly to either front or heel position. The exercise ends when the handler takes the article. The handler may give the following verbal or signal cues: A cue to stay (in any position). A cue to turn and sit facing the pile and a cue to find the correct article. If the handler chooses to send direct, then they may only cue the send.