

Veterinary Nursing Patient-based Assessment (VN-PBA) Phase 1

November 2020

Chief Examiner (Lead IQA) Report

Introduction

The Veterinary Nursing Patient-based Assessment (VN-PBA) has been designed specifically by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) as an alternative examination to the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) to be used during the Covid-19 pandemic by an Awarding Organisation (AO).

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner (Lead IQA) following Phase 1 of the VN-PBA.

It is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres to use in order to enhance preparation for assessment.

This report provides general commentary on candidate performance and highlights common themes in relation to the technical aspects explored within the assessment, giving areas of strengths and weakness demonstrated by the cohort of candidates who sat Phase 1.

It will explain aspects which caused difficulty and potentially why the difficulties arose, whether it was caused by a lack of knowledge, incorrect examination technique or responses that failed to demonstrate the required depth of understanding.

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Phase 1 VN-PBA

In total, 287 candidates sat the VN-PBA in Phase 1. Each candidate was allocated two examiners to grade the quality of evidence provided throughout the VN-PBA. The candidate evidence is graded based on the candidates understanding of applying theory to practice. The examiners ask questions about the case studies that the candidate has uploaded and candidates are then able to provide evidence through explanation.

Overall, the candidates for Phase 1 have performed well. The candidates attended the VN-PBA prepared with copies of their submitted evidence, note taking equipment and a calculator. During the process some candidates were identified as having un-authorised equipment e.g. surgical gloves or an anaesthetic machine. Where this was the case the examiners were required to ask the candidate to remove the equipment from the examination room.

There are a large range of topics covered during the VN-PBA and it is therefore expected that some candidates would perform better in some areas in comparison to others. Where a candidate was graded lower, this was due to the candidate only recalling superficial knowledge or that the candidate had not fully familiarised themselves with their submitted cases.

There is no statistical evidence to show that candidates within Phase 1 showed any trends in topic strengths or weaknesses, as results across each of the 5 domains (mapped to DOS) were similar in mark distribution.

Candidates would benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for the VN-PBA and ensuring that they have fully familiarised themselves with the submitted evidence. Candidates need to be prepared for the different types of questions contained within the VN-PBA and that the examiners may continue to ask questions on the same topic to probe for depth of candidate understanding.

Each VN-PBA was given an overall score and a global rating independently by each examiner (Examiner 1 and Examiner 2)

A borderline regression model was used to determine the pass mark, in agreement with the City & Guilds Assessment team and the RCVS. This regression model plots Individual Score vs Individual Global Rating.

Phase 1

Pass rate: 84.7%

Domain breakdown	Domain 1	Domain 2	Domain 3	Domain 4	Domain 5
Pass Rate	82.9%	84.3%	82.2%	82.9%	81.2%

Global Rating Distribution

