

# **7457-402/602 Level 3 Anatomy and Physiology knowledge test - Paper 3**

**December 2020  
Version 1.1 (February 2021)**

## **Examiner Report**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Amendment type</b>	<b>Section</b>
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# Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Chief Examiner, it is designed to be used as a feedback tool for centres to use in order to enhance teaching and preparation for assessment. It is advised that this document be referred to when preparing to teach and then again when candidates are preparing to sit examinations.

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 the **December 2020** examination series. 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.

The document provides commentary on the following assessment:  
**7457-402/602 Level 3 Anatomy and Physiology Knowledge test Paper 3.**

# Theory Exam – December 2020

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **7457-402/602**

Series: **December 2020**

Below identifies the final grade boundaries for this assessment, as agreed by the awarding panel and the pass rate for this series:

<b>Total marks available</b>	<b>60</b>
Pass mark	32
Pass rate	16%

# Chief Examiner Commentary

## General Comments on Candidate Performance

**Assessment component: 7457-402/602**

**Series: December 2020**

The pass mark for the paper was set using a process of professional judgement by technical experts called 'awarding'. Through the awarding process, the pass mark is determined using both quantitative and qualitative evidence (e.g. analysis of candidate's scripts, archived samples of candidate work and statistical evidence). Please note the pass mark may differ for the paper from series to series to take into account differences in the difficulty of the question papers.

The paper was taken by a cohort of 67 on the paper version and 8 on Evolve onscreen version.

Candidate performance on this paper was significantly lower than in previous series – for example, the mean mark achieved by candidates taking the paper-based option was 22.3 compared with 35.9 from the equivalent September series exam. For those taking the paper version, 41% of candidates accessed between 0-20 marks, a significant distance from any likely pass mark. This may in part be due to the large portion of candidate re-sitting the exam who had not achieved a pass grade in previous exam series.

In this exam, candidates mostly responded well to the recall of knowledge questions but less well to the more stretching questions where a depth of understanding was required. For example, Question 1 a) asked for a simple definition of hypothermia for one mark – with almost 90% of candidates awarded the mark. Question 8 in the paper focussed on cranial nerves with six marks available for one part – however, this question was very poorly attempted with candidates demonstrating a lack of understanding, with many candidates leaving this question unanswered. Of the candidates taking the paper option, 45% did not access any marks at all in this question, with none accessing more than four marks.

Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination. Candidates also need to be prepared for the different types and structures of questions included within the paper and need to be familiar with the variety of command verbs. Candidate should ensure they read each question carefully and ensure they respond clearly and directly to the question given in the depth required, as indicated by the command verb and the marks available. There is sample and past paper material as well as an examination guide available which should support candidates in preparing for the demands of this exam.

### **Areas of strength for the cohort were:**

- General recall of anatomical identification
- Definitions of technical terms.
- Reproductive system

### **Areas of weakness for the cohort were:**

- Negative feedback
- Hormone action
- Cranial nerves
- Homeostatic mechanism
- Urinary system – kidney nephron
- Classification of bones

### **Extended response question**

The extended response question in this paper focussed on the digestive process from ingestion to absorption. Of those candidates who completed the paper option, 62% remained in the first marking band (1-4 marks) and were unable to access higher marks – with only 33% of candidates accessing the marks available in Band 2 (5-8 marks).

The majority of candidates lost marks by not adding enough detail or omitting to address all aspects of the question. Candidates concentrated on the digestive system and how the food travelled through it with references to enzymes but were unable to name them or apply an action to them. Candidates accessing the lowest marks either showed only a very basic understanding or included limited or technically incorrect detail. Rarely were enzymes or accessory glands given in the detail required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

It appears that many candidates were simply unprepared for the depth and detail required for this question type which has 20% of the marks available for the paper as a whole.