

7457-400/600 Level 3 Synoptic Knowledge Test - Paper 1

September 2020

Examiner Report

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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 **September 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;
7457-400/600 Level 3 Synoptic Knowledge Test – Paper 1

Theory Exam – September 2020

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **7457-400/600**

Series: **September 2020**

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

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	33
Pass rate	91%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 7457-400/600

Series: September 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 set at the correct level of difficulty for a level 3 exam. There was a balance of topics and items that allowed candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

Areas of strength for the cohort were:

- Infection control – Sterilisation Techniques.
- Communication.
- Animal health and welfare – Nutrition.
- Digestive system ingestion route

Areas of weakness for the cohort were:

- Infection control – Diseases.
- Operational requirements.
- Supply of Veterinary medicines.
- Immunological responses

The extended response question provided an opportunity for candidates of every level to present their knowledge and understanding. Overall, the cohort performed well on this question. Although they would have benefited from planning their responses first as some responses lacked structure. There was a varying degree of depth seen across the cohort, with some candidates providing justification for the holistic care they had discussed and other candidates only providing superficial explanations. The lower achieving candidates mainly recalled basic facts and only discussed what they would do for the inpatient rather than expanding on their answer. The higher achieving candidates demonstrated a greater depth of understanding in the subject and were able to clearly link the discussion to the scenario and access the higher marks.

Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination. Candidates did not always engage with the command verbs i.e. only listing/stating rather than explaining. Therefore, they did not always fully demonstrate their understanding. Candidates need to be prepared for the different types and structures of questions contained within the paper and need to be familiar with the variety of command verbs. Candidates should ensure they read each question carefully to ensure they respond clearly to the question giving the depth required to achieve full marks.