

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

**August 2021**

## **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 **June 2021** 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 – June 2021

## Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **7457-400/600**

Series: **June 2021**

The table 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	33
Pass rate	67%

# Chief Examiner Commentary

## General Comments on Candidate Performance

**Assessment component: 7457-400/600**

**Series: June 2021**

The paper was set at the correct level of difficulty for a level 3 exam. There was a balance of topics and it was felt that the questions allowed the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

**Unit 360:** This unit focuses on various topics of the operational requirements of a veterinary practice. The strengths of this unit were around the RCVS code of conduct requirements for recording clinical history and when consent to share information is required. The weakness of this unit was identification of the correct waste disposal method for the given scenario.

**Unit 362:** This unit focuses on professional relationships and communication within a veterinary practice. The strength for this unit was knowledge of the different options for clients when it comes to second opinions and referral. The weakness of the unit was candidates being unable to explain different the processes within a veterinary practice.

**Unit 363:** This unit focuses on various animal welfare, health and husbandry topics. Strength of this unit was identification of different breeds & the process of immune responses. Weakness was knowledge of anatomical structure of the embryo.

**Unit 364:** This unit focuses on infection control within a veterinary environment. Strengths were that candidates did have knowledge and understanding of infection control. Weakness was being able to define specific words or to explain reasoning relating to infection control. This could be attributed to examination technique.

**Unit 366:** This unit focuses on the supporting the supply of veterinary medicines. Strengths were identification of requirements for prescribing. The weaknesses were actions of certain drugs and calculation of solutions and responsibilities of different roles when supplying medicines. There was demonstration of some working knowledge of these areas but not all.

**Unit 370:** This unit focuses on understanding the essentials of veterinary nursing care for hospitalised animals. Strengths were around wound management & different healing options. The weakness was around definitions of specific terms relating to this unit.

Candidates need to be prepared for the different types and structures of questions contained within the paper and need to be familiar with terminology related to the topic areas covered by the exam paper. Candidates should ensure they read each question carefully to ensure they respond clearly to the question given in the depth required. Candidates in this paper particularly struggled with explanations and definitions of various topics.

## Extended Response Question (ERQ)

The extended response question provided an opportunity for candidates of every level to present their knowledge and understanding. Overall, the cohort performed less well on this question compared with previous papers in Dec 2020 and March 2021. They would have benefited from planning their responses first as some responses lacked structure. Some candidates lost marks by not providing enough detail and considerations when dealing with a patient with nutritional requirements. The lower achieving candidates mainly recalled basic facts and lacked detail to show depth and breadth of knowledge. There was a varying degree of understanding across the

cohort. The higher achieving candidates demonstrated a greater depth of understanding in the subject and were able to access the higher marks by relating their answers to the question.

Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques and writing answers for the extended question when preparing for this examination – past papers and marking schemes are available to support this.