

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

March 2021

Examiner Report

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Theory Exam – March 2021	4
Grade Boundaries and distribution	4
Chief Examiner Commentary	5

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 **March 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 – March 2021

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **7457-400/600**

Series: **March 2021**

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	68%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 7457-400/600

Series: March 2021

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.

Unit 360: This unit focuses on various topics of the operational requirements of a veterinary practice. Strengths of this unit were around identification of the process of risk assessment; however, some non-specific answers were given which affected candidate marks. The main area of weakness in this unit was knowledge around the veterinary medicine's regulations.

Unit 362: This unit focuses on professional relationships and communication within a veterinary practice. Strengths of this unit were around methods of communication within a veterinary practice with a variety of answers from candidates. The weaker areas were based on exam technique and candidates not being able to fully explain communication methods with suitable examples.

Unit 363: This unit focuses on various animal welfare, health and husbandry topics. The strengths of this unit were around the Animal Welfare Act (2006) and the requirements. However, some candidates were not specific with their answers. The weaker areas of this unit were around identification of parasites and nutritional adaptations of a specific diet for certain conditions. Most candidates were able to identify adaptations to diet but were unable to support with this with the knowledge of why.

Unit 364: This unit focuses on infection control within a veterinary environment. Strengths of the unit were around transmission routes of disease. Weaker areas included bacteria replication with candidates achieving limited marks. The process of sterilisation within an autoclave was answered poorly and most answers were not based on the sterilisation process.

Unit 366: This unit focuses on the supporting the supply of veterinary medicines. Strengths of this unit were around the prescription process for schedule 2 drugs. The weaker areas of this unit were around medication terminology and the prescribing cascade. The candidates when describing the cascade were able to identify some of the stages with limited knowledge.

Unit 370: This unit focuses on understanding the essentials of veterinary nursing care for hospitalised animals. Strengths of this unit included fluid requirement calculations with candidates demonstrating working knowledge of this subject area. Another area of strength was physiotherapy techniques with candidates able to demonstrate identification of techniques along with descriptions. Areas of weakness in this unit was veterinary terminology relating to nursing care.

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. Some candidates lost marks by not providing enough detail and considerations of other wound management techniques. 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. Candidates also 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.