

7457-400 Level 3 Synoptic Knowledge Test - Paper 1

January 2022

Examiner Report

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Theory Exam – December 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 **December 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 Level 3 Synoptic Knowledge Test – Paper 1

Theory Exam – December 2021

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **7457-400**
Series: **December 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:

Total marks available	60
Pass mark	32
Pass rate	70%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 7457-400

Series: December 2021

The examination paper covered a good range of learning outcomes over the whole qualification and was similar to the September exam in terms of level. There was a balance of topics, and the questions allowed the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

Unit 360: This unit focuses on the operational requirements of a veterinary practice. Strengths of this unit were around the characteristics required as a professional. Candidates did not perform as well on a question based around manual handling regulations and legal obligations.

Unit 362: This unit focuses on professional relationships and communication within a veterinary practice. The strength for this unit was knowledge of factors affecting customer service. However, half of the candidates did not expand on this in more detail.

Unit 363: This unit focuses on various animal welfare, health and husbandry topics. The strength of this unit was identification of the role of a welfare organisation and diagnostic tests carried out in veterinary practice. Areas where less knowledge was demonstrated centred around intra-partum care, and the reasons for carrying out diagnostic tests.

Unit 364: This unit focuses on infection control within a veterinary environment. Strengths were that candidates did have knowledge and understanding of isolation protocols, and the importance of a personal hygiene regime. Most candidates did not access the full marks on a question around the role in an infection control audit.

Unit 366: This unit focuses on the supporting the supply of veterinary medicines. 70% of candidates correctly calculated quantity of tablets to dispense. Candidates did not perform as well on a question around the actions of certain drugs and the legalities of prescribing POM-V medicines, but there was demonstration of some working knowledge of these areas.

Unit 370: This unit focuses on understanding the essentials of veterinary nursing care for hospitalised animals. Strengths were around small animal accommodation. The weaker area of the unit was preparing to take a blood pressure. Candidates demonstrated working knowledge of the subject, but not always the depth required to access the higher marks in this outcome.

Extended Response Question

The Extended Response Question (ERQ) 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 the previous papers. Only 20% of candidates accessed the band 3 marks available on this question. They would have benefited from planning their responses first, as some responses lacked structure and depth. All candidates lost marks by not providing enough detail and considerations when dealing with the stated patient (rabbit). Candidates who accessed marks within the lower band mainly recalled basic facts and lacked detail to show depth and breadth of knowledge. The higher achieving candidates demonstrated a greater depth of understanding in the subject and were able to access the middle band by relating their answers to the question, however there were still areas for further explanations & demonstration of knowledge, especially when looking at the assessment of the species in question.

Overall Comments

Candidates would benefit from practising examination techniques and writing answers for the Extended Response Question when preparing for this examination.

Candidates also need to be familiar with the variety of command verbs in the questions and be prepared for the different types and structures of questions contained within the paper. Past papers and examiner reports are available on the City & Guilds website to support candidates with this preparation.

Candidates should ensure they read each question carefully and ensure they respond clearly to the question with the depth required. Candidates in this paper often did not access full marks when asked questions requiring explanations & descriptions of various topics.

Candidates should also be familiar with terminology related to the topic areas covered by the exam paper.