7457-401/601 Level 3 Synoptic Knowledge Test - Paper 2

Examiner Report

Contents

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;
7457-401/601 Level 3 Synoptic Knowledge Test – Paper 2

Theory Exam – June 2021

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **7457-401/601**
Series: **June 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	84%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 7457-401/601

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.

There was some evidence of poor exam technique, which meant candidates lost out on marks. 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.

Unit 367: This unit facilitates an understanding of the application of diagnostic imaging techniques within a veterinary environment. Strengths of this unit were around legislation and comparative imaging; however, some nonspecific answers were given which affected candidate marks. The main area of weakness was learner knowledge on the production of x-rays.

Unit 368: This unit facilitates an understanding of diagnostic testing and essential laboratory techniques in clinical veterinary practice. Candidates showed strength in this topic with many achieving the majority of available marks.

Unit 369: This unit facilitates an understanding of veterinary operating theatre practice for veterinary nurses. The strengths of this unit were around appropriate theatre equipment whereas the weaknesses were seen on the specific names of pieces of equipment.

Unit 371: This unit facilitates an understanding of the essentials of nursing sick animals within a veterinary environment. Strengths of this topic were on volatile agents and anaesthetic circuits. Candidates were weaker on the non-depolarising neuromuscular blocking agents. Candidates lost marks in this topic where answers were non-specific or repeated.

Unit 372: This unit will assist student veterinary nurses in preparing for entry on to the RCVS Register for Veterinary Nurses. They will explore the concept of professional accountability and their duties as registered practitioners. Strengths within this topic were seen in legislation whereas the weakness were seen in the candidate's ability to express features of professional status.

Unit 373: This unit facilitates an understanding of peri-operative nursing care principles which encompasses the care of patients: pre-operative, intra-operative, post-operative and during home convalescence. Strengths of this topic were seen when candidates described an attribute of consent whereas weaknesses were identified in candidates not linking the answer to the scenarios/context given to the questions.

Unit 375: This unit prepares learners to provide first aid treatment to injured, and nursing care to critically ill dogs, cats, small mammals within a veterinary environment. Strengths in this topic were seen in assisted feeding techniques and consideration prior to administering assisted feeding. Weaknesses in this topic were seen when candidates were asked to define terminology.

Extended Response Question (ERQ)/Unit 374: The ERQ focussed on this unit. This unit facilitates an understanding of the complex nursing of sick small animals within a veterinary environment. Most candidates performed well in the ERQ with good breath of knowledge seen across the board. Where candidates achieved higher marks, they had taken a logical approach to animal care, included key aspects of client support and described factors that impact the

scenario. Lower achieving candidates show fair breadth of knowledge but mostly as basic recall in the identified areas lacking depth of understanding.

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