

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

November 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 **September 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 – September 2021

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **7457-401/601**

Series: **September 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	85%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 7457-401/601

Series: September 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 367: This unit facilitates an understanding of the application of diagnostic imaging techniques within a veterinary environment. Strengths of this unit were around comparative imaging; however, some answers lacked a linked explanation to the statement made and this affected candidate marks. The main area of weakness was candidate knowledge regarding radiation regulations.

Unit 368: This unit facilitates an understanding of diagnostic testing and essential laboratory techniques in clinical veterinary practice. Candidates lacked knowledge of the laboratory equipment.

Unit 369: This unit facilitates an understanding of veterinary operating theatre practice for veterinary nurses. The strengths of this topic were seen in the safe use of operating theatre equipment and keeping track of instruments and swabs. The weakness in this unit was seen in the knowledge needed to provide an optimum operating environment.

Unit 371: This unit facilitates an understanding of the essentials of nursing sick animals within a veterinary environment. Strengths of this topic were seen in the practical application of equipment. Candidates were weaker when describing the purpose of using a drug combination.

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 knowledge of legislation whereas the weakness were seen in the candidate's ability to express the purpose of the regulatory body.

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 the requirement for emergency and postoperative care whereas as a weaker area was the routine care requirements for anaesthetised animals.

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 recognising the ill effects of poisoning and describing the benefits of using monitoring equipment.

ERQ/Unit 374: This unit facilitates an understanding of the complex nursing of sick small animals within a veterinary environment and the support required for the owner. Most candidates performed well in the ERQ with good breadth 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 showed a fair breadth of knowledge but mostly basic recall in the identified areas lacking a depth of understanding.

Overall comments

There was evidence of some poor exam technique seen, 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.

Candidates will benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination. 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.

For any candidate wishing to appeal their result, centres can find information regarding the process for this on the City & Guilds website available here:

www.cityandguilds.com/delivering-our-qualifications/centre-development/centre-document-library