7457-406/606 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;
7457-406/606 Level 3 Synoptic Knowledge Test – Paper 2

Theory Exam – June 2021

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **7457-406/606**
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	38
Pass rate	100%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 7457-406/606

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 367: This unit facilitates an understanding of the application of diagnostic imaging techniques within a veterinary environment. Strengths of this unit were around patient preparation for an MRI examination. The main area of weakness in this unit was the definitions of radiographic terms.

Unit 369: This unit facilitates an understanding of veterinary operating theatre practice for veterinary nurses. Strengths of this unit were around identification of instruments. The weaker areas were based on suture patterns.

Unit 372: This unit focusses on the preparation for entry on to the RCVS Register for Veterinary Nurses. Concepts of professional accountability and duties as registered practitioners are explored within this unit. Strengths of this unit were around identification of Schedule 3 of the veterinary surgeons Act. However, some learners failed to identify this correctly. The weaker areas were the definitions of criminal and civil law and the role of the RCVS as a regulator.

Unit 381: This unit facilitates an understanding of the complex nursing of equine patients within a veterinary environment. The strengths of this unit were around factors relating to an effective discharge and nursing care interventions. No weaknesses were identified. All questions relating to this unit were answered well.

Unit 382: This unit facilitates an understanding of diagnostic testing and essential laboratory techniques in clinical veterinary practice. Answers to this unit varied in quality. Learners lost marks for not keeping their answer specific to the preservation of a tissue sample.

Unit 383: This unit facilitates understanding of peri-operative nursing care principles relating to equids within a veterinary environment. Weaknesses related to the reasons for fasting patients prior to a general anaesthetic. Strengths were associated with components of a successful handover following an anaesthetic.

Unit 384 - the Extended Response Question (ERQ): This unit facilitates an understanding of anaesthesia and anaesthetic monitoring in clinical veterinary practice. The Extended Response Question (ERQ) provided an opportunity for candidates of every level to present their knowledge and understanding. Overall, the cohort performed well on this question. Some candidates lost marks by not providing enough detail regarding drugs and equipment used during CPR. 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 could access the higher marks by relating their answers to the question.

Unit 385: This unit focuses on the provision first aid treatment to injured equids and nursing care to critically ill equine patients within a veterinary environment. Strengths were associated with defining triage and identifying actions to take when dealing with haemorrhage. An area of weakness was identifying critical conditions that required ECG monitoring.

Future candidates would benefit from practising examination techniques when preparing for this examination – past papers and marking schemes are available to support this. Candidates should ensure they read each question carefully to ensure they respond clearly to the question posed in the depth required. Candidates should be encouraged to add in some rationale or justification to their answers, where appropriate, to enable them to access the higher marks.