

7457-401 Level 3 Synoptic Knowledge Test - Paper 2

April 2022

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 **March 2022** 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 Level 3 Synoptic Knowledge Test – Paper 2

Theory Exam – March 2022

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **7457-401**

Series: **March 2022**

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	92%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 7457-401

Series: March 2022

Unit 367: This unit facilitates an understanding of the application of diagnostic imaging techniques within a veterinary environment. Most candidates demonstrated knowledge of effects of radiation. The weaker performance for this unit was around the advantages and disadvantages of digital radiography.

Unit 368: This unit facilitates an understanding of diagnostic testing and essential laboratory techniques in clinical veterinary practice. Laboratory questions were well responded to, most demonstrated knowledge of crystals and sample collection however some further work/revision on understanding sample collection techniques is required.

Unit 369: This unit facilitates an understanding of veterinary operating theatre practice for veterinary nurses. Candidates demonstrated identification of instruments however they did not always demonstrate an understanding of their use and application.

Unit 371: This unit facilitates an understanding of the essentials of nursing sick animals within a veterinary environment. Weaknesses were shown with regards to theatre practice as some candidates responded with generalised points rather than species specific considerations being made.

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. Candidates performed well to show their knowledge around professional registration. Many discussed concepts as a Student Veterinary Nurse, however they did lose out on some marks which required a Registered Veterinary Nurse approach.

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. Most candidates approached peri-operative support questions well demonstrating a good, well rounded knowledge base. Some candidates lost marks by stating their responses and not fully explaining them.

Unit 375: This unit prepares candidates to provide first aid treatment to injured, and nursing care to critically ill dogs, cats, small mammals within a veterinary environment. Candidates did not always fully show understanding of triage in working practice.

Extended Response Question/Unit 374:

This unit facilitates an understanding of the complex nursing needs for a sick small animal within a veterinary environment and the support required throughout its stay. The question was generally discussed well with many considerations presented although some candidates did focus on the end-of-life element and not on the condition. Most gave good, detailed responses and many were able to justify their points, although not against every point where they did generalise or just stated without elaborating.

Overall Comments

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 they may encounter.

Candidates should ensure they read each question carefully to ensure they respond clearly to the question giving the depth required to achieve full marks.

Past papers and examiner reports are available on the City & Guilds website to support candidates with this preparation.