

7457-406 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
7457-406 Level 3 Synoptic Knowledge Test – Paper 2

Theory Exam – March 2022

Grade Boundaries and distribution

Assessment: **7457-406**

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	38
Pass rate	90%

Chief Examiner Commentary

General Comments on Candidate Performance

Assessment component: 7457-406

Series: March 2022

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 the identification of the radioactive isotope used for scintigraphy. The main area of weakness in this unit was centred around the formation of an ultrasound image.

Unit 369: This unit facilitates an understanding of veterinary operating theatre practice for veterinary nurses. Strengths of this unit were around identification of a common instrument. The weaker areas were based on the identification and use of an instrument used in orthopaedics.

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. The questions regarding Schedule 3 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act and the role of the RCVS as a regulator were answered well.

Unit 381 – Extended Response Question: This unit facilitates an understanding of the complex nursing of equine patients within a veterinary environment. The Extended Response Question provided an opportunity for candidates of every level to present their knowledge and understanding. Overall, the cohort performed less well on this question compared to the rest of the paper. Some candidates lost marks by not providing enough detail regarding the cause and treatment for the stated syndrome. Candidates accessing marks in the lower band 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 were able to access the higher marks by relating their answers to the question.

Unit 382: This unit facilitates an understanding of diagnostic testing and essential laboratory techniques in clinical veterinary practice. Responses to the question relating to this unit varied with most candidates scoring full marks although some did not pick up any.

Unit 383: This unit facilitates understanding of peri-operative nursing care principles relating to equids within a veterinary environment. Weaknesses shown were related to knowledge of pain management. Strengths were associated with the preparation of accommodation.

Unit 384: This unit facilitates an understanding of anaesthesia and anaesthetic monitoring in clinical veterinary practice. All questions relating to the triad of anaesthesia, functions of parts of the anaesthetic machine, and the restraint and positioning of patient during induction were answered well.

Unit 385: This unit focuses on the provision of first aid treatment to injured equids and nursing care to critically ill equine patients within a veterinary environment. Strengths were associated with knowledge of hypovolaemia, and the first aid treatments required for ingestion of common poisons.

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

Candidates should ensure they read each question carefully to ensure they respond clearly to the question posed in the depth required. They should also be encouraged to add in some rationale or justification to their answers, where appropriate, to enable them to access the higher marks.

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