OSCE Code 7457-350 Laboratory Diagnostics 02 (PCV) for Unit 309

This station covers the following RCVS Day One Skills: 1.1, 1.2, 3.3, 5.3, 5.8, 5.9

This OSCE will be used to assess the awards indicated

Award	Award Reference	Pathway
7457 – Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing	**600/6052/6**	**Small Animal**
7457 – Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing	**600/6052/9**	**Equine**

Scenario

You are nursing a patient with anaemia.

The veterinary surgeon requests that you obtain a daily PCV for this patient.

   a. Prepare the blood sample and set up the centrifuge for this test.

   b. Obtain the PCV reading using the Hawksley haematocrit reader from the pre- prepared sample provided. Record your result including units.

Note: you are not expected to start the centrifuge

Methodology: You will be expected to:	
1.	Wear gloves
2.	Select EDTA sample
3.	Mix sample gently
4.	Remove 1 or 2 plain capillary tubes
5.	Insert capillary tube into sample (holding the sample tube at an angle)
6.	Fill the tube to at least 3/4 full
7.	Place finger over top end of tube or keep tube horizontal
8.	Remove from sample
9.	Wipe outside of capillary tube with a tissue
10.	Plug end of capillary tube with soft clay sealant
11.	Place capillary tube into microhaematocrit centrifuge
12.	Clay plug is against outer rim
13.	Balance the centrifuge
14.	Screw inner safety lid down over samples
15.	Close and lock main lid
16.	Set at 10,000 rpm (or fast setting, depending on make of centrifuge)
17.	For 5 minutes
18.	Dispose of any used capillary tubes into glass waste (if applicable) and other used materials into appropriate waste bin
19.	Capillary tube prepared to produce PCV of diagnostic quality
20.	Safe practice: Gloves worn and no contamination of self or equipment with blood
21.	**PCV reading:** Place prepared capillary tube into PCV reader
22.	Sealed end at the bottom
23.	Bottom of red blood cell (RBC) layer is at the zero line of the reader
24.	Top of plasma is at the 100% line of the reader
25.	Move the adjustable PCV reading line to intersect the top of the RBC layer
26.	Record PCV result correctly as a percentage