



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PART 1 ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS EXAMINATION IN VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

The proposed format for the Part 1 examination is 40 Structured Answer Questions (SAQs), covering multiple aspects of veterinary clinical pathology. There will be an emphasis on understanding of general pathology, pathophysiology, theory and methods for haematology, biochemistry and other types of testing, cytology and laboratory quality management.

The SAQs are designed to test factual knowledge and understanding across the range of the Curriculum. Each question comprises a stem and six sub-questions. The stem defines the topic of the question and may include a short scenario or vignette. Each subquestion is designed to elicit a specific piece of information, or demonstration of understanding of the topic and its context. Unless stated otherwise, the answer required will relate specifically to the material provided in the stem and not to the topic in general.

Points to note:

- SAQs are criterion-marked against an explicit model answer
- Marks are only awarded for information required by the question – no marks are available for additional material
- If a defined number of facts are requested (e.g. State two causes of.....), only that number of responses will be marked (e.g. Answer – correct cause, incorrect cause, correct cause, will only receive one out of two marks).
- Answers requiring more than single word or phrase responses will be answerable in a single sentence or a small number of sentences.
- Examiners will be looking for key concepts in these answers and no marks will awarded for extra information.

Candidates should practice writing short, concise answers, which include only the information requested. Good use of English, avoidance of abbreviations, and clear handwriting are, however, essential. Candidates who write unnecessarily long answers are likely to penalise themselves because these answers waste time.

The mark allocation for each sub-question will be stated in brackets in each instance.

