

VCE VET Equine Studies

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 1 hour and 30 minutes writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 34 per cent to the study score.

Content

The VCE VET Equine Studies examination will be based on the following compulsory units of competency from Units 3 and 4:

- | | | |
|---|-------------|----------|
| • VU21402 Implement horse health and welfare practices | Version 1.1 | 60 hours |
| • VU21403 Implement and monitor a horse feeding program | Version 1.1 | 40 hours |
| • VU21404 Relate equine form and function | Version 1.1 | 50 hours |
| • VU21406 Equine physiology | Version 1.1 | 50 hours |

The weighting of marks on the examination will approximately reflect the proportion of nominal delivery hours of each unit of competency that is examinable for this program. The electives will not be examined.

The examination will focus on the required knowledge and an understanding of the required skills as outlined in the elements and performance criteria of the relevant units of competency.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of two sections.

Section A will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions worth 1 mark each and will be worth a total of 20 marks.

Section B will consist of a number of short- and some extended-answer questions worth a total of 80 marks. Questions may include short scenarios, multiple parts, use of stimulus materials and/or labelling diagrams.

All questions will be compulsory. The total marks for the examination will be 100.

Answers to Section A are to be recorded on the answer sheet provided for multiple-choice questions.

Answers to Section B are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE VET Equine Studies examination:

- *VCE VET Equine Studies Program Booklet* (published October 2014)
- *VCE VET Assessment Guide* (published February 2010)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

The following sample questions provide an indication of the type of questions that teachers and students can expect.

The sample questions relate to the units of competency **VU21403 Implement and monitor a horse feeding program** and **VU21406 Equine physiology**.

Teachers should refer to past examination papers for examples of questions from units of competency equivalent to **VU21402 Implement horse health and welfare practices** and **VU21404 Relate equine form and function**.

Answers to multiple-choice questions are provided on page 9.

Answers to other questions are not provided.

Sample questions

SECTION A – Multiple-choice questions

Question 1

Strangles is a condition related to which one of the following systems?

- A. nervous
- B. digestive
- C. respiratory
- D. reproductive

Question 2

Approximately 65–70% of a healthy, mature horse's weight consists of

- A. bone.
- B. water.
- C. muscle.
- D. internal organs.

Question 3

The primary site for the digestion of protein is the

- A. small intestine.
- B. stomach.
- C. caecum.
- D. colon.

Question 4

What does synovial fluid assist with?

- A. the digestion of fibre
- B. the reproductive cycle
- C. the elimination of wastes
- D. the smooth action of joints

Question 5

A show horse with a body condition score of 2 would be considered

- A. overweight.
- B. underweight.
- C. in ideal condition.
- D. in paddock condition.

Question 6

Which one of the following foods has the highest phosphorous content?

- A. wheat bran
- B. lucerne hay
- C. crushed oats
- D. soybean meal

Question 7

What does the palatability of a particular feed refer to?

- A. shelf life
- B. oil content
- C. nutritional value
- D. acceptability to horses

Question 8

A significant decrease in a horse's energy intake is likely to result in a metabolic disorder called

- A. azoturia.
- B. laminitis.
- C. hyperthermia.
- D. hyperlipidemia.

SECTION B

Question 1 (3 marks)

A pregnant mare has foaled.

- a. What is **one** major health issue that may arise for the mare after foaling? 1 mark

- b. Give **two** consequences for the mare that result from this major health issue. 2 marks

Question 2 (6 marks)

- a. What is equine Cushing's disease? 2 marks

- b. Describe **three** observable symptoms that would indicate a horse has equine Cushing's disease. 3 marks

- c. Which physiological system does equine Cushing's disease affect? 1 mark

Question 3 (9 marks)

It is the middle of winter and there has been consistent, heavy rainfall for two weeks. This has caused an extensive muddy area in the paddock where a horse regularly stands. The horse has developed crusty cracks and scabs on the back of the pasterns. They are sensitive to touch and the scabs are spreading.

- a.** Identify the condition affecting the horse and explain how it develops. 3 marks

Condition _____

Explanation _____

- b.** Outline **three** ways in which this condition, if left untreated, would have an impact on the health of the horse. 3 marks

- c.** Describe the main steps that need to be followed to treat this horse and prevent a recurrence. 3 marks

Question 4 (4 marks)

State one advantage and one disadvantage of using each of an automatic waterer and a water bucket as water supplies for a stabled horse.

	Advantage/pro/+	Disadvantage/con/-
Automatic waterer		
Water bucket		

Question 5 (3 marks)

Give **three** ways in which horse feed may become contaminated, other than by bird or animal droppings.

Question 6 (5 marks)

In a northern coastal area of Australia, a number of horses are watered and fed in a paddock where bats are known to roost in the trees.

- a. Which infection are the horses at risk of contracting? 1 mark

- b. Explain how the horses can become infected. 2 marks

- c. Suggest **two** practical strategies, other than vaccination, that could be used to reduce the risk of the horses becoming infected. 2 marks

Answers to multiple-choice questions

Question	Answer
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	D
5	B
6	A
7	D
8	D