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Write your **student number** in the boxes above.

**Letter**

# VET Equine Studies

## Question and Answer Book

VCE Examination – Tuesday 11 November 2025

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- Reading time is **15 minutes**: 9.00 am to 9.15 am
- Writing time is **1 hour 30 minutes**: 9.15 am to 10.45 am

### Approved materials

- One scientific calculator

### Materials supplied

- Question and Answer Book of 20 pages
- Multiple-Choice Answer Sheet

### Instructions

- Follow the instructions on your Multiple-Choice Answer Sheet.
- At the end of the examination, place your Multiple-Choice Answer Sheet inside the front cover of this book.

Students are **not** permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any unauthorised electronic devices into the examination room.

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<b>Contents</b>	pages
<b>Section A</b> (20 questions, 20 marks) _____	2–6
<b>Section B</b> (20 questions, 80 marks) _____	7–17

## Section A – Multiple-choice questions

### Instructions

- Answer **all** questions in pencil on your Multiple-Choice Answer Sheet.
  - Choose the response that is **correct** or that **best answers** the question.
  - A correct answer scores 1; an incorrect answer scores 0.
  - Marks will **not** be deducted for incorrect answers.
  - No marks will be given if more than one answer is completed for any question.
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### Question 1

What is the primary nutrient supplied by forage-based feeds such as hay and pasture?

- A. protein
- B. fibre
- C. starch
- D. fat

### Question 2

An overbite occurs when the upper teeth overlap the bottom teeth more than usual.

Which one of the following refers to a horse with an overbite?

- A. parrot mouth
- B. bulldog mouth
- C. wolf teeth
- D. heavy jowls

### Question 3

The role of synovial fluid in the equine body is to assist with the

- A. elimination of sweat.
- B. transport of sperm.
- C. smooth action of joints.
- D. digestion of starch.

### Question 4

Which mineral is especially important for maintaining bone health in horses?

- A. selenium
- B. phosphorus
- C. iron
- D. magnesium

**Question 5**

A horse in heavy training requires a diet higher in

- A. fibre and sugar.
- B. salt and sugar.
- C. fat and protein.
- D. vitamins and minerals.

**Question 6**

Why is water essential in a horse's feeding program?

- A. It prevents ulcers.
- B. It is needed only when feeding dry hay.
- C. It prevents laminitis.
- D. It aids digestion of fibre and regulates body temperature.

**Question 7**

Which one of the following parasites is best managed by thoroughly washing a horse's skin with a medicated solution?

- A. bot eggs
- B. ringworm
- C. lice
- D. mud fever

**Question 8**

What impact can respiratory issues have on a horse's performance?

- A. difficulty maintaining stamina and endurance
- B. increased mobility and agility
- C. decreased energy levels and increased appetite
- D. heightened aggression towards other horses

**Question 9**

A strained plantar tarsal ligament on a horse is referred to as

- A. ringbone.
- B. a bowed tendon.
- C. curb.
- D. bone spavin.

**Question 10**

Persistent tail rubbing in a horse is most commonly a sign of which internal parasite?

- A. roundworms
- B. pinworms
- C. strongyles
- D. threadworms

**Question 11**

What is the main function of white blood cells in equine physiology?

- A. to carry oxygen to tissues
- B. to carry waste from cells
- C. to produce haemoglobin
- D. to defend against infection

**Question 12**

'Locking' or upward fixation of the patella occurs in which equine joint?

- A. stifle
- B. pastern
- C. knee
- D. coffin

**Question 13**

A horse presents with swelling of the covering of the deep digital flexor tendon just above the hock.

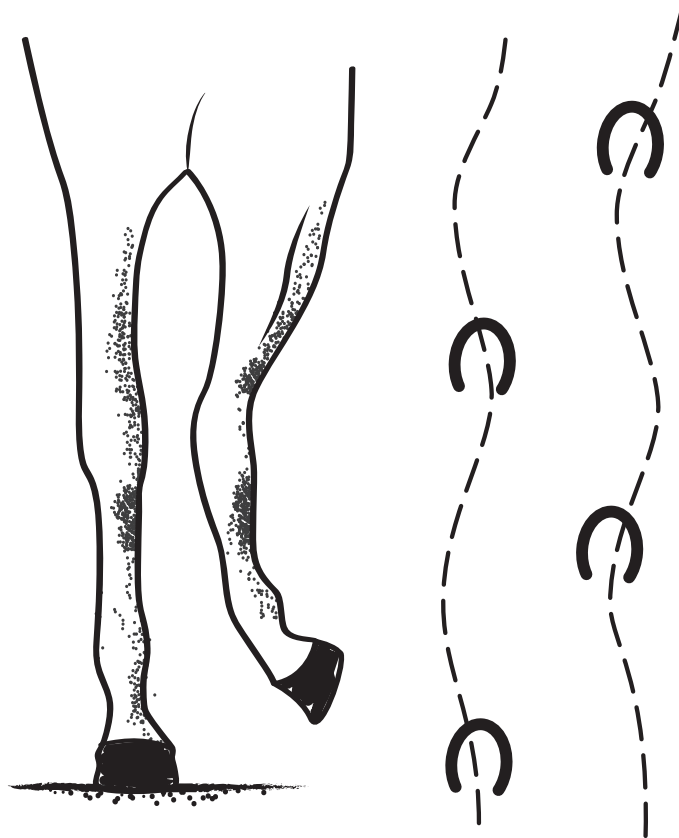
Which one of the following conditions does the horse have?

- A. curb
- B. thoroughpin
- C. laminitis
- D. spavin

**Question 14**

A subcutaneous injection is used to deliver medication

- A. under the skin.
- B. under the muscle.
- C. into the bloodstream.
- D. into a joint.

**Question 15**

Source: Adapted from *The Horse Magazine*  
[www.horsemagazine.com/thm/2018/06/looking-at-horses-with-elwyn-hartley-edwards/](http://www.horsemagazine.com/thm/2018/06/looking-at-horses-with-elwyn-hartley-edwards/)

Which one of the following identifies the movement shown in the image above?

- A. under tracking
- B. forging
- C. plaiting
- D. dishing

**Question 16**

A faecal egg count (FEC) test can show the presence of which of the following worms?

- A. large strongyles and roundworms
- B. encysted large strongyles and tapeworms
- C. pinworms and roundworms
- D. roundworms and tapeworms

**Question 17**

Which one of the following best describes a zoonotic disease?

- A. It is caused by bacteria found in soil.
- B. It can be transmitted by insects.
- C. It is always fatal to humans.
- D. It can be transmitted between animals and humans.

**Question 18**

Which one of the following best describes the conformation fault known as sickle hock?

- A. narrow at the hock and set behind the plumb line
- B. wide at the hock and underneath the body
- C. cannon bone angled underneath the body
- D. hind legs too far apart

**Question 19**

A horse has a long sloping pastern.

Which common injury is likely to occur if this horse experiences too much workload pressure?

- A. mud fever
- B. bowed tendon
- C. ringbone
- D. greasy heel

**Question 20**

Which one of the following is a key difference between the feeding needs of paddocked horses and stabled horses?

- A. Stabled horses typically require additional roughage.
- B. Paddocked horses do not need water.
- C. Stabled horses require less frequent feeding.
- D. Paddocked horses need more hay in their diet.

## Section B

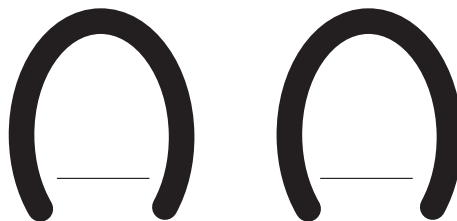
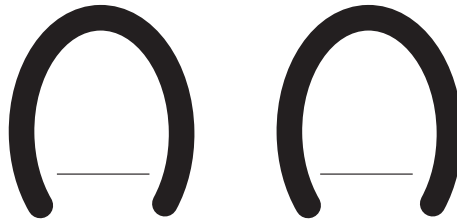
### Instructions

- Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.
- Write your responses in English.

#### Question 1 (2 marks)

- a. Number the footfalls for pacing in the spaces provided below.

1 mark



- b. Identify **one** common horse breed that is known to pace.

1 mark

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Question 2 (4 marks)

A feeding program has been designed for a senior horse with dental issues and a history of weight loss.

Identify two nutritional strategies and two examples of feed for this horse. An example may only be used once.

Nutritional strategy	Example of feed

Do not write in this area.

**Question 3** (2 marks)

Explain how a sloping vulva can lead to infertility in a mare.

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**Question 4** (2 marks)

A horse is taking a shorter length of each step. The horse's strides are not covering as much ground as they normally would.

What is the abnormality in the gait? Outline why this abnormality is undesirable.

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**Question 5** (4 marks)

You are a stud hand about to feed a group of six horses in a large paddock. As you approach the gate with the feed buckets, the horses begin crowding, pushing and jostling each other to get to the food.

- a. Identify **two** steps you should take to safely feed the horses in this scenario. 2 marks

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- b. List two items of personal protective equipment (PPE) that you should wear while carrying out this task. 2 marks

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**Question 6** (4 marks)

The table below provides the functions for four body systems.

Complete the table by identifying the correct body system from this list:

- respiratory system
- nervous system
- muscular system
- skeletal system
- endocrine system
- cardiovascular and lymphatic system.

Body system	Function
	Control of all functions
	Provides shape and structure
	Supplies blood with oxygen and removes carbon dioxide
	Produces hormones

**Question 7** (4 marks)

Capillary refill time and mucous membrane colour can help determine the health of a horse.

- a. What is the normal capillary refill time of a healthy horse? 1 mark

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- b. What is the normal mucous membrane colour of a healthy horse? 1 mark

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- c. State the mucous membrane colour that would be expected in each of the following conditions: 2 marks

- a horse in shock

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- a horse with low oxygen levels

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**Question 8** (7 marks)

The table below shows the recommended feeding rates for a new feed product.

<b>Feeding rates per day*</b>		
<b>Light to moderate work</b>		
<b>Body weight</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Allrounder*</b>
250–350 kg	13–14 hh	1.5–3 kg
350–450 kg	14–15 hh	2–4 kg
450–550 kg	15–16 hh	2–5 kg
550–650 kg	16+ hh	2.5–6 kg
<b>Maintenance</b>		
<b>Body weight</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Allrounder*</b>
250–350 kg	13–14 hh	1–2.5 kg
350–450 kg	14–15 hh	1.5–3 kg
450–550 kg	15–16 hh	1.5–3.5 kg
550–650 kg	16+ hh	2–4.5 kg
*Intended as a guide only; all variables should be taken into consideration.		

Data: Adapted from Hygain <<https://hygain.com.au/products/hygain-allrounder>>

- a. Use the table to determine the recommended daily feed amount for each of the following horses.

2 marks

- 560 kg, 16.2 hh gelding in light work

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- 415 kg, 14.1 hh mare in maintenance

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**b.** A full feed scoop holds 750 g of this feed.

Calculate how many scoops are required per day for **one** of the horses below.  
Show your calculation and provide the range.

2 marks

- 560 kg, 16.2 hh gelding in light work
- 415 kg, 14.1 hh mare in moderate work

Selected horse \_\_\_\_\_

Calculation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Range \_\_\_\_\_

**c.** Explain how this new feed should be introduced into a horse’s diet and why this approach is important.

3 marks

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 9** (5 marks)

When completing a maintenance check at the property where you work as a stablehand, you discover a fault in the fence in one of the paddocks.

The fence has a loose wire.

**a.** Who should you report this fault to and why?

2 marks

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**b.** List three risks this could pose to a horse if the fence is not fixed.

3 marks

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question 10** (8 marks)

a. Name **one** physiological consequence of untreated laminitis for a horse. State how this consequence occurs. 2 marks

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b. Identify **two** common causes of laminitis in a horse. 2 marks

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c. State **two** visible signs of laminitis in a horse. 2 marks

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d. List two preventive measures for laminitis. 2 marks

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**Question 11** (3 marks)

a. Describe the difference between bone spavin and bog spavin. 2 marks

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b. Identify where bone and bog spavin is located on a horse. 1 mark

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Do not write in this area.

**Question 12** (2 marks)

State the role of the lymphatic system in equine health, and in your response, note **one** complication that arises when this system is not functioning properly.

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**Question 13** (4 marks)

What are two common faults in knee conformation? Explain how one of these faults may affect a horse's soundness.

Fault 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Fault 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Impact on soundness \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question 14** (7 marks)

Pleuropneumonia, also known as travel sickness, is a common concern for horses during and after long periods of travel.

- a. Explain the relationship between pleuropneumonia and travel, and state how it can occur during and after a long trip. 2 marks

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- b. List two common signs of pleuropneumonia. 2 marks

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- c. Provide **two** strategies to reduce the risk of pleuropneumonia in horses during travel. 2 marks

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- d. When a horse has arrived at its destination, which is the most important vital sign to monitor to ensure the horse is not suffering from pleuropneumonia? 1 mark

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**Question 15** (2 marks)

List two reasons why it is important to know a horse's weight.

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**Question 16** (4 marks)

What is the best method of restraint to use in each of the following scenarios?

Scenario	Method of restraint
A vet castrating a young colt	
A horse being trotted up for a lameness assessment	
A mare having a pregnancy ultrasound	
A stablehand bandaging the back leg of a horse that kicks	

**Question 17** (2 marks)

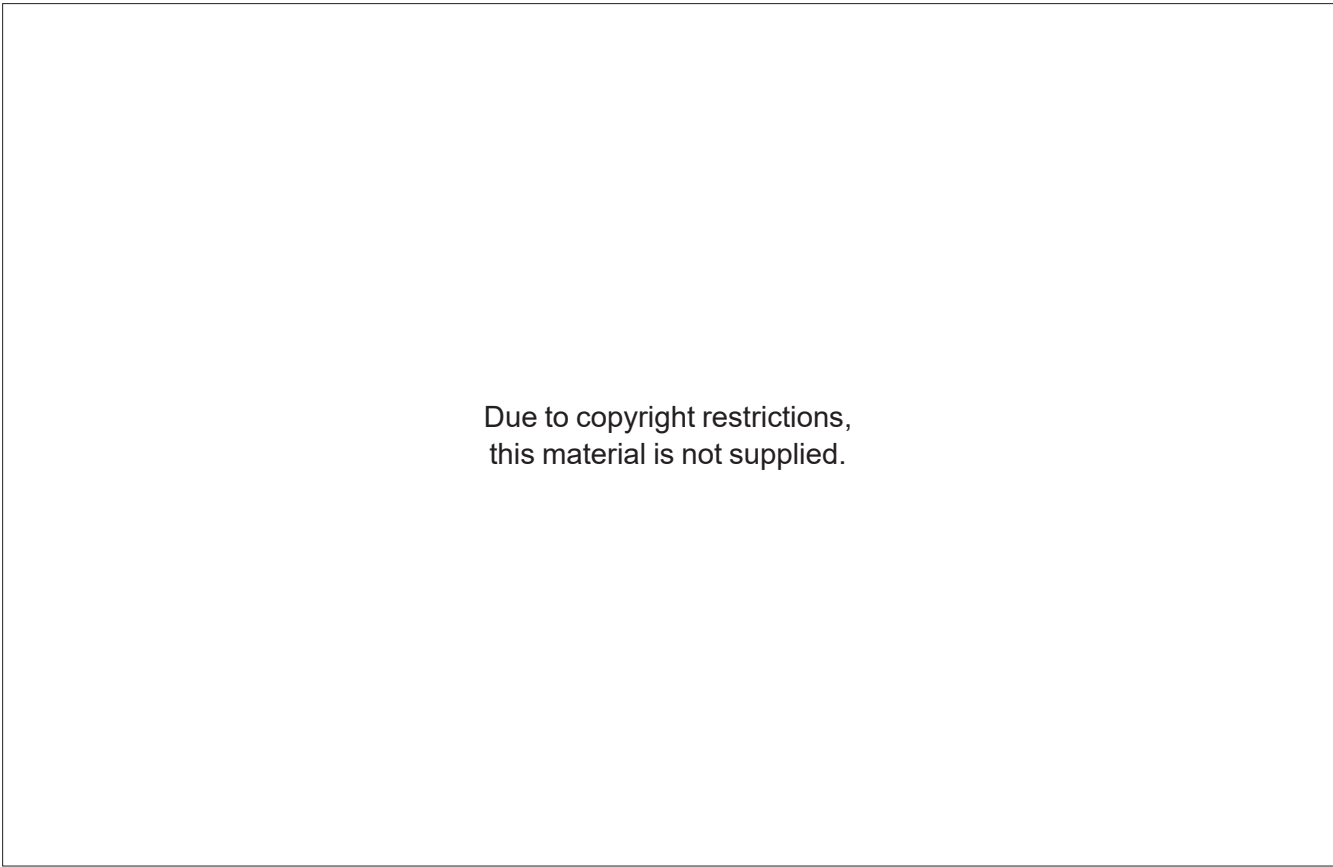
Identify **two** reasons for quarantining a horse.

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**Question 18** (4 marks)

The horse shown below is competing in an international event.



Source: Lehel International <[www.lehelinternational.com/events/blenheim-palace-international-horse-trials/](http://www.lehelinternational.com/events/blenheim-palace-international-horse-trials/)>

Identify two conformation features that would be ideal for a horse bred for international eventing. Provide a reason for each response. A reason may be used only once.

Conformation feature 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Reason 1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conformation feature 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Reason 2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do not write in this area.

**Question 19** (4 marks)

Some horse owners believe high-protein diets improve muscle development, while others caution against excessive protein intake.

Identify the role of protein in a horse's diet and explain when increased protein intake can be harmful.

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**Question 20** (6 marks)

A horse has upright shoulders, a long back and is base wide.

Predict the likely faults in the horse's movement that may arise from these conformation features and the possible soundness issues.

<b>Movement fault</b>	<b>Conformation features</b>	<b>Soundness issue</b>
	upright shoulders	
	long back	
	base wide	

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