

VCE VET Equine Studies

Sample questions

Written examination – End of year

These sample questions are intended to demonstrate how new aspects of Units 3 and 4 VCE VET Equine Studies may be examined. They do **not** constitute a full examination.

Section A – Multiple-choice questions

Question 1

Tetanus is a life-threatening disease caused by bacteria.

Which two equine systems would be affected by tetanus?

- A. respiratory and muscular
- B. nervous and muscular
- C. skeletal and digestive
- D. respiratory and digestive

Question 2

An example of a stereotypy seen in horses is

- A. kicking.
- B. napping.
- C. biting.
- D. cribbing.

SAMPLE

Question 3

A horse's stomach is relatively small compared to its body size.

What is the main implication of this?

- A. A horse will require frequent small meals.
- B. A horse will require infrequent large meals.
- C. A horse's stomach will absorb nutrients.
- D. A horse will digest fibre in its stomach.

Question 4

What is the main function of a horse's hindquarters?

- A. to balance a rider
- B. to provide forward propulsion
- C. to carry most of the horse's body weight
- D. to absorb shock from landing

Question 5

Long cannon bones in horses are desirable for

- A. increased stride frequency.
- B. increased stride length.
- C. increased stability at rest.
- D. protecting internal organs.

Question 6

Which one of the following monitoring signs would indicate that a horse's feeding program may need adjustment?

- A. elevated temperature
- B. consistent body condition
- C. weight loss despite adequate feed
- D. dermatitis on the legs

Question 7

Warts are a common illness in young horses under three years of age.

Which one of the following best describes the outcome of warts?

- A. Warts usually drop off and will not affect a horse in the long term.
- B. Warts always need veterinary treatment for removal.
- C. If left, warts will become melanomas.
- D. If left, warts will become sarcoids.

SAMPLE

Question 8

What is the normal resting heart rate of an adult horse?

- A. 8–12 bpm
- B. 30–40 bpm
- C. 60–100 bpm
- D. 120–160 bpm

Question 9

Which one of the following best describes the purpose of biosecurity practices in equine management?

- A. to protect both horses and humans during handling and riding
- B. to monitor and maintain horses' physical and mental wellbeing
- C. to prevent injury with regular hoof trimming
- D. to prevent the spread of disease

Question 10

Which one of the following blood components carries oxygen to a horse's tissues?

- A. plasma
- B. white blood cells
- C. red blood cells
- D. platelets

SAMPLE

Section B

Question 1 (5 marks)

Ringworm is a highly infectious zoonotic disease.

- a. List two symptoms of ringworm in a horse. 2 marks

- _____
- _____

- b. Describe **one** way ringworm can be transmitted from an infected horse to a human. 1 mark

- c. Name **one** equine system affected by ringworm. 1 mark

- d. Identify **one** piece of personal protective equipment (PPE) a handler should wear to avoid becoming infected when handling a horse with ringworm. 1 mark

SAMPLE

Question 2 (6 marks)

- a. Define the following equine feeding terms. 3 marks

Volume _____

Palatability _____

Digestibility _____

- b. Select one of the equine feeding terms in **part a** and explain the differences in nutritional requirements between a performance horse and an aged horse. 3 marks

Term _____

Comparison _____

Question 3 (7 marks)

Laminitis is inflammation of the laminae in the hoof and is a symptom of an underlying cause.

- a. Name **one** cause of laminitis in a horse. 1 mark

- b. Describe **two** visible symptoms of laminitis in a horse. 2 marks

- c. Explain the impact of laminitis on the function of a horse in the short term and in the long term. 4 marks

Short term _____

Long term _____

SAMPLE

Question 4 (4 marks)

Horses' teeth grow continuously and uneven wear can cause discomfort.

- a. Describe three equine behaviours that indicate a horse requires dental care. 3 marks

• _____

• _____

• _____

- b. How often should the teeth of a 10-year-old pleasure horse be checked? 1 mark

Question 5 (2 marks)

Name one internal parasite and one external parasite of a horse.

Internal parasite _____

External parasite _____

Question 6 (3 marks)

The conformation of a horse's back impacts its movement and performance.

- a. Describe the conformation fault known as 'sway back'. 1 mark

- b. List two soundness issues that commonly arise with this conformation fault. 2 marks

- _____
- _____

Question 7 (3 marks)

Identify one breed of horse and describe why a good shoulder angle is important for this breed.

Breed _____

Description _____

Question 8 (4 marks)

A horse has cut its leg and appears to have an arterial bleed.

- a. Which equine system may have been compromised? 1 mark

- b. List three emergency first-aid steps that a stablehand should take. 3 marks

- _____
- _____
- _____

Question 9 (4 marks)

You are a staff member taking care of horses at an equestrian centre.

In keeping with the guidelines of the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses, explain how you would ensure the horses' welfare is maintained during a week of extreme hot weather.

Question 10 (3 marks)

A barn houses multiple horses. One horse has specific medication and supplement requirements.

- a. Outline one safe handling practice and one distribution practice when providing medication and supplements in this horse's feed.

2 marks

Safe handling practice _____

Distribution practice _____

- b. Describe **one** consequence of this horse not receiving the correct feed.

1 mark

Answers to multiple-choice questions

Section A

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

SAMPLE