



VCE VET Equine Industry

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 Industry examination will be based on the following compulsory units of competency from Units 3 and 4.

• AHCHBR201A	Monitor horse health and welfare	Release 1	40 hours
• VPAU322	Respond to equine injury and disease	Version 7	50 hours
• SISOEQO408 A	Determine nutritional requirements for horses	Release 2	45 hours
• VPAU323	Relate equine form and function	Version 7	50 hours
• VPAM325	Equine anatomy and physiology	Version 7	40 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 examination will focus on the essential knowledge and an understanding of the essential 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 questions worth a total of 80 marks. This section will consist mostly of short- and some extended-answer questions. 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.

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE VET Equine Industry examination.

- *VCE VET Equine Industry Program Booklet* (published October 2008) and replacement pages 4 and 5 in *Program Summary: Revised Program Structure for VCE VET Equine Industry* (published December 2013)
- *VCE VET Assessment Guide* (published February 2010)
- *VCAA Bulletin VCE, VCAL and VET*

Previous Examination Reports on the written examination may also contain helpful advice.

Advice

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

The sample questions provided relate to previous versions of **VPAU322 Respond to equine injury and disease**, **VPAU323 Relate equine form and function** and **VPAM325 Equine anatomy and physiology**, and should be used only as an indication of question type.

Teachers may refer to past examination papers for examples of questions from units of competency equivalent to **AHCHBR201A Monitor horse health and welfare** and **SISOEQO408A Determine nutritional requirements for horses**.

No answers are provided for sample questions.

Sample questions

SECTION A – Multiple-choice questions

Question 1

Sprains and strains are common injuries to the equine muscular system.

Which of the following explains the difference between **sprains** and **strains**?

- A. A sprain is the same as a strain but takes longer to heal.
- B. A sprain is a tear of a ligament while a strain is a tear to a muscle.
- C. A sprain is a tear of a ligament, muscle or tendon while a strain is a pulled ligament, muscle or tendon.
- D. A sprain is a stretch and/or tear of a ligament while a strain is a twist or pull injury to a muscle or tendon.

Question 2

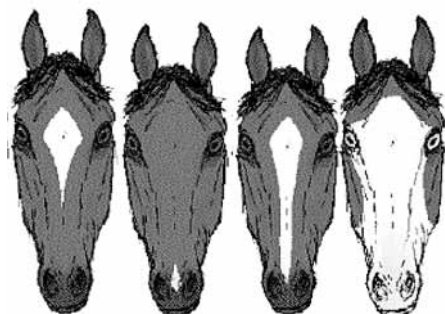
A horse has a yellowish body, a dorsal stripe and primitive markings such as zebra stripes.

The horse is a

- A. Dun.
- B. Grullo.
- C. Buckskin.
- D. Palamino.

Question 3

Refer to the following drawings.



From left to right, the face markings are

- A. star, snip, bald face, blaze.
- B. star, strip, bald face, snip.
- C. snip, apron, star, bald face.
- D. star and strip, snip, blaze, bald face.

Question 4

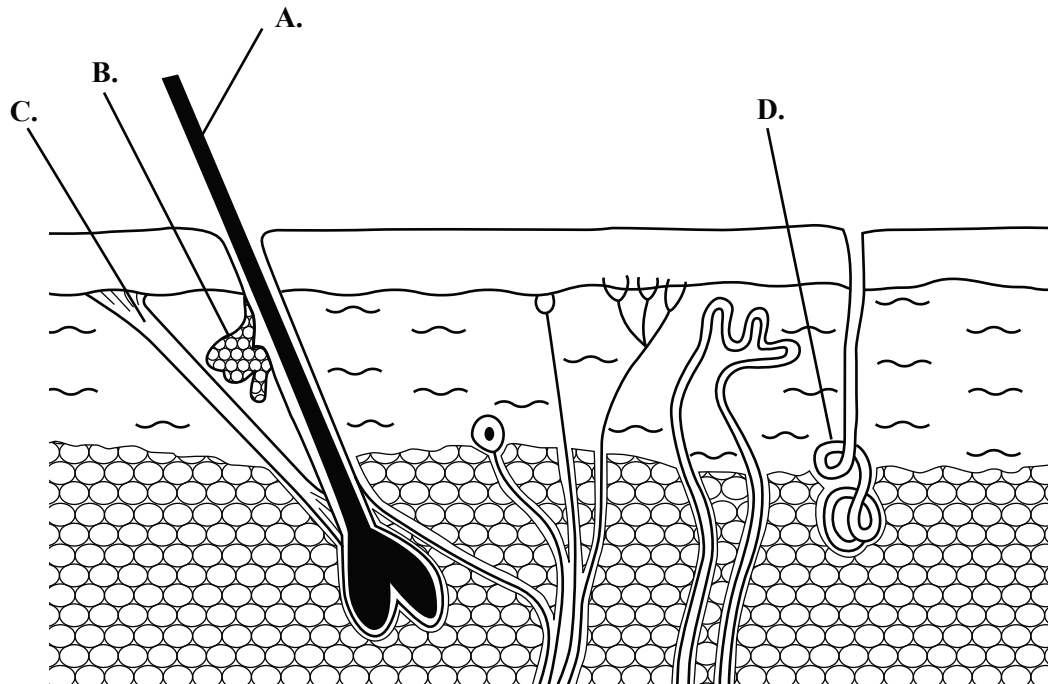
Which term describes both a colour variation and a breed of horse?

- A. Thoroughbred
- B. Quarterhorse
- C. Welsh Pony
- D. Appaloosa

Question 5

The following diagram illustrates a cross section of the skin.

Which letter corresponds to the erector muscle?



Question 6

Mud fever is caused by

- A. viruses.
- B. bacteria.
- C. fungi.
- D. parasites.

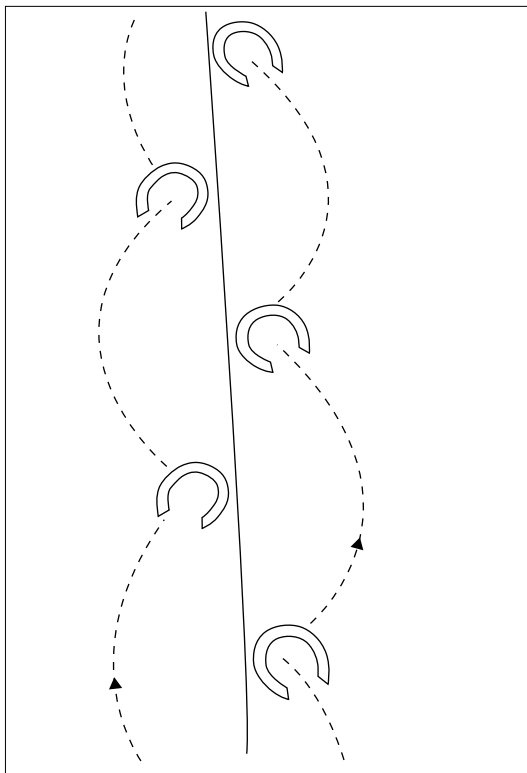
Question 7

Cryptorchidism is associated with a

- A. rig.
- B. colt.
- C. stallion.
- D. gelding.

Question 8

A horse is 'toed-in'. As a consequence the foot action sequence looks like the following.



The horse is

- A. plaiting.
- B. paddling.
- C. brushing.
- D. winging in.

Question 9

All horses need to have sound limbs. The following lists describe additional good conformation features of a dressage horse, show jumper, polo pony and an endurance (long distance) horse.

Which one of these statements relates to a **dressage** horse?

- A. high muscular withers, deep chest, sloping pasterns, short cannon bones, long forearms, large joints, well defined tendons, large hoofs
- B. laid back but high withers, high hip, thick stifle, long loin, slight downward angle of croup, relatively long and sloping femur, short cannon bones
- C. free movement of the joints, powerful hind quarters, neck not set low, throat latch clean and not thick, long sloping shoulders, relatively flat croup
- D. medium to long neck, wide but fine throat latch, shoulders well laid and muscled, short and strong back, elbows set away from the body, strong gaskins

SECTION B

Question 1

The table below lists four common conditions affecting the skeletal system of a horse. For each condition, state the most common symptom and the most common treatment.

Condition	Symptom	Treatment
navicular disease		
ringbone		
laminitis		
splints		

8 marks

Question 2

A virus has emerged in Australia. The mortality rate for horses is extremely high, with most infected animals dying from the virus. There have been a number of outbreaks of the disease; six people have become infected and three people have died. The virus commonly affects the respiratory system and symptoms similar to influenza and pneumonia often result. There is no evidence of human-to-human spread or human-to-horse spread of the disease.

There are strict quarantine guidelines; in particular people are cautioned against coming into contact with blood, saliva and other bodily fluids from infected animals.

- a. Given the above information, explain the steps that should be taken when dealing with a bleeding wound on a horse suspected of suffering from this virus.

3 marks

- b. Below is a list of some other airway conditions.

System	Condition
Upper respiratory tract	
	Epiglottic Entrapment (EE) Dorsal Displacement of the Soft Palate (DDSP)
	Roaring (Left Laryngeal Hem
	Strangles
Lower respiratory tract	
	Bacterial pneumonia/Pleuropneumonia

- i. In the left-hand column and using the correct words listed below, write which part of the respiratory system is most affected by the conditions in the right-hand column.

nostrils, lungs, pharynx/throat area, larynx, trachea

- ii. Select one upper respiratory tract condition. List the most common symptoms of that condition.

2 + 2 = 4 marks

Question 3

Horses and ponies are often categorised into four main breeds: light horse breeds, warmblood breeds, draft breeds and pony breeds.

Complete the table by naming an example of each breed.

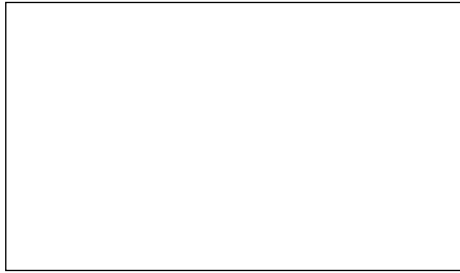
Breed	Example
light horse breeds	
warmblood breeds	
draft breeds	
pony breeds	

4 marks

Question 4

A horse is cantering on a circle on the left lead.

- a. Draw in the box below an arrow showing the direction in which the horse is moving.



1 mark

- b. The right foreleg has just left the ground. Which leg is next to hit the ground?

1 mark

- c. Two of the legs hit the ground at the same time. Which two are they?

1 mark

Question 5

A veterinarian takes a blood sample as shown in the picture below.



- a. From which blood vessel is the blood sample most frequently taken?

1 mark

The veterinarian asks you to assist her by holding the horse.

- b. i. Where should you stand?

- ii. Why should you stand there?

1 + 1 = 2 marks

c. Name two items of personal protective equipment (PPE) you should use in this situation.

1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

Question 6

To reduce the possibility of contagious diseases being brought onto the property, an agistment centre maintains a quarantine paddock. All horses spend some time in the quarantine paddock before being allowed into their permanent agistment paddock.

a. Describe how the quarantine paddock should be located in relation to other paddocks.

2 marks

On first being placed in the quarantine paddock the horse is examined for signs or symptoms of contagious diseases.

b. i. Name a skin condition which would cause concern.

ii. Name another contagious disease and list **two** signs or symptoms of this disease.

1 + 2 = 3 marks

The horse's temperature is recorded on arrival and then again a week later.

c. Explain why this is done.

2 marks

d. Name two routine illness preventative treatments which all horses would be likely to receive while in quarantine.

1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

e. What maintenance should the quarantine paddock receive between horses?

1 mark

Question 7

A horse is ridden four times a week. On removing the rug, the rider notices that there are large patches of hair loss across the back on one side of the horse and that the horse has been attempting to scratch itself. The patches are irregular in size and shape and there is a crust developing over the hairless patches.

It is decided **not** to call a veterinarian but to wash the horse with a chlorohexamine antibacterial wash, replace the rugs and check on the condition of the horse in 24 hours.

Discuss the effectiveness of this response.

In your response you should consider

- a range of possible causes of the problem
- the appropriateness of this response for each possible cause
- any appropriate alternatives.

6 marks