



# VCE VET Equine Studies

## Written examination – End of year

### Sample questions

#### SECTION A – Multiple-choice questions

##### Question 1

Horses with respiratory problems would benefit from being fed

- A. sweet feeds.
- B. extruded feeds.
- C. wholegrains.
- D. pelleted feeds.

##### Question 2

What is the average water consumption, in litres, of a healthy, 500 kg horse that is stabled, within a 24-hour period?

- A. 5–10
- B. 10–20
- C. 25–50
- D. 80–100

##### Question 3

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

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

##### Question 4

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

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

**Question 5**

The primary site for the digestion of protein is the

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

**Question 6**

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 7**

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 8**

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

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

**Question 9**

What does the palatability of a particular feed refer to?

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

**Question 10**

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 (6 marks)

A horse's diet is suddenly changed to include a significant increase in grain concentrates.

- a. Identify and explain **two** consequences that this practice could have on the horse. 4 marks

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- b. Suggest an alternative method that could be implemented to increase the grain concentrates in the horse's diet. Explain the benefit of using this method. 2 marks

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### Question 2 (7 marks)

A horse is performing hard work and sweating heavily. The horse is receiving a basic diet of roughage and concentrates.

- a. Based on this horse's diet, recommend a supplement for the horse and explain how this supplement would benefit the horse's health and performance. 3 marks

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- b. Describe what would happen if no changes are made to the horse's diet. 2 marks

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- c. Apart from diet, identify a management practice that would ensure this horse stays healthy. 2 marks

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**Question 3** (3 marks)

A pregnant mare has foaled.

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

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

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**Question 4** (6 marks)

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

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

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

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**Question 5** (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

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- c. Describe the main steps that need to be followed to treat this horse and prevent this condition from occurring again. 3 marks

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**Question 6** (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/-
<b>Automatic waterer</b>		
<b>Water bucket</b>		

**Question 7** (3 marks)

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

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**Question 8** (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

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

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

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**Question 9 (8 marks)**

Analyse the occurrence of gastric ulcers in horses.

Your response should include:

- factors contributing to the development of gastric ulcers in horses
- the impact of gastric ulcers on a horse’s health
- feeding practices to reduce the likelihood of the development of gastric ulcers in horses.

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## Answers to multiple-choice questions

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