

## **Royal College of Pathologists**

### **Examination regulations - 2010**

#### **VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY**

There are currently two veterinary examinations. The first is veterinary pathology, which is concerned with morbid anatomy and histopathology. The second is veterinary clinical pathology, which covers the disciplines of clinical biochemistry, haematology and cytology.

**The structure of the Veterinary Clinical Pathology examination has changed. These regulations apply to candidates who have not previously passed an FRCPATH examination. Candidates that have passed the old style Part 1 written examination or the complete old style Part 1 examination may elect to sit the Part 2 examination described in these regulations.**

These regulations must be read in conjunction with the *Regulations and Guidelines – College examinations for Membership and Diplomas*.

#### **ENTRY & TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

There is no specific timing for entry to the examination. Candidates should obtain guidance from their training supervisor as to when to sit the examination. Some general guidance is given below, but apart from the sequence in which the examinations can be sat is not intended to be prescriptive.

The examination is intended for graduates in veterinary medicine who have undergone suitable postgraduate training in veterinary clinical pathology. Training may be undertaken either in a full-time training (residency) post in the pathology department of a university veterinary school or in another institution able to provide a suitable training programme. Training should be as broadly based as possible and with emphasis on small domestic animals.

Training is normally conducted under the supervision of a Fellow of The Royal College of Pathologists, who should also act as the candidate's sponsor.

##### **Part 1**

Candidates will usually sit the Part 1 examination after two years' training when the candidate is in a full-time training post. Where candidates combine training with other duties, a longer training period is likely to be required.

##### **Part 2**

The Part 2 examination will usually be taken at least one year after successfully completing the Part 1 Examination and evidence of a further year of full time supervised diagnostic practice

## **STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION**

### **Part 1**

The Part 1 examination comprises a written component only.

#### **Written examination**

The written component consists of two 3-hour papers, both in three sections:

Paper 1 pathophysiology of disease

- Section 1: one essay question - choice of 1 question from 3 questions.
- Section 2: short notes questions - choice of 3 questions from 4 questions
- Section 3: short answer questions (SAQ)- 10 questions

Paper 2 basic principles of laboratory instrumentation and methods, quality control, validation of laboratory tests, laboratory management and species group clinical pathology

- Section 1 haematology and cytology: short note questions choice of 3 questions from 4 questions and SAQs - 10 questions
- Section 2 biochemistry , endocrinology: short note questions choice of 3 questions from 4 questions and SAQs - 10 questions
- Section 3 laboratory management: short note questions choice of 3 questions from 4 questions and SAQ - 10 questions

### **Part 2**

The Part 2 examination comprises a practical component only.

#### **Practical examination**

The Part 2 practical examination is a two day examination. It is made up of the following sections:

- Part 1: haematology: examination of glass slides and case data with description and interpretation required. (3 hours )
- Part 2: cytology: examination of glass slides and case data with description and interpretation required (3 hours)
- Part 3: case analysis : full case data sets for any domestic species or data sets from laboratory animals with case analysis and interpretation required (2 hours)
- Part 4: projected images: to include images from haematology, cytology, and data from biochemical/ hormonal/ immunological tests in graphic form ( 1 hour).

## **TIMING OF THE EXAMINATIONS**

The Part 1 Written examination will be offered once a year in Spring.

The Part 2 Practical examination will be offered once a year in Spring.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Candidates who have successfully passed the old format Part 1 written and practical examinations may complete the old format Part 2 oral examination when eligible. Alternatively, these candidates may sit the Part 2 examination described in these regulations. There are regulations for Veterinary Clinical Pathology - Old examination format available on the website at [www.rcpath.org/exams](http://www.rcpath.org/exams)

Examinations Department  
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