Royal College of Pathologists

Examination regulations - 2010

VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY – Old examination format

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 only apply to candidates who have passed the FRCPath Part 1 practical examination before January 2009.

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

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates who have attempted but not passed the old format Part 1 written and practical examination must sit the new format Part 1 examination.

Candidates who have successfully passed the entire old format Part 1 written and practical examinations may complete the old format Part 2 examination when eligible.

Candidates will usually sit the Part 2 examination after two further years' training following passing old format Part 1 written and practical examinations.

STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

Part 2

Candidates for the Part 2 examination may elect to specialise either in one of the component disciplines of veterinary clinical pathology, i.e. clinical chemistry, haematology or cytology or in the clinical pathology of a species group recognised by the College.

The Part 2 examination comprises an oral examination following the award of a pass with respect to one of the following written options:

- a dissertation
- a doctorate thesis (DVM, PhD or equivalent)
- a collection of refereed published papers

For further guidance on the written options, please see the section on 'Guidance for candidates undertaking written options for the Part 2 examination' in the Regulations and Guidelines – College examinations for Membership and Diplomas.

The written option must be submitted to the College **at least six months before** the beginning of the Part 2 examination period for which the candidate wishes to enter. Candidates will not be allowed to sit the oral examination until the written option has been awarded a pass mark by the examiners

The oral examination is conducted by two examiners and lasts approximately one hour. Successful candidates must be able to demonstrate a level of competence appropriate for unsupervised practice at consultant level, an ability to provide expert advice and interpretation in veterinary clinical pathology and familiarity with current scientific advances in their speciality.

Candidates will also be expected to demonstrate comprehension of the main issues related to laboratory management including management structures, budgetary control, audit, health and safety at work, quality assurance and training.

The oral examination may include questions related to the project work (i.e. one of the options listed above) submitted as the other component of the Part 2 examination but this is not obligatory.

TIMING OF THE EXAMINATIONS

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

Examinations Department.
The Royal College of Pathologists
November 2009