

## **Royal College of Pathologists**

### **Examination regulations - 2018**

#### **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.

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

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.

Candidates are strongly advised to select a Sponsor/supervisor who will actively provide guidance and support during training and examination preparation.

##### **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 a further year of full time supervised diagnostic practice. Candidates will be required to provide a written recommendation from their supervisor/sponsor of fitness to sit the exam with details of activities undertaken in veterinary pathology since passing Part 1.

## **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

The Part 1 examination will be offered for the final time in this format in 2017. From 2018 all candidates will take the new format Part 1 examination comprising of two structured SAQ papers of 20 questions each.

### **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.

Examinations Department  
The Royal College of Pathologists  
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