PROGRAM FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF VETERINARY EDUCATION (PAVE) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

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How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. Schistocytes on a blood smear indicate which condition?

A. Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)

B. Iron Deficiency Anemia

C. Aplastic Anemia

D. Polycythemia

2. What is the mechanism of action of activated charcoal?

A. Inhibits hepatic metabolism

B. Binds to toxins & prevents GIT absorption

C. Neutralizes toxins chemically

D. Increases gastric pH

3. In treating Sarcoptes mange in dogs, which topical insecticide is listed as an option?

A. Ivermectin

B. Selamectin

C. Fipronil

D. Permethrin

4. To lyse a large corpus luteum around day 230 in a cow and induce estrus, which pharmacologic combination is used?

A. Prostaglandin alone

B. Corticosteroids alone

C. Prostaglandin & corticosteroids

D. Oxytocin

5. What is the most common urolith type in dogs?

A. Struvite

B. Calcium Oxalate

C. Uric Acid

D. Cystine

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6. The splenic ligament in the horse connects the spleen to which organ?

A. Left kidney

B. Liver

C. Stomach

D. Pancreas

7. A dog presents with craniocaudal movement of the stifle. What is the most likely diagnosis?

A. CCL rupture

B. Patellar luxation

C. Hip dysplasia

D. OCD

8. In an adult cow with RDA showing metabolic alkalosis, hypochloremia, and hypokalemia, which intravenous fluids are indicated?

A. Isotonic saline without potassium

B. Saline fluids with KCl

C. Dextrose solutions

D. Lactated Ringer's solution

9. Anaplasma infection in cows is most commonly seen in which age group?

A. 0-1 year

B. 2-4 years

C. 5-7 years

D. Adults over 8 years

10. Which dog breed is commonly associated with congenital tracheal hypoplasia?

A. English bulldog

B. Beagle

C. Pug

D. Chihuahua

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Answers

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1. A
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. B
9. B
10. A

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Explanations

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1. Schistocytes on a blood smear indicate which condition?

A. Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)

B. Iron Deficiency Anemia

C. Aplastic Anemia

D. Polycythemia

Schistocytes are fragmented red blood cells formed when circulating RBCs are sheared as they pass through damaged microvasculature. This pattern signals intravascular hemolysis from a microangiopathic process, most commonly seen with disseminated intravascular coagulation, where widespread clotting leads to the formation of microthrombi that shear red cells. Iron deficiency anemia typically shows small, pale red cells (microcytosis) and does not produce lots of fragmented cells. Aplastic anemia presents with pancytopenia and a hypocellular marrow rather than fragmented RBCs on the smear. Polycythemia indicates an increased red cell mass rather than evidence of intravascular destruction. So the presence of schistocytes most aligns with disseminated intravascular coagulation.

2. What is the mechanism of action of activated charcoal?

A. Inhibits hepatic metabolism

B. Binds to toxins & prevents GIT absorption

C. Neutralizes toxins chemically

D. Increases gastric pH

Activated charcoal works by adsorption, using its highly porous surface to trap many toxins as they pass through the gastrointestinal tract. This physical binding keeps the toxins from crossing into the bloodstream, reducing their systemic effects. It does not chemically neutralize toxins or react with them, so it won't inactivate toxins through a chemical change. It also does not alter gastric pH or affect hepatic metabolism. It's most effective when given soon after ingestion and has limits—for example, it's not reliable for certain substances like some metals, alcohols, caustics, or hydrocarbons, and it can interfere with the absorption of other orally administered drugs.

3. In treating Sarcoptes mange in dogs, which topical insecticide is listed as an option?

A. Ivermectin

B. Selamectin

C. Fipronil

D. Permethrin

Selamectin is the topical option used to treat Sarcoptes mange in dogs. It's applied to the skin and works against mites that infest the surface and hair follicles, making it effective for this condition. As a macrocyclic lactone, it disrupts parasite nerve signaling by opening chloride channels, causing paralysis and death of the mites while being suitable for topical use in dogs. Other choices don't fit as well for topical treatment of sarcoptic mange. Ivermectin is typically systemic rather than a topical insecticide, so it isn't the topical option here. Fipronil targets fleas and ticks and isn't the standard choice for treating Sarcoptes mites. Permethrin is mainly used for fleas/ticks and is unsafe for cats; it's not a common or recommended therapy for canine sarcoptic mange.

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4. To lyse a large corpus luteum around day 230 in a cow and induce estrus, which pharmacologic combination is used?

A. Prostaglandin alone

B. Corticosteroids alone

C. Prostaglandin & corticosteroids

D. Oxytocin

To end the function of the corpus luteum and bring the cow back into estrus, you need to stop progesterone production. Prostaglandin F2α is the primary luteolytic agent that induces regression of the CL, leading to a drop in progesterone and a new luteolytic cascade. However, a very large corpus luteum, especially late in diestrus or near term, can be more resistant to prostaglandin alone. Adding a corticosteroid helps enhance luteolysis by further suppressing progesterone synthesis and promoting the luteolytic response, making the regression more reliable and faster. So combining prostaglandin with a corticosteroid provides a stronger, more consistent way to lyse a large CL and trigger estrus. Prostaglandin alone can be less effective in this situation, corticosteroids alone don't cause luteolysis, and oxytocin does not lyse the CL.

5. What is the most common urolith type in dogs?

A. Struvite

B. Calcium Oxalate

C. Uric Acid

D. Cystine

Struvite stones are the most common uroliths in dogs. They form in alkaline urine, often in the setting of a urinary tract infection caused by urease-producing bacteria (for example, Proteus or some Staphylococcus species). The stone is composed of magnesium ammonium phosphate, and these infections-driven stones tend to be radiopaque on imaging. Because the underlying issue is the infection and the stone's chemical makeup, they're often amenable to medical dissolution with a urine-acidifying diet and antibiotics after treating the infection. Calcium oxalate stones are not infection-related and are less readily dissolved, requiring removal in many cases. Uric acid stones are less common in dogs and linked to metabolic issues or specific breeds, while cystine stones are rare.

6. The splenic ligament in the horse connects the spleen to which organ?

A. Left kidney

B. Liver

C. Stomach

D. Pancreas

The spleen is held in place by peritoneal attachments that connect it to nearby organs. The ligament that directly links the spleen to the left kidney is the splenorenal (lienorenal) ligament. This connection helps stabilize the spleen in the left side of the abdomen and, in the horse, may even carry the tail of the pancreas within it. There are other splenic connections too, such as the gastrosplenic ligament to the stomach, but when identifying the splenic ligament's target, the left kidney is the correct partner.

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7. A dog presents with craniocaudal movement of the stifle. What is the most likely diagnosis?

A. CCL rupture

B. Patellar luxation

C. Hip dysplasia

D. OCD

The key concept is joint stability of the stifle and how a torn cranial cruciate ligament presents. When the cranial cruciate ligament is intact, the tibia is held from moving forward relative to the femur as the joint bears weight. If this ligament ruptures, the tibia can translate cranially relative to the femur during loading, producing a movement of the entire stifle in the cranial direction known as the cranial tibial thrust or a cranial drawer sign. This craniocaudal movement is classic for a cranial cruciate ligament rupture in dogs and explains the observed lameness and instability. Patellar luxation involves abnormal tracking of the kneecap rather than translation of the tibia within the stifle. Hip dysplasia affects the hip joint and presents with signs related to the hip rather than cranial translation of the stifle. OCD refers to cartilage lesions that cause joint pain and effusion, not a specific stifle translation sign.

8. In an adult cow with RDA showing metabolic alkalosis, hypochloremia, and hypokalemia, which intravenous fluids are indicated?

A. Isotonic saline without potassium

B. Saline fluids with KCl

C. Dextrose solutions

D. Lactated Ringer's solution

When a cow with an RDA presents with metabolic alkalosis and electrolyte losses, the goal of fluid therapy is to restore circulating volume while correcting the chloride and potassium deficits that are driving the alkalosis. Providing an intravenous fluid that adds chloride and potassium directly addresses these imbalances. Isotonic saline with potassium chloride supplies the missing chloride to reduce the alkalosis and supplies potassium to treat hypokalemia, helping to re-establish normal acid–base and electrolyte balance. Fluids without potassium wouldn't fix the potassium deficit and could perpetuate the alkalosis. Dextrose solutions don't correct chloride or potassium and can cause insulin-driven shifts that lower serum potassium further. Lactated Ringer's brings in lactate that is converted to bicarbonate, which can worsen metabolic alkalosis, and it contains only a limited amount of potassium.

9. Anaplasma infection in cows is most commonly seen in which age group?

A. 0-1 year

B. 2-4 years

C. 5-7 years

D. Adults over 8 years

Anaplasma marginale infection in cattle tends to cause clinically noticeable disease most often in animals that are past the neonatal period but not very old. Calves under a year usually have maternal antibodies and milder or subclinical infections, so they're less likely to show obvious illness. In very old cattle, prior exposure and acquired immunity, along with management practices, often reduce the chance or severity of clinical disease. The two- to four-year-old group sits in the sweet spot: their immune system is mature and they have had enough opportunity for vector exposure to permit meaningful parasitemia, but they haven't yet developed strong, lasting immunity or management-related protection. When infection becomes evident, these animals commonly show anemia and related signs, making this age range the one most frequently seen with clinical anaplasmosis.

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10. Which dog breed is commonly associated with congenital tracheal hypoplasia?

A. English bulldog

B. Beagle

C. Pug

D. Chihuahua

Congenital tracheal hypoplasia is a birth condition where the trachea is underdeveloped, producing a narrowed airway that can cause coughing, wheezing, and exercise intolerance. It is especially common in brachycephalic breeds, whose short skull and altered airway development predispose them to tracheal and other airway abnormalities. The English bulldog is a classic example in veterinary teaching because its extreme brachycephalic conformation frequently comes with a hypoplastic trachea, making this association widely recognized. In clinical practice, you might see noisy inspiration and coughing, and radiographs often show a tracheal diameter that is small for the size of the thorax. While other small brachycephalic breeds (like pug or Chihuahua) can have tracheal hypoplasia, the bulldog is particularly noted for this congenital airway issue.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

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We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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