



Examiners' Report Lead Examiner Feedback

January 2021

Pearson BTEC Firsts in Animal (21883G)
Unit 1: Animal Health

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications come from Pearson, the world's leading learning company. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications website at <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html> for our BTEC qualifications.

Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/contact-us.html>

If you have any subject specific questions about this specification that require the help of a subject specialist, you can speak directly to the subject team at Pearson. Their contact details can be found on this link:
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-for-you/teachers.html>

You can also use our online Ask the Expert service at <https://www.edexcelonline.com>
You will need an Edexcel Online username and password to access this service.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your learners at: www.pearson.com/uk

January 2021

Publications Code 21883G_2021_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2021

Introduction to the Overall Performance of the Unit

With no exam being held in summer 2020 this was the tenth series of this exam and due to the Government restrictions because of the Covid 19 pandemic approximately a third of the registered learners sat the exam. Despite the disruption of the year the learners performed well, and the paper was well answered. All questions were attempted by the learners, with some learners demonstrating a clear ability to apply the knowledge learnt from all areas of the specification. In general, learners had a good grasp of knowledge from across the whole of the unit content and areas which have appeared weak in the past have been developed e.g. knowledge on mites and vector transmitted diseases. There were no questions where the majority of learners struggled. It was however apparent that in some instances learners are being taught the terminology without actually understanding the meaning of the word, as evidence by the number of learners who were unclear on the definition of lethargy.

This paper was able to evidence effective ramping of the questions, with there being an obvious drop off point where pass level learners struggled to access marks in questions which were targeted at merit or distinction learners. The 8-mark question was also highly effective in discriminating the level of learner as the candidates as the depth of discussion varied from a list of actions to in depth discussions as to why each action should occur.

Individual Questions

Question 1 – 5

Questions one through to five were multiple choice questions covering a range of content. As basic recall questions these were generally very well answered.

Where incorrect answers were provided there was no pattern in the incorrect responses selected.

Question 6

In order to access the two marks for question 6 learners were required to state two checks carried out on a dog's paw during a health check. Most learners were able to obtain both marks in this question and a range of answers were seen ranging from length of nails, pain when touched, swelling and presence of parasites.

2 Marks awarded: Two correct responses.

6 State **two** checks carried out on a dog's paw when health checking.

- 1 check if there is any cracking of the paw
- 2 ~~check~~ check if there is ~~redness~~ redness between each toe

(Total for Question 6 = 2 marks)

Question 7

Question 7 was a very well answered question. Learners were expected to state one sign of healthy scales in bearded dragons. Virtually all learners accessed the marks for this question. Where marks were lost it was due to the learner discussing general signs of health rather than those specifically related to scales.

1 mark awarded: One correct disease identified.

7 State **one** sign of healthy scales in a bearded dragon.

One sign of healthy scales in bearded dragons is for the scales to be shiny.

(Total for Question 7 = 1 mark)

Question 8

This was a 2 mark question. Learners were expected to state two zoonotic diseases. The question was very well answered with the majority of learners achieving both marks. A wide variety of correct answers were seen, including orf, leptospirosis, avian flu and salmonella. Where marks were lost this was generally due to the learners stating a parasite rather than a disease.

2 Marks awarded Two correct answers provided.

8 State **two** zoonotic diseases.

1 Ringworm

2 Lyme disease.

Question 9

This was a two-mark question where learners were asked to state two reasons why an animal would be weighed weekly. Most learners attempted the question but were only accessing one mark by repeating the same answer - i.e. to check they are healthy, to check if they are losing weight / to check they are gaining weight. The question was specifically looking for reasons why weekly weighing would occur and therefore answers should reference potential causes of weight loss or gain.

9 State **two** reasons why an animal would be weighed weekly.

1 To keep the animal at a normal weight
2 To make sure the animal isn't ^{too} ^{thin} ^{or} ^{too} ^{fat} ^{losing} ^{weight}.

(Total for Question 9 = 2 marks)

1 mark awarded: Monitor weight (1). The second answer was a repeat of the first answer and therefore not rewardable

9 State **two** reasons why an animal would be weighed weekly.

1 *It is a very young animal.*

2 ~~It is a very young animal~~ *It is pregnant.*

(Total for Question 9 = 2 marks)

2 marks awarded: Two correct responses

Question 10

This question expected learners to apply knowledge of veterinary blood tests. A wide variety of answers were accepted, and the full range of answers were seen. Most learners attempted the question and were providing accurate answers.

10 Vets may carry out blood tests.

State **two** examples of what the blood is tested for.

1 *Platelet count*

2 *Blood sugar levels*

(Total for Question 10 = 2 marks)

2 marks awarded: 2 correct responses.

Question 11

To gain the marks for this question learners were asked to describe two signs of a healthy anogenital area in cats. This question was well answered with most learners attempting an answer. A wide variety of answers were seen including generic 'free of discharge / clear / clean' but also very specific answers relating to tapeworm segments and anal glands.

11 State **two** signs of a healthy anogenital area in a cat.

1 There shouldn't be any faecal matter stuck in the fur around the anus, it should be clean.

2 A healthy anogenital area should be free from any parasite eggs in the fur surrounding it.

(Total for Question 11 = 2 marks)

2 Marks awarded: The learner has provided variety of answers; however the rewardable answers were: clear of faecal matter (1), no signs of parasites (1)

Question 12

This explain question was worth 2 marks. To obtain marks learners had to apply their knowledge temperature taking and explain why lubrication is used. Most learners appeared familiar with the term lubrication and were able to identify it made the procedure more comfortable for the animal, but this was often not followed up with an explanation as to how it made the procedure more comfortable.

12 Explain **one** reason why lubrication is used when inserting an anal thermometer.

* Lubricant is used so it is easier to insert into the animal and will not cause pain.

(Total for Question 12 = 2 marks)

2 Marks awarded: easier to insert (1) reduce pain (1)

Question 13

Question 13 was for 1 mark. Learners were expected to define the term: lethargic. While the majority of learners were able to provide an accurate description there were a significant number of learners who did not attempt this question or who provided a generic answers such as 'ill health' and failed to access the mark.

13 State what is meant by lethargic.

lethargic means, a lack of energy.

(Total for Question 13 = 1 mark)

1 mark awarded

Question 14

This was a 2 mark question that required learners to state features of a dog with a condition score of 1. Most learners were able to identify that a score of 1 would indicate severe weight loss. Where marks were lost is was often due to learners providing answers such as neglected / badly treated / bald patches rather than focusing the physical descriptions. There were also learners who simply provided descriptions of poor health and therefore were not accessing any of the marks.

14 State **two** features of a dog with a condition score of 1.

1 The ribs would be showing.

2 No abdominal fat.

(Total for Question 14 = 2 marks)

2 Marks awarded: Two correct responses

14 State **two** features of a dog with a condition score of 1.

1 rigid and dull coat

2 dull or red eyes

(Total for Question 14 = 2 marks)

0 Marks awarded: Description of ill health, not a description of condition score 1.

Question 15

For one mark learners were asked to state one type of mite found in chickens. Traditionally learners struggle with mite questions, and while there were a number of learners who were able to identify appropriate mites the majority of learners still struggled with this question.

0 Mark awarded: Incorrect answer provided

15 State **one** type of mite found on chickens.

~~chick~~ ticks, fleas

(Total for Question 15 = 1 mark)

Question 16

Learners were required to state two diseases that are transmitted by vectors. This question split the learners, with learners either correctly accessing both marks or not accessing any.

16 State **two** diseases that are transmitted by vectors.

1 Lyme disease

2 myxomatosis

(Total for Question 16 = 2 marks)

2 Marks awarded Two correct answers provided

Question 17

In order to achieve these four marks learners had to explain two reasons why PPE should be worn when working with animals. Learners were generally able to state reasons but failed to offer the full explanation and therefore lost marks.

17 Explain **two** reasons why Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be worn when working with animals.

1 PPE will keep you safe when dealing with a sick/injured animal if the disease is zoonotic. It prevents easily spread diseases from infecting you as easily.

2 As well as this, if you are working with an aggressive animal, PPE can help avoid more serious injury, and can help prevent illnesses spread through bites/scratches.

(Total for Question 17 = 4 marks)

4 Marks awarded: Personal health (1) Reduces risk of zoonotic disease (1). Prevents injury (1) from bites/scratches/aggressive animals (1)

Question 18(a)

This is a higher-level question, requiring the application of knowledge regarding pieces of restraint equipment. As question which targets merit and distinction marks the restraint equipment listed was some of the more unusual equipment from within the unit content. The responses to the question varied, with many learners leaving at least one of the answer spaces empty. Slightly more learners were able to provide correct answers regarding the crush cage, either viewing it as a large animal crush or a smaller crush cage for aggressive animals – both of which were rewardable.

18 (a) When working with animals, effective restraint is necessary.

Explain the reasons why the following pieces of restraint equipment would be used:

- pillow case
- crush cage.

(4)

Pillow case

Use the pillow case on reptiles, so it doesn't move off the weight and it is easy to move around.

Crush cage

Use on cattle, so that the animal is unable to move and if it becomes violent it won't injure itself or the person.

4 marks awarded: Used for reptiles (1) when weighing (1)
Used for large animals (1) to protect handler (1)

Question 18(b)

Question 18b required learners to explain two treatments for a rabbit with myxomatosis. As the question specifically states treatments answers involving isolating, vaccinating and euthanising the animal were not rewardable. Many learners were able to demonstrate depth of knowledge in relation to the treatments commenting on secondary infections and supportive care.

(b) Explain **two** treatments for a rabbit with myxomatosis.

(4)

- 1 giving antibiotics to avoid a secondary bacterial infection as the rabbit's immune system would be weakened by myxomatosis
- 2 bathing the eyes with warm water to clean away discharge which would prevent the rabbit from being able to open its eyes.

(Total for Question 18 = 8 marks)

4 marks awarded: antibiotics (1) for secondary infection (1)
Bathe eyes (1) to relieve symptoms (1)

(b) Explain **two** treatments for a rabbit with myxomatosis.

(4)

- 1 If your Rabbit ^{has} got myxomatosis ~~is showing signs~~ you would need to inject the ~~an~~ rabbit ^{with} a vaccine ~~to~~ ^{treat} ~~get rid~~ of the rabbit with myxomatosis.
- 2 Isolating the rabbit will prevent others from getting it and will also give the animal time to recover.

(Total for Question 18 = 8 marks)

0 Marks awarded: answers are not treatments.

Question 19

This was a 4 mark question where learners were asked to explain two effects that tapeworm can have on an animal's health. Most learners were able to identify the causes but lost marks by not linking them to a correct explanation.

19 Explain **two** effects that tapeworm can have on an animal's health.

1 A tape worm can cause weight loss of an animal as well as lethargy

2 it can make an animal lose its appetite and also take a toll on its mental capacity

2 Marks awarded: Two features identified but no explanations provided.

Question 20

Learners were asked to discuss the actions to be taken when an animal on a city farm develops red, circular lesions. In order to access full marks learners were required to correctly identify the condition as ringworm and then discuss appropriate action to prevent the spread of the zoonotic disease to both other animals and humans. Even learners who were unable to identify the condition were able to access marks through discussing the use of PPE and isolating the animal. A number of learners lost focus and discussed in detail how to health check the animal and therefore were not able to access the higher marks.

heard of sheep is advised as you do not wish to directly or indirectly spread the disease to any other mammals in the sanctuary. Sterilize any areas you have touched whilst wearing the gloves such as restraining equipment or the bottle of antifungal cream so you can prevent the spread. Also record the dosage applied in order not to overdose or be ineffective, ~~also~~ However, you should have ~~also~~ researched the correct dosage for the animal and its size plus any reactions to any other drugs that have been administered therefore you do not cause unwanted chemical reactions. This is why recording is important. "

Fella should also check for other diseases depending on the animals and do a visual check daily and physical check weekly if possible also weighing animals on a monthly basis but for goats 6-12 months. Also check for local known diseases such as Cryptosporidiosis, TB or avian bird flu to name a few. This will ensure that any unwanted diseases won't enter your farm through wild animals and plan accordingly to try and prevent these. Check for correct disposal of animal carcasses and faeces disposal to stop the spread of parasites and diseases through vectors.

8 marks awarded: The learner has provided a comprehensive answer, identifying the condition correctly and discussing in detail a range of actions which should be carried out.

Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, learners should:

- Be clear on the definitions of the all terminology within the specification
- Continue to develop the correct approach to answering explain questions
- Ensure they read the question carefully, answering the question asked
- Recognise that to obtain high marks in the extended answer question they need to provide a discussion within their answer rather than just stating lots of different actions



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
with its registered office at 80 Strand, London, WC2R 0RL, United Kingdom

