

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.

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!

Questions

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- 1. Inutero infection with which virus can cause cerebellar hypoplasia in calves?**
 - A. Postnatal Infection with BVD Virus
 - B. In Utero Infection with BVD Virus
 - C. Bluetongue Virus Infection
 - D. BVD Vaccine Reaction
- 2. In snakes, the 'Red mite' is commonly associated with infection by which bacterium?**
 - A. Staphylococcus
 - B. Salmonella
 - C. Aeromonas
 - D. Escherichia coli
- 3. Diffenbachia (dumbcane) ingestion in goats typically causes which condition?**
 - A. Stomatitis
 - B. Colic
 - C. Diarrhea
 - D. Anemia
- 4. Palmar nerve block would desensitize which structure innervated by the palmar nerves?**
 - A. Navicular bone
 - B. Lateral digital cushion
 - C. Carpal bones
 - D. Carpus joints
- 5. Ketamine is classified as which type of anesthetic agent?**
 - A. Opiate
 - B. Dissociative
 - C. Local anesthetic
 - D. Inhalant

- 6. Which condition should be suspected in a fast-growing Thoroughbred with progressive ataxia starting from the hind limbs?**
- A. Equine viral arteritis
 - B. Cerebellar hypoplasia
 - C. Wobbler's disease (cervical vertebral instability)
 - D. Meningitis
- 7. What would be your diagnostic plan for a red/pink raised plaque on a cat's eye?**
- A. Test for FeLV/FIV and cytology
 - B. Refer for MRI
 - C. Start systemic steroids
 - D. Culture and sensitivity only
- 8. Senecio poisoning in horses primarily affects which organ system?**
- A. Liver
 - B. Kidneys
 - C. Heart
 - D. Lungs
- 9. Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) causes which type of lesions?**
- A. Suppurative, granulomatous, modified transudate
 - B. Fibrotic lesions
 - C. Necrotizing vasculitis
 - D. Granulomatous with caseating necrosis
- 10. Which combination of animal groups are commonly associated with reservoirs for zoonotic Type A influenza?**
- A. Waterfowl
 - B. Pigs
 - C. Waterfowl and pigs
 - D. Cats

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In utero infection with which virus can cause cerebellar hypoplasia in calves?

- A. Postnatal Infection with BVD Virus
- B. In Utero Infection with BVD Virus**
- C. Bluetongue Virus Infection
- D. BVD Vaccine Reaction

Viral infection during pregnancy can disrupt the development of the fetal brain, and the timing of that infection is crucial. Bovine viral diarrhoea virus acting in utero during the period when the cerebellum is forming interrupts normal cerebellar development, leading to cerebellar hypoplasia at birth. The resulting calves often show ataxia, tremors, and a wide-based stance due to impaired cerebellar function. If infection occurs after birth, the cerebellum isn't still forming, so cerebellar hypoplasia doesn't develop. A vaccine reaction is not the typical cause of this congenital defect. While Bluetongue can cause fetal abnormalities if the dam is infected during pregnancy, the classic or most repeatedly tested cause of cerebellar hypoplasia in calves is in utero infection with BVD virus.

2. In snakes, the 'Red mite' is commonly associated with infection by which bacterium?

- A. Staphylococcus
- B. Salmonella
- C. Aeromonas**
- D. Escherichia coli

Red mites in snakes signal poor husbandry and cause skin irritation and tissue damage. When the skin barrier is compromised and the enclosure conditions are moist or aquatic, opportunistic bacteria in the environment can invade more easily. Aeromonas species are common in freshwater settings and are known to cause infections in reptiles, including dermatitis and septicemia, especially when snakes are stressed or immunocompromised. The mites can contribute by harboring or transmitting these bacteria from the environment to the snake, making Aeromonas a typical culprit in mite-associated infections. While other bacteria like Staphylococcus or E. coli can cause reptile infections and Salmonella is a notable reptile-associated pathogen, the link most specifically emphasized with red mite infestations in snakes is Aeromonas.

3. Diffenbachia (dumbcane) ingestion in goats typically causes which condition?

- A. Stomatitis**
- B. Colic
- C. Diarrhea
- D. Anemia

Diffenbachia contains calcium oxalate crystals that irritate mucous membranes. When goats ingest it, the most common and characteristic effect is inflammation of the oral mucosa, i.e., stomatitis. The crystals cause mechanical irritation and local inflammatory damage, leading to painful mouth, drooling, swelling of the lips or tongue, and sometimes oral ulcers. Because the mouth and oral throat are the first exposed areas, stomatitis is the hallmark sign. Colic would imply abdominal pain from GI issues, which isn't the typical presentation for this plant in goats. Diarrhea and anemia aren't expected primary effects here; diarrhea isn't characteristic of this oral irritation, and anemia would suggest a longer-term or different toxin effect not produced by this plant's immediate mucosal irritants.

4. Palmar nerve block would desensitize which structure innervated by the palmar nerves?

- A. Navicular bone**
- B. Lateral digital cushion
- C. Carpal bones
- D. Carpus joints

Palmar nerves carry sensory signals from the palmar aspect of the distal limb, including the coffin region. The navicular bone (coffin bone) is a structure that is innervated by these palmar digital nerves, so a palmar nerve block stops pain signals from that bone. This is why desensitizing the navicular bone is a classic outcome of a palmar nerve block and is often used to localize navicular disease or coffin-area pain. The other structures listed are not the primary targets for this block in the same way. The carpal bones and carpus joints are proximal and receive innervation from multiple sources, not solely the palmar nerves at the distal limb. The lateral digital cushion is also related to the palmar digital nerves, but the navicular bone is the hallmark structure classically desensitized by a palmar nerve block in this context.

5. Ketamine is classified as which type of anesthetic agent?

- A. Opiate
- B. Dissociative**
- C. Local anesthetic
- D. Inhalant

Ketamine is a dissociative anesthetic. It produces anesthesia by blocking NMDA receptors in the brain, which creates a dissociated state where the patient is analgesic and amnesic but may remain awake or have only partial sedation with preserved airway reflexes and spontaneous breathing. This mechanism and clinical profile set it apart from other categories: opiates mainly provide analgesia with risk of respiratory depression; local anesthetics numb a specific region without full unconsciousness; inhalants are volatile general anesthetics delivered by inhalation that depress consciousness more uniformly. Ketamine's dissociative state also often brings analgesia and can cause sympathetic stimulation, helping in certain clinical scenarios.

6. Which condition should be suspected in a fast-growing Thoroughbred with progressive ataxia starting from the hind limbs?

- A. Equine viral arteritis
- B. Cerebellar hypoplasia
- C. Wobbler's disease (cervical vertebral instability)**
- D. Meningitis

When a fast-growing young Thoroughbred develops progressive ataxia that starts in the hind limbs, think of cervical spinal cord compression from vertebral instability—Wobbler's disease. As the horse grows, malalignment or instability of the cervical vertebrae can cause dynamic compression of the spinal cord, and proprioceptive and coordination deficits often appear first in the hind limbs with progression over time. This pattern aligns with a spinal origin in the neck, rather than a systemic or brain-related issue. Equine viral arteritis would present with systemic signs like fever and respiratory or systemic illness rather than a focal, progressive hindlimb ataxia tied to growth. Cerebellar hypoplasia typically shows signs from birth, such as tremors and ataxia involving the head and trunk, not a hindlimb-predominant, progressive gait in a growing horse. Meningitis would also present with fever, depression, neck stiffness, and systemic signs, not the isolated, hindlimb-first ataxia seen with cervical spinal cord compression. So the pattern described best fits Wobbler's disease, the cervical vertebral instability causing spinal cord compression in a rapidly growing horse.

7. What would be your diagnostic plan for a red/pink raised plaque on a cat's eye?

- A. Test for FeLV/FIV and cytology**
- B. Refer for MRI
- C. Start systemic steroids
- D. Culture and sensitivity only

Evaluating a red/pink raised plaque on a cat's eye starts with combining systemic risk assessment with local tissue evaluation. The lesion could be inflammatory, infectious, or neoplastic, and a cat's retroviral status can influence both the likelihood of certain diseases and the management plan. Testing for FeLV and FIV helps identify underlying immune compromise or systemic disease that can predispose to ocular neoplasia (like lymphoma or squamous cell carcinoma) or unusual infections. Cytology of the lesion—collected by impression smear or fine-needle aspiration—provides a quick look at the cells inside the plaque. It helps distinguish inflammatory cells from infectious organisms and from malignant cells, guiding whether the lesion is more likely an inflammatory/infectious process or a neoplastic one and what kind of biopsy or further imaging might be needed. Starting systemic steroids is not ideal upfront because they can mask infection or alter the appearance of neoplastic processes, potentially delaying an accurate diagnosis. Culture and sensitivity alone focuses on infectious organisms and does not tell you whether the lesion is inflammatory or neoplastic, nor does it address systemic viral status. MRI is valuable when deep orbital involvement or intracranial extension is a possibility, but it's not the first-step diagnostic move for a superficial lesion where cytology and retroviral status provide crucial, actionable information right away. So, combining FeLV/FIV testing with lesion cytology gives the most informative, minimally invasive foundation for distinguishing the likely causes and planning appropriate next steps.

8. Senecio poisoning in horses primarily affects which organ system?

- A. Liver**
- B. Kidneys
- C. Heart
- D. Lungs

Senecio plants contain pyrrolizidine alkaloids that are bioactivated in the liver, causing hepatocellular and biliary injury. In horses, this hepatic damage is the primary effect, leading to chronic liver disease, impaired liver function, and secondary photosensitization from accumulated phylloerythrin. Because the liver is the main organ affected by these toxins, the organ system involved is the hepatic system. The kidneys, heart, and lungs are not the primary targets of Senecio pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

9. Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) causes which type of lesions?

- A. Suppurative, granulomatous, modified transudate**
- B. Fibrotic lesions
- C. Necrotizing vasculitis
- D. Granulomatous with caseating necrosis

FIP produces granulomatous inflammation that often involves vessels, i.e., pyogranulomatous vasculitis, with inflammatory cells that can include neutrophils (suppurative) and macrophages forming granulomas around small vessels and serosal surfaces. In the classic wet form, this vascular inflammation leads to leakage of protein-rich fluid into cavities, described as a modified transudate. So the tissue lesions reflect mixed inflammatory patterns (suppurative plus granulomatous) and the associated effusion is the high-protein, low-to-moderate cellularity fluid classified as a modified transudate. Other patterns like purely fibrotic lesions, necrotizing vasculitis, or granulomas with caseating necrosis are not typical hallmarks of FIP.

10. Which combination of animal groups are commonly associated with reservoirs for zoonotic Type A influenza?

A. Waterfowl

B. Pigs

C. Waterfowl and pigs

D. Cats

The idea being tested is that influenza A viruses persist in animal populations that serve as reservoirs, with wild waterfowl acting as the natural reservoir and pigs providing a place where different influenza strains can mix. Waterfowl routinely carry a broad range of avian influenza subtypes and shed virus into the environment, often without severe disease, which keeps the virus circulating in nature. Pigs, on the other hand, can be infected by both avian and human influenza viruses because their respiratory tract receptors can bind multiple hemagglutinin types. When a pig is coinfecting with different strains, the viruses can reassort their gene segments, creating new combinations that may infect people and potentially cause pandemics. This combination—waterfowl maintaining diverse influenza A viruses and pigs acting as mixing vessels—is why these two groups are commonly linked to reservoirs for zoonotic Type A influenza. Cats can be susceptible to influenza A, but they are not the primary reservoir that maintains and perpetuates these viruses in nature, which is why they aren't the best match for the question about reservoirs.

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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