



European Veterinary Parasitology College (EVPC)

Recommendations for MCQs writers

General points

Refrain from asking questions on rare diseases and remember that this is an examination of *general proficiency* in Veterinary Parasitology at a level of European Qualification Framework 8 (EQF8) (<https://europa.eu/europass/en/description-eight-efq-levels>) and so candidates cannot be expected to know in full detail all the speciality, but questions must not be similar to students EQF6.

ALL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERENCED preferably using a recent original or review article in a readily available international peer reviewed Parasitology journal or a current authoritative textbook.

Check that the answer is unambiguously provided by, or may be easily derived from (in the case of higher learning skills questions), the provided reference.

For MCQs, the correct option should be indicated.

MCQ preparation

1 Recommendations

Each question will include ONE correct answer and FOUR distractors.

Only one point should be tested in each question: e.g. either aetiology, mechanism, clinical sign, diagnosis, treatment...

Questions should test either recall knowledge or higher learning skills such as synthesis or judgment.

The best questions are those in which the stem comprises a single, definite statement which contains most if not all of the required information, such that a good candidate will have decided the answer before looking at the choices (in contrast to questions where the answer can only be derived by examining each option in turn).

All distractors should be homogeneous in style and be plausible alternatives for the same tested point (e.g. all distractors should be treatment options, or clinical signs, etc... not one on treatment, one on aetiology, one on a diagnostic test...).



European Veterinary Parasitology College (EVPC)

Recommendations for MCQs writers

Avoid tricks, jargon, abbreviations, local language particularity or ambiguous terms that could be interpreted differently by candidates (especially those whose first language is not English).

Avoid negative questions (e.g. « which of the following is NOT true... »), positive questions (e.g. « which of the following IS true... ») are preferred.

Do not use « all of the above » or « none of the above » as distractors.

2 Example of an acceptable MCQ

Several tests have been developed for the detection of anthelmintic resistance in gastrointestinal nematode populations in domesticated animals. Which test is currently preferred for routine detection of resistance to macrocyclic lactones?

- a. The in vivo faecal egg count reduction test
- b. The egg hatch test
- c. The microagar larval development test
- d. A conventional allelespecific PCR
- e. A realtime allelespecific PCR

Reference: Coles et al. The detection of anthelmintic resistance in nematodes of veterinary importance. *Vet. Parasitol.*, 2006, 136, 167185.

3 Example of an unacceptable question

In the dog:

- a. Itching is a major symptom of demodicosis.
- b. There are no sucking lice.
- c. Trichuriasis is characterised by an inflammatory condition of the large intestine.
- d. *T. gondii* oocysts can be found in the faeces.
- e. A positive serology to *Neospora caninum* is always associated with clinical signs.



European Veterinary Parasitology College (EVPC)

Recommendations for MCQs writers

Policy document Title	Guidelines for MCQs 2022
Responsible committee	Examination Committee
Version number	I
Date Approved	
Date Effective From	