

COMMON TERMS USED IN COLLEGE EXAMINATIONS

In the context of an examination question, the College recommends that these terms are intended to elicit the following type of information in a candidate's response:

Aetiology: the candidate should provide information on the cause(s) of disease.

Pathogenesis: the candidate should provide information on the development of disease; specifically the combination of mechanisms that operate at biochemical, cellular, anatomic and physiologic levels to cause the structural, functional and/or clinical manifestations of disease as relevant to the question.

Aetiopathogenesis: the candidate should provide information on both the cause and the development of disease (as listed above under pathogenesis).

Pathology: the candidate should provide information on the structural and functional manifestations of disease; changes in body tissues and organs which cause, or are caused by, disease.

Pathophysiology: the candidate should provide information on functional changes and perturbations of normal physiology attributable to the disease process; or a description of the physiology of the disordered [diseased] state as relevant to the question.

Clinical examination: the candidate should provide information on the general physical examination (including observations, auscultation, palpation, percussion and objective parameters such as heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature) along with neurological, orthopaedic and ophthalmic examinations where relevant. Blood pressure measurement may also be considered part of the clinical examination in small animals.

NB. Diagnostic tests, such as laboratory tests and diagnostic imaging, -are not considered part of the routine clinical examination and candidates should be prompted to consider additional diagnostic testing, or a broader term (such as clinical findings, see description below) should be used.

Clinical findings: the candidate should provide information on all relevant findings reasonably associated with a condition from owner / agent anamnesis (signalment, history, presenting problem) to clinical examination, results of laboratory tests, diagnostic imaging findings and any other relevant investigative processes.