

Studying for Theory Exams

Theory exams can be challenging for many of us, especially as we advance in years. For some of us, this is quite possibly the first exam we have sat since leaving secondary school. How well you do in the exam can be influenced by your method of study and your ability to recall facts. We are all different and some methods work better than others. Here are some study and exam tips that may be helpful.

- Start studying as soon as you can. A year is not too long.
- Break the breed standards down into sections. One method is to copy onto card, cut up into sections, eg general appearance, head etc and write the name of the breed on the back. Then put all the same cards together and study the same section of each breed comparing the variances and similarities.
- Play “flash” with the cards, turn them all up the same way, read the description, identify the breed and check the back of the card to see if you are correct. Have 2 piles, 1 with correct answers and the other, incorrect. Keep going until you can answer a high percentage correctly.
- Write out the breed standard in long hand, numerous times, cross referencing with information on the form, function and history of the breed.
- List all the heights in order, smallest to tallest and compare those of similar height.
- Write out a list of all the breeds which have similar feature, eg round eyes. Make up a silly “ditty” that helps you remember this list of breeds.
- Don’t forget to study regulations, glossary of terms and anatomy. This is worth 20 points. Get together with others sitting exams and have a study group on these. Make sure you are using the new Glossary of Terms (published 2020)
- Try and get a copy of an old paper to study. The questions will not be the same but will give you an indication of the format and style.
- When in the exam, don’t panic—remember to breathe!!
- Record your details on the front page. Very important!
- Don’t be tempted to start answering straight away, take five minutes to read the paper from beginning to end.
- Go to the last 20 questions and start with them. You should know most of them.
- By now, you will have relaxed a bit and will be less nervous. Now go through the paper and answer all the questions you absolutely know the answer to. Don’t worry about the others yet.
- Once you have done that, then tackle the rest of them.
- Finally, check your paper to make sure you have answered all the questions.

Good luck.