



PREPARATION FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL REGISTRATION EXAMINATION - 2026 VETERINARIANS

Introduction

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) registration examination for graduates with foreign qualifications not accepted for automatic registration has been offered on an annual basis. Experience has shown that it is a difficult examination to pass and preparation should be extensive, thorough and in detail. The Examination Officer of the SAVC examinations suggests that prospective candidates give themselves eighteen (18) months to prepare for the examination. The following document is a guide to potential candidates on how to prepare themselves for the examination to optimise their chances of passing.

Structure of the examination

The examination consists of a Computer Based Examination (CBE) including multiple choice questions, while the practical examination is a structured practical examination in the major species (companion and production animals; equines) and Veterinary Public Health and Pathology. The Surgical Competence Examination consists of a Direct Observation of Procedural Skill (DOPS) assessment taken during the performance of an ovariohysterectomy on a bitch.

To do well in the CBE, the following information may help:

- Do not look at the answers before you have read the question carefully;
- Formulate your own answer to the question before looking at the answers supplied. This will prevent the answers from throwing you off guard;
- Eliminate all answers that according to your knowledge are incorrect;
- Read all the options before you answer;
- There is no guessing penalty in the examination, however, consider all options prior to responding; and
- Do not alter your answer unless you have misread the question.

Experience has shown that most candidates who pass the theoretical component (CBE) pass the practical examination. Thorough theoretical preparation is therefore very important for the practical examination. Many veterinarians attempting to pass the SAVC registration examination have limited practical experience with certain species like horses and small animals. If this is the case, it is recommended that you spend a couple of days in practice observing clinical practice in these species; a state veterinary office (regulatory work) or clinic and a community veterinary clinic (primary health care and sterilisations). The practical procedures expected are the "Day 1 skills".

Study material and contact details

- The SAVC is a regulatory body and not a training institution, therefore, study material is not provided.
- Contact the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria (UP) on 012 529 8000 to purchase study materials at a cost. Speak to the office of the Deputy Dean: Learning and Teaching.
- Various publications are available in the Jotello F Soga Library at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort campus. The UP Library is not a free service.
- Standard texts for subjects such as Medicine and Surgery (e.g. McIlwraith, Slatter, Ettinger etc.) can also be used, but these are extensive texts and might be time-consuming.
- Veterinary and related legislation can be accessed at: www.savc.org.za or at the UP Library.
- The South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) can be reached on www.sava.co.za / 012 346 1150

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