

Table 5.2 Exam words – examples (adapted from University of Kent, 2008)

Account for

Give reasons for; explain (note: give an account of = describe)

e.g. Account for the difference between female cat and dog reproductive cycles

Your example

Analyse

Break the information into constituent parts; examine the relationship between the parts; question the information

e.g. Analyse the management of stress in cats and dogs in the veterinary hospital

Your example

Clarify

Identify the components of an issue/topic/problem/; make the meaning plain; remove misunderstandings

e.g. Clarify the benefits of early neutering in cats

Your example

Compare

Look for similarities and differences between; perhaps conclude which is preferable; implies evaluation

e.g. Compare the anatomy and physiology of the hindlimbs of the canine and equine species

Your example

Contrast

Bring out the differences

e.g. Contrast the duties that can legally be undertaken by lay staff, SVN's and RVN's.

Your example

Define

Give the precise meaning

e.g. Define the role of angiotensin in feline hypertension

Your example

Describe

Give a detailed, full account of the topic

e.g. Describe the process for gaining informed consent from a client

Your example

Discuss

Investigate or examine by argument; debate; give reason for and against; examine the implications of the topic

e.g. Discuss the nutritional issues of feeding a vegetarian diet to a dog

Your example

Evaluate/weigh up

Appraise the worth of something in the light of its truth or usefulness; assess and explain

e.g. Evaluate the role of weight management in the prevention and treatment of canine arthritis

Your example

Explain

Make plain and clear; give reasons for

e.g. Explain the care of an intravenous catheter in the feline patient

Your example

Identify

Point out and describe – trends Identify patterns/changes/ movements in certain directions (e.g. over time or across topics/ subjects)

e.g. Identify the changing role of the vet nurse from the inception of the title in 1984

Your example

Outline

Give a short description of the main points; give the main features or general principles; emphasise the structure

e.g. Outline the changes to the cardiovascular system in a dog with DCM

Your example

Summarise

Give a concise account of the chief points of a matter, removing unnecessary detail

e.g. summarise the nursing care required for splint bandages in a dog

Your example
