

**KUSA BREED JUDGES LEARNING
PROGRAMME**

GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG SPECIALISATION

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THE KENNEL UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
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GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG SPECIALISATION BREED ASSIGNMENT

1. BREED ASSIGNMENT

Module 5 of the KUSA Breed Judges' Breed Specialisation Course requires you to prepare a Breed Assignment in preparation for the actual task of evaluating breed type and making value decisions, as well as in preparation for the examination.

Schedule 10: Appendix 3 – Breed Specialisation Course

- **BREED ASSIGNMENT**

The rationale for this module is to encourage the Learner Judge to involve himself/herself in an in-depth study of the relevant breed in order to gain better understanding of all aspects of the breed over and above the breed standard, then to summarise and present this collected information into written format.

- The Learner Judge prepares three (3) or four (4) essays (dependent on the content of the relevant Breed Specialisation Course) of approximately 300 - 500 words (half to one A4 typed page) on each the prescribed topics.
 - The Learner Judge must consult the relevant Breed Specialist Study Guide in the restricted area of the KUSA website, accessed through the Judges' Portal, for details on the Breed Assignment topics and advice on how to complete the assignment effectively.
 - The Learner Judge must research and write the required essays, which may be illustrated. Full bibliographic details must be provided (*See 3.3.*) It is recommended that the Learner Judge allows sufficient time to devote his/her full attention to these assignments.
 - It is recommended that the Learner Judge may approach the Specialist Mentor for guidance, but under no circumstances may the Breed Assignments be presented in any form other than the Learner Judge's own wording throughout.
- The Learner Judge must forward the completed assignment to the Examiner for assessment, allowing sufficient time for the assignment to be assessed and returned to the Learner Judge for inclusion in the Portfolio before the Portfolio submission due date and subsequent Portfolio assessment by the assigned Specialist Assessor.

You will need to research and prepare the following four essays:

1. **THE TOTAL PACKAGE:** *This essay is likely to be reasonably longer than the required 300-500 words and should preferably include illustrative material with the aim of serving as an article for the supplementary training of Learner Judges. Focus on the breed priorities and hallmarks, and try to go beyond the breed standard, including details that one typically finds through further study and research.*
2. **LONG DOUBLE COAT vs LONG AND HARSH OUTER COAT:** *Very briefly trace the origin and development of the recently-accepted Long Double Coat as a recognised variety; briefly outline the Breed Founder's impression of such coats and when this impression changed. Then outline the different characteristics, similarities, differences, advantages, disadvantages, and elements of concern in the two varieties of coats.*
3. **THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG ON THE MOVE:** *Describe what you, as judge will look for when evaluating the German Shepherd Dog in action – in profile, going away, and coming towards you.*

The inclusion of illustrations or photographs in your essays is encouraged, but please remember to provide sources in your bibliography.

Guidelines

You will be expected to write an essay on each of these topics as if it were an article you are writing for a magazine. The length of the essay is not as important as the quality of its content.

You probably have access to many, many resource materials, and don't be shy to use the Internet for further information – just make sure the source is reliable. As you read these resources, make notes of key concepts and compare the facts you find from different sources. When you have your rough notes, arrange the key points into a logical structure and order, then start writing the essay in YOUR OWN WORDS. Never, ever copy word for word from another source. Remember when our school teachers advised us to avoid “waffling” and “padding”? Those rules apply to this breed assignment as well. You want to avoid repetition and long-winded discussions and you want to try to make your essay easy to read and interesting. Remember, an essay is not a list of points. You may include short lists or definitions if it adds to your essay, but if your whole essay is laid out in point form, it will be rejected for you to rework.

When you have finished writing, read it through a couple of times, edit your phrasing if you need to, change the order of sentences if your essay will make more sense, and remember to do a spelling and grammar check before you wrap it up.

Finally, list all the resources you consulted in a bibliography below your essay. This is to support your essay in case of controversial statements that need checking. Set your bibliography like this:

Author. *Title*. Page number and/or
www.gsdfromouterspace.com/howgsdsfly.html

A word of advice: allow yourself to get thoroughly involved with this assignment and enjoy your task because of your passion for the breed – it should not be treated as a painful punishment!

When you have completed the whole assignment with all three essays, forward it to Joy McFarlane in MSWord or AdobePDF format as an attachment in an email to fleetwind@yebo.co.za. After the assignment has been assessed and approved, you will store it in your Portfolio and submit it to your assigned Specialist Assessor for final assessment and exam clearance.

Recommended and compulsory reading

You **must** obviously use the current German Shepherd Dog breed standard as your major source of information. You **may also** consult any number of other reliable sources – books, articles, the Internet.

There are a vast number of resources out there. Beware of restricting your essays to the opinions and findings of only one or two authors. To get you started, here are a few resources you may find useful:

- Video - Der Deutsche Schäferhund - Anatomie und Bewegungsabläufe (German)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zju0lubAaJ8&feature=youtu.be>
- Extended Breed Standard of the German Shepherd Dog (Australian)
<https://www.gsdcouncilaustralia.org/gsdcacontent/uploads/2015/03/GSD-Extended-Breed-Standard2015.pdf>
- Long Coat German Shepherd Dogs A brief history and comment on Long Coated German Shepherd Dogs by Louis Donald
https://www.louisdonald.com/uploads/2/7/3/7/27379747/long_coat_german_shepherd_dogs_w_ebsite_pdf.pdf
- Video - How to Evaluate the German Shepherd Dog in the Show Ring - Part 1 of 2 (American)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA3H2A_xIOQ

- Video - How to Evaluate the German Shepherd Dog in the Show Ring - Part 2 of 2 (American) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0H6SCwIT11w>
- What do German Shepherd Dog judges look for when judging the breed? by Dennis Fisher. http://www.allaboutgermanshepherddogs.com/what_do_german_shepherd_dog_judges%20look%20for.htm
- Breed Priorities – German Shepherd Dogs <http://caninechronicle.com/current-articles/breed-priorities-german-shepherd-dogs/>

All sources you consult must be studiously compared for its validity to the FCI breed standard, which is what we use in South Africa.

2. EXAMINATION

The format of the examination will be multiple choice questions, labelling, long questions and an essay. The paper is worth 200 marks with a duration of 2 hours. You will need to gain 75% for a pass mark. The content of the examination will cover:

- the KUSA breed standard
- the Breed Assignment
- the Study Guide: Canine Physiology
- KUSA Regulations

Multiple choice questions

Multiple choice questions may include, for example, simple multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the-blank, sorting, matching, sequencing and scenario questions. These types of questions may occur in the Breed Section as well as the Canine Physiology section.

Long questions

With this type of question, your answer will be a little more comprehensive than the multiple choice questions and will comprise several marks per question. You may, for example, be asked to label an illustration or you may be asked to list a number of characteristics. You may also be asked to write a paragraph to describe a feature. This type of question may occur in the breed section as well as the anatomy section.

Essay

You will be asked to write an essay, about 1 - 1½ pages in length, on ONE of the essay topics you prepared for your Breed Assignment..... but you won't know which one until you get into the exam room and see your paper, so make sure you are thoroughly familiar with the contents of all your essays. Remember to write it in the same paragraph format that you presented your Breed Assignment. Lists of points will not be accepted. Remember to avoid padding.

A word of advice – take your exam seriously; it will not be a walk in the park, but if you know your breed thoroughly and you have studied the supplementary material thoroughly, you will be very successful in this exam!

What should I study?

- The KUSA breed standard..... inside out, upside down and absolutely thoroughly with complete understanding!
- Your three essays – make sure you are familiar with the content of your essays and you may wish to summarise them down to point form for easy study and recall (but remember, you will not be allowed to write your exam essay in point form – this will be only for studying purposes). The information you researched and presented in these three essays will form the content for your essay question and perhaps, in part, a few of the long questions.

- The Study Guide #6: General – Anatomy, Conformation and Movement (Canine Physiology). Try, as far as possible, to relate the content of that guide to matters pertaining to the German Shepherd Dog. You do not need to bother too much with Part 2: Coat and skin, although you are likely to get questions on the German Shepherd Dog's coat, so make sure you are familiar with the breed standard requirements.
- KUSA Regulations: To locate these, open the '*About KUSA*' tab in the main menu, and select '*Constitution & Schedules*'. It is a good idea to familiarise yourself with the Articles, By-laws, Constitution and Schedules, and you ought to find the outline on KUSA History interesting, but for examination content and your practice as a Breed Judge, the following Schedules are most important:
 - Schedule 03: Regulations for Championship Shows
 - Schedule 03A: Regulations for International Dog Shows
 - Schedule 04: Regulations for Non-Championship Shows
 - Schedule 10: Rules & Regulations – KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme
 - Schedule 10 Appendix 1: Group Course
 - Schedule 10 Appendix 2: Junior Showmanship
 - Schedule 10 Appendix 3: Breed Specialisation Course

As you study the Rules and Regulations, you will discover duplications within the various Schedule Clauses. This is because the Schedules are pitched at various interest groups, so take care to identify similarities and differences and to which these each of these apply so that you are fully versant with what is expected of us, as a Judge. It is your responsibility to keep abreast with any changes that may be made to the Schedules.

Enjoy your studies and gain the most you can from this learning experience. If you experience any difficulties with what is required, please feel free to contact the Curriculum Developer/Examiner, Joy McFarlane (fleetwind@yebo.co.za – 083 458 2438) for advice.