



AMSPAR

June 2014 series – Examiner's report

4419-221 – L2 Medical Principles for the Administrator

Section 1 – Areas of good performance

COMMENT

This was a very small number of papers and with the current format of this examination paper candidates are required to have only very basic/limited knowledge of the subject areas in order to gain sufficient marks to pass this examination. With marks so easily obtainable it would be expected that the distinction rate should be very high.

Although there were many excellent papers where candidates demonstrated full and accurate knowledge across the breadth of the syllabus there were a couple of papers marred by poor exam technique, lack of basic knowledge and terrible spelling. This is particularly worrying as these candidates are, or are hoping to be, employed in a profession where attention to detail and accuracy is essential.

Q's 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 18 and 19 were well answered by the majority of the students, These questions only require the candidate to give short answers or to recall words and phrases from a prescribed list and do not require candidates to demonstrate a great degree of understanding or in depth knowledge

Section 2 – Areas for development

Poor examination technique marred a few papers with candidates giving one word answers instead of descriptions and a couple giving multiple answers when only 2 or 3 were requested

Q3a Few candidates gave the totally correct answer, several stating that the heel prick test was to identify incorrect diseases in the newborn E. G. Down's Syndrome

Q3b The majority knew the basic purpose of a mammogram but several of the answers gave very poor descriptions of this,

Q4 This was poorly answered by many with some candidates incorrectly mentioning angiograms and echocardiograms.

Q's 11 and 12 These 2 questions were the most poorly answered on the paper, even though similar questions have been asked on all the past papers for this examination. It was obvious from some answers, that candidates did not possess a good working knowledge of the Diagnostic Departments in a hospital

Q's 13, 14 and 15 Although there were some excellent answers to these questions there were several instances where candidates lost marks because they had not read the question correctly. In Q14 a few candidates incorrectly based their answers on e-mailing or faxing and in Q15 a couple wrote about information held on computers rather than the spoken word

Q17 The majority of answers were very poor with only 2 candidates gaining all of the available marks. Several candidates wrote that the hospital pharmacist writes the prescriptions in a hospital. A couple stated that the Hospital pharmacists advise on and sell alternative medicines that the

patient can use instead of taking their prescribed medication.

It was very clear that candidates are not being given sufficient, accurate information in this area during their course.

Q20a Only a couple of candidates were able to name three organs of the endocrine system.

Q20c Several candidates incorrectly stated that the gall bladder makes bile or breaks down waste products

Q20d Only a few candidates were able to name the body system which includes the muscles

The poor answers given to this question was worrying as candidates are provided with all this information in the lists of organs and body systems.

Weaker candidates did not appear to understand the meaning of the term 'describe' and as a result their answers were sometimes too short and did not contain sufficient information.

Spelling was very poor in some instances, particularly in the answers to Q18, 19 and 20 candidates were not given the available marks if the drug group or medical term was spelt incorrectly. Correct spelling is a necessity when working in this environment.

Section 3 – Recommendations

Reading the questions. Candidates should read the questions carefully and should keep checking their answers to ensure that they are only giving the information/number of answers requested in the paper. Giving extra answers may use valuable time and cannot gain extra marks. Extra answers were not awarded the marks even if they contained the correct answers. Candidates should not repeat the question in the space for the answer.

Spelling. When learning information such as the medical term for a bone or body part, candidates should practice the spelling of the term until they can spell it correctly. Medical terms and the names of body parts/systems taken from the given list which are spelt incorrectly will not be awarded the available mark

Extra space for answers. When asked to describe something candidates should include as much information as possible. Extra paper should always be available if it is required

Section 4 – Tips

Keep reading the questions.

Make sure that you have attempted all parts of the paper.

Practice spellings until you are perfect.

Section 5 - Additional comments

All candidates from a couple of centres did extremely well showing that tutors had covered the entire syllabus to a satisfactory level and had prepared their students fully for this examination.