

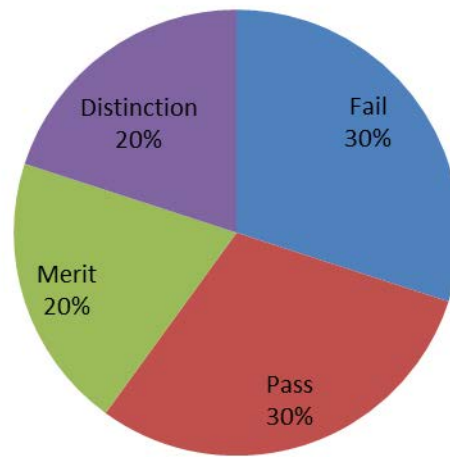


AMSPAR



## Examiner's report

**4415-300 NOVEMBER 2012 Level 3 Certificate in Medical Terminology**  
**4419-330 NOVEMBER 2012**



*The pass mark range for this examination is 75%. However, as each examination paper is unique there can be slight variations of difficulty from series to series – which means that students are required to gain either more or fewer raw marks to compensate and to gain a pass.*

### Areas of good performance

The results varied for this examination. There were some excellent candidates who showed a wide knowledge and understanding of medical terms and their usage. They gave full explanations in their answers and demonstrated ability across the whole examination paper, resulting in high marks being obtained.

#### Question 1

This was well answered by the majority of candidates, although many others failed to give the correct meanings of thrombolytics, embolism and infarction.

#### Question 4

This was well answered by most candidates.

#### Questions 5 & 6

These questions were generally well answered by the majority of candidates. These involve medical abbreviations and word parts - rote learning and do not necessarily test an understanding by the candidate.



AMSPAR



### Areas for improvement

There were a few very poor papers demonstrating lack of knowledge and understanding of the questions given. For some candidates spelling was poor and many failed to demonstrate any understanding of the required medical terms giving an indication of having no idea of medical context, which was particularly disturbing at this level (See later medical terms least well known).

#### Question 2

There were a few excellent answers. However, some answers demonstrated a purely semantic approach producing manufactured medical terms, which are not used in the medical field. Students should be taught medical terminology using examples of real medical terms within a medical context and it is essential that tutors have a thorough working knowledge of the subject and its vagaries. Several candidates are simply joining word parts together without any understanding of the correct terms for genuine medical conditions. Although many terms may be produced in this way, others being produced do not exist and it is necessary for the candidate to have at least a basic understanding of both anatomy and physiology. This underpinning is essential.

#### Questions 3 & 7

These questions also produced some excellent answers, together with some extremely poor answers, from a group of students. The spelling of English by some of the candidates was of concern. The context of the question for number seven (as in question one) should assist those candidates who have a deeper knowledge of medical terms and conditions, although it was apparent that some candidates were simply guessing the interpretation, demonstrating no knowledge of body structure or actual medical conditions eg pneumonia.

### Medical terms least known

Thrombolytics	thrombosis	embolism	infarction	trauma	peptic
neoplasm	Interstitial	neutrophil	pneumonia	lymphangitis	metaplasia
oedema	diuretics	emphysema	hilar		

### Meanings

Collection of pus in a cavity	repair of a hernia	inflammation of bone
nasal discharge		



AMSPAR



### Abbreviations & word parts

THR	BUN	CVA	SIDS	PUO	occ	mcg
Eu-	pyelo-	colpo-	chondro-	-lysis	-ectasis	

### Recommendations and tips

Take care to read the question carefully; unnecessary mistakes are made by candidates who fail to do so. In questions one and seven, careful reading of the given passages should assist the candidate to have a greater understanding of the medical terms. The context in which they are being used can help with the correct interpretation of the terms.

Marks are awarded for correct spelling of medical terms. Candidates should be encouraged to write clearly. In some papers it is extremely hard to decipher the candidate's writing, because of indistinct alterations. This makes it very difficult for the examiner to know the candidate's intention. Incorrect answers should be crossed through and the correct version inserted clearly.

It is essential that candidates fully explain terms, which have part of the answer in the given word eg arteritis the term may be explained in the candidate's own words eg inflammation of an artery ie a type of blood vessel. (Any similar explanation, which demonstrates understanding by the candidate, is acceptable).

Some candidates continue to give semantic answers when translating medical terms. The literal meaning is not necessarily the proper meaning of a medical word and by doing this candidates show a lack of any real knowledge or understanding of what is required. Some knowledge of the body is essential in order to understand medical terminology and its application. Tutors require a sound working knowledge of the subject in order to give correct tuition to their students. Medical terminology is in context and appropriate answers show understanding of this. Accuracy is essential in the field of medicine.

**17 December 2012**