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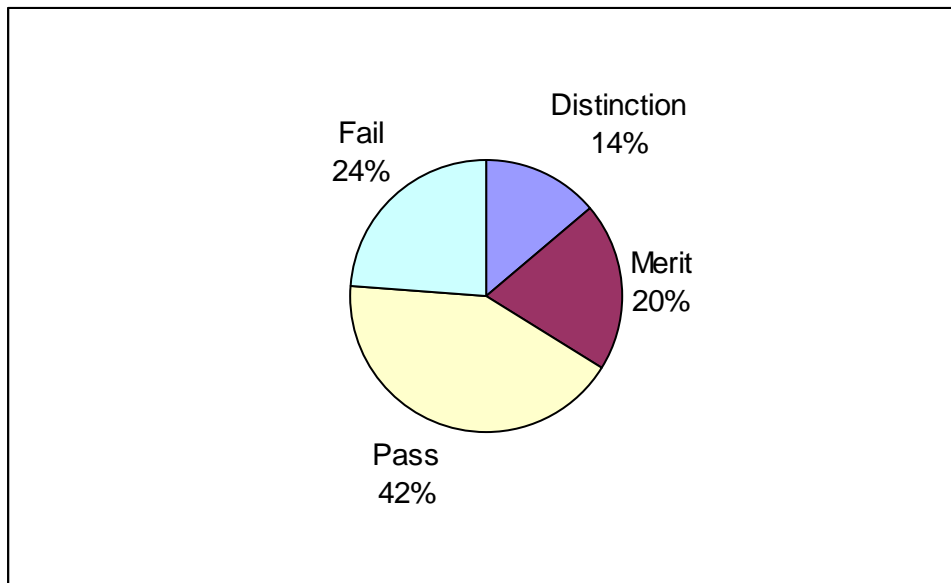


May 2011 series – Examiner's report

4415-02-300 - Level 3 Certificate in Medical Terminology

4419-02-330 - Level 3 Diploma for Medical Secretaries

Overall Performance



Areas of good performance

There were some excellent candidates who showed a wide knowledge and understanding of medical terms and their usage who gained very high marks. They gave full explanations in their answers and demonstrated ability across the whole examination paper.

Question 1: The majority of candidates scored well on this question although numbers 3 and 12 were least well known.

Question 4: This was well answered by most candidates.

Questions 5 and 6: These questions were generally well answered by the majority of candidates. They do not require any understanding by candidates and involve rote learning.

Areas for development

There were some very poor papers demonstrating lack of knowledge and understanding of the stated terms. Unfortunately, some candidates showed very poor spelling of English as well as medical terms. This gave an indication of lack on knowledge of medical context or knowledge of the body. A few candidates produced one word answers in their explanation of medical terms, showing a lack of understanding of the terms involved.

Question 2: Although there were many excellent answers, some candidates failed to show sufficient knowledge to obtain many marks in this question. 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. Too many candidates are joining word parts together without understanding the correct terms for genuine medical conditions. Although many terms may be produced in this way, others being produced do simply not exist.

Questions 1, 3 and 7: These questions produced difficulty for numerous weaker candidates. There is obvious evidence of rote learning by many candidates, which unfortunately fails to achieve the correct explanation. The context of the question for numbers one and seven should assist those candidates who have a deeper knowledge of medical terms and conditions.

Some candidates showed evidence of guessing answers, giving non-medical meanings to THR – the hourly rate and MD – managing director. The abbreviation LRCP also produced some inappropriate meanings. C&G provide a list of abbreviations with their meanings.

Medical terms least known

Atherostenosis	metabolic	atelectasis	myopic	vestibular	
Myxoedema	metaplasia	polymyalgia	mycosis	melaena	
Perianal	erythema				
Auto-	para	tetra-	linguo-	culdo-	phago-
-clasis	-stasis				
Cranial	ocular	plantar	anticonvulsant		

Abbreviations

CVA SMR THR ung MD LRCP

Recommendations

Take care to read the paper carefully. Candidates who do not read the question properly make mistakes often assuming that the word is one similar to that not requested. Marks are awarded for correct spelling of medical terms. Provided the meaning of the medical term is clear, marks will still be awarded. Candidates should be encouraged to write clearly. Some papers produced are extremely hard to decipher the candidate's writing, with smudges and many alterations made, the meaning of which is not clear to the examiner.

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 knowledge or understanding of what is required. Some knowledge of the body is essential in order to understand medical terminology and its application. Medical terminology is in context and appropriate answers show understanding of this.

Tips

Keep reading the questions.

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

Practice spellings until is perfect.

Additional comments

All candidates from a couple of centres did extremely well showing that tutors had covered the entire syllabus to a satisfactory level.