



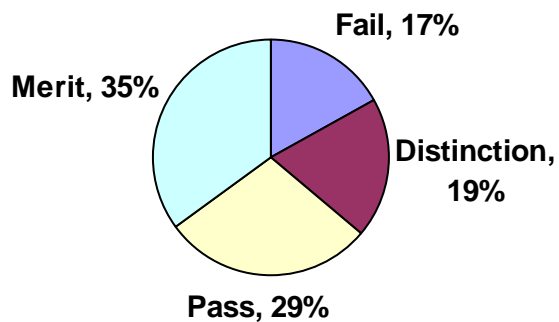
AMSPAR

November 2010 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. They achieved very high marks. Full explanations were given in their answers and they demonstrated ability across the whole examination paper. Both the students and their tutors are to be congratulated on this achievement.

Questions 1, 4 and 6 were well answered by the majority of candidates.

Questions 3 and 12 were least well known.

Areas for improvement

There were a few very poor papers demonstrating lack of knowledge and understanding of the questions given. Unfortunately, as in the previous examination, for some candidates spelling was poor and many failed to demonstrate an understanding of the required medical terms within a medical context.



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Question 2 -There were a few excellent answers. Some 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 were 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.

Questions 3 & 7 - These questions produced difficulty to lower performing candidates. There is evidence of simply rote learning by many candidates, which unfortunately fails to achieve the correct explanation. The context of question 7 should assist those candidates who have a deeper knowledge of medical terms and conditions, although it was apparent that some candidates were guessing the interpretation.

Question 5 –This question caused some difficulty for many students with 1, 2, 3 4, 9 and 10 being least well known. Cardiovascular accident was a common mistake given by lower performing candidates.

Medical terms least known

Hypertrophy dysuria epidermis arthrodynia perineum isometric
ischaemia lymphangitis multigravida uraemia parturition

Meanings least known

‘A swelling containing blood’ ‘upper layer of the skin’ ‘destruction/breaking down of blood’
‘A condition of pouch-like structures in the lining of the large intestine’ ‘death of tissue’
‘Inflammation of bone’

Abbreviations

PSA MND CVA RIF PMH SSRI FRCOG

Recommendations and tips

Read the paper carefully. Candidates who do not read the questions properly make silly mistakes. In question seven, reading the context of the terms required can greatly assist candidates in understanding the meanings of the terms asked.

Marks are awarded for correct spelling of medical terms. If the answers contain misspelling errors, marks are not deducted providing the meaning is clear. Some candidates 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.



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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. Accuracy is essential in the medical field.