

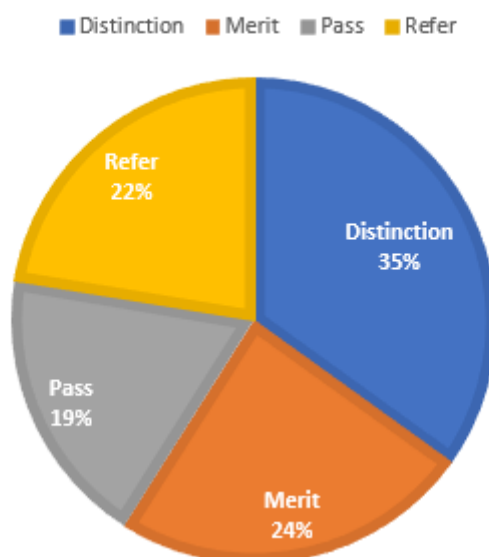
Examination Report 2021 5519-220 and 5528-265 Medical Terminology Level 2

General comments

Grade Distribution

5519-220	February 2021	June 2021
Number of Candidates	81	214
Distinction	41	62
Merit	21	50
Pass	10	45
Refer	9	57

GRADE DISTRIBUTION 2021



The overall standard for the February 2021 paper was extremely good with more than 50% of candidates achieving a Distinction. There were a high number of excellent scripts where the candidates gained over 95% of the marks available and in some cases full marks.

In contrast, there were some papers where the candidates' achievement fell short of the level required to attain success in this examination. However, this totalled only 11% of candidates who did not reach a pass grade.

The June 2021 paper was sat by a larger number of candidates than in recent examinations, but the overall standard attained by was largely comparable to those achieved in previous series.

The range of marks awarded was extremely wide with marks spanning 4 to 80.

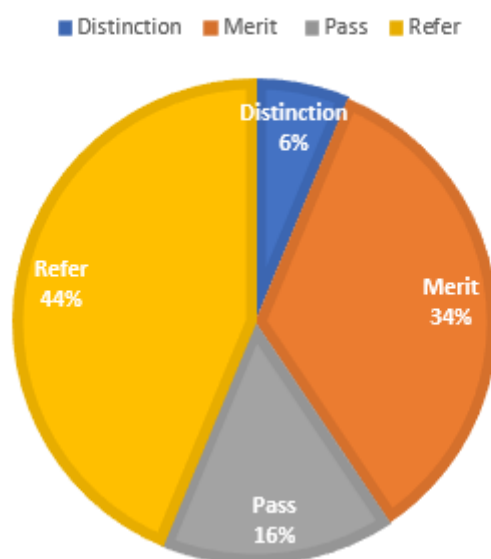
52% of candidates achieved Distinction and Merit grades and many of these candidates were able to show an excellent level of knowledge and understanding across all areas of the syllabus. Candidates are to be commended for performing to such a high standard. There was an instance of 80 marks and some of 78/79 marks with only very minor errors/omissions.

Unfortunately, lower achieving candidates were challenged with recall of information. It may be helpful to note that lists containing this information are available to all centres.

Questions 2 and 4a differentiate between the candidates who are able to show a working knowledge and understanding of medical word building and usage of the medical terms connected with the listed body systems and word lists, and those who are unable to demonstrate this very important knowledge to the required level. A high number of the weaker candidates found this area extremely challenging and struggled to define medical words and build medical terms from given definitions. There was a significant number of lower achieving candidates who attained no/very few marks for these two questions, which carry the most marks across the papers.

5528-265	February 2021	June 2021
Number of Candidates	12	20
Distinction	1	1
Merit	2	9
Pass	2	3
Refer	7	7

GRADE DISTRIBUTION 2021



Candidates found both of these papers challenging. The pass rate for June was 65% and for February it was 40%, though the smaller cohort for the February paper should be borne in mind. Marks ranged from 20 to 80.

It is important to note that many candidates can improve their performance by drawing on and reviewing the lists of terminology provided by City and Guilds in their exam preparation.

Areas of good practice & areas for development *

Question 1

This question posed no problems across both February and June papers for the more able candidates. Weaker candidates sometimes have difficulty providing exact definitions of the word part and have a tendency to repeat the word part given in the question.

Where candidates did demonstrate difficulty, in February it was with:

No 6 – meta
No 9 – pyro
No 11 – staxis.

And in June it was with:

No 3 – febro – the correct answer is ‘raised temperature/high temperature’
No 5 – onco – the correct answer is ‘tumour/mass’
No 6 – urethra – many candidates stated the answer as ‘urethra’ rather than ‘the tube from the bladder to the outside of the body’.

Question 2

This question contains a mixture of medical terms which may be taken from all areas of the syllabus.

In the February series the more able candidates had no problem with this question, a few achieved all or nearly all the available marks. However, in the June series it was noticeable that many candidates could not identify words in common use concerning the anatomy, physiology, diseases, and abnormalities of the listed body systems, with very few candidates achieving all the available marks. Some candidates lost vital marks for not fully explaining their answers. It should be noted that all parts of the medical term must be explained correctly to gain both marks, it is not sufficient to repeat in the answer the medical terms asked in the question.

In the February series several candidates lost valuable marks by failing to explain/identify the body parts mentioned in the question eg jejunum, urethra, pharynx.

Less able candidates found many of the questions challenging, particularly:

No 1 – prognosis: some candidates appeared to understand the basic meaning of this medical term but had difficulty in expressing the answer clearly
No 3 – hyperemesis
No 6 – hemiplegia (mixed up with paraplegia, not sufficient to state ‘half of the body’)
No 7 – pyorrhoea
No 11 – pleurisy.

In the June series the questions causing the most difficulties were:

No 6 – Leucocytosis - weaker candidates did not mention ‘raised’ amounts of white blood cells
No 11 – Pneumothorax - only the more able candidates were able to give a good explanation of this term. Collapsed lung was not sufficient to be awarded both the available marks.

* Owing to numbers commentary is based on 5519-220

Candidates should be taught the full correct meaning of the words commonly used in connection with each listed body system, as many of these words cannot be broken down and identified from the word parts in the lists. Literal answers are not sufficient to explain the full correct meaning of some of these terms.

Question 3a

In this question the written word aids memory and the small number of terms used in each part makes the question widely accessible. The few mistakes that are made tend to be the result of candidates not reading the terms/word parts carefully or not checking their answers thoroughly. The majority of the more able candidates managed to access all of the available marks. Some weaker candidates were particularly challenged in the June paper with most difficulties in 3a being experienced with:

No 3 – ataxia – (answered as dizziness rather than uncoordinated gait)

No 5 – pharyngitis – (answered as inflammation of the voice box rather than inflammation of the throat)

No 4 – atelectasis.

Question 3b

Weaker candidates experienced difficulty with:

No 4 – meta.

Question 4a

Although some of the more able candidates did extremely well here, overall, it was the most problematic question in terms of performance on both the February and the June papers. The less able candidates found it particularly challenging and there were instances across both papers where candidates did not gain any of the available marks, as they either did not attempt the question at all or gave incorrect or incomplete answers.

It should be noted that these questions may be taken from all areas of the syllabus. All the words required in the answers are in common use in the medical field and several of them could have been built from the basic/common word parts which should be discussed/ taught during the course.

Marks were often forfeited due to spelling errors, slips in reading the question and the inappropriate use of the combining vowel. Some candidates gave more than one answer to each question and several did not attempt an answer. Only the first answer given is marked in these instances. Some candidates struggled with the use of word parts that are in regular use in the medical field, for example: 'otomy', 'graphy' and 'itis'.

In the February series candidates had most difficulty with:

No 1 – a blood clot (thrombus was mixed up with thrombosis)

No 2 – to cut into the abdominal wall

No 6 – procedure to take a picture of the blood vessels (angiography was mixed up with angiogram)

No 7 – the main artery of the body.

And in the June series even the more able candidates were challenged by:

No 5 – deficiency of blood clotting cells

No 7 – abnormally fatty stools

No 8 – surgical removal of the first part of the small intestine.

Question 4b

Many of the higher-achieving candidates found no problems with this question and were awarded 100% of the available marks, in fact most candidates in February gained all the available marks here. However, some gave incorrect answers to these recall questions and in June several weaker and referred candidates failed to be awarded the available marks because they were unable to give sufficient accurate information in their answers.

It may be helpful to note that lists of the words tested in this question are provided to centres.

In the February series the two words that some candidates found particularly challenging were:

No 5 – psychology (mixed up with psychiatry)
No 6 – histopathology.

In the June series most of the forfeited marks were in:

No 2 – Biochemistry - some candidates incorrectly gave the answer germs/micro-organisms
No 3 – Psychiatry - weaker candidates muddled this term with psychology and gave the answer 'the mind and behaviour' rather than 'mental illness'
No 4 – Endocrinology - the answer 'endocrine system' is insufficient to gain the available mark. An explanation of the meaning of endocrine is required to show the candidates understanding of the term
No 6 – Gynaecology - the answer 'women' was not sufficient to be awarded the mark.

Question 5

It was good to see many candidates attaining all the available marks across both series and demonstrating knowledge of pharmaceutical abbreviations. In the February series less able candidates found the abbreviation 'on' challenging. The correct answer is 'every night' and not 'one at night' or 'at night'. In the June series it was noted that litre was sometimes misspelt as 'liter'.

Recommendations

To enable full access to the marks in question 2, candidates need to be familiar with the full and accurate meaning of the words commonly used in connection with each listed body system, as many of these words cannot be broken down and identified from the word parts in the lists provided to centres. Literal answers are not sufficient to explain the full correct meaning of some of these terms.

To assist candidates in accessing full marks in question 4a, centres should encourage learners to revise the more common word parts often taught during the first part of the course.

Where word lists are provided by City and Guilds, centres should ensure that all candidates have access to them to revise from and be supported appropriately to increase their medical terminology knowledge regarding the body systems, as well as be given help to improve their spelling ability.

It should be noted that rote learning alone is not sufficient for this subject. Candidates should write clearly and accurately and should practice this for the exam. When candidates are in the workplace, it is imperative that they can write clearly and accurately, understanding the meaning of what they are writing and reading so that they can recognise mistakes and prevent inaccuracies.

Overall, it should be noted that there were some very weak papers that contained very few attempts at the answers, and spelling, even of the English answers, was still sometimes quite weak. It is recommended that centres only enter candidates that are test ready.

Additional comments

It was very pleasing to see that many candidates sitting this examination were able to demonstrate their knowledge of medical word parts and were able to both define and build medical terms accurately. Candidates that were unsuccessful found both of these areas challenging and were unable to show a safe working knowledge of this subject.