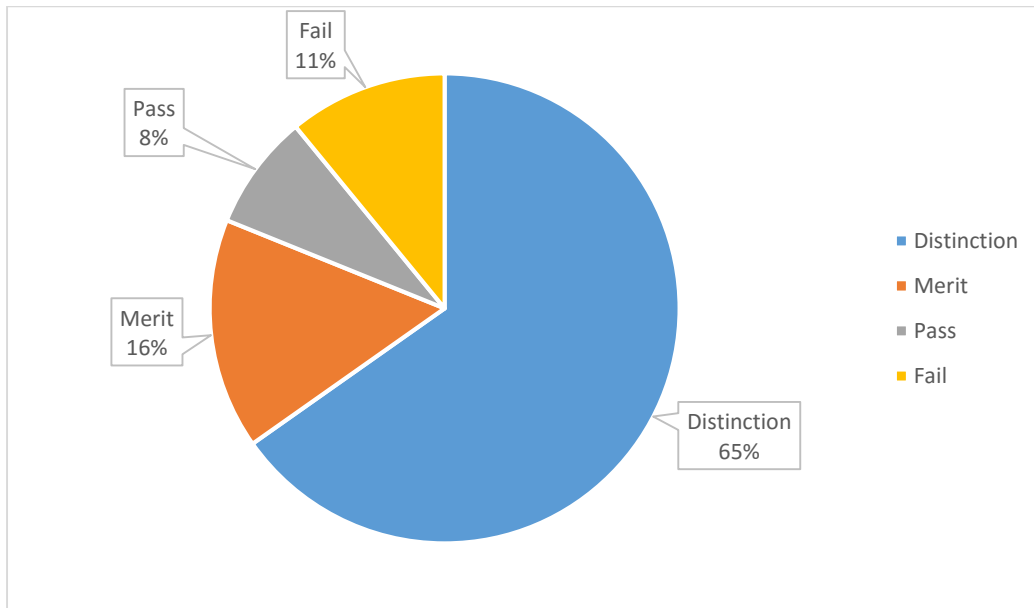


5519-220 - Level 2 Award in Medical Terminology

Examiner's report – February 2016 series



The pass mark range for this examination is 70%. However, as each examination paper is unique there can be slight variations of difficulty from series to series – which means that candidates are required to gain either more or fewer raw marks to compensate and to gain a pass.

General Comments

This paper was very straightforward with no obvious problems.

The papers were at a high standard overall. Although there were, a few very weak papers where the candidates did not appear to have been adequately prepared for this examination. A high percentage of the papers were, unusually, of an exceptionally good standard with candidates giving good answers and making few mistakes. Many of the candidates achieved a distinction and approximately 10% gained 100% of the available marks.

There a few papers that were almost illegible, candidates should be reminded to write clearly in capitals, with a black pen as specified on the paper.



Areas of good performance

Question 1

This question posed no problems for the majority of candidates. All the words given were taken from a prescribed list and only required rote learning. The main difficulties were with 'broncho' and 'penia'.

Question 3

In this question the written word aids memory and the small number of terms used in each part makes the question very easy although the use of distracters tempers this a little. The majority of candidates were able to achieve at least 9 of the 10 available marks and these marks, plus those attained in questions 1 and 5, allowed several of the otherwise quite weak candidates to just pass in this examination. In question 3b several candidates mixed up the answer to No 5.

Question 5

This very short question requires rote learning from a given list and does not require a real understanding of the use of the pharmaceutical abbreviations. Many candidates were awarded all of the available marks. Several weaker candidates found difficulty with 'POM'. It would appear that some of the very poor candidates may not have utilised the lists which should be available for all candidates.

Areas for improvement

Question 2

A few candidates still cannot identify words in common use concerning the anatomy, physiology, diseases and abnormalities of the listed body systems.

Centres should teach candidates the meaning of the common words used in connection with each listed body system as many of these words cannot be broken down and identified from the word parts on the lists. Several weaker candidates struggled to explain correctly the meaning of 'myelitis' and 'auriscope'. Literal answers are often not sufficient to explain the full meaning of these terms.

This question taxed the poorer candidates but posed no real difficulty for the majority.



AMSPAR



Question 4a

This question was well answered by the majority of candidates in this batch of papers. All the words required in the answers are in common use in the medical field and many of them could have been built from very basic/ common word parts which should have been taught during their course. Marks were sometimes forfeited due to poor spelling and the inappropriate use of the combining vowel. Some candidates gave more than one answer to each question and some gave no answers at all, only the first answer attempted was marked.

Question 4b

It was worrying that a few candidates gave incorrect answers to these medical specialities when the answers only require recall from a limited given list. Many gave one word answers instead of writing the answer in full. For example, 'blood' and 'nerves'. Several weaker candidates did not show a real understanding of the term 'bariatrics'.

Recommendations and Tips

Centres should make use of the qualification guide available on the 5519 Medical Terminology City & Guilds website. This should be used in conjunction with the tutor's broad working knowledge of the subject. Rote learning is not sufficient in this subject, as, when candidates are in the workplace, it is imperative that they can write clearly and accurately. Candidates must understand the meaning of what they are reading and writing so that they can recognise mistakes and prevent inaccuracies.

Self-taught candidates should read a good deal from suitable textbooks (Anatomy and Physiology and medical dictionaries) to ensure they have a wide knowledge of terms in common use. Accuracy in this field is essential.