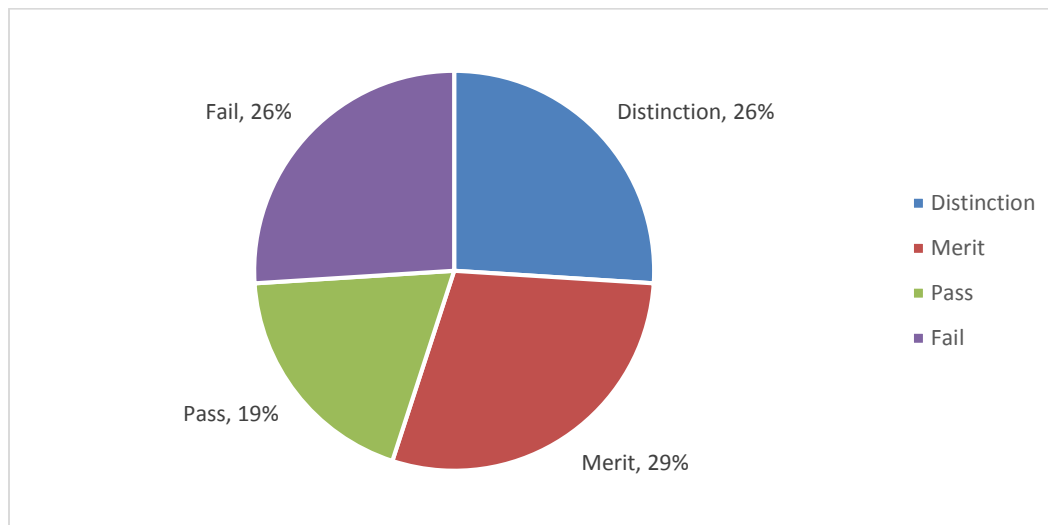




AMSPAR

5519-220 Level 2 Award in Medical Terminology

Examiner's report - November 2014 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.

Areas of good performance

Several candidates gained high marks in this examination, showing a good knowledge of the subject which was pleasing. However, unfortunately there were a few very poor papers where candidates were barely able to write simple words in English and attempted very few of the questions.

Question 3a and 3b

As usual, these questions were well answered by most candidates and involve matching medical terms and word parts with given definitions.

Question 4b

The majority of candidates answered this question well. The required definitions are provided in the appropriate qualification handbook of the new course. It is recommended that tutors should ensure their candidates are familiar with these documents as it will assist them in their preparation.

Question 5

This was also generally well answered by many candidates with several candidates gaining full marks. Some candidates gained good marks here even though their knowledge was poor concerning most other areas of the paper enabling them to gain a pass grade.



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Areas for improvement

Question 1

There were some very good answers here but several of the word parts were quite unknown by many candidates. The word part iso- was least well known.

Question 2

As usual, some candidates were unable to identify common words in this question and showed a complete lack of understanding of their context in relation to the body. Many candidates failed to explain their answers fully. The term metatarsals was translated as feet by many candidates instead of bones of the feet. However a number of candidates achieved very good marks, demonstrating an excellent understanding of medical terms.

Question 4a

There were some very good answers by a few candidates but unfortunately this question caused difficulty for the weaker ones. A thorough knowledge of the subject is necessary to achieve good marks for this question. Some candidates did give excellent answers, gaining full marks, which demonstrated an extensive knowledge of the subject. Spelling of medical terms was often poor by weaker candidates and there was indication of some candidates having no knowledge of terms for some very common medical terms. Use of the combining vowel proved a problem for many candidates. Terms that are in common use in the medical field are the type of terms presented in this examination as opposed to the obscure putting together of obscure word parts. In questions 2 and 4a it was easy to spot those candidates who had simply learnt the word parts from lists. Many gave literal answers and were often unable to show real understanding of the terms. Very few candidates translated lymphocyte as a type of white blood cell.

In general, spelling continues to be a problem for some candidates, both in English and in medical terms. This is of concern in the medical field where accuracy is essential in order to avoid potential errors.

Medical terms least known

neo- pan- iso- -spasm -a macro- -blast sub-

metatarsals hypoxia ventricles sigmoidotomy lymphocyte

aphasia ventricles lumbar haemoglobin contusion physiotherapy

bariatrics

Meanings

Inflammation of the fallopian/uterine tubes an abnormal condition of a joint

Pain in the heart blueness of the skin and mucous membranes due to lack of oxygen



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Abbreviations

MODA P od L

Recommendations and Tips

Ensure candidates are encouraged to read the question! Tutors should ensure that candidates understand word parts and their context in relation to the body. Candidates need to have a sound knowledge of the body in order to understand medicine and common procedures. This will help them to avoid making errors in their interpretation and application of terms. The exam is aimed at the understanding of medical terms commonly used in the medical environment not obscure terms which have simply been manufactured by putting word parts together. This is most important as candidates need to be familiar with words in common use in the field of medicine itself.

Common medical terms relating to each body system in outcome two should also be taught. The recommended text- books cover these requirements.

In order for candidates to have a good understanding of the subject, tutors need to have a wide working knowledge of medical terminology and its application. Many medical terms have a completely different meaning than the literal interpretation. A simple knowledge of word parts is insufficient for the correct interpretation of medical terms.

Accuracy in this field is essential.

Tutors need to read the guidelines for this qualification, carefully. City & Guilds provide detailed information within the specification.