



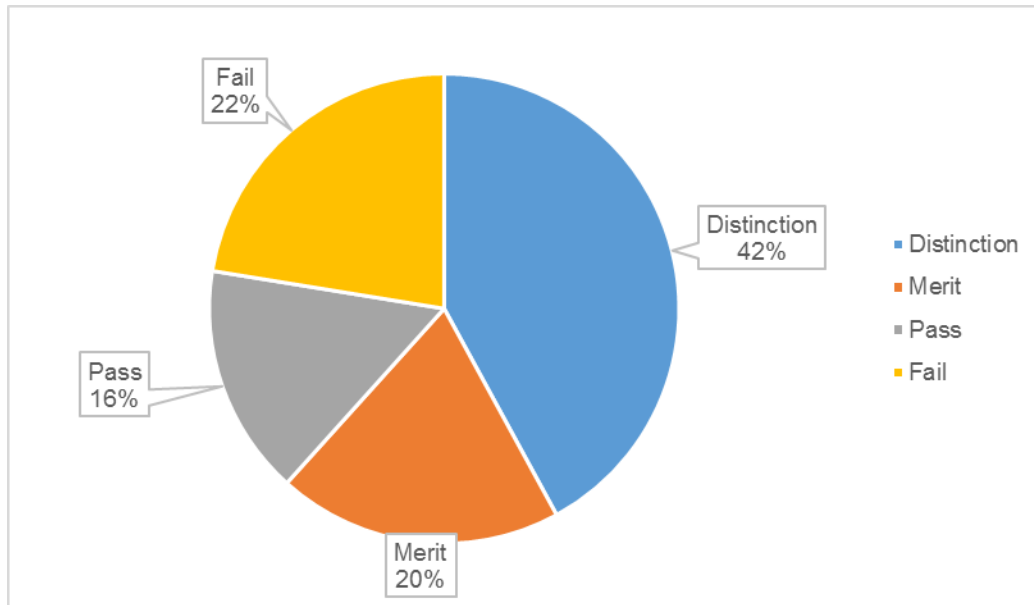
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## 5519-220 - Level 2/3 Award in Medical Terminology

### Examiner's report – February 2018



### General Comments

These papers were from a variety of centres and the marks achieved varied from 100% to 10%.

There were many excellent papers with two candidates gaining 100% of the available marks. 66% of the candidates achieved either a distinction or merit in this examination. These papers demonstrated that the candidates had been thoroughly prepared for this examination and were able to both recall the medical word parts and use them accurately to build and understand complex medical terms. It was good to notice that a number of candidates made an effort to enhance their answers to show their wider knowledge of this subject.

In contrast there were some papers where the candidate's achievement fell far short of the level required to attain success in this examination. Many of these candidates were awarded less than 25% of the available marks. Clearly some of these candidates were not adequately prepared for, and should not have been entered, for an examination at this level. Some candidates demonstrated very poor examination technique and several of these candidates failed to attempt all the questions.



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All previous examination reports have stated that candidates must give the meaning of all parts of the medical term to be awarded all the available marks, yet many of these candidates failed to do this, simply repeating part of the question in their answer.

It was noticeable that several candidates from the same centre gave identical incorrect answers to some of the questions. It is vital that tutors themselves have a good working knowledge of this subject.

### Areas of good performance

Q1 This question posed no problems for most candidates, many of whom gained all the available marks. There were also several very weak candidates who were unable to attempt all the questions.

All the words given were taken from a prescribed list and only required rote learning. The main problems came with candidates not reading the questions carefully and not checking their work thoroughly. 'Auto', 'lordo', 'ecto' and 'onycho' caused weak candidates the greatest problems

Q3 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 8 of the 10 available marks. and these marks, plus those attained in questions 1, 4b and 5, allowed a few otherwise quite weak candidates to scrape a pass in this examination. In Q3a some candidates mixed up numbers 1 and 4 and in question 3b candidates mixed up numbers 1, 3 and 4.

Q5 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. I was surprised that several candidates still gave meanings which were not pharmaceutical. The correct answer for BP was not blood pressure, many candidates had difficulty with the spelling of pharmacopoeia.



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## Areas for improvement

Q2 Many weaker candidates still cannot correctly identify words in common use concerning the anatomy, physiology, diseases and abnormalities of the listed body systems. Some lost marks for failing to fully explain their answers for example. question 1 - 'platelets' - the answer 'blood cells' was not sufficient to gain both marks.

Q3 'pericardium' the correct answer is 'sac around the heart' not 'lining the heart'  
Q10 'endoscope' is an instrument not a 'procedure'.

A number of candidates did not know the difference between otomy, ostomy and ectomy even though these are very common, basic, medical word parts.

The tutor should teach candidates the meanings of the common words used in connection with each listed body system as many of these cannot be broken down and identified from the word parts on the lists. Literal answers are not sufficient to explain the full meaning of many of the terms.

This extended question taxed the weaker candidates but posed no real difficulty to the more able, well prepared, candidates

Q4a All the words required in the answers are in common use in the medical field and many of them could all have been built from very basic/common word parts which should have been taught during their course. Many marks were forfeited due to poor spelling and the inappropriate use of the combining vowel. Some papers gave more than one answer to each question, only the first answer given was marked. A few very weak candidates gained no marks for this question which is one of the most important questions on the paper.

Q4b Many candidates gave incorrect answers to these medical specialities when this question only requires learning from a given list. Many candidates gave one-word answers instead of writing the answer in full, and only the very able candidates gave satisfactory answers to 'psychology'



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## Recommendations and Tips

There were several very poor papers, and a few were almost unreadable or contained very few attempts at the answers. Generally spelling is still weak. Centres must ensure that their tutors have a wide working knowledge of the subject being taught. Rote learning alone is not sufficient in this subject as when candidates are in the workplace it is imperative that they can write clearly and accurately and that they understand the meaning of what they are writing and reading 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 real terms. All candidates should practice their spelling of the word parts so that they become ingrained in the candidates' memory.

During the exam, candidates should read the questions thoroughly and highlight important words.