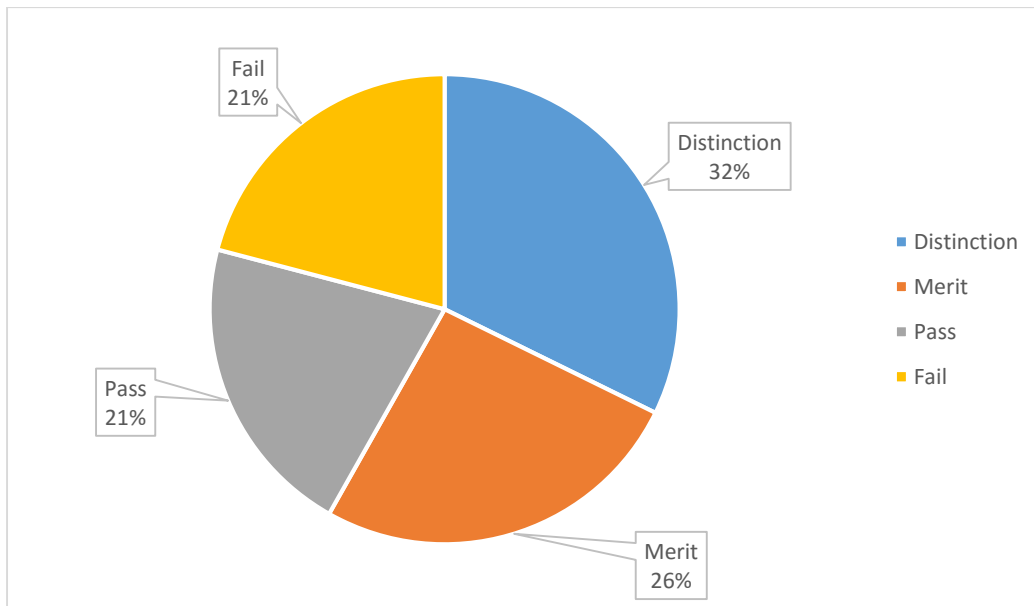## 5519-220 - Level 2 Award in Medical Terminology

## Examiner's report – June 2017 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

The overall standard for this paper was good with a high percentage of candidates submitting papers which achieved Merit or Distinction Level. There were a handful of excellent papers where the student gained over 90% of the available marks and at least one candidate gained 100% of the available marks.

## Areas of good performance

Question 1

This question posed no problems for the more able candidates. All the words given were taken from a prescribed list and only required rote learning. The main difficulties were with:

No 2 – 'mal'

No 8 – 'ptosis'

No 12 – 'ilio'


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 distractors tempers this a little. Some candidates were confused with the anatomical positions of 'radius' and 'humerus'. The most mistakes were made with:

3a

No 4 – 'encephalitis' which a few candidates misinterpreted as 'inflammation in the head' rather than the 'brain'.

3b

No 3 – 'uni'

No 4 – 'syn'


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. Weaker candidates found most difficulty with:
No 3 – POM
No 5 – ac

## Areas for improvement

Question 2

Weaker candidates still cannot identify words in common use concerning the anatomy, physiology, diseases and abnormalities of the listed body systems. Very few candidates achieved all of the available marks. Some candidates lost vital marks for failing to fully explain their answers. All parts of the medical term should be explained. To be awarded both the available marks it is not sufficient to repeat the medical terms asked in the question in the answer.

The questions causing the most difficulties were:

No 1 – 'polycythaemia'

No 2 – 'endocarditis'

No 5 – 'pneumonia'

No 6 – 'cyanosis'

No 7 – 'dialysis'

Centres should teach candidates the 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 4a

This question was poorly answered with only one candidate gaining all the available marks. Some weaker candidates gained none of the available marks. 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 be taught during the course.

Marks were often forfeited due to very poor spelling; carelessness in reading the question, and the inappropriate use of the combining vowel. Some candidates gave more than one answer to each question and many gave no answers at all. Only the first answer attempted was marked. Some candidates were unable to use 'ectomy', 'oscopy' and 'itis' correctly.

These word parts are in constant use in the medical field and should be amongst the first word parts that a candidate is taught during their course. Some of the more able candidates had difficulty with:

No 4 – 'tumour of a muscle'

No 5 – 'secondary deposits from a primary source'

No 8 – 'abnormally fatty stools'


Question 4b

Some candidates gave incorrect answers to these medical specialities when the answers only require recall from a very limited given list. Many gave one word answers instead of writing the answer in full and several just rewrote the medical term given in the question.

Weaker candidates generally gave too little information in their answers. There were many incorrect answers for:

No 1 – 'gynaecology'

No 4 – 'bariatrics'

No 5 – 'endocrinology'


## 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.