

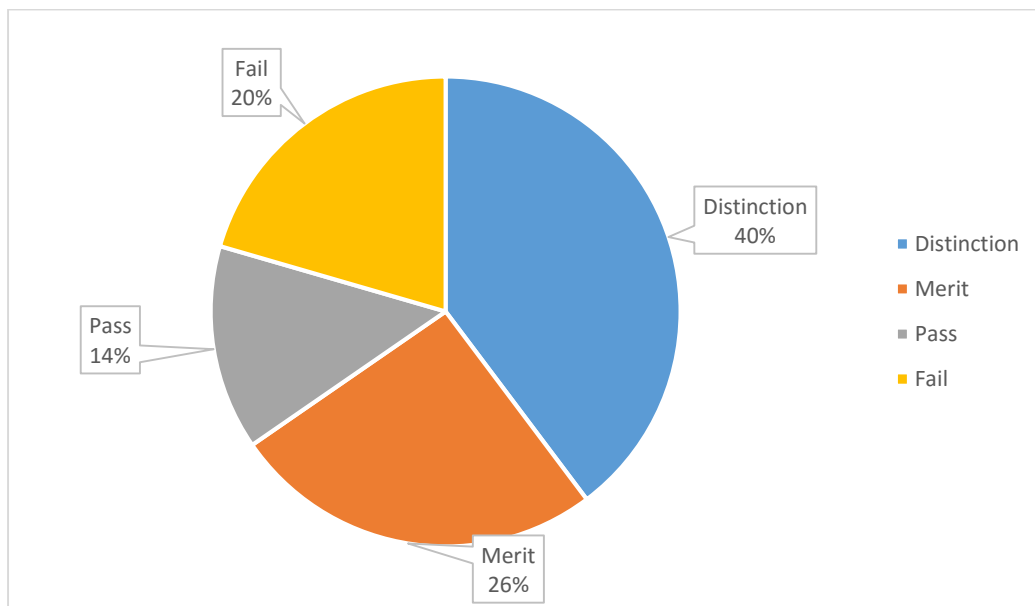


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5519-220 - Level 2 Award in Medical Terminology

Examiner's report – November 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 the only slight problem being the inclusion of a question concerning a drug category. As one centre questioned this inclusion it was decided that all candidates would be awarded the 2 available marks for this question so that there could be no chance of any candidate being penalised.

The general standard was very high with many candidates gaining distinction level and several candidates being awarded 100% of the available marks. Although the general standard was high there were, some weak papers where the candidates did not appear to have been adequately prepared for this examination. The overall standard of spelling is still quite poor.



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Areas of good performance

Question 1

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

Question 3a

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. Only the more able candidates could achieve at least 4 of the 5 available marks. Many candidates mixed up numbers 4 and 5.

Question 3b

Several weaker candidates mixed up numbers 2 and 4, but the more able candidates were able to gain all of the available marks.

Question 5

This very short question only 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 the available marks. Several weaker candidates found difficulty with 'SI'. Some candidates just gave the extended name of the 'SI' abbreviation instead of explaining what it meant.

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 'orthopnoea', 'enuresis' and 'ventricular'. Literal answers are often not sufficient to explain the full meaning of these terms. No marks are awarded if only half the medical term is explained correctly

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



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Question 4a

This question was well answered by the very able candidates. 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. 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. Candidates often lost vital marks because they do not check their answers thoroughly and fail to use the correct suffixes.

Where the word endings were not correct, no marks were awarded. In number 1 words concerned with procedures should generally end in 'graphy' not as 'gram' or 'graph'.

In number 8 words relating to a lighted instrument is always 'scope' not 'scopy' (this means the examination using a lighted instrument).

Question 4b

Some 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, 'women' instead of 'female reproductive tract'. Many candidates did not show a real understanding of the term 'forensic pathology'.

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.

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.

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 the terms in common use.