

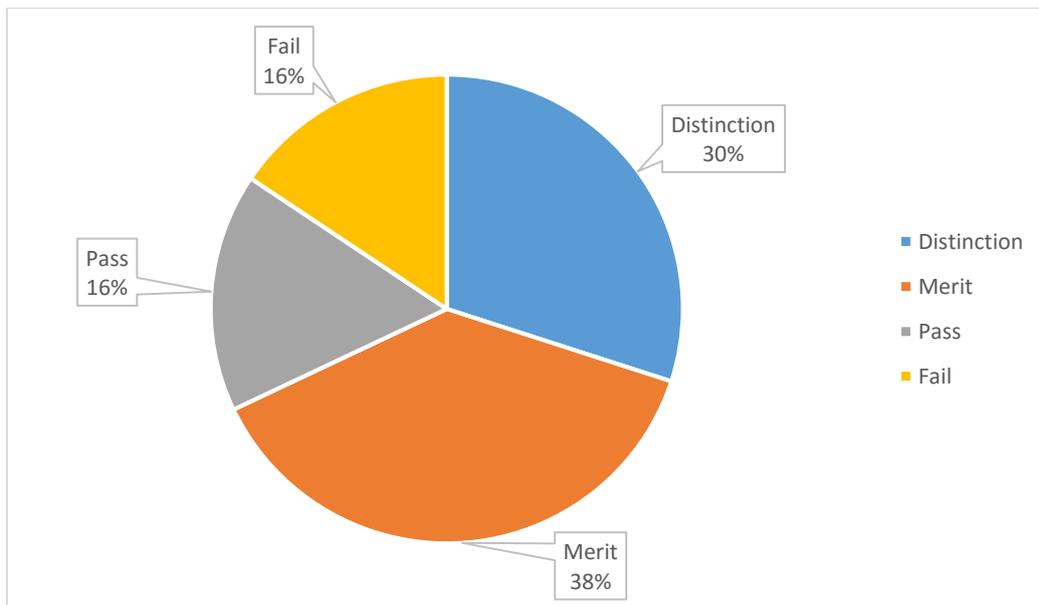


AMSPAR



5519-220 - Level 2 Award in Medical Terminology

Examiner's report – June 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

The general standard for this paper was quite poor with many candidates failing to attempt all of the available questions and some achieving very low marks. There were a handful of candidates who appeared to be completely unprepared for an examination at this level. Poor spelling remains a major issue. There were, however, some excellent papers with candidates showing a very good understanding of the subject and attaining very high marks.



AMSPAR



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 'blepharo-', '-para and ortho-'.

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. The majority of candidates were able to achieve at least 7 of the 10 available marks; these marks, plus those attained in questions 1 and 5, allowed several otherwise quite weak candidates to just pass this examination. Many candidates did not know the correct meaning of 'pleura'.

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. Several candidates were awarded all of the available marks. Weaker candidates found most difficulty with 'BNF' and 'NSAID'.

Areas for improvement

Question 2

Many candidates still cannot identify words in common use concerning the anatomy, physiology, diseases and abnormalities of the listed body systems. This question was poorly answered by a high percentage of candidates. No candidate 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 all of the available marks it is not sufficient to repeat the question in the answer. In question n_o 10 'duodenal', the answer should read 'concerning the first part of the small intestine'.

The questions causing the most difficulties were 'syndrome', 'leucocytosis', 'pruritis' and 'intravenous'.

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



AMSPAR



Question 4a

This question was very poorly answered with only a couple of candidates gaining all 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 have been taught during their course. Marks were often forfeited due to very 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. Several candidates were unable to use 'otomy', 'ostomy', 'it is' and 'ectomy' correctly.

Question 4b

Many 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 and several rewrote the medical term given in the question. There were many incorrect answers for 'obstetrics' and 'microbiology'.

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.