

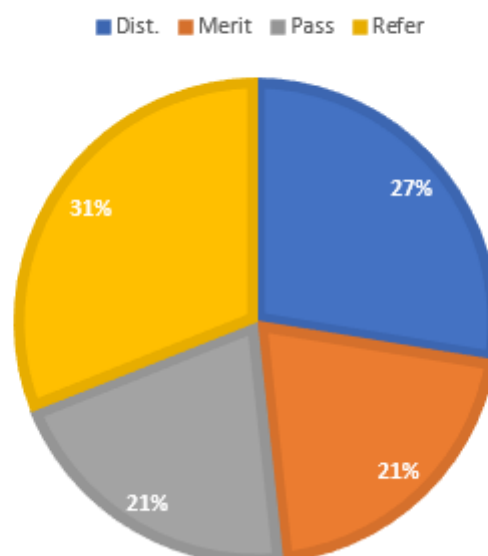
Examination Report 2021 5519-330 Medical Terminology Level 3

General comments

Grade Distribution

	February 2021	June 2021
Number of Candidates	7	51
Distinction	2	14
Merit	2	10
Pass	1	11
Refer	2	16

GRADE DISTRIBUTION 2021



This was a fairly small cohort across both series, particularly February. The standard was mixed with the marks awarded ranging across the grade boundaries.

There were many excellent papers where candidates were able to demonstrate their wide knowledge and understanding of the medical language. It was particularly pleasing to see that in the June series 47% of candidates attained Distinction or Merit level.

Unfortunately, some candidates found the paper particularly challenging and there was evidence of a lack of knowledge and understanding across the paper. Candidates struggled to demonstrate a knowledge of the correct building or recognition of complex medical terms. Having said this, many of these candidates were able to answer the recall questions, which are focused on the lists provided to centres and it was clear in both series that some of the challenges were owing to exam technique. There was evidence of candidates not answering questions in sufficient detail, repeating the word parts asked in the question without explanation, not explaining the meaning of all parts of the medical terms, as well as incorrect use of the combining vowel, giving more than one answer, and poor spelling. These are all common examination pitfalls and candidates may benefit from additional support in focusing on techniques to avoid them.

Areas of good practice & areas for development

Question 1

In the June series the higher performing candidates had no difficulty in explaining the meaning of most/all of these terms.

That being said, although the passage put the words into context to assist candidates in their recall of the terms, several candidates did not explain their answers in sufficient detail and so did not gain all the available marks.

Breaking down the medical term into word parts did not always help the candidates, as the literal meaning did not always fully explain the meaning of the term given. In the June series most marks were lost because the candidates did not define the meaning of the term in sufficient detail. In preparing for this type of question, candidates would benefit from support in discussing a wide range of medical terms in common use concerning the body systems.

The numbers causing the most problems in the February series were:

No 9 Cytology
No 14 Micturition.

The numbers causing the most problems in the June series were:

No 1 Diagnosis – several candidates incorrectly stated the meaning of prognosis
No 4 Anorexia – many candidates incorrectly gave the answer as mental illness
No 12 Oesophagectomy – some candidates failed to explain the word part oesophago in their answer.

Question 2

This question resulted in the lowest marks across the examination paper in June and a wide variety of marks in February, with a small number of candidates gaining none of the available marks. Several candidates lost important marks due to spelling errors or were unable to process the detail in these questions. It is insufficient to word build from the literal meanings. Candidates would benefit from teaching support to ensure they are fully conversant with a wide range of terms associated with these systems.

The incorrect answers given to the definitions of medical terms in the February papers were:

No 1 – Peurification instead of pyogenesis
No 2 – Stent pneumonectomy or lumbar puncture instead of thorococentesis
No10 – Eczema or dermarrhoepa instead of urticaria.

The main problems in the June paper were seen with:

No 3 – the correct answer is anuria/anuresis

No 5 – the correct answer is leuc/kopenia or leuc/kocytopenia, this is the opposite to leuc/kocytosis which was the answer given by many candidates.

No 10 – very few candidates gave the correct answer which is ileostomy.

Question 3

The more able candidates had no problems with this question, but several weaker candidates lost marks because they gave incorrect or insufficient detail in their answers.

In the February paper, the following terms presented a challenge for some candidates:

No 5 – Haemolysis – breakdown/disintegration of red blood cells was recorded as ‘infection of the blood’

No 10 – Obstetrics – the medical speciality concerned with pregnancy and childbirth was recorded as ‘pertaining to old age’

No 11 – Anastomosis – the joining together of two hollow organs or tubes was recorded as ‘condition without stomach acid’

No 15 – Incontinence – inability to control the evacuation of faeces or urine from the body was recorded as ‘dropping of urine constantly’.

In the June paper, the questions causing difficulty for some candidates were:

No 3 – Vasodilation – many candidates stated veins rather than blood vessels

No 6 – Polycythaemia – several gave the answer ‘excess blood cells’ but failed to identify the type of blood cells

No 11 – Echocardiogram – several candidates incorrectly described an ECG tracing

No 12 – Cyanosis – the answer blueness/blue skin was not a sufficient explanation to be awarded both available marks.

Question 4

The majority of candidates scored well, with many achieving full marks.

In the February series numbers 1, 3, 5 and 7 were well-answered by the majority of candidates.

In the June series numbers 2 and 6 were muddled by some candidates, and numbers 5 and 10 caused the most difficulty.

Question 5

This was well answered by many of the more able candidates. These questions are recall and are focussed on the abbreviations list provided to all centres. Centres may find it helpful to remind all candidates that are challenged by this question to revise the abbreviation list from the Qualification Handbook.

The numbers causing the most problems in the June series were:

No 3 – BUN – Blood urea (not urine) nitrogen

No 13 – on – every night (not one at night).

Question 6

This is another recall question that focuses on the list provided to centres. In the June series several candidates scored 100% of the available marks. The less able candidates could not demonstrate that they knew the word parts or were unable to accurately recall the correct

meanings of the listed words. As above, centres may find it helpful to remind all candidates that are challenged by this question to revise the abbreviation list from the Qualification Handbook.

Those numbers causing the most problems in the June series were:

No 3 – Amylo – starch

No 13 – Poiesis – producing, formation, production.

Question 7

This question required candidates to show an understanding of the meaning of the medical terms which had been put into context. Many candidates gave accurate answers, though several lost marks because they gave insufficient information.

The questions causing the most problems were:

No 3 – Antiplatelet – several candidates forfeited a mark because they did not define the meaning of platelets

No 5 – Acute – rapid onset was not sufficient detail to gain both marks

No 7 – Obese – fat was insufficient information to gain both available marks

No 9 – Varicose – only a small number of candidates explained this term in full accurate detail.

Recommendations

Many candidates were well-prepared and performed well in the exam. However, it is essential that medical terms which do not lend themselves to being broken down into word parts to form an accurate definition are explained to and understood by candidates in the context of the body system they relate to.

It should be noted that the ability to write accurately plays a central role in this exam and the work it relates to. Correct spelling is vital in this area of work as small inaccuracies could mean that the patient may suffer or not be given the correct treatment. Candidates who struggle with spelling would benefit from additional work using the lists provided by City and Guilds. It is recommended that centres only enter candidates that are test ready.

Examiner reports and past examination papers also provide invaluable insight in both these respects and centres are encouraged to draw on these when preparing candidates for the exam.