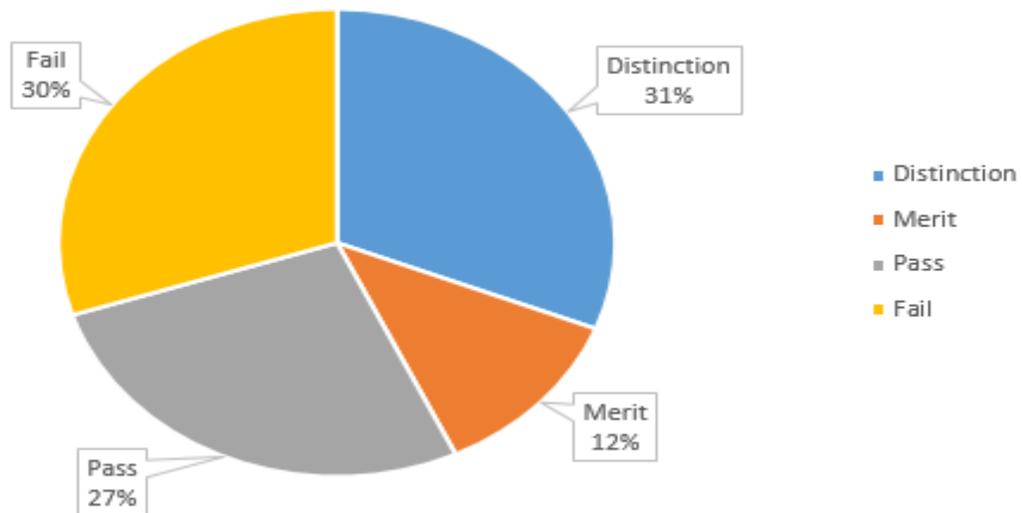




AMSPAR

5528-265 - Level 2 Award in Medical Terminology

Examiner's report - November 2015 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 students are required to gain either more or fewer raw marks to compensate and to gain a pass.

This examination was marked by computer for the first time.

General Comments

Centres standards varied considerably, varying from excellent to very poor. The majority of papers were of fairly good standard but there were a few very poor papers with the candidates gaining less than 20%.



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Areas of good performance

Question 1

This word part question was very well answered by the more capable candidates.

Question 3a and 3b

These questions were generally well answered by a large majority of candidates and involve matching medical terms and word parts with given definitions

Question 4b

The majority of candidates answered this question well and it is based on a list of medical specialties provided in the course handbook. It is recommended that tutors should ensure their students are familiar with these documents. Despite this there were a number of candidates who had very little idea of the correct answers and also failed to give a sufficient definition of the terms.

Question 5

This was also generally well answered by many candidates with several candidates gaining full marks. As usual, a few candidates gained good marks here even though their knowledge was poor concerning most other areas of the paper.



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Areas for improvement

Question 2

Some candidates were unable to identify common words in this question and showed a complete lack of understanding of their context in relation to the body. Many candidates failed to explain their answers fully.

Question 4a

There were some very good answers by a few candidates but unfortunately this question caused difficulty for the weaker ones, indicating a lack of understanding of the body. A thorough knowledge of the subject is necessary to achieve good marks for this question. Some students did give excellent answers, gaining full marks, which demonstrated an extensive knowledge of the subject. Spelling of medical terms was often poor by weaker students and as usual, there was indication of candidates having no understanding of the correct use of the combining vowel.

Medical terms least known

Tetra	retro	necro	-ptosis	-tome
-desis	Thoracotomy	macroglossia	intradental	encephalopathy
oncology	endocrinology	pathology		

Meanings

Artificial opening into the windpipe
surgical removal of the spleen

enlargement of the liver

Abbreviations

TTA qds ac



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Recommendations and Tips

Read the questions carefully! By failing to do so, marks are lost!

There were several extremely poor papers with very few questions attempted. It is recommended that candidates are not entered for the examinations until they are able to achieve a reasonable standard. Tutors should ensure that students understand word parts and their context in relation to the body. Candidates need to have a sound knowledge of the body in order to understand medicine and common procedures. This will help them to avoid making obvious errors in their interpretation and application of terms

Common medical terms relating to each body system in outcome two should also be taught. Several candidates interpreted encephalopathy in a literal way as disease inside the head demonstrating a complete lack of knowledge and understanding. It is insufficient to teach terminology in a literal interpretation of word parts. The recommended text- books cover these requirements. A basic knowledge of anatomy and physiology is required for candidates to understand the terminology. Rote learning is not enough.

In order for students to have a good understanding of the subject, tutors need to have a wide working knowledge of medical terminology and its application. As stated, many medical terms have a completely different meaning than the literal interpretation.

Accuracy in this field is essential.

Tutors need to read the guidelines for this qualification, carefully. C&G provide detailed information within the specification.