

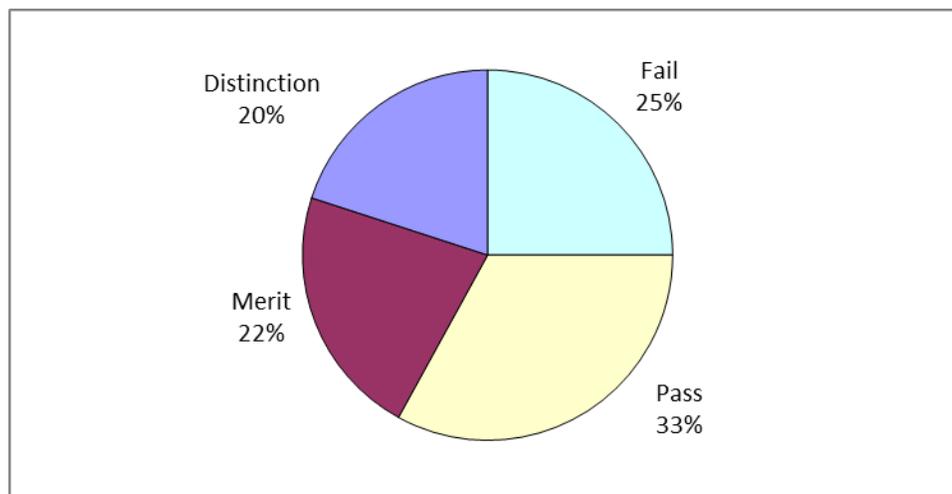


AMSPAR

November 2011 series - Examiner's report

4415-02-300 Level 3 Certificate in Medical Terminology

4419-02-330 Level 3 Diploma for Medical Secretaries



Areas of good performance

Some excellent candidates showed a wide knowledge and understanding of medical terms and their usage. They gave full explanations in their answers and demonstrated ability across the whole examination paper resulting in very high marks being obtained.

Question 1 (2.1, 4.1, 5.1, 7.1, 8.1, 10.1 & 12.1)

This was well answered by the majority of candidates, although some failed to give any further explanation for the terms 'oesophageal' and 'pancreatitis' other than simply repeating the terms 'oesophagus' and 'pancreas' in their answers without giving any further description (see later comments concerning this).

Question 4 (1, 1.3, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12 & 16)

This was well answered by most candidates.

Questions 5(1.1) & 6 (2.1, 4.1, 10.1, 17.1 & 19.1)

These questions were generally well answered by the majority of candidates. These involve rote learning and do not test understanding by the candidate.



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Areas for improvement

There were a few very poor papers demonstrating lack of knowledge and understanding of the questions given. Unfortunately, as in the previous examination, some candidates showed poor literacy skills, many failed to demonstrate an understanding of the required medical terms giving an indication of lack of knowledge of medical context, which should not be an issue at this level.

Question 2 (1.2, 2.2, 5.2, 8.2, 9.2, 10.2, 13.2 & 15.2)

There were a few excellent answers. However, some answers demonstrated a purely semantic approach producing manufactured medical terms, which are not used in the medical field. Candidates should be taught medical terminology using examples of real medical terms within a medical context and it is essential that tutors have a thorough working knowledge of the subject and its vagaries. Several candidates are joining word parts together without any understanding of the correct terms for genuine medical conditions. Although many terms may be produced in this way, others being produced do not exist.

Questions 3 (1, 2.1, 4.1, 7.1, 8.1, 9.1, 10.1, 12.1, 15.1, 16.1 & 19.1) & 7 (2.1, 4.1, 10.1, 17.1 & 19.1)

These questions produced difficulty for numerous weaker candidates. There is evidence of simply rote learning by many candidates, which unfortunately fails to achieve the correct explanation. The context of the question for number seven (as in question one) should assist those candidates who have a deeper knowledge of medical terms and conditions, although it was apparent that some candidates were guessing the interpretation, demonstrating no knowledge of body structure or actual medical conditions.

Medical terms least known

Trauma	Aortic symptoms	Varices	polycythaemia	Amniocentesis
Pyloroplasty	Sputum	Occipital	lobectomy	Metaplasia
Dysplasia	Intervertebral plantar	Sciatic	Lesion	Physiotherapy
Nose-bleed	Study of hormones	Vomiting blood	Pan-	Pharyngo-
Pyelo-	Paralysis of both legs	Myco-	-ism	-ectasis
-clasis				



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Abbreviations

NG LIH ERCP RIF pH TTA POM

Recommendations and tips

It is essential that candidates take the time to read and understand what is asked in the questions as, mistakes are made by candidates who fail to do so. Marks are awarded for correct spelling of medical terms. Candidates should be encouraged to write clearly. In some papers it is extremely hard to decipher the candidate's writing, because of indistinct alterations. This makes it very difficult for the examiner to know the candidate's intention. Incorrect answers should be crossed through and the correct version inserted clearly.

It is essential that candidates fully explain terms which have part of the answer in the given word eg oesophageal. The term may be explained in the candidate's own words eg concerning the oesophagus, ie the gullet, or the food tube, or the tube to the stomach. (Any one of these explanations is acceptable).

Some candidates continue to give semantic answers when translating medical terms. The literal meaning is not necessarily the proper meaning of a medical word and by doing this candidates show a lack of knowledge or understanding of what is required. Some knowledge of the body is essential in order to understand medical terminology and its application. Tutors require a sound working knowledge of the subject in order to give correct tuition to their candidates. Medical terminology is in context and appropriate answers show understanding of this. Accuracy is essential in the field of medicine.