

# 4234-316 Level 3 Principles and Theory of Dental Nursing

## Chief Examiners Report – June 2012

In June 2012 there were 1043 candidates from 60 centres with 562 passing which was a 54% pass rate. All the candidates who were within a few marks of the pass mark had their papers remarked by the Chief Examiner. As there are short answer questions it was quite clear from candidate's answers that all those who failed could not answer some basic questions that are part of a qualified dental nurse's duties and they did not have the knowledge and understanding required by the occupational standards.

We have always tried to introduce new questions as training centres gather question banks from past papers despite our attempts at security. In the June exam we had 60 questions with 25 MCQ's which is the same ratio as previous exams, and 12 new questions introduced with 80% of questions from previous papers.

The new questions covered GDC Standards, DOH guidance on cross infection control and the increased scope of this new Diploma exam.

City & Guild is under constant pressure from centres to give sample questions and marking guidelines but centres must be reminded this is a professional exam for a professional qualification and they are not teaching just to pass an exam. The teaching should cover everything in the learning outcomes and City & Guilds are assessing to see if the candidates have that knowledge.

We devise new questions to ensure candidates are learning the whole syllabus not just what has been covered by previous questions.

I have tried to put quite an extended response to the questions with wrong answers as it helps to show the tutors some of the basic information the candidates do not have.

### **Questions answered poorly**

In cross infection control – solutions for decontamination were not known, guidelines for ultrasonic cleaners, storage after sterilization and care of water lines. Candidates must know the current regulations and guidelines as well as underpinning knowledge and these questions answered poorly are part of the daily routine of a dental nurse.

Consent and GDC Standards were only answered by the top 20%. The General Dental Council is very strict about all registrants understanding the standards of care.

Medical emergency drugs and the action to take when a patient faints were very poorly answered and this knowledge is essential for a qualified dental nurse.

Radiograph still makes up about 25% of the paper – this may seem an imbalance but that is the way this part of the assessment is structured.

There were poor answers with ALARP, local rules, occlusal radiographs. The question on Lateral Oblique is a difficult question but in every paper there is a mix of easy to difficult questions.

There are strict guidelines on Quality Assurance with radiography which should be carried out in every clinic and candidates should understand how this operates and the underpinning reasons for it.

Oral health was better answered but candidates cannot distinguish between fixed and removable appliance and the appropriate instructions given to patients. 3 marks are often lost when candidates confuse topical and systemic fluoride.

There are only a few restorative questions as this is covered more in practical observation assessment, but surprising that so many did not know what a barbed broach was, what was used to obturate a root canal and the name of a simple bridge.

The number of answers expected for a question is written in bold and some candidates still write multiple answers in the hope that one is correct. If any part is wrong they lose all the marks for that question as they do not clearly know the answer.

Some candidates have obviously practiced with mock papers and they must read the question carefully as we do change the emphasis of the question so we are not always repeating questions from previous papers.

Chief Examiner  
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