



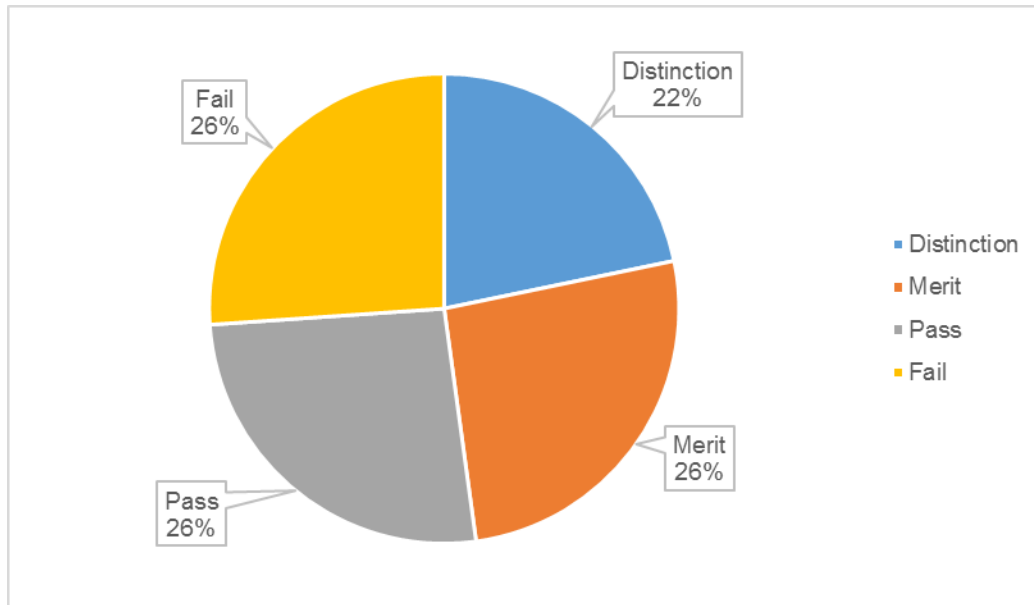
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## 5519-330 - Level 3 Medical Terminology

### Examiner's report – February 2018



### General Comments

This was a small number of papers from several centres. The overall standard was good with one outstanding candidate being awarded 138 marks out of a possible 140 marks. Approximately 50% of candidates reached distinction or merit level and these candidates and their tutors are to be applauded.

Unfortunately, some less able candidates had not been sufficiently prepared for this examination. There were a several very poor, or totally incorrect, attempts at answering the questions, thus displaying lack of knowledge or understanding. Many of the weaker candidates were able to answer the questions which only required rote learning from the provided lists but were unable to demonstrate a knowledge of correctly building or recognising complex medical terms. There was much evidence of poor exam technique displayed in the weaker papers. For example not answering the questions in sufficient detail, lack of or incorrect knowledge or understanding of the medical terms, not explaining the meaning of all parts of the medical terms, incorrect use of the combining vowel, giving more than one answer, and poor spelling.



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## Areas of good performance

Q4 This question was well answered by the majority, with many candidates being awarded all the available marks. Q6 and Q10 were muddled by some candidates and Q1 was the least well-known term.

Q5 This was well answered by most of the more able candidates. The answers only required the recollection of abbreviations taken from very limited list. The very poor attempts by some weaker candidates may be the result of some candidates not having access to the list.

The questions causing the most problems were:

No 2 MIMS – monthly index of medical specialities

No 10 GFR - glomerular filtration rate

No 11 on – every night

Q6 This question only required recall of word parts from a given list. Several candidates scored 100% of the available marks. Some weaker candidates scored badly and had obviously not learnt or were unable to accurately recall the meanings of the listed word parts.

Those causing the most problems were:

No1 ilio – bone of the pelvis

No 3 aniso – unequal

No 5 polio - grey

No 10 toxico - poison

No 15 tome- an instrument to cut



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## Areas for improvement

Q1 Although this passage put the words into context to assist candidates in their recall of the terms several candidates failed to explain their answers in sufficient detail to gain all the available marks.

Breaking down the medical term given in the question into word parts did not always help the candidates as the literal meaning did not always fully explain the meaning of the term given. With this type of question, it is necessary for candidates to have discussed, with their tutors and peers, a wide range of common terms and their correct meaning and usage during their course. This cannot happen unless the tutor has a very wide working knowledge of this subject. Most marks were lost because the student did not define the meaning of the term in sufficient detail

A few candidates scored less than 10% of the available marks whilst the more able candidates appeared to have no difficulty in attempting to explain the meaning of most/all of these terms.

The questions causing the most problems were:

No 1 colonography – several candidates incorrectly stated that this is examination of the small intestine.

No 7 polyp – many candidates gave the answer as tumour and failed to mention that it is attached to the body with a stalk.

Q 2 This question resulted in the lowest marks across the examination paper with a couple of candidates gaining none of the available marks. Lack of attention to detail and terrible spelling lost several candidates vital marks. It is insufficient to just word build from the literal meanings. Several of these words could not be built in this way. Accurate teaching of all aspects of the body systems is needed to ensure candidates are fully conversant with these terms.

Although all the questions posed difficulties for the weaker candidates the main problems were seen with:

No 1 the answer is haemoptysis and not haematemesis.

No 3 only the very able candidates gave the correct answer of parotitis.

No 10 the correct answer is paraesthesia.

Q3 More able candidates had no problems with this question, but weaker candidates lost marks because they gave incorrect or insufficient detail in their answers.



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The questions causing difficulty for some candidates were:

No 1 sciatic. Many failed to mention that the nerve goes down the leg.

No 4 platelet. Several gave the answer blood cells but were unable to give a full description of the usage.

No 5 emaciated. The answer 'thin' was insufficient to gain both the available marks.

No 7 varices. The answer veins was insufficient to gain both the available marks.

No 13 pericardium This is the sac/membrane around the heart. It is not the lining of the heart.

Q7 This short question required candidates to show an understanding of the meaning of the medical terms which had been put into context. The majority of candidates found no difficulty in giving full accurate answers. Several lost marks because they gave insufficient information.

The questions causing the most problems were:

No 5 hydrocele.

No 7 epididymis. No candidate gained both the available marks for this question.



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## Recommendations and Tips

Tutors must have a full working understanding of medical terms connected with each body system. Candidates undertaking this course should be capable of participating in and gaining from a course set at level 3. This was clearly not the case with some of these candidates who are either working or training to work in positions of responsibility in our NHS.

The same points have been mentioned in all previous Chief Examiners reports. It is vital that all staff have access to the reports and use them to aid the teaching of this complex subject

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. Regrettably it is noticeable that some candidates fail to spell even the simplest of terms and many English words correctly