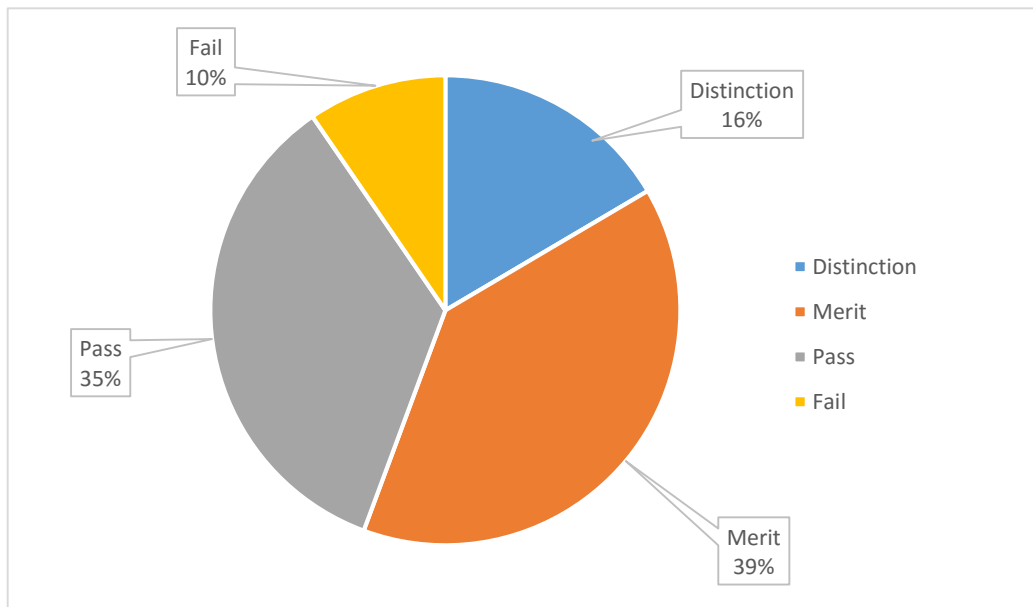


5519-335 - Level 3 Medical Principles for the Administrator

Examiner's report – June 2017 series



As each examination paper is unique there can be slight variations of difficulty from series to series – which means that candidates are required to gain either more or fewer raw marks to compensate and to gain a pass.

General Comments

The overall standard of these papers was good with a high percentage of both cohorts gaining merit or distinction. Marks ranged from 90+ to a few below 30. This is a Level 3 examination paper where a number of questions required the candidates to demonstrate their ability to accurately describe or explain syllabus topics. Most candidates were able to provide some correct information but some were not able to develop their answers sufficiently. A small number of candidates did not exhibit an accurate knowledge of the subject matter giving incorrect information or failing to attempt the question leaving parts of the examination script blank.

Areas of good performance

In questions 2, 4, 5a, 7, 8, 11, 12b&c, 14a&b, 15a&b and 16a, b & c there were many very good answers but these were generally from the more able candidates. Some of these questions require only a short answer or a phrase from a prescribed list and the candidate does not need to demonstrate any in depth understanding or knowledge.



Areas for improvement

It was apparent that some candidates were unable to read the questions accurately or check their answers to ensure it related to the question asked and very poor spelling resulted in a loss of marks.

More than the required number of answers to the question was provided by some candidates. If the question asks for 2 examples, then only the first 2 answers given by the candidate will be marked even if these 2 answers are incorrect.

Question 1. The understanding of the benefits of Health Promotion (HP) was not evident in many of the candidate answers. Weaker candidates thought that Health Promotion (HP) was the same as screening tests, and did not mention prolonging healthy lives or the implications of the cost to the NHS.

Question 3b. Limited understanding of the use of tagging patient records and little mention of age/ sex registers.

Question 5b. Although most able candidates had no difficulty with this question, several weaker candidates appeared to have no real understanding of how pathogenic micro-organisms entered the human body.

Question 6. Candidates are still unable to distinguish between signs and symptoms of disease. Several giving a long list of answers instead of the two signs and two symptoms requested. Many candidates failed to indicate which answers were signs and which were symptoms.

Question 9. This question was one of the most badly answered on the paper. There were inadequate accurate descriptions given by the majority of candidates across all areas of the Diagnostic Imaging Department and several candidates gave totally incorrect information in their answers. A number of candidates failed to attempt all parts of this question and a few described areas of the Pathology Department instead of the Diagnostic Imaging Department.

Question 10. This question was poorly answered by many candidates. Several candidates gave totally inaccurate information. Very few candidates gave sufficient accurate detail in their answers to gain all the available marks.

Question 12. A number of candidates were unable to state the meaning of medical etiquette with real understanding. Many examples provided were incorrect as those for medical ethics were put in the medical etiquette section and vice versa.

Question 13. Very disappointing answers to this question with no candidate gaining all the marks available. Information provided was generally very limited or focused on dealing



with patients' prescriptions. Most candidates showed little understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the community pharmacist.

Recommendations and Tips

Exam technique

Giving some time to organising the answers, writing as neatly as possible and providing adequate information would help to gain the marks needed for success. Candidates should understand the meaning of what the words explain and describe require in an answer, candidates should highlight important words in the question to help them structure their answers. Candidates should refer to the overall marks allocated to the question gives them a good indication of the extent of detail required in the answer.

Spelling

It is noticeable in some instances that spelling is still below the standard required especially relating to medical terminology and drug categories. When learning anatomical terms such as those of the human body it may be useful for candidates to practice the spelling of the term until this can be spelt correctly from memory. It is important to note that drug categories, medical terms and the names of body parts/ systems taken from the given lists cannot be given the available mark if they are spelt incorrectly.