



EXAMINERS' REPORTS

LEVEL 3 IN MEDICAL SCIENCE

JANUARY 2017

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MEDICAL SCIENCE

Level 3

January 2017

Internally Assessed Units: Unit 2

Unit 2-Physiological Measurement techniques

General Comments

One centre submitted work for this unit in this series.

The quality of work submitted by the centre was very good and assessment by the centre was in the main accurate and in agreement with the moderators.

Administrative work was correctly submitted, with authentication sheets signed by the candidates.

Centres should note that when awarding mean marks from 2 activities for an AC, any half marks should be rounded up.

Activity One

Task 1

Candidates need to produce pre-test information for three different tests; one of these tests must be an ECG.

A.C 1.1 should be covered in each piece of pre-test information, as each piece is marked out of a maximum of 6 marks for this A.C (18 marks in total for this A.C). It is important that for A.C 1.1 candidates do not just describe the physiological test, but explain the principles of how the test works. So for example with the peak flow test, candidates could explain about this test measuring airflow through the bronchi and thus the degree of obstruction, with blood pressure candidates need to explain how the cuff inflates to cut off blood flow, then slowly releases, so that the sensor can accurately record when pressure returns.

Task 2

For this task candidates need to produce a plan (A.C 3.1). This plan should be detailed and cover things such as: identification of information to be collected, procedures that will be used, equipment needed, and the location and timing of the test; how/when patients will be informed of when they need to attend, what they should do/not do before the test; any other individuals that need to be contacted-e.g technician, facilities etc.

Although the observation record can also support the achievement and marking of this A.C, it is important that candidates do produce a written plan themselves.

Candidates need to perform a minimum of two tests on at least two patients. The two tests should test two different physiological systems, for example blood pressure test: cardiovascular system , peak flow: respiratory system. Tests such as BMI do not test a specific system and are not listed in the content for this unit (A.C 3.2).

Task 3 and 4

These two tasks are linked, but it is important to ensure that candidates do cover all the required A.Cs, this includes describing possible limitations of the tests they have performed (A.C 1.3). Candidates should process data from the physiological measurement tests they performed and from the data with which they are provided (ECG trace). With the ECG trace candidates should label the components of the ECG (P, QRS and T) and undertake relevant analysis. They could also comment on the “repeatability of the two traces provided.

For A,C 4.2 Candidates need to provide conclusions which are detailed and are clearly linked to the evidence, this includes comparisons to expected norms and patient history. Candidates need to link their findings to expected physiology and possible pathology.

For A.C 4.4 it is important that candidates use scientific and technical language in the proforma for the head of department (e.g. hypertension rather than high blood pressure).



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