



Level 3 Interim Examiners' Report

Applied Certificate/Diploma in Medical Science
Level 3
Summer 2024

Introduction

This report provides a summary of candidates' performance, including the assessment objectives/skills/topics/themes being tested, and highlights the characteristics of successful performance and where performance could be improved within the qualification as a whole. A final report providing detailed commentary on candidate performance in each unit will be provided by 30th September 2024.

Executive Summary

In both Unit 1 and Unit 6, the low attempt rate for some questions was surprising, including very low demand questions. It was also surprising to see non-attempted parts within the pre-release section of Unit 1. Quality of written communication continued to be a problem. Some responses were very unclear or contradictory, with candidates unable to express their ideas. Issues with handwriting quality were reported e.g. explaining the role of ADH in osmoregulation. There was a lack of scientific detail and use of suitable scientific terminology for the extended answer questions. There were also many examples of candidates not reading the question carefully. Command words were often ignored; candidates should be familiar with command words such as describe, explain, compare, and suggest. Recall of knowledge was a problem for many e.g. structure of the gut wall – this has been an issue for a number of years.

Synoptic questions were an issue in Unit 1. Centres are reminded that some content from Unit 2 and Unit 3 must be assessed by examination in Unit 1. The majority of candidates appeared unfamiliar with some of this content, e.g. urodynamic testing and spirometry.

In all units, maths skills were variable. Single stage calculations were managed much better than multi-stage calculations. Graph plotting was also noted as an issue, with many candidates making simple plotting errors, labelling axes incorrectly or unable to select the most appropriate type of graph/chart. Many candidates commented that they did not have a calculator available during the Unit 1 and 6 examinations. Use of an appropriate number of significant figures continued to be an issue, particularly in Units 2 and 5. Use of appropriate units was a particular problem in Units 2, 3, 4 and 5. Units should be correct on all graphs, tables and when values are quoted in the text of the report. Correct use of mathematical notation is particularly important in Unit 3.

In the units assessed by NEA (Units 2-5), centres are reminded that these tasks are time constrained. Candidates should have an awareness of what can be achieved in the time available, and they should be discouraged from including extra material that is not required by the assessment. Copying and pasting information from the internet or AI is not credit-worthy.

Areas for improvement	Classroom resources	Brief description of resource
Unit 1: structure of the gut wall	the-digestive-system.pdf (wjec.co.uk)	Knowledge organiser – the digestive system
Unit 1: osmoregulation	the-kidney.pdf (wjec.co.uk)	Knowledge organiser – the kidney
Unit 1: enzymes	enzymes_v2.pdf (wjec.co.uk)	Knowledge organiser – enzymes and biological reactions
Unit 2: ECG and BP	2-1-cardiac-physiology.pdf (wjec.co.uk)	Knowledge organiser – physiological measurement: cardiac physiology
Unit 2: peak flow	2-2-respiratory-physiology.pdf (wjec.co.uk)	Knowledge organiser – physiological measurement: respiratory physiology
Unit 3: variables and hypotheses	3-1-research-methods.pdf (wjec.co.uk)	Knowledge organiser – understanding research methods
Unit 4: treatments for cancer	4-3-treatment-of-cancer.pdf (wjec.co.uk)	Knowledge organiser – treatment of cancer
Unit 5: serial dilution	5-6-microbiology-counts.pdf (wjec.co.uk)	Knowledge organiser - total cell counts and viable cell counts

Further support

Document	Description	Link
Professional Learning / CPD	WJEC offers an extensive programme of online and face-to-face Professional Learning events. Access interactive feedback, review example candidate responses, gain practical ideas for the classroom and put questions to our dedicated team by registering for one of our events here.	https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/professional-learning/
Past papers	Access the bank of past papers for this qualification, including the most recent assessments. Please note that we do not make past papers available on the public website until 12 months after the examination.	Portal by WJEC or on the WJEC subject page
Grade boundary information	<p>Grade boundaries are the minimum number of marks needed to achieve each grade.</p> <p>For unitised specifications grade boundaries are expressed on a Uniform Mark Scale (UMS). UMS grade boundaries remain the same every year as the range of UMS mark percentages allocated to a particular grade does not change. UMS grade boundaries are published at overall subject and unit level.</p> <p>For linear specifications, a single grade is awarded for the subject, rather than for each unit that contributes towards the overall grade. Grade boundaries are published on results day.</p>	For unitised specifications click here: Results, Grade Boundaries and PRS (wjec.co.uk)
Exam Results Analysis	WJEC provides information to examination centres via the WJEC Portal. This is restricted to centre staff only. Access is granted to centre staff by the Examinations Officer at the centre.	Portal by WJEC
Classroom Resources	Access our extensive range of FREE classroom resources, including blended learning materials, exam walk-throughs and knowledge organisers to support teaching and learning.	https://resources.wjec.co.uk/

Bank of Professional Learning materials	Access our bank of Professional Learning materials from previous events from our secure website and additional pre-recorded materials available in the public domain.	Portal by WJEC or on the WJEC subject page.
Become an examiner with WJEC.	We are always looking to recruit new examiners or moderators. These opportunities can provide you with valuable insight into the assessment process, enhance your skill set, increase your understanding of your subject and inform your teaching.	Become an Examiner WJEC

Supporting you

Useful contacts and links

Our friendly subject team is on hand to support you between 8.30am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Tel: 029 2240 4252

Email: science@wjec.co.uk

Qualification webpage: [Level 3 Medical Science \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk/level-3-medical-science)

See other useful contacts here: [Useful Contacts | WJEC](#)

CPD Training / Professional Learning

Access our popular, free online CPD/PL courses to receive exam feedback and put questions to our subject team, and attend one of our face-to-face events, focused on enhancing teaching and learning, providing practical classroom ideas and developing understanding of marking and assessment.

Please find details for all our courses here: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/professional-learning/>

WJEC Qualifications

As Wales' largest awarding body, WJEC supports its education community by providing trusted bilingual qualifications, specialist support, and reliable assessment to schools and colleges across the country. This allows our learners to reach their full potential.

With more than 70 years' experience, we are also amongst the leading providers in both England and Northern Ireland.



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