



The Society of Apothecaries of London

Guide to The Diploma in the History of Medicine (DHMSA) Incorporating the Regulations and Syllabus

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Notice of future amendments to the Guide (incorporating the Regulations and Syllabus) and revisions following publication of this version.

The DHMSA Examination will continue to change to reflect developments. Although every attempt has been made to ensure that this version of the DHMSA Examination Regulations and Syllabus is accurate, further changes to the DHMSA examination, the Regulations and closing dates may be made. Candidates should refer to the [Society of Apothecaries](http://www.apothecaries.org) website for the most up-to-date information, where any such changes will be detailed.

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INTRODUCTION

The Diploma in the History of Medicine was instituted by the Society of Apothecaries of London in 1970 as a natural development of the activities of the Society's Faculty of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy, which was established in 1959. It is designed in part as a qualification for those who may be called upon to teach the history of medicine, either in separate formal courses or as part of the undergraduate course of medical studies or of studies in history or the social sciences. It is the Society's intention that the Diploma shall be regarded as a proof of a good general knowledge of up-to-date sources and methods of inquiry, of an adequate factual knowledge of one special period or topic within the field, and an ability to lecture in an interesting manner.

COURSE CONTACT DETAILS

For further details on the course please contact:

Faculty Manager
Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy
Society of Apothecaries
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London
EC4V 6EJ

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www.apothecaries.org

DATE AND PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION

The Examination is held annually. Please refer to the [Administrative Guidance for Candidates](#)

EXAMINATION TIMETABLE AND FEES

Please refer to the [Administrative Guidance for Candidates](#).

REGULATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION

1. Candidates must complete either:
 - a. The Diploma Course organised by the Society's Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy **OR**
 - b. An appropriate university course, assessed and approved at the discretion of the Convenor and Deputy Convenor/Examiners Committee Representative **OR**
 - c. Show evidence of competence (e.g. list of publications in the history of medicine) before admittance to the examination. This will be assessed and approved at the discretion of the Convenor and Deputy Convenor/Examiners' Committee Representative.
2. Form A (for those applying for the first time) or Form R (for re-entrants) and the fee must have been received by the closing date published in the [Administrative Guidance for Candidates](#).
3. If applicable, Form Q (Application for Special Examination Arrangements) must have been received by no later than 4 weeks before the application deadline for the examination, published in the [Administrative Guidance for Candidates](#).
4. Entry and re-entry to the examination must be made within 3 years of completing the course.

THE EXAMINATION

5. The examination will be conducted in English throughout, and will comprise parts:
 - Two 2-hour written papers
 - A dissertation on a topic chosen by the candidate and approved by the Convenor
 - A test lecture on a topic (different from the dissertation) chosen by the candidate and approved by the Convenor

All parts of the examination should be taken in the same year unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the Convenor.
6. A candidate who fails Papers 1 and 2 (considered together) will be marked as failing the whole examination. A candidate who fails any two of the three parts of the examination will be marked as failing the whole examination. In such cases the entire examination must be retaken. (If a candidate's dissertation has been passed, however, there will be no requirement to resubmit this.)
7. A candidate who passes the written papers but is referred in the dissertation or test lecture will be permitted to re-enter for the part(s) of the examination in which he or she has been referred.
8. In cases where the candidate has failed to satisfy the examiners in the dissertation or where the whole examination has been failed the Head of the Academic Department will notify the candidate whether or not the dissertation may be revised and resubmitted.
9. All failed sections must be re-taken the following year. If this is not possible and there are extenuating circumstances, accepted by the Convenor, then permission may exceptionally be granted to re-sit the failed sections 2 years later. Candidates, should, however, note (paragraph 4 above) that re-entry to the examination must be made within 3 years of completing the course.
10. Successful candidates are entitled to use the letters DHMSA after their names.

11. The examination fee will be determined from time to time by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (AQSC) and published in the [Administrative Guidance for Candidates](#). Candidates who withdraw from the examination after the closing date will forfeit a proportion of the fee as specified in the Administrative Guidance.
12. Candidates will be issued with an admission document once a place for the examination has been confirmed. This must be produced on the day of examination, along with some form of photographic identification.
13. On the day of the written examination, candidates are forbidden to bring books, papers, mobile telephones, calculators or any other electronic aid into the examination rooms. Candidates must not attempt to communicate with each other in any way while a written examination is in progress.
14. Candidates who present themselves for written examinations after the start time stated in the admission document will be admitted if they arrive within 30 minutes of this time, but may not be admitted if they arrive thereafter. In any case, candidates will forfeit the time lost. In exceptional circumstances, where all candidates are affected by delays, the examination timings may be amended.
15. Candidates' completed examination scripts become the property of, and will be retained by, the Society. They will not be available for study afterwards.
16. We reserve the right to refuse to admit to the examination, or to proceed with the examination of, any candidate who infringes a regulation or who refuses to comply with the reasonable request of an officer of the Society.

REVIEW AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

17. The processes outlined below will be dealt with according to the Examination Review and Appeal Procedure. Candidates must not make representations directly to an examiner.
18. The stages of the review and appeal procedures are as follows:
 - a. Feedback – first, compulsory stage;
 - b. Review – second, optional stage;
 - c. Appeal – third, optional stage.
19. **Feedback (compulsory).** The feedback process operates through the Head of the Academic Department (HOAD). Feedback on examination performance may be available to unsuccessful candidates at their request. Requests must be made in writing and be received by the HOAD within 28 days of the date of the result letter.
20. The HOAD has authority to pass to the candidate a breakdown of the results of each section of the examination where this is not provided with the result letter. This information should be read in conjunction with the explanation of the marking scheme and the standard that is required to achieve a pass in the examination contained in this Guide.
21. The HOAD can also relay a transcript of additional general advice directly to the candidate, if such advice is available. This is advice generated by the Examiners Committee, which had been agreed at the time of the examination. The HOAD's role is to distribute the prepared information but not to interpret it.
22. There is no charge to the candidate for this service.
23. **Review (optional).** A request by a candidate for a review of a paper must be received in writing within 28 days of the date of the notification informing the candidate of the feedback. A request for a review cannot be made without first going through the feedback stage. There is a fee of £175 for a review.

24. **Appeal (optional).** An appeal to the Society's AQSC is open to a candidate who is not satisfied with the original decision of the Examiners Committee, or the Feedback, or the Review. The candidate must state in writing the grounds upon which the appeal is being made. The appeal must be received in writing within 28 days of the date of the notification informing the candidate of the examination result or the review. It is not necessary to seek a review before appealing. There is a fee of £250 for an appeal.
25. If the appellant is dissatisfied with the report of the AQSC and wishes to make a final appeal to the Society's Court of Assistants, this should be communicated to the HOAD within 28 days of the date of the notification informing the candidate of the decision of the AQSC.

THE WRITTEN EXAMINATION

26. Paper 1 (2 hours) comprises 10 compulsory questions based on themes in medical history and is designed to test the candidate's command of factual knowledge.
27. Paper 2 (2 hours) comprises 2 essay-style questions. The first question (chosen from a selection of questions) is designed to test the candidate's depth of knowledge. The second question (also chosen from a selection of questions) is designed to test the candidate's skill in interpreting given primary sources.
28. The questions will be based on the syllabus, but candidates will be expected to have broadened their knowledge with further reading of the topics covered.
29. Scripts must be legible. If two examiners cannot decipher the handwriting, the script will be dismissed.

THE DISSERTATION

The Proposal

30. Proposals should be submitted using the Dissertation Proposal form (Appendix 1 below) to academicadmin@apothecaries.org as early as possible in the Course, and certainly before any detailed writing or other research work on the dissertation is undertaken. Examiner feedback will be provided.
31. Proposals must be submitted for approval no later than the deadline published in [Administrative Guidance for Candidates](#).

Advice on selecting an appropriate title

32. The topic, to be chosen by the candidate, is to be in a field of personal and /or professional interest in the history of medicine. It must not be a paraphrase of textbooks or Internet material. The candidate must demonstrate original work with competence in accessing and using primary source material, which should be put into context with the relevant secondary literature. There should be a well-defined thesis, argument and conclusion to the dissertation.
33. Experience suggests that the commonest mistake is to attempt to cover a subject stretching over an excessively long chronological span. A dissertation of this length (5,500 words) seeking to survey centuries or even millennia of history is likely to lapse into a mere listing of personalities and achievements, for which no real credit can be given.
34. Candidates are also advised against choosing a topic where attention given to the current situation is likely to outweigh a concern with more distinctively historical issues.

35. Although the dissertation allows the candidate to demonstrate specialist knowledge, it should be written with the non-specialist in mind.
36. We are unable to offer candidates formal tutorial assistance, but course tutors are usually willing to provide guidance.

References

37. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were the writer's own. If another person's work is quoted, it must be acknowledged fully by means of a reference in the text (source to be given in the reference list) and putting the quotation in quotation marks, i.e. "...". This also applies to verbatim short sections from a source. Paraphrasing statements of factual knowledge or ideas from published works, lectures or web sources is not plagiarism if the original source is referenced and the paraphrasing is not extensive.
38. Any diagrams, tables, graphs etc which have been taken directly from a source or modified from a source must include appropriate details of the author and source, as well as being acknowledged e.g. from Bloggs et al 1998 or adapted from Bloggs et al 1998.
39. The format of references in the dissertation should follow either the Harvard or Vancouver styles and should be consistent throughout.
40. References to Internet sources should include all the information required for a full and complete reference plus full details of the website (the URL of the site) and the date on which it was accessed, as the content of sites may change with time.
41. Additional footnotes should not be used unless they are absolutely essential to the argument.
42. Sources should normally be in English. Foreign sources may be used when there is no generally accepted published translation.

Further requirements

43. The dissertation must include a word count and must not exceed **5,500** words excluding appendices, references, footnotes and bibliography. It may be appropriately illustrated. It must be fully documented with references and bibliography.
44. An electronic copy must be emailed to academicadmin@apothecaries.org no later than the deadline published in the [Administrative Guidance for Candidates](#).
45. Any evidence of plagiarism in a dissertation will result in that dissertation being rejected.
46. The dissertation should include a title page with the following:

<p>Diploma in the History of Medicine</p> <p>Dissertation title</p> <p>Candidate's name</p> <p>Date (e.g. 26 June 2018)</p> <p>Word Count: (e.g. 5,239)</p>
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47. Candidates should make and sign a declaration such as the one given below. It should be incorporated into the dissertation.

<p>Declaration</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>I certify that this dissertation is entirely my own work without plagiarism. I allocate joint copyright to the Society of Apothecaries.</p> <p>Signed Date</p>

48. Candidates should also attach a copy of the Checklist (Appendix 2 below) to the dissertation.
49. The marking schedule is given in Appendix 3 below.

FORMATTING

50. Dissertations should be formatted in a simple font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman), in 12-point, in black type, double-spaced, and formatted for A4 paper. Page number should appear in the footer.
51. Each dissertation should be submitted in a single file given a name including: "Your name DHMSA Dissertation title Date (YYMMDD)". For example:

Bob Smith DHMSA Ancient Chinese Medicine 180626.doc

THE TEST LECTURE

52. The lecture is a test of content, presentation and communication. The audience will consist of the HOAD, the examiners and the other candidates. The lecture should be based on the history of medically relevant aspects of the candidate's professional field or major interest. It must be completely different from the subject matter of the candidate's the dissertation.
53. The candidate is required to give a complete and balanced lecture in the 15 minutes. The lecture should be appropriate for the intended audience, which should be stated at the beginning, and should have both a clear introduction and conclusion. The content should be presented systematically. There will be no time for questions afterwards.
54. The marking schedule is given in Appendix 4. Below. Marks will be awarded for overall quality of presentation, engagement with the audience, appropriate use of audio-visual aids and artefacts, and the treatment of source material. Marks will be deducted for poor time keeping.
55. A laptop computer and a multimedia projector will be available on the examination day for use by candidates, if required. Candidates should ensure in advance the compatibility of their material with the equipment available. Candidates should not rely on the availability of wifi or wired internet connection, or the ability to download material from the cloud. Candidates who wish to use their own computer must provide the equipment necessary to enable connection to the screen. Candidates not providing their own computer should ensure that any presentation software is compatible with the Society's installation, details of which are available from the Academic Department. Such checks should be carried out no later than the deadline for the submission of the test lecture précis published in the [Administrative Guidance for Candidates](#).

The abstract

56. The lecture title, an abstract of 100-200 words, and an indication of the intended audience, must be submitted for approval by the Convenor at the same time as the dissertation title and abstract is submitted to academicadmin@apothecaries.org, no later than the deadline published in the [Administrative Guidance for Candidates](#).

MARKING

57. Marks for the various parts of the Examination are distributed as follows:

Paper I	25%	}	50%
Paper II	25%		
Dissertation			30%
Test lecture			20%
Total			100%

58. The pass mark overall and the pass mark for each section is 60% of the available marks.

59. Candidates who fail to comply with the regulations will be marked down and may fail that section of the examination.

SYLLABUS

60. The following topics constitute the syllabus:

- a. Historical method with special reference to medicine; appropriate methods of enquiry; and sources for the study of history and the history of medicine
- b. The medicine of India and China, seen within their philosophical and social context
- c. The medicine of the classical world and of Islam with their relationship to the Western medical tradition
- d. The changing of concepts of disease and understanding of its causation
- e. Medicine in the medieval and renaissance periods leading to the medical enlightenment of the 18th century
- f. The development of medical practice from the 16th to the 21st centuries
- g. The growth of science and its effect on medicine
- h. The role of anatomy and physiology in medical education and the evolution of clinical diagnosis and investigation
- i. Epidemics, demographic change and their social sequelae
- j. The history of nursing and the role of women in medicine

- k. The development of the medical specialities
- l. The development of surgery, anaesthesia, obstetrics and gynaecology, tropical medicine and public health
- m. Medical ethical codes and their relationship to society and professional interests

Not every subject will be necessarily be covered in the course every year and additional topics may be included from time to time.

DHMSA - Dissertation proposal

Candidate name:	
Proposed title:	

Primary source material

The examiners strongly advise that you identify suitable primary sources at an early stage in planning your dissertation. Please indicate the main primary material you intend to use:

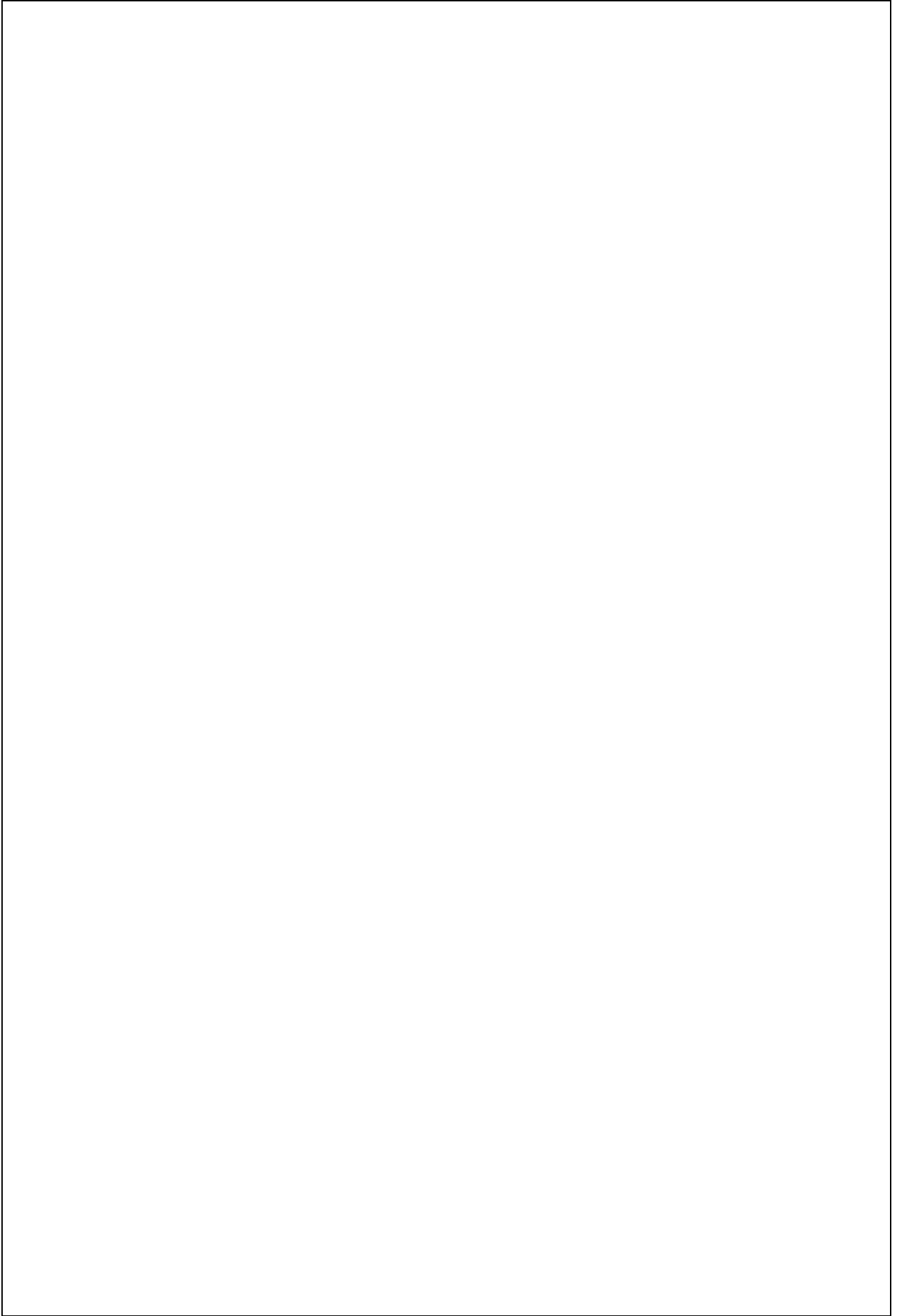
Secondary source material

What has already been written on this topic? Identify secondary sources relevant to your dissertation:

Description of content

In 500-800 words, please describe

- what you intend to cover
- how this relates to current thinking/scholarship
- the thesis which you plan to propose



Dissertation proposal for the DHMSA (continued)

Candidate name:	
Proposed title:	

Comments/Advice:	
For Completion by Assessor 1	
For Completion by Assessor 2	

N.B. The comments/advice will be passed to the candidate verbatim

Appendix 2

Checklist for the DHMSA Dissertation

Tick here

Title page as required by the Guide

Word count less than 5,500 words

12-point black type

Simple font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman)

Double spaced

A4 Format

Page numbers in the footer

Harvard or Vancouver referencing used consistently

Bibliography and references

Signed Declaration included

Signed copy of this checklist included

Appendix 3

DHMSA Dissertation Marking Sheet

Maximum marks: 100 Pass mark: 60 Dissertation comprises 30% of final Diploma mark	Confidential when completed
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Examiner:	Candidate:	Title:
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Assessment criteria	[Mark as Fail/Satisfactory/Good/Excellent below]
Content / originality	– Does the dissertation contain necessary, relevant and sufficient facts? – Is there a clear thesis, argument and conclusion? – Is the dissertation of an adequate academic standard? – Does the dissertation demonstrate original work?
Understanding	Does the candidate demonstrate an understanding of the facts and their significance in the context of this subject?
Relevance of material	Is the dissertation supported by appropriate and relevant material, with adequate use and analysis of primary and secondary sources?
Presentation	Correct word count (maximum 5,500 & stated); adequacy & style of referencing; use of language; relevance & quality of illustrations (if any)

Assessment criteria					
Title & abstract approved	Word count	Statement of originality	Assignment of copyright		
Content and originality					
Understanding					
Relevance of material					
Presentation					

Total marks	/100
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General comments: (Reasons **must** be given when awarding a fail mark.)

Appendix 4

Test Lecture Marking Sheet

Category of assessment	Mark
1) <u>Overall quality of presentation</u> (30 marks total) a) Introduction, content, conclusion (20 marks) b) clarity and audibility (10 marks)/20/10
2) <u>Engagement with the audience</u> (30 marks) (Including eye contact, appropriate and effective use of humour, attitude, inflection and intonation, body language)/30
3) <u>Appropriate use of audio-visual aids and artefacts</u> (10 marks) (Slides, other visual aids, handouts, steps taken to ensure equipment compatibility)/10
4) <u>Treatment of source material</u> (10 marks)/10
5) <u>Suitability for audience</u> (10 marks) (Is the lecture pitched at the target audience, would it keep the audience interested?)/10
6) <u>Time keeping</u> (10 marks) a) 14 m to 16 m (10 marks) b) 13 -14 m or 16 m -16 m 30 s (5 marks) c) 12 -13 m or 16 m 30 s – 17 m (3 marks) d) less than 12 minutes or more than 17 minutes (0 marks)/10
<u>Total marks (out of an available 100)</u> <60 = fail, 60-69 = satisfactory, 70-79 = good, 80 or more = excellent/100