



Higher Specialist Diploma

Examination – September 2021

Generic Paper

120 minutes

Attempt 3 questions

1 Mandatory Question in Section A

2 Questions out of Four (One from Section B and one from Section C)

Instructions to candidates

1. Record your candidate number, qualification title and where appropriate the discipline and examination paper number on the front sheet of the answer booklet
2. Record your candidate number and the page number in the spaces provided on the answer sheets
3. Begin each new answer on a new page
4. Each question is worth 100 marks

Section A - Leadership and Management - Mandatory Pre-Seen Question

1. Discuss the requirements of a strategic plan for robust contingency measures across a pathology network that is applicable to both immediate and developing situations. Explain the rationale for your decisions, how you would engage with staff and how you would ensure that the plan could be implemented

Section B – Quality (Answer one question from this section)

2. Discuss, giving specific examples, the validation and verification processes required for compliance with external Quality Management systems.
3. You are responsible for identifying and defining departmental key quality indicators to your organisation as part of their overall quality management programme.

Critically assess which indicators you would choose for your area, stating why these are fundamental to quality and how achieving these benefits patient care. Describe how would you monitor these and how frequently.

Section C – Training (Answer one question from this section)

4. Critically discuss whether current training and qualifications meet the needs of the evolving pathology workforce.
5. Discuss the implications of failure to maintain and monitor competence of the pathology workforce.