



Higher Specialist Diploma

Examination – September 2023

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. Critically appraise the impact of recent advances in automation and technology in laboratory medicine on patient diagnosis and laboratory organisation.

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

2. Are turnaround times really a genuinely helpful key performance indicator of the pathology service provided to patients? Critically discuss this issue and justify your own views on the use of KPIs.

3. Discuss the implications of the new version of ISO15189:2022 for pathology and critically assess approaches to a smooth transition.

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

4. As the training manager, you have been asked to undertake a review of the training policy to ensure that it is inclusive and would not discriminate against any staff with potential disabilities. Discuss some of the areas where current training practices may need to change to provide reasonable adjustments for staff with disabilities.

5. As the training manager for your discipline, you have responsibility for training across your pathology network. Discuss your training strategy, how you will deliver training and how you will ensure a competent workforce.