

Grade Descriptors (effective from 31st March 2011)

The following grade descriptors are intended to give examiners a guide about what to look for in a candidate's performance when selecting the appropriate grade. They should be used in conjunction with each station's specific construct. Should a significant element of the candidate's performance fall into a 'failing' grade then that is the appropriate grade to award.

Clear Pass

The candidate demonstrates a clear level of competence expected of a newly appointed ST4 with a clinical approach that is justifiable, well communicated and technically proficient. The candidate shows a logical approach that covers most of the key areas identified in the expanded construct. Any omissions do not detract from the overall performance.

Pass

The candidate demonstrates an adequate level of competence expected of a newly appointed ST4 displaying a clinical approach, which whilst it may not be fluent, is clinically justifiable and technically proficient. The candidate covers all essential areas of skill identified in the expanded construct but may omit some relevant but less important points.

Fail

The candidate fails to demonstrate an adequate level of competence, displaying a clinical approach that at times is unsystematic or inconsistent with practice at the ST4 level. Technical proficiency may be a concern. The candidate fails to adequately cover the essential issues or makes too many omissions of less important factors.

Clear Fail

The candidate clearly fails to demonstrate an adequate level of competence, displaying a clinical approach that is frequently unsystematic or inconsistent. Their approach lacks fluency and focus. Many essential and desirable components are omitted, not achieved, or inaccurate.

Severe Fail

The candidate fails to demonstrate competence, with a clinical approach that is incompatible with accepted practice. Their performance may show inadequate reasoning and/or technical incompetence. The candidate may show lack of respect, attention or empathy for the patient, carer or other individual involved in the clinical interaction.