

GCE Health and Social Care

A2

Externally Assessed Units

Professional Development and
Training

A2 External Units

- Unit 7: Meeting Individual Needs - Synoptic unit
- Unit 12: Understanding Human Behaviour

Unit 7: Meeting Individual Needs

This unit focuses on:

- How health and social care services are provided
- How services meet needs
- How accountability within care organisations is maintained

Unit 12: Understanding Human Behaviour

This unit focuses on:

- Influences on behaviour and their effects
- Theories of human behaviour - behavioural approaches
cognitive approaches
psychodynamic approaches
humanistic approaches
- Human behaviour and care values in care situations

Format of the papers

- Stimulus response papers which link to the pathways
- Questions will relate to the case studies
- Candidates will be given the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and application of principles and concepts
- Papers will be 1 hour and 30 minutes long
- Papers will be marked out of 90

Frequently asked questions - 1

Q1: Do I have to cover all of the material in the specification?

Yes as this is good practice, but the paper set by the principal examiner may not cover all of the unit in the specification. In the course of time all of the content will be covered in the paper.

Q2: Can candidates sit the exam more than once?

Yes the candidate can sit the paper more than once, as many times as the centre wishes.

Frequently asked questions - 2

Q3: What is the best form of delivery? - short/fat or long/thin?

This is essentially a centre specific decision which will depend on the resources available within each centre and the tutors experience in delivering the unit.

Q4: Do I teach both externally tested units in year one or spread it over two years?

Again this will be centre specific and dependent on the teaching resources available. It will also depend on the ability of the student cohort at that time.

Frequently asked questions - 3

Q5: Does the candidate have to pass all the units?

No.

Q6: How is the qualification awarded?

The qualification, like VCE, is cumulative, but it is awarded in a similar format to the GCSE. That is, internal and external units will be awarded jointly so that there is comparability across units.

Frequently asked questions - 4

Q7: If I opt for the single award GCE (six units) can the candidates complete it in one year and can they complete it in two years?

It will depend entirely on your student cohort and their ability, as well as the teaching resources available. As with any new programme you would be advised to plan your delivery with your team, prior to its commencement. Take it slowly so that you do not feel pressurised or stressed.

Frequently asked questions - 5

Q8: Will support material be continually developed to assist my delivery?

Yes the Senior Team are currently in the process of producing teacher resources in addition to the textbooks. It is important to also remember that one of the advantages of this award is that the material produced and feedback from all inset events, will cover all 12 units. This is much improved from the VCE programmes which could not possibly cover all of the many units.

Frequently asked questions - 6

Q9: Will the format of the papers change?

Probably yes, but not to the extent that they are unrecognisable from their present format. Candidates and centres are very positive about the current format so the only way that they will change is if the performance of the candidates dramatically fell or if it was felt they were inaccessible.

Resources

- Textbooks and teacher packs to support the A2 specification
 - HarperCollins
 - Heinemann
- Edexcel teacher support material
- Specimen papers