

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

GCE Health and Social Care (6941)
Unit 4 Social Aspects and Lifestyle
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Publications Code US035350

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General Comments

The format and style of the paper was similar to that in the previous series. There were three full questions in total, each marked out of 30, giving an overall total for the paper of 90 marks. The scenarios enabled the students to demonstrate their knowledge across the full breadth of the specification.

The external assessment paper covered the unit specification, which includes:

- Lifestyle choices and life course events
- Social factors affecting health and well-being
- Care professional/service user relationships

A holistic summation of the paper is that it was very fair and gave the students the opportunity to show what they have learnt throughout the course. Using Evie, the 12 year old with a fear of needles as the focus for the case study was felt to work well as students were able to relate to this subject as there has been a lot of information about it in the media over the last year.

The examiners felt that the paper discriminated well, with a wide range of marks being seen in each question. They noted that the students' repeated previous mistakes seen in other series in that they failed to read the question stem correctly, confusing words in them and often repeating themselves. Many students paraphrase the question at the beginning of their response, thereby failing to gain any credit for their answer until half way down the page. The Quality of Written Communication was often poor and bullet points were frequently seen which limits the number of marks that a student can be awarded. A number of students appeared to become so engrossed with the scenario of the question that they were unable to look beyond it.

Question 1

This question was based around Evie, who is 12 years of age, who had just started secondary school. Secondary school pupils are influenced by peer pressure and lifestyle choices, this first question looks at how both of these may affect an individual's health and well-being. The final part of the question introduces Evie's mum who has just been made redundant and there is a question of how that may affect an individual's health and well-being.

Q01a

The majority of students will score 2 marks for this question as it is a 'define' question and provided the students have learnt the definition of their key words, all they need to do is to repeat what they know.

Q01b

Overall a question not well answered. The majority of students were unable to make the link between peer pressure and strategies they could use to resist it. The answers seen were either very good or very unrealistic.

Q01c

This question on the influence of peer pressure on an individual's emotional development proved confusing for a number of students. They found it difficult to relate their answer to emotional development and therefore were only awarded marks in mark band 1 or low mark band 2.

Q01d

The majority of students will be awarded full marks for this question. There was a good range of lifestyle choices seen and their descriptions of how they may lead to ill health were detailed.

Q01e

Students who read the question properly and noted the command verb as 'assess' will access the top of level 2 with some attaining marks in level 3. They will be able to make the link between the loss of a job and it may affect an individual's health and well-being. However, the majority of students will be awarded less than half marks (4 marks) for this question as their answers will appear unstructured, they will rush into it, believing that they have understood the question.

Question 2

This question focussed on immunisation and the care of an individual with a fear of needles by health care professionals.

Q02a

The majority of students answered this question correctly.

Q02b

A large number of students will score half marks (2 marks) for this question. They will make a statement about formal support but will be unable to describe how the support may be put into practice.

Q02c

Students answered this question well, many will have been awarded full marks.

Q02d

Students demonstrated a basic level of knowledge of the service-user centred approach, however their discussions tended to be basic.

Q02e

The anti-discriminatory question was challenging for the students. The majority of them were able to write something although their responses were often very brief and there was a lack of discussion. A number of students wrote about other care values, as they were unable to recall sufficient information about anti-discriminatory behaviour to score more than 4 marks.

Question 3

This question focussed on social class and how individuals are viewed depending on where they live and what they eat.

Q03a

The majority of students answered this question correctly.

Q03b

Stereotyping is usually well learnt and understood by the students however there was too little vocational language used to answer the question.

Q03c

A range of marks will be seen for this question, with many being awarded marks in level 2 as discussion was limited. Evaluations and conclusions will be lacking.

Q03d

This was a question on self-concept and how effective care practice may promote it. Challenging question for many of the students but a number were able to use their knowledge of self-image and self-esteem to successfully build their answer.

Q03e

The final question was answered particularly well by the majority of students. They demonstrated their depth of knowledge of the link between high income and leading a healthy lifestyle. It was very encouraging to see a discussion of the advantages and the disadvantages of being wealthy.

Overall, the paper challenged the AS students and it gave them an opportunity to gain some good marks if they had the subject knowledge. However, it appeared that a number of students did not seem to understand what was being asked of them. It is always a little disappointing that more students do not gain Mark Band 3 marks. Centres appear to have completed some work on the verb hierarchy of exam questions, and generally overall the answering of exam questions which is refreshing, but too many marks were lost because students did not read the questions properly. There were very few blank pages which is always a good sign for students.

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