

Examiners' Report/ Principal Moderator Feedback January 2011

GCE

GCE Health & Social Care - Unit 6 (6943)

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6943/01: Public Health

General comments

Whilst many centres are producing improved work for this unit, there is still a significant minority who are having problems, and these problems often are caused by learners choosing inappropriate issues. Centres are encouraged to make use of the 'Ask the Expert' service if they are unsure of the issues that their students are considering using.

Assessment Objective 1

The successful learners had chosen relevant issues and linked them to the public health consequences. The poorer learners depended too much on directly quoted internet sources which were not always referenced, and then tended to lose focus as they include irrelevant and extraneous material.

Assessment Objective 2

The successful candidates had chosen relevant issues and linked them to a specified group of the population, and then identified the relevant social, environmental and lifestyle issues that were relevant to that section of the population. Some learners could provide relevant links to social, environmental and lifestyle issues but did not always go on to consider their impact on the public health of a specified group or section of the U.K.

Some centres seem to have missed the requirement to discuss how factors may actually or potentially affect Public Health and or safety. This was often common across a centre, suggesting that the guidance the learners had got had disadvantaged them.

Assessment Objective 3

Some learners showed good skills in obtaining information from literature searches but need to be encouraged to be more selective about the information they use in their final report and they should take care to reference all the work that they quote. At mark band 3 there should be evidence of an awareness and understanding of the sources they are using. It is good practice to ensure that learners include bibliographies to reports.

At mark band 2 and 3 they are required to analyse environmental and lifestyle problems in relation to the public health issue. Centres are still crediting description as analysis and this is something that they need to be careful about.

Assessment Objective 4

This is an assessment objective that learners still find difficult. Even the stronger learners tend to submit descriptions and information from websites rather than evaluations of strategies, making it harder for them to access mark band 3.

Learners need guidance on both analysis and evaluation at this stage to ensure that they can achieve Mark Band 3. The process is new to them and should be supported by their Centres.

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