

Moderators' Report/ Principal Moderator Feedback

June 2011

GCE Health & Social Care (6943)
Unit 6 – Public Health

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General Comments

In general the standard of work produced has been good and centres are directing learners towards appropriate issues. Where there have been problems these are often caused by learners choosing inappropriate issues. Centres are encouraged to make use of the 'Ask the Expert' service if they are unsure that the issues that their students are considering using are appropriate.

Assessment Objective 1

The better reports linked their issues to the public health consequences of those issues, and did not tend to spend much time describing the effect on the health of the individual affected. The less able learners depended too much on directly quoted internet sources which were not always referenced. There is a tendency for some learners to think that more is better, and to include as much information as possible, this can have a negative effect on this section as the learner often loses focus on the issue.

Assessment Objective 2

The successful candidates had chosen relevant issues and linked them to a specified group of the UK 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 factors but did not always go on to consider their impact on the public health of a specified group or section of the United Kingdom. Learners in some centres had discussed factors generically but had not discussed the effect of the factors on public health in the context of the issue being examined. This was often a common fault across a centre, this should be avoided and learners encouraged to look specifically at the factors in the context of their issue.

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.

To access mark band three an awareness and understanding of the sources they are using should be seen and this should be explicit, this should include, for example a discussion of the possible effect of bias in the sources. It is good practice to ensure that learners include bibliographies to reports.

At mark band 2 and 3 the learner is required to analyse environmental and lifestyle factors in relation to the public health issue. This can be included with the description of the factors in AO2, but assessors need to ensure that they do not credit description as analysis

Assessment Objective 4

The number of learners attempting to evaluate rather than describe in this section is increasing and this is to be applauded; however there are still a significant minority of centres that credit descriptions as evaluations and this should be avoided.

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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