

Moderators' Report/
Principal Moderator Feedback

January 2013

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

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General comments

Generally the work was accurately assessed, where there have been problems these are often caused by learners choosing inappropriate issues, this then makes it difficult for the learner to access the assessment criteria. It is always worth ensuring when teaching this unit that the learner can access information to complete AO4 before they start the unit. In some cases centres looked at issues such as attention deficit syndrome which does not have a significant public health consequence and therefore disadvantaged the learners. 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. 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. Learners should be concentrating on a specific section of the UK population which helps them focus their work. Learners should be encouraged to reference their work throughout, it is both good practice, and helps them access the marks in AO3.

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 U.K. Some learners had got this the wrong way around and talked about the effect of the public health issue in environmental and social factors, this should be discouraged.

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.

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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