

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2012

GCE Health & Social Care (6944) Paper 01
Unit 7 - Meeting Individual Needs

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General Comments

This paper consisted of three questions, each of which totalled to 30 marks. The paper covered the specification accurately and relevantly. The format of the paper has remained unchanged from the previous series.

Each question commenced with a case study scenario which provided a generic setting for the questions asked.

Questions were structured in such a way that straightforward recall knowledge questions were asked at the beginning and then more complex extended writing questions were asked at the end ranging from 8-10 marks

The mark scheme was tiered to provide access for all calibre of candidate therefore making the paper fair and equitable. Consequently, the paper has discriminated well amongst candidates.

Strengths

- Candidates were well prepared for this paper. It would seem that centres have used past papers as a means of preparation and this has worked well in that candidates could provide logical, well-structured responses.
- Level of knowledge and understanding was good and is consistent with the previous series and there were no obvious gaps in knowledge as all questions were attempted
- Ability to accurately interpret question stems and provide an accurate and relevant answer is also consistent with the previous series
- Quality of written communication continues to improve
- More candidates are attempting to provide coherent, structured and accurate answers to those questions which require extended writing

Weaknesses

- Candidates knowledge of quality issues still requires improvement
- Ability to keep responses relevant was badly done in a minority of cases
- Tendency of candidates to write 'all they know' rather than tailor their response still pre-dominates, this was particularly true in question 3 on organisational culture.

Question 1

This question focused on an elder man (Jimmy) who had a debilitating condition and the benefits of moving into residential accommodation.

Q1(a) – This was a synoptic question whereby candidates can use their knowledge of other units and apply it to their response. In general it was well answered and most were able to use the PIES relevantly and accurately.

Q1(b) – This question asked candidates to explain the importance of reviewing and monitoring as part of the assessment process. Most were able to produce relevant answers such as changes in condition, medication etc however where candidates did loose marks was in the lack of depth of the explanation of their identified factor.

Q1(c) – The question focused on the role of the private sector in the provision of care services. A very topical and contemporary issue given the current political debates but many candidates could not develop a full comprehensive answer and consequently they became quite repetitive with factors such as providing more choice, part of the mixed economy of care being the popular responses

Q1(d) – Candidates were tasked with focusing on how an ageing population may impact on resources for health and social care. Again this is a topical and contemporary issue but once again candidate knowledge was limited and weak to points such as putting a strain on resources, informal carers etc. There was insufficient depth or quality to answers.

Question 2

This question concentrated on roles and also what constitutes good care practice.

Q2(a) – Candidates were asked to explain the role of a named nurse. The question focused on the function and role rather than the attributes of a good relationship such as building trust which is what many candidates presented, this is the outcome as opposed to the role which is to be the first point of contact etc.

Q2(b) – This question asked candidates to explain what is meant by anti-discriminatory practice and advocacy. In general both were well answered which was pleasing to see.

Q2(c) – This question involved discussing the process of normalisation and its importance. Candidates have a either a very generic understanding whereby they will present responses which are slightly repetitive or they have a very specific theoretical knowledge and write everything they know without tailoring it to the question stem.

Q2(d) – At the heart of this question was the importance of feedback from service users when accessing services. In general it was a well answered question.

Question 3

At focus here was the quality assurance measures used by service providers. The responses in general to all 5 questions was disappointing and reflects a lack of general understanding. In contemporary health and social care this is a major area of policy and practice.

Q3(a) – Asked for two quality assurance measures that could be used. Numerous candidates could only access 1 mark which was disappointing considering the questions simplicity.

Q3(b) – This tasked candidates to explain the importance of effective recruitment and selection processes. Once again responses tended to be basic and limited in content and accuracy.

Q3(c) – Candidates were asked to identify 2 staff development activities. Responses tended to be generic and the explanation limited in terms of its relevance to the identified activity.

Q3(d) – This question asked candidates to identify factors which could be used to promote a positive organisational culture. Some candidates could not identify relevant factors and generically talked about power culture etc and other candidates briefly mentioned factors such as policies and procedures but could not elaborate.

Q3(e) – Offered candidates to present their understanding of the importance of quality assurance measures. There were some gaps where some candidates did not present an answer which was worrying or others who presented information which was not accurate to the question stem. Consequently many candidates did not get further than mark band 2 – 4 marks

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