

Moderators' Report/
Principal Moderator Feedback

January 2013

GCE Health & Social Care (6947)
Unit 10 – Using & Understanding
Research

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Publications Code UA034206

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General Comments

The assessment evidence for this unit consists of a report on a research project carried out by the learner. An extremely small number of centres sent work for moderation for this examination series. Generally learners had chosen appropriate health and social care related topics and had attempted to address all the assessment requirements of the unit. A range of topics had been chosen, and as in past series, lifestyle issues that influence the health and well-being of young people, such as smoking, binge drinking, and STDs were popular choices.

Assessment Objective 1

Learners should look into a range of research methods and explain how their choice of methods makes sense in relation to characteristics of their research project. This allows them to show knowledge and understanding in their research planning. Most learners had opted for some form of questionnaire, though there were other data collection used, including interviews and observations. Learners need to demonstrate understanding of the advantages, disadvantages and overall rationale of each method they employed.

Assessment Objective 2

Most learners included plans of their research, and some modified or revisited their plans after a pilot study. Most learners who did pilot their research showed how and where their methodology was changed in the light of the pilot, though often this was merely a rewording of questions in their questionnaires.

Assessment Objective 3

Analysis of results was sometimes very good with clear, well labelled, graphs, tables and charts accompanied by lucid explanation. However many learners had provided only superficial analysis, or had merely stated some of their results with little or no analysis offered. Also some learners had used several different research methods but failed to bring the results together coherently. Assessment Objective 3 was the weakest area of the unit. Learners are advised to plan their data analysis when deciding what data to collect, and which methods to be used. This can help them to deal logically and systematically with the data they collect in their final report.

Assessment Objective 4

This entailed an evaluation of the research project. Learners who had good understanding were able to evaluate their work in a balanced way, recognising both strengths and limitations. Most learners identified some weaknesses in their data. Learners should be encouraged to consider the limitations as well as the strengths of their research to help them develop an evaluation. Also learners should be encouraged to evaluate all aspects of their work throughout the research project, not just the quality of their final results.

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Order Code UA034206 January 2013

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