

Moderators' Report/
Principal Moderator Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCE in Health &
Social Care (6943/01)

Unit 6: Public Health

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General Introduction

There are some centres that do not act on the advice that is contained in these reports and this leads to the issues that reappear year on year.

Many learners struggle with the analysis and evaluation that is required to access the higher grades as they tend to depend heavily on internet sources and include information verbatim, some of which is of doubtful relevance. This is more obvious where centres have allowed learners to choose issues that do not lend themselves to easily accessing the requirements of the unit. In some cases, learners have looked at topics that are not public health issues

Assessment Objective 1

The successful learners had chosen relevant issues and linked them to the public health consequences. Some learners struggle to formulate a focussed report; this was more prevalent where centres had not directed learners well in their choice of issue. A common fault is to include a lengthy description of 'public health' and its history. This is not required in the assessment of this unit.

Assessment Objective 2

The successful candidates linked their issue 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. Less successful learners tended not to concentrate on an identified group, losing focus and making the analysis in AO3 hard to access. Where all the learners in a centre had used the same issue, the research used tended to be the same.

Assessment Objective 3

Many learners showed good skills in obtaining information from secondary sources 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. It is good practice to ensure that learners include bibliographies in reports. The analysis tends to be more description and learners struggle to analyse. Where all the learners had used the same research it was hard for them to demonstrate the skills of obtaining information from a range of sources.

Assessment Objective 4

This is an assessment objective that learners struggle with. Many learners tend to be very descriptive rather than evaluative, making it harder for them to access the higher marks in mark band 3. Evidence that the learner has thought themselves about the issue and drawn some conclusions from the information they have considered is what is required here. Learners need guidance on both analysis and evaluation at this stage to ensure that they can achieve Mark Band 3. Where learners had used health promotion campaigns as strategies, they tended to lose focus on the requirements. For most public health issues there are national and local strategies that it is easier for them to evaluate.

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