

Moderators' Report/
Principal Moderator Feedback

Summer 2014

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Health and Social Care (6944)

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GCE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

UNIT 6944 – MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS JAN 2014

INTRODUCTION

The GCE Health and Social Care Unit 7 Meeting Individual Needs is a contemporary paper which is particularly relevant to candidates who wish to pursue a practical career in care on progress onto Higher Education. This paper also constitutes as the synoptic paper for the qualification. The paper consists of 3 questions, each of which is worth 30 marks. Each question has been tiered with longer, cognitively higher questions at the end of each section. The paper totals to 90 marks and candidates were given one and half hours to complete the paper.

All three questions were based around stimulus response material, in particular case studies which had been specifically designed to illicit knowledge or to allow candidates to apply their knowledge and understanding.

Question stems were designed to allow candidates to recall, define, describe, explain, discuss and examine aspects of the unit specification, terms and concepts.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

The overall impression given by examiners was that the paper has performed much better than in previous series and the main reason for this is that the format has not changed and centres are now familiar with the format and style of the paper. Consequently while the paper does discriminate well between candidates it is also much more accessible. Despite this Examiners did identify some issues in candidate performance which centres should be mindful in future preparation of candidates for this exam. This included:

- Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of the unit specification varied considerably. Some centres had prepared candidates well but in many cases the level of knowledge and understanding is still disappointing particularly regarding key theoretical concepts, quality assurance and the role of government/voluntary/independent sector in providing care services.
- Although stimulus response material was provided many candidates are still not applying their knowledge accurately or relevantly. Many candidates still have problems in interpreting the question stems accurately and consequently, many candidates either give very generic responses or write all they know, particularly in question E of each section.

- Candidates had a poor knowledge and understanding of the verb hierarchy and in the longer 8 or 10 mark questions failed to get into the 3 mark band as their ability to analysis and evaluate remains weak.
- In addition there was a lack of fluency and structure in their longer answers, many candidates describing and explaining and being repetitive in their answer.
- Finally many Examiners have raised the issue of candidates using key concepts and terms such as empowerment or anti-discriminatory practice in nearly every response whether it was applicable or not.

QUESTION BY QUESTION FEEDBACK

Question 1 was based around a case study of a hospital which has been renovated and the staff who work on that ward, particularly the ward manager. Question 1a required an accurate definition of the term statutory organisation. The majority of candidates obtained 1 mark for relevant examples such as NHS but many candidates were able to access the second mark by giving a further elaboration such as paid out of taxation. Question 1b was also successfully attempted and focused on the role of the named nurse and the purpose of their role. Question C asked candidates to explain the problems which might arise from budget cuts. Although less marks were awarded than in previous papers, candidates still failed to provide comprehensive, clearly linked answers and it was felt they underperformed in this question. Question 1d was well attempted by candidate many referring to how the newly renovated work would improve patient care, less risk of infection, greater privacy etc.

Question 1e was very poorly answered – few candidates had a full and accurate understanding of why audits as a quality assurance measure are important in Health and Social Care. Many candidates commenced theoretical comments and introduction of audit methods such as observations etc which were irrelevant. Some candidates did attempt to evaluate the impact of audits on the quality of patient care but in the main, the majority of candidates did not progress further than mark band 2 with very few into mark band 3.

Question 2 focused how the hospital promoted good quality care through staff development, team work and multi-disciplinary practice. On the whole this question was successfully attempted with some good, high calibre answers. Question A was successfully attempted by the majority of candidates accurately explaining how the completion of the NVQ qualification would impact on patient care. Similarly question B was also well answered with many candidates explain why team work is important. Examiners were disappointed with the performance on question C which simply asked candidates to explain what is meant by the term 'multi-disciplinary practice'. This is a familiar question to many centres but some candidates really struggled to get to the 5-6 marks. Question 2D was disappointing in content. This was a synoptic question which candidates

should have been able to transfer knowledge across from 6940 and other units, however, many candidates could not get above mark band 2. Question 2E was also a synoptic question which brought in two key, but familiar, terms – Empowerment and Independence which may appear very similar but are very different. Candidates spent too much time defining and explaining both and not enough on how they impact on promoting patient wellbeing.

Question 3 focused on a little boy who had been admitted for cancer treatment. Question A should have been very straightforward as it asked for a definition of care planning. The majority of candidates only achieved 1 mark for answers such as personalised care and did not follow it through by stating it would take account of their holistic needs. Question B was poorly answered with many candidates not fully explaining and understanding why meeting individual needs is important. However, candidates did compensate for this in question C whereby they gave accurate and relevant responses to the importance of reviewing and monitoring the patients care plan.

Part D was poorly answered with many candidates unable to achieve more than 3-4 marks for discussing why it was important to involve Sammy's parents on his care plan with the majority of candidates stating he was under age etc. Part E was particularly disappointing on why the voluntary sector provides such a valuable services. In general responses lack knowledge, understanding, little balance in answers, brief critiques and a general inability to develop fluent well structured answers.

