



Examiners' Report Lead Examiner Feedback

January 2022

Pearson BTEC Nationals
In Health and Social Care (31494H)
Unit 4: Enquiries into Current Research in Health
and Social Care

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Grade Boundaries

What is a grade boundary?

A grade boundary is where we set the level of achievement required to obtain a certain grade for the externally assessed unit. We set grade boundaries for each grade, at Distinction, Merit and Pass.

Setting grade boundaries

When we set grade boundaries, we look at the performance of every learner who took the external assessment. When we can see the full picture of performance, our experts are then able to decide where best to place the grade boundaries – this means that they decide what the lowest possible mark is for a particular grade.

When our experts set the grade boundaries, they make sure that learners receive grades which reflect their ability. Awarding grade boundaries is conducted to ensure learners achieve the grade they deserve to achieve, irrespective of variation in the external assessment.

Variations in external assessments

Each external assessment we set asks different questions and may assess different parts of the unit content outlined in the specification. It would be unfair to learners if we set the same grade boundaries for each assessment, because then it would not take accessibility into account.

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, are on the website via this link:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

Awarding BTEC qualifications in 2022

Ofqual has [set out their plans](#) for awarding qualifications in 2022 and intend to return to a normal, pre-pandemic, approach to grading standards over by 2023. They have confirmed that 2022 will be a transition year, to reflect that we are in a pandemic recovery period and students' education has been disrupted.

Our guiding principle and approach to awarding BTEC qualification results in 2022 will be to ensure parity in relation to the approach being taken for GCSE and A level learners. BTEC courses have a different structure and design to academic qualifications - BTECs are modular qualifications (with assessments taking place throughout the course) compared to GCSEs and A levels which are linear (assessed and awarded at the same time at the end of the year), and therefore our approach needs to be different.

In 2022 we will return to the usual method of calculating BTEC qualification results, however adaptations including, U-TAGs and reduced internal assessment, are in place to provide a comprehensive package of support for students.

The basis of our awarding approach to BTECs this year is to ensure it is as fair as possible for all learners. We will use a range of evidence to set grade boundaries for the external units. Part of this evidence will be to closely monitor learner performance in all assessments that contribute to learners' final qualification grade, to ensure parity with A level and GCSEs.

Further information can be found [on our website](#) and via our Social Media channels.

31494H: Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care

Grade	Unclassified	Level 3			
		N	P	M	D
Boundary Mark	0	8	17	31	45

Introduction

The controlled assessment for Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care requires learners to consider articles provided from research undertaken in the health and social care sectors including health conditions, lifestyle factors, social care and welfare needs. The controlled assessment aims to consider the learner's ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of methods, skills and ethical issues related to carrying out research. When undertaking the controlled assessment, learners should demonstrate their ability to apply knowledge and understanding of research, with a focus on analysis of information and data related to the current research presented in this assessment. Learners are required to interpret the potential impact and influence of research on practice and provision in the sectors, as well as evaluating current research to make informed judgements about the validity of research methods used and further areas for research.

Introduction to the Overall Performance of the Unit

Centres for the most part, have prepared learners well for this controlled assessment with some great quality responses to activities seen. Where learners had a good understanding of the unit, they were able to produce responses to activities that showed a breadth and depth of understanding across the unit content. There has been a mix of secondary sources used for both the health and social care sections of the controlled assessment, with more able learners demonstrating a good grasp of validity and reliability. Where centres have spent time supporting learners in preparation for this controlled assessment, they have been able to produce well thought out responses to the set activities with clear and rationalised points made throughout.

The controlled assessment requires learners to choose an article from one section of the paper that suits their interests and career choices. This does appear to be happening in more centres this year, with varied article choice evident, however some centres are still appearing to choose the article that their learners work with for the assessment. It is advised that learners should choose the article that supports their future career choice and interests rather than teachers deciding this for them. There is ample time to source and prepare secondary research to use in the controlled assessment and more freedom should be given to learners in the future.

When preparing for this assessment, it is important, once again, to remind centres that notes prepared for assessment should not be potential responses to the activities. The notes should also be retained by the centres, unless requested by

Pearson. Notes for the assessment, as stipulated in Part A, should be limited to the following:

- facts, figures and data relating to secondary sources covering the article's area of research.
- the research methods used in the learner's own secondary research.

Centres once again should be reminded that when preparing learners for this assessment, they should read and respond to the activities set. Many learners have provided responses that, at times, regurgitate the article, do not answer the activity set, or include information in one activity that would be better suited to another activity; learners will not be awarded marks for responses where they have not responded to the activity set. Whilst undertaking the delivery of the unit, it would be advised that centres support learners in how to approach each individual activity, using the guidance and support offered on the Pearson website.

Individual Questions

Activity one

The assessment focus for this question is '**understanding research methods, validity and reliability of results of research**'. Learners are expected to understand the research methods used, with understanding of data usage, in the chosen article. They should show understanding of validity and reliability of research methods used and draw conclusions in relation to the suitability of the methods used in context.

Health article

The health article for this series included a range of research methodologies: questionnaires, interviews, longitudinal research and quasi-experiment. Learners for this series have produced some good responses to this activity, providing a depth and breadth of understanding in relation to most research methods included in the health article. Where learners considered sampling methods, they were able to provide reasoned evaluative points on how these were useful in the research. There was some great understanding of questionnaires when included, often providing some suitability and attempts to evaluate in context from more able learners. However, where learners scored lower in the mark bands, there was a distinct lack of context to responses. Learners still appear to be struggling with the use of validity and reliability in their responses and this should be seen as an important part of scoring highly in this activity for future series.

Social Care article

Within the social care section, learners were presented with a range of research methodologies and showed good understanding of these. The research methodologies included were qualitative interviews, focus groups and questionnaires (surveys). More

able learners were able to provide reasoned and supported conclusions on these methodologies, offering evaluations and making clear and sustained judgements on suitability. Again, where learners scored lower on this activity, they had not included evaluation of reliability and validity, or data usage within their responses. It should be noted that for both sections of the paper, it is important to consider all aspects of the set activity.

Overall

There are still issues with learners' ability to grasp the concepts of reliability and validity of research methods, with many learners still discussing sources of evidence as opposed to the actual research that has been undertaken. Centres need to consider this as a priority in their preparation for the unit; although difficult, these concepts are crucial to a learner's ability to make evaluative judgements on suitability of research methodologies. The activity does not ask for learners to consider secondary research – although this will not be penalised in responses, it takes time away from a learner being able to complete the set activity affectively. They only need to focus on the methodologies included in the chosen article. Sampling methodologies also remains poor in this activity. Some learners have a basic understanding of sampling methodologies used in research, but these are few and far between. Again, this is an important aspect of research and centres should support learners in their acquisition of knowledge in this area.

This response scored Band 3, 12 marks.

SECTION 2: Social Care Research

Activity 1

How have different research methods been used in this research?

In your answer, you should consider the:

- suitability of research methods referred to in the article
- reliability and validity of the research methods.

(15)

This research article was done to understand the specific social care needs of individuals who are part of the LGBT+ community and disabled as well as how to improve social care professionals understanding on how to better support someone who is LGBT+ and disabled.

The article used 3 different research methodologies to further enquire about the use of self directed support in the LGBT+ community. One of the research methods they used was focus groups. Focus groups are a type of qualitative research as it consist of conducting a group of people with a similar background to share ^{their} thoughts and feelings which the ~~research~~ research capitalises on to gain more insight into a specific issue. This research method is valid as it ~~is~~ allows the ~~interview~~ researcher to be flexible in regards to the question they ask so they have a chance to find out more. It also can create a comfortable environment for individuals to be truthful and honest.

However, if there is one person in the group who becomes a "leader" it may make people not be as truthful to appease them or might make others not want to talk as much so the information would be less ~~reliable~~ ^{valid} ~~reliable~~ ^{valid}. On the other hand ~~can make~~ a focus group reliable is that it can't. Focus groups are reliable because the information given is specific to the experience of certain individuals and as it is a group the answers can all be relatively similar. On the other hand focus groups can be unreliable ~~due to~~ ^{due to} their sample size and researcher bias. In order to be able to listen to everyone and hear everyone's input it would have to be a smaller amount of people and because focus groups can be expensive in terms of renting a room and transportation so it would be costly to repeat and the sample size wouldn't be big enough to represent a whole community. Researcher bias is also a factor that can test the reliability of a focus group as if the participants are ~~so~~ influenced by what the researcher says or if the researcher alters results to better fit their hypothesis it makes the research ~~qualitative~~ data collected invalid and unreliable. Focus groups are suitable in terms of finding out more about sensitive issues in an environment.

where ~~there are open~~ there is confidentiality and a chance to express yourself. ~~It was also~~ However it was unsuitable in terms of who the group was. In the research article they used Focus groups to gain insights from PA's and surveys for Lgbtqi+ disabled people. If they had used the Focus group for enquires into the use of Self directed support for Lgbtqi+ disabled people it would've been more effective as it would give way to open ended questions about their ~~very~~ life as someone who is double marginalised and would be a better way of expression.

The second research method used was surveys ^{whose self directed support} conducted with 56 Lgbtqi+ disabled individuals. Surveys are a way you can collect quantitative data through ~~either an online database or through~~ ^{or using} questions on a scale. Surveys are suitable in terms of finding out more about general topics and ~~they~~ normally have generic questions but in relation to a sensitive topic, it may not ^{or open ended} be suitable as one question on a scale from 1-10 ^{questions} can't be representative to ~~represent~~ show someone's experience, ~~as well as~~ but surveys are suitable in relation to gathering a lot of data from a large amount of people as it can be sent out electronically so it more accessible to people who can't post it and send it back.

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Surveys ~~are more~~ ~~or~~ can be reliable as they can be repeated over and over again as the questions don't change. It also is reliable because it leaves little to no room for interviewer bias as it is done independently and there wouldn't be the stress of having a correct answer ~~and the sample size can be bigger~~.

~~Focus groups~~ ^{Surveys} are also suitable because they are cost effective in terms of resources used and getting them out to more people.

What might make a survey unreliable is that if it is not representative for example out of the 56 ~~total~~ individuals who were interviewed ~~53/56~~ were white showing that it's not fully representative of the whole community ~~as the~~ ~~or~~ ~~as~~ as not everyone will have the same experience some may be worse some may be better. ~~But~~ ^{can be} Surveys are valid as they allow researchers to ~~or~~ have a bigger sample size so it's more representative as there are more people to get more information from but the validity can be questioned as it is likely that some people may skip questions or not ~~want to~~ be completely honest in terms of their experience.

Interviews can be a reliable research method to find out more about ~~that~~ ⁱⁿ better understanding self directed support

(Total for Activity 1 = 15 marks)

This response scored highly because:

- There are detailed explanations of research methods included in the article.
- The learner has attempted to include validity and reliability in relation to the research methods.
- The evaluations included in the response are the in context of the article.

This response scored Band 1, 4 marks.

SECTION 1: Health Research

Activity 1
How have different research methods been used in this research?
In your answer, you should consider the:

- suitability of research methods referred to in the article ✓
- reliability and validity of the research methods. ✓

(15)

In this article different methods have been used to conduct this research, such as surveys. Surveys consists of experimenting and asking open and closed questions to the public and using it as constructive feedback to analyse administrative data.

The advantages of using surveys is that a large national survey is that you are able to gather a calculation of the number of participants that agree or disagree to a statement.

Another advantage of using surveys is that it is cost effective as a method when it comes to a large amount of participants is that the cost of it is very low, you are able to hand out questionnaires and once the questions are answered you are able to gather results, which is effective and less.

time Consuming.

Another method that has been used in this article was interviews, an advantage of this is it may not be available so the participant will answer the question with a "no"

However there are also disadvantages to using surveys as a method to gain data when it comes to research,

Some people may not be able to answer the question properly as there may not be the ~~honest~~ option in the ~~Survey~~ appropriate option for the participant to choose from, this makes the ~~research~~ research non reliable.

the option ~~is~~ a maybe "Sometime"

What makes research reliable and suitable is being able to repeat the process more than once and collecting the same results.

Another method that has been used in this article was interviews, interviews were conducted to find out the impact of free access to leisure facilities Interviews are significantly relevant

Because they are put in place to have a one to one conversation and further further develop your understanding by having the ability to dig deeper on the subject you automatically expand your knowledge.

~~One to~~ A disadvantage of conducting interviews is that its time consuming and it costs alot more to bring a large group of people in of time and money.

Advantage - and reliability people participants may be more comfortable to express their opinions face to face and speak the truth as they have the freedom to do so, this make it a reliable source because you are able to find and gather the information needed. An open door.

Another method which was ~~highly~~ highlighted in this article qualitative data by the use of this method ~~feels~~ readers are able to view the amount of numbers and the percentage increase in participation of swimming "64% increase in attendences ^{and gym sessions} at swimming". The effect of this is that readers are able to ~~gather~~ ^{collect} this information and use figures to analyse the fact.

Numerical terminology make this article reliable and suitable as we are able to ~~see~~ view figures. and if the same tests were carried out the results would be disame.

A disadvantage of using quantitative data is that there is no further ~~ext~~ explanation, there is just the statement of figure.

(Total for Activity 1 = 15 marks)

This response scored lower because:

- There are basic descriptions of research methods evident in the response.
- There is no context evident – the response is generic.
- No data usage is included in the response.

Overall

Activity one was answered well for the most part, with learners providing evaluations and considering the suitability of research methods for their chosen article. More able learners did this consistently and effectively throughout the response, providing some evidence of understanding both validity and reliability in the context of the research. However, at the lower end, learners were unable to move past generic descriptions of research methods with little to no context evident, a lack of data usage and a general lack of understanding about the suitability of the research methods used in the articles. Sampling methodology is improving with each series of the controlled assessment and centres should continue to build on this knowledge and understanding in their teaching of this unit.

There is evidence that some centres are still directing their learners to include secondary research in their responses to this activity – it is not needed. Where learners have offered alternate methods to use in this activity, they have not been awarded marks for this. For this activity, learners need to explain the research methodologies used in the research article, evaluate these methodologies and provide judgements and conclusions on suitability within the context of the research. Responses to this activity still frequently remain generic which limits the awarding of higher bands.

Activity two

The assessment focus for this question is **'understanding the importance of the issue being researched, why the research is being carried out, and how the article and own secondary research reinforces the importance of the issue'**. Learners are expected to understand the importance of the issue in the chosen article and include relevant examples of how the research has affected individuals and/or professionals and/or wider society. Learners should include secondary research in their response, demonstrating an understanding of the relationship between this, and the article chosen.

Health article

Responses to this activity were at times confused and did not always focus on the issue presented – physical health inequalities and deprivation - considering how this issue affects individuals, professionals and / or wider society. Where learners had a range of secondary research with a clear focus on the issue, they were able to offer good ideas about the issue including things such as the impact that physical health inequalities can have on health and wellbeing, the cost to the NHS and access to sports facilities in relation to cost. Some learners provided good data linking to things such as life expectancy and disease due to inactivity, making links to inequalities consistently. However, where learners had focused on issues such as obesity, this often did not relate to the specific issue posed by this research. Some learners discussed a range of health issues in general, again not specifically linking to the issue.

Where learners used secondary research well, they scored highly on this activity. By providing clear summaries of research evidence and statistics, directly linking back to physical health inequalities, learners provided good analysis of the issue. Lower scores on this activity came where learners simply regurgitated their secondary research, which was often irrelevant and unrelated to the issue and context of the research undertaken in the article.

Social Care article

Responses to this activity varied in the level of detail included. Where learners understood the importance of this research – improving social care support for disabled LGBTQI+, they demonstrated good skills including things such as a lack of person-centred care and self-directed support not being viable in the way that it is currently set up. Many learners provided details about the LGBTQI+ community and issues that arise in general for this group of individuals. This often led to learners including irrelevant information that did not link to the issue. As with the health section of the paper, much of the secondary research in lower scoring responses often tended to be regurgitated from the sources used, with many of the secondary sources being irrelevant.

This response scored Band 4, 13 marks.

Activity 2

How does your secondary research support the importance of research into reducing inequalities in physical health?

In your answer, you should consider:

- secondary research and its relationship to the issue
- an analysis of the effects on individuals, practitioners and/or wider society.

(15)

The importance of carrying out research is to discover and narrow the gaps in provision such as why there is a huge amount of individuals not partaking in leisure activities which would possibly impact their health widening the gaps of inequalities in our society.

The purpose of researching into issues in provision is to discover and explore as well as understand and improve not only services but the way the service is marketed. The use of the primary and secondary research in the article showed how successful and reliable the refresh scheme was after it was implemented in society by comparing and evaluating data through successful and unsuccessful outcomes.

"Issues that would have an impact on individuals are that the disadvantaged people who do not partake in any form of physical activity would develop health problems like heart diseases and increase the risk of other long term health conditions. There would be many reasons to why they are not attending gyms e.g. due to the free membership at gyms it would result in facilities being overcrowded and not having enough resources. This would impact people who are able to afford the gym as they may not want to attend gym if they are paying for a service that does not provide enough equipment, personal space and comfort. Other issues that would have an

effect on individuals is whether the individual is free, as people who work long hours may find it difficult to find leisure time. Individuals' socio-economic position and job role are factors since people with low salaries may work hard to pay for a gym membership since they would be working longer shifts and may be too exhausted to go to the gym after work. Individuals that earn a better pay on the other hand, may already go to the gym on a daily basis because they are not required to work long hours.

"The issue is found that people from deprived areas and individuals from different socio-economic status are not able to afford the use of leisure facilities meaning that they are more disadvantaged as they would be prone to illnesses and health problems such as obesity and would be at a greater risk to long term health conditions such as heart failure. This would not only impact on the individuals but the society as a whole as it would be a huge strain on health and social care services like the NHS ^{to} care for many disadvantaged patients with problems that could be avoided from the start. Therefore, research is important and continuous changes and improvements is significant as it could prevent future problems. The secondary research supports the importance of research when exploring the inequalities in provision as showed in the article found online called: 'Inequalities in health: definitions, concepts and theories' by Taylor and Francis in 2015 which states that 'individuals from different backgrounds, social groups enjoy different levels of health' and 'clear differences in health can be due to material

deprivation, environmental social relevant grouping like gender etc." This suggests that the inadequate service is due to many factors like low income that prevents people from being able to afford to look after their health which would result in the more ~~disadvantaged~~ people to have a good quality life whilst the disadvantaged ~~people~~ individuals carry on having a poor standard of living due to their economic status. The article supports that the inequalities in health can impact and affect someone's health as social group differences is a huge factor to someone's life expectancy. "Individuals from the poorest quartile of families are more likely to die than those of the wealthiest of families" which implies that the socioeconomic groups is a issue in care. The research carried out and analysed showed that the ~~research~~ ^{refresh} scheme did improve and make slight changes as the free pass to leisure facilities would mean that individuals from deprived areas and low income would be able to get the same opportunity as the wealthier people.

"Statistics in the graph of figure three shows us that when the refresh scheme was introduced it had a great impact as 3.9% of the population in the deprived area participated in gym and swimming activities which demonstrated the effect of the change implemented in society and how successful it was towards different individuals in different categories. If secondary research is not carried out the society and overall population is impacted as a whole due to the differences and inadequate service that needs to be improved to better people's health and wellbeing.

One issue in society is the economic factors that divide individuals because of their economic status leading to differences in overall health as health tends to be poorer if you are an individual from an deprived area or with a low income. The article examined differences in health to understand the social inequalities in health. For example the comparison of a poor individual's BMI to the rich individual's BMI. Tests that could be avoided to socially disadvantaged groups would have better health outcomes ^{as} free leisure would have many benefits according to Total Fitness e.g. reduce the risk of health problems, helps maintain healthy lifestyle, better mental health and boosts energy and mood. However, the negative impact of the refresh scheme could affect individuals as the free pass to leisure facilities would mean that the gyms would be overcrowded leading to the discomfort of personal ^{and} peaceful space, defeating the whole purpose of relieving stress in a gym. Also a huge increase of individuals joining gym would mean not enough resources and equipment available to people leaving little choice and dissatisfaction to attending gyms.

<https://www.totalfitness.co.uk/blog/inspiration/10-reasons-to-join-a-gym/>

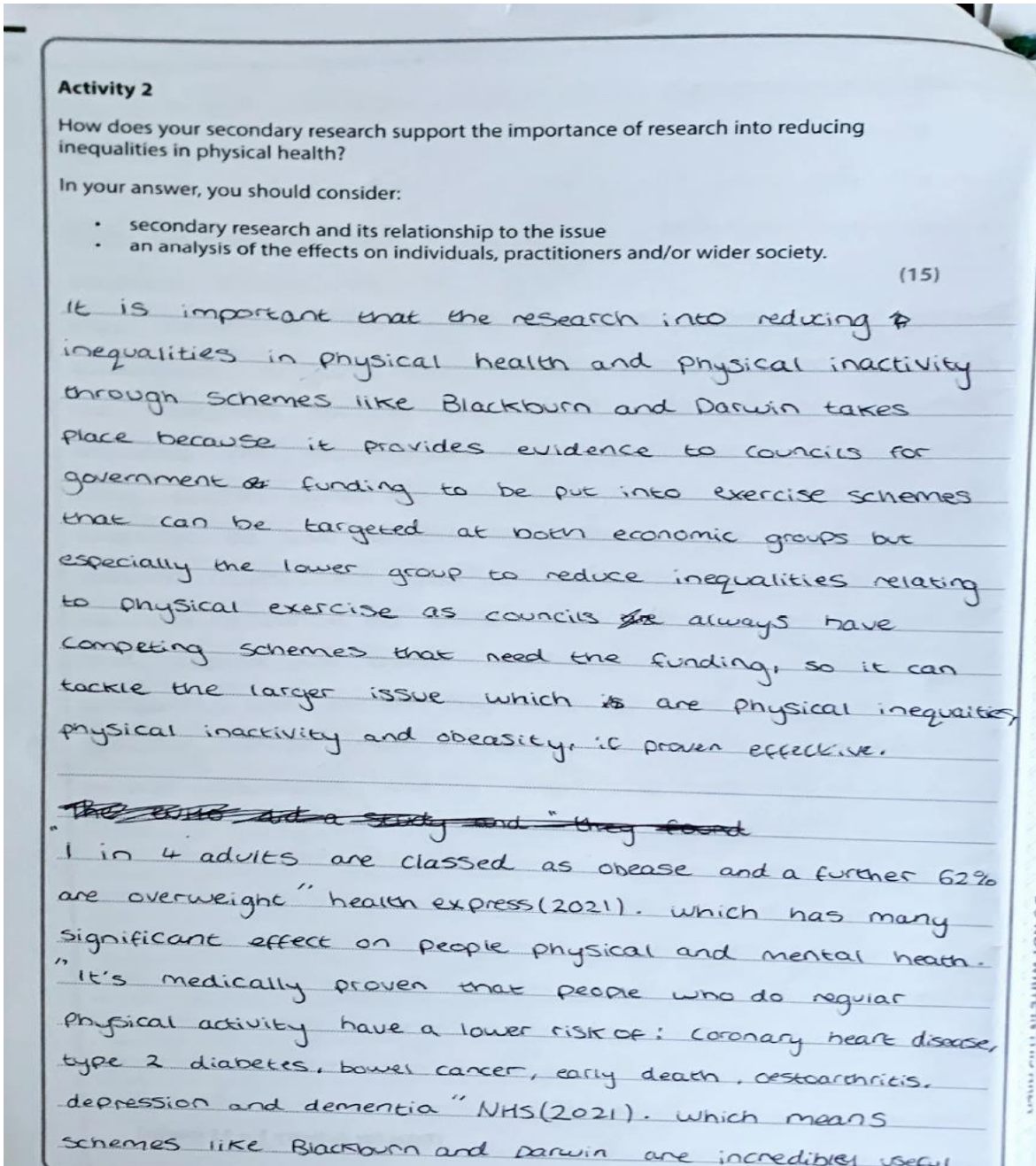
Another issue that would impact practitioners and professionals is that the individual would result in a larger amount of people needing help in need for health care as they develop health

(Total for Activity 2 = 15 marks)

This response scored highly because:

- There is a basic analysis of issue in context.
- The response makes reference to secondary research throughout.
- The response consistently relates to the issue.
- There are examples to support individuals and or professionals throughout the response.

This response scored Band 2, 7 marks.



Darwin are researched and proven effective they could be put into place all throughout England reducing physical inactivity and therefore reducing the strain on peoples bodies and the cost to the NHS and staff.

"Participation ~~has~~ in regular physical activity can increase our self esteem and can reduce stress and anxiety. It also plays a role in preventing the development of mental health problems and in improving the lives of people experiencing mental health problems" Mental Health Foundation (2021).
Relating to this "studies have shown that there is approximately a 20% to 30% lower risk of depression and dementia for adults participating in daily physical activity" Mental Health Foundation (2021).

Physical activity prevents several conditions and mental health conditions it can also cause some people have eating disorders and have body image related problems also if ~~to~~ more and more people are waiting ~~up~~ for treatment as they are sick that means less people are attending work causing gaps in the work force and those from poorer ^{more deprived areas} have less income ^{largening socioeconomic inequalities} coming in again; making harder for them to pay bills and increasing pressure on others at work to fill the gaps of work they would normally be doing, causing them more pressure and stress which can trigger mental health

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problem such as anxiety

This response scored lower because:

- The response describes the issue.
- There are relevant examples to support included throughout the response.
- Secondary research is used in the response that links to the issue in parts.

Overall

There were some good responses to this activity, with more able learners being able to grasp the issues presented in either the health or social care section of the controlled assessment. It was evident that where learners had sourced good and relevant secondary research, they were able to produce good explanations of the importance of research, for either physical health inequalities or self-directed support and social care needs. However, where learners had not grasped the issues, these responses tended to provide a wealth of irrelevant secondary research with tenuous links to the articles being seen. Centres should note that this activity is about the importance of research into the issue presented and does not require learners to provide ideas for change in research; this information is better suited to activity three. They should focus on the importance of the research in question, and how this affects individuals, practitioners and or wider society.

Activity three

The assessment focus for this question is '**research implications for future provision and/or practice**'. Learners are expected to provide implications of the research for future provision/practice in the sector, with analysis of these implications. They should show understanding of the issue and implications in both the context of the article and wider research. Learners should also consider **recommendations for change in provision/practice**, with justification.

Health article

This activity considers implications of the research on provision and or practice in the health sector. Where learners understood this, they performed well including things such as a need for more knowledge and understanding of how to engage individuals in physical activity, creating greater engagement in more deprived areas and changes to policy including campaigns to support and promote free access to leisure facilities.

Social Care article

This activity required learners to consider the implications on provision and practice in relation to disabled LGBTQI+ and self-directed support/social care needs. Learners who performed well offered a range of implications for the research, considering changes such as training programmes for Personal Assistants, changes to the approach of person-centred care to include sexual orientation and gender identity as well as providing specialist care staff for this group.

This response scored Band 4, 16 marks.

Activity 3

How could research into physical health inequalities affect the provision of health services for people living in deprivation?

In your answer, you should consider:

- the effect on provision and/or practice
- recommendations for change in future provision and/or practice
- secondary research findings.

(20)

Research into physical health inequalities may affect people living in deprivation because they may not have access to services. To be able to provide provision for those who cannot afford or have access to services like being able to go to the gym's or having access to gym membership cards. As this will have an effect on provision because they will have a less number of people using the services and will also have an effect on practice like the NHS if the people are obese and have health problems. To improve the validity of this issue for the future could be doing exercise at home and making routines and maintaining those routines to help improve physical health. Another reason to improve the validity of this issue could be that we need to consider reasons why people don't exercise. I mean exercise should be a priority to those with health problems, otherwise they are in danger. There ~~is~~ ^{does not have to be a} charge to exercise but

people still do not do it, increasing more inequalities. To improve this issue we need to bring together focus groups to discuss the reasons for not attending gyms, instead of assuming. We could also take in consideration different geographical locations, ages, ranges, gender, as well as socioeconomic factors. I would also recommend that we need to do more work on promoting the importance of exercise, as secondary research says. Although some people may be unmotivated, social media or advertisements may persuade participants to change their thoughts. As said in secondary research findings exercise commercials would be what I would recommend to be televised and updated regularly so that people are aware that services like gym's, leisure centres that are free of charge and that are beneficial for those who are deprived of them exist and that going to them at least twice a week is helpful for health. There has never been a recognised socioeconomic status variable since (being deprived doesn't mean poor) since we don't know who is poor, or rich it doesn't matter. I believe that those who are deprived, for future and in the present, that research should give the opportunities/ideas to local areas so they can provide free leisure centre activities to give those a chance

Even schools do physical education twice a week. This ~~can~~ could have an impact on their health to solve this issue in the long term, I believe that after school clubs should be put in place because exercise will help to improve memory and brain function. I see this as an achievable objective as it can also reduce social anxiety and depression. Providing extra facilities such as treadmills, trampolines, exercise machines in leisure centres is one suggestion that can be implemented. Although not all will be used but those participants that come frequently can make this very useful.

This response scored highly because:

- Implications of the research on provision and or practice are evidenced.
- There is a basic analysis evident in the response.
- There are detailed recommendations for change that are supported throughout.

This response scored Band 2, 10 marks.

Activity 3

How could research into physical health inequalities affect the provision of health services for people living in deprivation?

In your answer, you should consider:

- the effect on provision and/or practice
- recommendations for change in future provision and/or practice
- secondary research findings.

(20)

To improve the validity of the issue long term you could implement focus groups and they are a voice of certain populations. This would ensure that people are discussing and expressing their opinions as to why physical activity is important, and why everyone needs access to it.

The data that comes out of focus groups are the comments and interactions given by participants. So there wouldn't be no right or wrong and they wouldn't be influenced on their responses. When arranging a focus group you would need to include the targeted audience which are from different areas and different ages. This would ensure the research become fair and reliable due to different opinions and views. To get the results you need, you would include open questions as this permits unlimited range of answers.

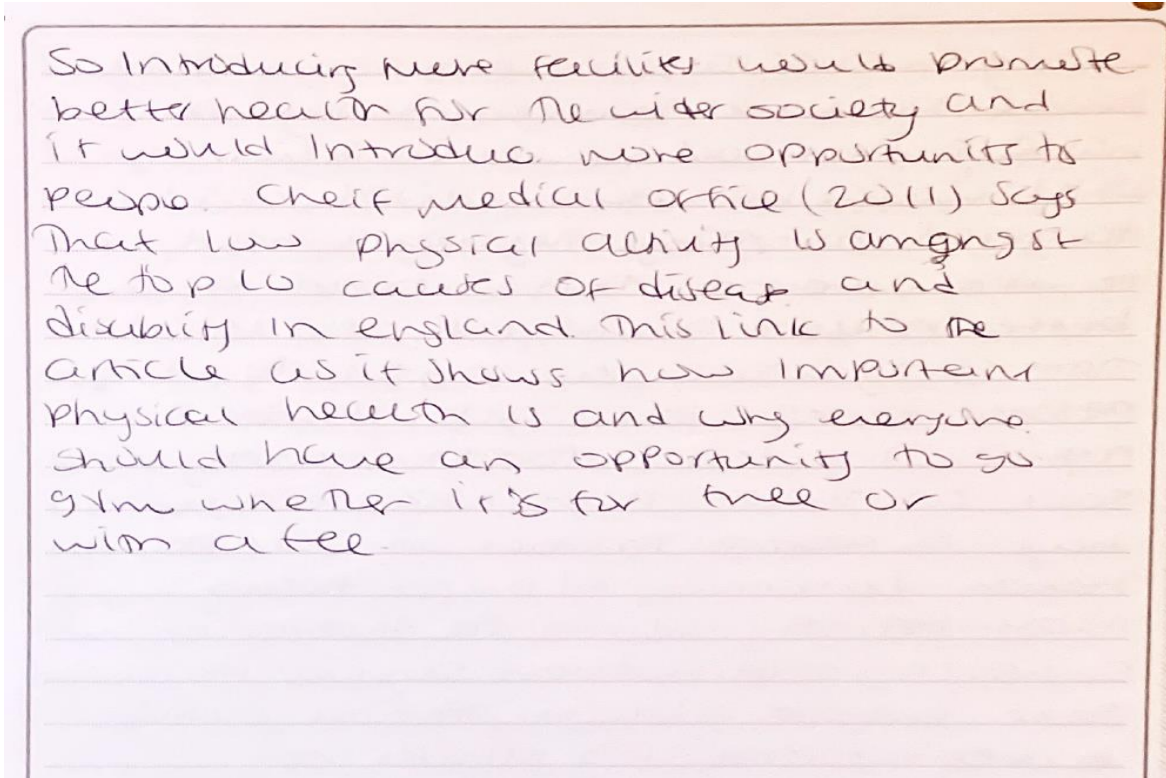
The effects it would have, prison and practices it could cause a strain on the services they would provide which leads to people's need and inequalities not being met.

Moving forward, I would recommend providing a means tested services, which determines if a person or a household is eligible to receive free passes through GP's and it would ensure people who are more entitled to help would receive it. We would base this on health issues rather than socio-economic status, so I would recommend providing free passes (refresh) to people who have health issues such as obesity this would encourage them to lose excess weight and become healthier. Moreover there might be people who are poor but have good physical health and they might not want or need the passes. This would ensure no one would be disadvantaged and people who are poor and unhealthy would still have the same opportunity as others and it would reduce health care inequalities.

I would also recommend giving individuals free online ~~access~~ classes access. This would reduce overcrowding in the gyms and people would feel more comfortable in their own space and it's also flexible schedule which would ~~also~~ allow people to exercise in their own ~~home~~ ~~and~~ schedule and space. Free online workout classes would produce the exact same results as others in the gym. Individuals would get more attention which leads to more help and motivation as ~~others in the gym~~ as there is no pressure on them. This would also help their mental health, such as being in their own space and not comparing themselves to others progress; this would boost their self-esteem as they would focus on their own journey. (1998-2022 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research) Says exercise can help prevent excess weight gain, or help maintain weight loss, regular exercise helps prevent or manage many health problems and regular physical activity can improve your muscle strength.

Lastly I would also recommend giving people personal trainers so they would have expert advice and training which would be personalised and targeted for things they would need to work on and this would produce better results. This would also motivate them as they would have a goal to reach. Personal trainers could also provide nutritional guidance for them as they need such as a diet plan which would have a positive impact on their physical health. Laskowski, M.P for healthy most healthy adults, The Department of Health and Human Services recommends these exercise guidelines: aerobic activity & get at least 150 minutes of moderate activity or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity a week.

The effects of provision, would have an impact on society. Such as more facilities would be needed and this would encourage people to attend gyms if more facilities are made in local areas.



This response scored lower because:

- The implications of the research are evident throughout the response.
- The learner includes recommendations for change, which are explained throughout.
- The response is in the context of the research undertaken.

This response scored Band 0, 0 marks.

Activity 3

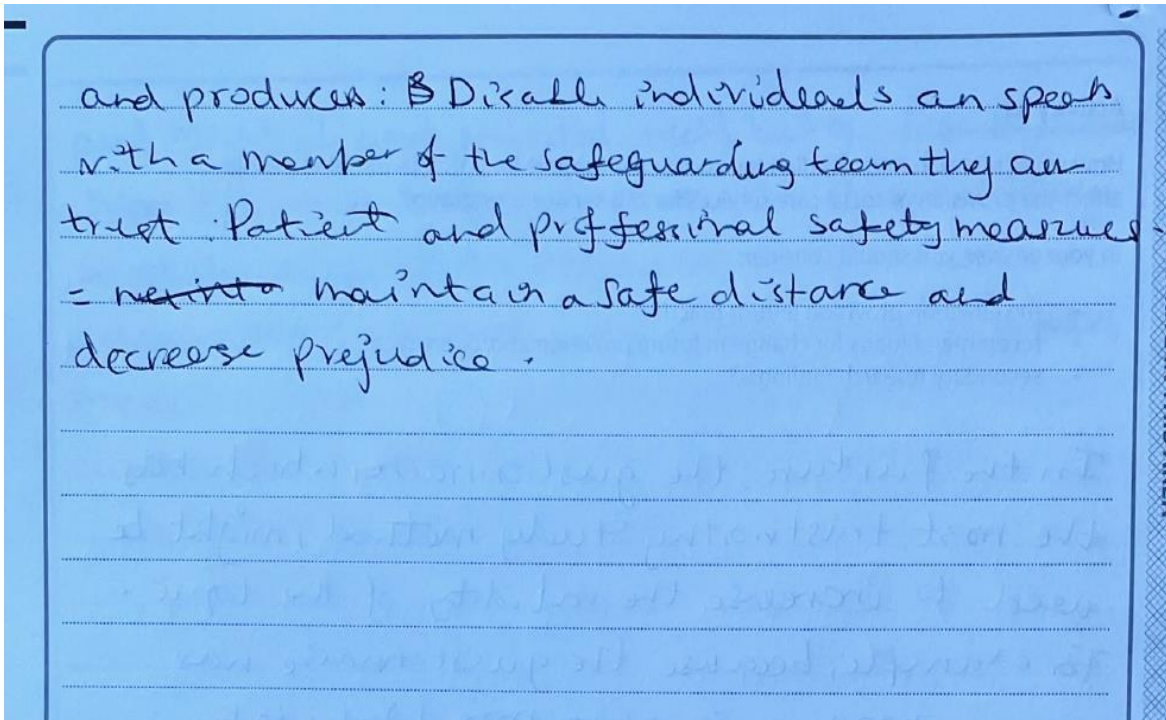
How could research into self-directed social care support for LGBTQI+ disabled people affect the provision of social care services for this service user group?

In your answer, you should consider:

- the effect on provision and/or practice
- recommendations for change in future provision and/or practice
- secondary research findings.

(20)

In the future, the questionnaire, which has the most trustworthy study method, might be used to increase the validity of the topic. For example, because the questionnaire was anonymous, people were more likely to be honest because their identities would not be revealed, making them feel safer about themselves. A survey of 56 disabled people was carried out, because just 56 per cent of the population participated in the study, it was deemed untrustworthy. To make this research approach more diverse, I urge that more people from other countries participate in the survey so that more accurate results may be obtained. People can easily lie when answering questions in surveys, and because they are not conducted face to face, other people can complete the survey for them. LGBTQ people may not feel safe in their own skin because of their life choices and who they are. No pauses in service due to policies.



This response scored lower because:

- The learner provides a description of research methods.
- There is no rewardable material in this response – the activity is about the implications and recommendations for change.

Overall

Some good responses have been seen by learners who have read the activity and considered the focus for this assessment outcome. Those who were successful in this activity provided responses in relation to a need for more knowledge and understanding of how to engage individuals in physical activity or self-directed support for disabled LGBTQI+ individuals. Learners who scored well were able to provide good implications, followed on by recommendations for change in provision and or practice in the health or social care sectors. They included things such as funding, policy change, appropriate services, developing training programmes. The implications for provision and or practice in this activity was weaker than in previous series, with a more heavy focus on recommendations for change. It is advised that learners provide equal emphasis on both parts of the activity in future series.

Activity four

The assessment focus for this question is '**planning and ethical consideration for further research**'. Learners are expected to offer rationalised suggestions of research methods that could be used to continue the research that they have chosen (in relation to the case study presented) and need to justify the reasons behind these choices to show effectiveness / suitability of the methods stipulated in the case study. Learners should be considering planning of further research in the case study, ethical issues and research skills that would be implemented in this research in the relevant area. They should also highlight practical problems with carrying out research in a wider context.

Health article

This activity has been well answered this series with many learners making consistent reference to the case study provided, considering research methods and ethical considerations in the majority of responses. However, responses to planning considerations and research skills was weaker and not always evident. Learners responded well to the majority of research methods included in the case study, showing good knowledge and understanding of online questionnaires and one to one interviews. Knowledge and understanding of scientific experiments is still proving to be an issue for some learners in this activity.

Social Care article

This section was again answered well by the majority of learners, with clear contextualised information presented by the lots of learners. They related the points made back to the case study provided, including some nice evaluations of focus groups, online surveys and interviews throughout responses. For responses that scored lower on this activity, learners did not always provide context in their responses which limited the awarding of marks.

This response scored Band 4, 13 marks.

Activity 4

Graham is a social worker who allocates and reviews support and care packages for individuals with disabilities. Part of his work involves supporting individuals to find and employ personal assistants who support individuals with a range of needs in their day-to-day life. He has become aware that some clients accessing this service are unhappy with the care and support that they are receiving and he wants to investigate this further.

His local authority have suggested that Graham undertakes a research project to investigate the current provision offered, with a focus on LGBTQI+ disabled people. The research will focus on improving the provision in order to empower the clients and ensure that the personal assistants employed have a good understanding of the individual needs of their clients.

Graham's research will use participants as co-researchers who will be involved in the design of training and support. This will be given to social care workers and personal assistants throughout the process of allocating, reviewing and implementing support and care packages. He will recruit 10 participants as co-researchers and they will undertake focus groups to consider what challenges are currently being faced, and ways to overcome these challenges. Personal assistants will be sent an online survey to assess their understanding of the needs of LGBTQI+ clients and subsequent training will be offered in collaboration with the clients using the service. Graham will also undertake one-to-one interviews with other social care workers in his local authority who are assigned to work with the participants involved in the research.

What should Graham consider when undertaking this research?

You should include judgements on:

- planning considerations
- ethical issues
- research methodologies used in the scenario
- research skills required to explore the issue.

(15)

This is a mixed methods approach. Graham has achieved triangulation by using surveys, interviews, and focus groups to collect data from. Surveys produce quantitative data which can be placed into graphs, pie charts, and tallies as a way to more easily visualise the data. This will help Graham in his research project as it will make it much easier for him to compare his findings with other research projects in order to test the validity and reliability of his data. Interviews produce mainly qualitative data.

Focus groups also produce qualitative data. This information can be placed into thematic analysis to look for any recurring themes in the data. This data can then be compared to other research to see if they have similar findings.

Graham has used a small but targeted sample ~~the~~ of 10 people who will also act as co-researchers. This will help Graham to gain a better idea on what measures need to be taken into account and what training is needed in order to improve the services provided by PA's in order to provide a better standard of care. However, Graham also needs to consider what measures need to be put in place to reduce researcher bias. Due to the participants also being co-researchers, they may affect the data that is collected or may provide biased responses when completing the survey and interview.

Graham needs to consider the ethics of his research project in order to keep his participants safe. He should not ask them to do anything that could cause them harm. He should have measures in place of what to do in the event of something going wrong.

Another ethical consideration that is needed is informed consent. The participants need to be aware of why they are involved in the research project and should be aware of the fact that they are allowed to leave at any time and have the right to remove their own data from the research. Graham should include an acknowledgement that he has gained their consent.

Another ethical consideration is confidentiality. No research is valid without confidentiality. This means that Graham should include how he intends to maintain the participants confidentiality & in the research project. This also links to data protection. He should include measures on how he intends to keep their private data separate and safe from the research project as harm could be caused to them if their data is released if their PA is has poor behaviour. Another ethical consideration would be to ensure that no coercion occurs and how he intends to prevent it from occurring.

Graham should consider many factors when planning his research such as the time frame. Although he only has 10 participants, interviews and focus groups would produce a lot of data that needs to be analyzed. This means that he may have to hire people to help him analyze this data if he does not feel that he would be able to do it by himself. However, hiring other people to help analyze data can also be tricky as they may perceive the data differently to another person which could affect how the results are displayed.

Graham should not have many concerns when it comes to the financial aspect of the research

project unless the participants are being paid. Due to Graham also using the participants as co-researchers it could be quite expensive for him to hire 10 people especially if he also needs to hire more people to help him analyze data. Printing out surveys is relatively cheap and they are quick and easy to send out.

There is no mention of ethical considerations taken in the research project. There is also no mention of data protection. This could affect the participants health and wellbeing if the data is released and could be very upsetting if they did not consent to it being stored.

Graham needs to be clear on how he intends to recruit the participants and why he would like to recruit them. He must also inform them of an opt-out clause he will need to produce which will inform them that they have the right to leave at any time.

Some improvements that can be made to the research project are; improving the sample size. This would produce more data for Graham to analyze which would make his research more reliable and valid as he would be able to remove anomalies.

41

Turn over ▶

from the data and consider why they may have been present.

Another improvement could be that he ensures informed consent is documented from the participants so that the research project is valid and safe for the participants.

Another improvement could be that Graham could add the data and findings from the research and add any key themes that he has found so that it can be easily analyzed.

This response scored highly because:

- There are rationalised considerations of research methods and how they are used in relation to the research provided.
- The effectiveness and suitability of these research methods is considered.
- The response consistently refers back to the case study.
- There is reference to ethics, skills and planning throughout.

This response scored Band 3, 12 marks.

Activity 4

Shelby is a researcher for Public Health England with the responsibility of finding ways to reduce health inequalities in the UK. He has considered the success of recent initiatives to support those living in deprivation to access leisure facilities. He is interested in widening the scope for participation in this scheme. He has decided to focus on supporting those from low income families to improve physical fitness and health.

Shelby is going to work with a range of specialists, including colleagues from Public Health England, health trainers, health and fitness advisers and personal trainers. His research team will work together to investigate inequalities in levels of current fitness and willingness to improve physical fitness and health. He will include 10 families in the research from the North East of England, for a period of six months.

The health trainers will provide participants with an online questionnaire to measure physical fitness, health, and satisfaction of the scheme before, during and after implementation. They will undertake one-to-one interviews with the participants involved during implementation of the research to investigate how the scheme is supporting their health and wellbeing. Health and fitness advisers and personal trainers will also work with the participants to set up personalised programmes for each of them. They will monitor the fitness levels of the participants, noting changes in weight, blood pressure and BMI throughout the research.

What should Shelby consider when undertaking this research?

You should include judgements on:

- planning considerations
- ethical issues
- research methodologies used in the scenario
- research skills required to explore the issue.

(15)

What Shelby needs to consider is the methods used in his scheme. The methods that he is using are questionnaire, one-to-one interviews and controlled groups with personalised programmes while monitoring the fitness & levels of the participants. Questionnaires are a great way to collect ^{quantitative} ~~quantitative~~ data as it can clearly show physical fitness, health and satisfaction but the aim of the research isn't to find this ~~info~~ information but to research the inequality in physical health, so instead of having a questionnaire for the above information, Shelby can use questionnaire with

questions like 'Do you attend the gym at least once a week?' and a yes and no box as options and a follow up question could be 'if you ticked the no box, explain why.' This for example could gather qualitative data meaning more analysis will be needed. When Shelby plans out his study he needs to consider some of the skills and qualities he will need to be able to create a successful study. These include: non-judgemental, patient, observation skills, communication skills, ~~and~~ he also needs to be good with money so he can budget ~~with~~ with care. He will need to be non-judgemental because people who aren't as active or aren't as rich as other people may feel ashamed and embarrassed to admit that and since Shelby will be asking 10 different families that may include children, most parents don't like their children knowing that they are at risk. He will need to be patient due to some people having issues with language, speech or disabilities for when he chooses to have one-to-one interviews. In my opinion, the interviews will waste a lot of time and it mentions that he is working on this study over 6 months which is not enough time, he needs to consider his period of time and his controlled groups to make sure they will help the study. For example, he will be working with 10 families that may include newborns, toddlers, children, teenagers and parents. He would have to be ~~so~~ patient when talking to teenagers as they may

be going through puberty and will not want to answer questions they might find embarrassing. So Shelby could consider making questionnaires for different age groups. Shelby will also not be able to ask newborns, toddlers and children these questions as they shouldn't need to go to the gym at a young age. Shelby will need to have good communication skills because he will perform one-to-one interviews so he needs to look approachable, so he wouldn't intimidate the participants. If he has poor communication skills and ends up with a bad study due to lack of information received because Shelby couldn't communicate what he wants to find out, he would not be able to generalise the research to the public. Communication is key within the methods he wants to use and other skills such as observation skills. This skill is used to collect data so it is very important that Shelby has observation skills. They can also be used when interacting with the participants for example, observing their body language, and the way that they feel about this study. If the participant felt uncomfortable Shelby would be able to tell by observing.

Shelby needs many different skills and qualities to make him a trustworthy and a good quality researcher. His methods and his timing. From what has been provided, Shelby wants to do this study over a 6 month period time. This is not enough time to research the inequalities in physical health. This shows that he needs

to consider his time management skills and focus on being patient and precise. Shelby should require the skills and qualities before the research has started. Instead of working with 10 families he could have different controlled groups with different backgrounds and a larger sample size. He could do the study over a couple of years instead of taking 9 years. The ethical issues within his research choice ~~are~~ is that he is going to monitor the fitness levels of the participants, noting changes in weight, blood pressure and BMI throughout the research. This can cause the participants to feel very unnatural and controlled, like guinea pigs. ~~They are making this research so it's~~ Shelby needs to be more ethical and considerate. 'Regular physical activity can help to prevent and manage over 20 chronic conditions and diseases' (Gov. uk, 2021)

This response scored lower because:

- There is an evaluation of the research methods used throughout.
- The response includes ethical considerations and skills.
- There is consistent application to the case study presented for the activity.

This response scored Band 0, 0 marks.

Activity 4

Graham is a social worker who allocates and reviews support and care packages for individuals with disabilities. Part of his work involves supporting individuals to find and employ personal assistants who support individuals with a range of needs in their day-to-day life. He has become aware that some clients accessing this service are unhappy with the care and support that they are receiving and he wants to investigate this further.

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Graham's research will use participants as co-researchers who will be involved in the design of training and support. This will be given to social care workers and personal assistants throughout the process of allocating, reviewing and implementing support and care packages. He will recruit 10 participants as co-researchers and they will undertake focus groups to consider what challenges are currently being faced, and ways to overcome these challenges. Personal assistants will be sent an online survey to assess their understanding of the needs of LGBTQI+ clients and subsequent training will be offered in collaboration with the clients using the service. Graham will also undertake one-to-one interviews with other social care workers in his local authority who are assigned to work with the participants involved in the research.

What should Graham consider when undertaking this research?

You should include judgements on:

- planning considerations
- ethical issues
- research methodologies used in the scenario
- research skills required to explore the issue.

(15)

The planning stages of ~~LGBTQ~~ LGBTQ are health, education, safety, workplace, right law, ~~an~~ information, being LGBTQ in public, the world, the next steps.

The planning stage of health is that LGBT people can suffer from worse health than other people. In survey some people said they got a worse worse service from health services of their sexual orientation. Sexual orientation generally means whether you are attracted to people of the same sex or people of the opposite sex.

Half of the people who tried to access mental health had to wait too long. Many people said they were anxious about going. Some said their GP was not helpful. Most of the people who had tried to access services for people who have issues about their gender said it was not easy to have long waiting times. The government wants LGBT people to be at the heart of the NHS. The government will appoint a national advisor. This will be a new person who will advise and improve the way LGBT people are treated in the NHS. Education - all LGBT people should feel safe at school, college or university. In the survey 4 in 5 people had been harassed and insulted. 1 in 5 people had talked about sexual orientation or gender identity in schools, colleges and universities support every LGBT child and young person. The government must carry out its work tackling bullying against LGBT young people in schools and colleges. Update the guidance to schools about sex and relationship education. Make sure that the schools get good guidance about supporting LGBT pupils. Support LGBT teachers. Make sure that there is proper support for students who have suffered from verbal abuse and harassment. 40 people said they had a bad experience outside their home in the past 12 months.

because they were to change them so they weren't LGBT any more. The Government wants people to feel able to report any people from being LGBT. Improve the way the police deal with reports of hate ~~and~~ crime. Help to make people who have partner or family members. Let more people know about support services for LGBT people who have suffered from abuse.

In many societies around the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. People are subject to abuse and attacks. Gender and sexual minorities and excluded are stigmatised because of who they are, and alarmingly, many countries ~~and~~ countries still have laws and policies that specifically make homosexuality a crime. Qualitative data was suitable because the respondents were able to specify their own sexual orientation and gender identity if they wished in a free text box. These responses were coded and the more common answers grouped into new categories. Fully informing researchers and participants, confidentiality and anonymity avoiding harm.

40

This response scored lower because:

- There is no rewardable material in the response.
- The activity is not considered.

Overall

This activity scored really well in this series with many learners making consistent use of the case study to ensure their response was in context of the activity. Responses saw good evaluations of research methods and ethical considerations with learners appearing to have a really good grasp on the concepts presented. Where learners scored lower on this activity, they had provided more generic evaluations which did not always include the case study. Learner responses tended to be weaker for research skills and planning considerations and this should be considered when preparing learners to take this controlled assessment.

Summary

In conclusion, learners are producing responses of a good standard for this controlled assessment; it is evident that most centres are using guidance to support the delivery and assessment of the unit. There has been an increase in responses that are contextualised and this should remain a focus for centres – the more contextualised the responses are, the better the marks that will be attained by learners. It is pleasing to see a move to more learner choice in articles and this should continue to happen in future series.

Learners need to be supported in their understanding of what information to include in each activity; for some learners they include everything that they have learnt in responses to activities and should be supported to recognise what is important to include. For example, where learners may include lots of recommendations in activity three, they would be better to focus on a few and include more depth and analysis, with a balance of implications and recommendations. When including secondary research, learners need to be supported in their summarising techniques and ability to take important and relevant information from secondary research. When completing activity two, learners need to focus on the issue presented and select information about this from their findings, rather than simply regurgitating findings.

Some learners also appeared to run out of time when responding to the controlled assessment. Centres need to support learners in preparation for assessment with timing, perhaps providing guidance on how long to spend writing each activity so as not to disadvantage them when being unable to complete all set activities.

Finally, centres need to support learners prior to the assessment in the layout of the paper. Many learners this series wrote in wrong sections, tried to apply the social care responses to the health section and vice versa. Learners should check before they start that they are writing in the correct section of the paper to avoid missing out on vital marks in this controlled assessment.

The following is recommended for future examination series:

- Make use of the most up to date resources and specification provided for this unit.
- Avoid re-writing the articles in responses, particularly with activity two.
- Support learners with exam techniques and extended writing skills.
- Support learners to use technical language for this unit consistently and accurately.
- Support learners to understand assessment outcomes for each activity, particularly activities two and three.
- Secondary research and choice of article should be independent to the learner and not centre specific.
- Choose an appropriate assessment window for learners to sit this controlled assessment; learners are more successful when they have had the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding across their health and social care studies.



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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