



General Certificate of Education

Health and Social Care 8621/8623

**HC07 Needs and Provision for Elderly
Clients**

Report on the Examination

2008 examination – June series

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Set and published by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance.

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Dr Michael Cresswell Director General.

HC07 Needs and Provision for Elderly Clients

Principal Moderator's Report

There was no improvement in the quality of work this year from most centres. It was felt that many candidates were not fully supported throughout. Most candidates did cover the specification, but in general the work lacked the necessary detail and depth. Common mistakes included not stating the age of the client, lack of ethical precautions taken and no evidence of a letter of consent. The transcripts of the interviews were sometimes the only evidence that they had taken place.

Candidates need to produce evidence for three topics based on a series of interviews. The topics should include Needs, Services and Comparisons and consequences.

There should be an introduction, identifying an elderly person who must be aged 70+. There should be a brief description of their current situation. To gather this information there should be evidence describing how and when the interviews have taken place. These details must be documented. The interviews should use a variety of recording techniques and data collection. More able candidates analysed each interview and adapted future questions accordingly.

The method subsection should also deal with ethical considerations. This was not attempted well as candidates defined ethics, but did not apply ethical considerations to their interviews. Ethical considerations should include informed consent, avoidance of distress by selection and wording of questions and anonymity. There should be a signed letter of consent in the appendix.

The needs of the elderly person should be studied in terms of health and social care requirements. Work tended to be very generic in terms of medical conditions and often did not state how the condition actually affected the client. There tended to be more of a description of the disorder itself, which was often unrelated to the client. Candidates relied far too much on information from the Internet, which was often not fully understood or referenced. The client needs were often not explicit and candidates concentrated on provision of services. This is an area which needs to be expanded.

The social needs of the clients were often not fully investigated. This was very obvious when a relative was being interviewed, perhaps candidates did not want to cause offence.

Candidates looked at service needs in some detail, but found it difficult to analyse and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of current care services.

Access to care and providers was vague.

Also few candidates reflected on changing care requirements for the individual for the next five years. These may be due to medical conditions deteriorating, physical ageing, increased fragility, and reduced mental stimulus and activity.

The strongest and most detailed part of the work was the comparisons section. There was a choice of topic here, with most candidates opting for the comparison of the candidate's life with that of the elderly person. Some candidates made the mistake of only looking at the elderly person and giving a very one-sided account.

The best work was without doubt done with candidates who had spent a long time getting to know the elderly person through work experience at day centres or old people's homes .They were able to gain a much greater insight into the problems of ageing.

Finally, the appendix must include original questions, records of responses and letters of consent. Work which has been referenced in the work should be included in the bibliography.

Grade boundaries

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