



General Certificate of Education

Health and Social Care 8626/8629

HC20 Environmental Health

Report on the Examination

June 2009

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HC20: Environmental Health

The aim of this unit is to look at the area of Environmental Health provided by the candidate's local Environmental Health Department.

It requires candidates to analyse the information and produce some well-reasoned conclusions.

The unit generated a wide range of candidate response.

Candidates must ensure they can access the environmental health services provided by their local authority.

They are expected to collect information either from annual reports, websites or interviews with actual personnel.

Where this was achieved, candidates were able to produce evaluative and analytical reports.

Candidates need to present their work clearly to ensure all four sections are covered.

A Description

All eight sections must be covered. Most candidates did this well but some failed to relate the information to the relevant client groups and how they are affected.

Clients must be integrated into each service, not tagged on at the end as an afterthought.

B Operational Management

The work should discuss the main points of operational management, together with any differences that may be required in different contexts.

Some candidates showed an understanding of operational management but had several omissions, i.e. structure of management, funding, dealing with complaints and enquiries. Candidates should have included links to clients and there should be reference to actual personnel, not simply "The Health and Safety Officer".

C Evaluation

Candidates should evaluate the role of the local authority in prioritising hazards and how the services are delivered to client groups.

Using the data from the local authority, there should be evidence of reasoned judgments, prioritising of service provision, and evidence of referencing and reflection of how the client group's needs are met.

There was some evidence of data-handling in A03 and A04, but more is required if accessing mark bands 3 and 4.

D Scientific Principals

These should relate to the relevant hazards/risks to clients and include factors discussed in section A. The better candidates took the information from section C and discussed these hazards in detail, as opposed to producing copious notes on every aspect indiscriminately.

Candidates must avoid simply down-loading information and not relating it to clients and other examples.

Plagiarism must be avoided. No Marks are awarded for plagiarised work.

Clients are paramount in this unit and all information should always be related to them. Some candidates linked well to reports from newspapers which allowed them to access higher marks.

Good centres invited an EHO to talk to the class and centres where candidates received clear direction covered all the requirements of the specification.

The mark bands have statements, which should direct the assessor and the candidates to what should be included.

These were referred to superficially by some centres; hence the work had not covered key points.

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the AQA website at www.aqa.org.uk/over/stat.html