

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCE Health & Social Care (6944) Paper 01
Unit 7 - Meeting Individual Needs

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Publications Code UA027355

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General Comments

This paper has not changed in format and is consistent with previous papers. In general although candidates find this paper challenging, it does discriminate well between candidates. The paper consists of 3 stimulus response questions which have been marked out of 90. Each section commences with a straightforward question which often asks the candidate to recall knowledge or apply knowledge. Subsequent questions are more complex in that they will ask the candidate to identify and explain, discuss or analyse etc a particular concept. All aspects of the specification are or have been covered in the questions set. Centres are advised that question stems act as a prompt and where legislation is cited this is not a cue for candidates to explain all they know about the legislation as very often a more theoretical response is required about why legislation is required i.e. to safeguard and protect. The mark scheme is standardised in such a way to ensure flexibility and accessibility to all calibre of candidate.

Question 1

This paper traditionally commences with the area of care management and this series was no different. The case study scenario was based around an individual who required the support and assistance of health and social care professionals to lead a normal life. The care management process and the various steps involved are designed to ensure as much independence and normality as possible. This should be a straightforward area for candidates to answer; however part (a) was poorly answered with many candidates not having a clear, definitive understanding of the term 'care management'. In addition a small but significant minority had difficulty in explaining what the assessment would consist of (part b). This paper is also the synoptic paper for the qualification and therefore part (c) was designed to assess the transferability of knowledge across units as this question assessed the benefits of the care packages to the client's health and wellbeing. In general this was well answered but as usual many candidates relied on PIES to answer this question. Parts (d) and (e) are usually longer questions which require candidates to use extended writing skills and the quality of written communication is also assessed. Both questions were poorly answered. Both questions assessed candidates' understanding of the use of legislation in protecting those vulnerable in society and the state's roles in legislation and welfare. It was disappointing to see that many candidates had a very limited understanding of both aspects reflecting poor understanding of the statutory sector's role. In general majority of candidates only achieved 3-4 marks in both questions.

Question 2

Question 2 focused on the use of the day centre to support the client in coming to terms with his condition etc. Generally the focus of this question is about organisations and how they recruit, train and develop staff in meeting client needs. This will also bring in aspects of resourcing, networking etc. In general the question was adequately answered and where marks were low they tended to be centre specific issues. Part (a) was well answered, the majority of candidates understanding the need to monitor a client's need on a regular basis. Candidates also demonstrated a good understanding of the term empowerment by accurately referring to the importance of decisions, independence etc. Again part (c) tested

candidates ability to transfer knowledge across from units 6938 and 6941 and was well answered by the majority of candidates. Part (d) on team working was a familiar question to many and candidates demonstrated a good understanding of why team working in health and social care is important. The final part of (e) focused on the issue of resourcing and required candidates to assess the importance of additional resources in provision. Although the majority of candidates achieved 4-6 marks it was heartening to see that some candidates could assess the higher marks with some very clear, logically and coherently structured responses which allowed a minority to gain 8-9 marks.

Question 3

Traditionally question 3 is a policy and legislation question and this series was no different. This part started off with a question which focused on disability legislation. As stated in the introduction it is not necessary to have a knowledge of the legislation but rather an understanding of why legislation such as disability legislation is required, namely, safeguard, protect, enhance access, normalisation etc. Part (a) was poorly answered in this regard. Part (b), the synoptic question which asked how the lack of additional support would affect her development, was also poorly answered. Part (c) was a familiar question about the importance of feedback etc in promoting services etc. The majority of candidates did tackle this question reasonably well and demonstrated good understanding. Unfortunately part (d) which required extended writing was poorly answered. This question assessed candidates' knowledge of the roles and functions of organisations which have been set up to oversee the implementation of legislation. This generic question tested that when legislation is established and passed by government, an agency such as OFQUAL, GSCC, Equality Commission etc will be empowered to oversee that organisations comply with the main contents of the legislation.

Conclusions

Candidates have a general understanding and overview of the unit content and specification. On longer questions which are more technical and require greater thought and application many candidates are unable to be able to generate a coherent accurate response.

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Order Code UA027355 June 2011

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