

Moderators' Report/ Principal Moderator Feedback

Summer 2012

GCE Health & Social Care (6947)
Unit 10 – Using & Understanding
Research

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General Comments

The assessment evidence for this unit consists of a report on a research project carried out by the learner, and a relatively small number of centres sent work for moderation this examination series. Most learners had chosen appropriate health and social care related topics, and had attempted to address all the assessment requirements of the unit. A range of topics had been chosen that covered all four user-groups and settings. Lifestyle issues that influence the health and well-being of young people were popular, such as smoking, binge drinking, and STDs.

Assessment Objective 1

There was sometimes a lack of evidence of consideration of different research methods, and the methods chosen were sometimes stated without explanation or justification. Learners should look into a range of research methods and explain how their choice of methods makes sense in relation to characteristics of their research project. This allows them to show knowledge and understanding in their research planning. Most learners had opted for some form of questionnaire. Learners who had apparently been directed by teachers to use a particular set of research methods often showed limited understanding of the advantages, disadvantages and overall rationale of each method they employed.

Assessment Objective 2

Most learners included plans of their research. Pilot studies were sometimes used, and most learners who did pilot their research showed how and where their methodology was changed in the light of the pilot, though often this was merely a slight rewording of questions in their questionnaires.

Assessment Objective 3

Analysis of results was sometimes very good with clear, well labelled, graphs, tables and charts accompanied by lucid explanation. However many learners had provided only superficial analysis, or had simply stated some of their results with little or no analysis offered. Learners are advised to plan their data analysis when they make decisions about the data they intend to collect and the methods to be used, so that the data they collect can be dealt with logically and systematically in the final report.

Assessment Objective 4

The evaluation provided for Assessment Objective 4 was fairly weak in most reports. Learners who had good understanding were able to evaluate their work in a balanced way, recognising both strengths and limitations, and most learners had at least identified some weaknesses in their data. Learners should be encouraged to consider the limitations as well as the strengths of their research to help them develop an evaluation. Some learners had included generic, theoretical statements about the role of research in health and social care that were not linked to the rest of their research report. Learners understanding of the role of research would be best demonstrated by setting their own research in the context of the broader world of research through recognition of its constraints and limitations.

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