

Principal Moderator's Report January 2010

GCE

GCE Health & Social Care - Unit 10 (6947)

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6947/01: Using and Understanding Research

General comments

The assessment evidence for this unit consists of a report on a research project carried out by the learner. An extremely small number of centres sent work for moderation this examination season. 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/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

In AO1 there was sometimes insufficient 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

In AO2 most learners included plans of their research, but few modified or revisited them and limited their access to mark band 3. 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 rewording of questions in their questionnaires

Assessment Objective 3

In AO3 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 merely stated some of their results with little or no analysis offered. Also some learners had used several different research methods but failed to bring the results together coherently. AO3 was the weakest area of the unit. 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 required for AO4 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. Most learners identified 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 it's constraints and limitations.

Grade Boundaries

Internally assessed units

6947: Using and Understanding Research

Grade	Max. Mark	A	B	C	D	E
Raw boundary mark	60	50	45	40	35	30
Uniform boundary mark	100	80	70	60	50	40

Notes

Maximum Mark (Raw): the mark corresponding to the sum total of the marks shown on the mark scheme.

Boundary mark: the minimum mark required by a candidate to qualify for a given grade.

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