



General Certificate of Education

**Health and Social Care
8621/8623/8626/8627/8629**

HC20 Environmental Health

Report on the Examination

June 2010

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HC20 Environmental Health

General comments

Work submitted was of a generally high standard, and centres had a good grasp of the requirements of this unit and candidates achieve some good results.

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.

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 addressed.

A Description

All eight sections need to be covered. Most candidates did this well and managed to relate the information to and say how it affected the relevant client groups.

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 detail is required to access 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.

Plagiarism is not allowed.

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.

Centres which invited an EHO to talk to the class received current, local information which was beneficial to them.

Grade boundaries

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