

Moderators' Report/
Principal Moderator Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Health and Social Care (6944)
Meeting Individual Needs

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Introduction

The GCE Health and Social Care Unit 7 'Meeting Individual Needs' is a contemporary paper which is particularly relevant to candidates who wish to pursue a practical career in care on progress onto Higher Education.

This paper has performed similarly to that in previous years and has generally been well answered. This was evident in the clear understanding candidates had of what the question stems were asking and also in the knowledge and application they produced in their responses.

In general candidates found some aspects of this paper difficult, especially those in the lower grade boundaries. These candidates struggled particularly with the theoretical aspects of the specification such as legislation, role of government, governmental bodies and quality assurance. However, there were no obvious gaps in knowledge on this paper.

It should be noted that question stems act as a prompt and this are not a cue for candidates to explain all they know about the prompt, as this may well penalise them as very often a more theoretical response is required.

Although candidates have improved considerably in their understanding of the specification they still struggle considerably with developing their ability to express themselves in the longer questions.

As with previous series there were elements to this paper which even the most able candidate struggled with. Part of problem lies in their inability to correctly interpret the question stem, secondly when they do have some understanding of what the question asks they have difficulty applying their knowledge and understanding in a coherent and meaningful way and finally they lack focus and concentration, meaning on Question 3 they tend to run out of steam.

Examiners did identify some issues in candidate performance which centres should be mindful in future preparation of candidates for this exam. These included:

- Centres are using past questions and answer schemes to base their teaching which is not always accurate since question stems will change – slant of questions are not always the same.
- Candidates misinterpret questions stems and have a tendency to misuse technical terms.
- Candidates should be encouraged to read through the question paper and then attempt the most straight forward first rather than starting with Question 1 and working through.
- Inability to structure coherent, accurate answers particularly on extended writing questions.

Question 1

Question 1a, 1b, 1c were worth either 4-8 marks and the majority of candidates were able to achieve full marks.

A further problem was candidate tendency to use the same terms and vocational language in every response whether they were relevant or not, this was particularly the case in Question 1e.

Question 2

For Questions 2a candidates demonstrated a good knowledge base achieving 2-4 marks.

Candidates struggled to tackle Questions 2bi and 2bii. In general these questions were theoretical questions and generally required a high level of discussion and evaluation. Even though the questions were worth 4 marks candidate responses tended to be quite repetitive and weak/superficial.

The longer questions required extended writing which many candidates still struggle with in terms of their self expression and getting their thoughts accurately expressed on paper; this was particularly the case for Question 2d.

Question 3

For Questions 3a, 3b and 3c candidates demonstrated good knowledge and understanding.

Very few candidates were able score marks in the A/B grade boundary for both Questions 3e and 3f. For these structured answers responses lack knowledge, understanding, brief critiques and a general inability to develop fluent well structured answers.

