
Focus on Unit 8: Complementary Therapies **[AS level, optional, internally assessed]**

OVERVIEW

- History and development of complementary therapies.
- Use and provision of complementary therapies.
- Meeting physical, emotional and social needs.
- Value of complementary therapies.

SUITABLE ACTIVITIES

- Group work to establish understanding of the development and purpose of complementary therapies.
- Visits to care settings which provide complementary therapies.
- Interviewing professionals and members of the public to determine opinions of complementary therapies.
- Use of case study to determine service users' needs and suitability of complementary therapies.
- Use of mini research tasks to develop skills in using research techniques, presentation and analysis of results.

POSSIBLE PITFALLS

- Choice of complementary therapies not suitable to meet the service user's needs.
- Choice of service user must enable the candidate to meet the criteria – consideration should be given to physical and emotional needs.
- Limited consideration of the use of complementary therapies alongside orthodox medicine.
- Detailed research which does not meet the requirements of the criteria.
- Lack of a bibliography to determine sources of information.

RESOURCES

- Many individual complementary therapies have an association, council or group which represents professionals.
- British Council for Complementary Medicine website.
- Library classification 615.5 covers complementary therapies in general.
- Complementary therapies and alternative therapies publications.
- Research methods textbooks.

EXERCISE

- Assess exemplar portfolio for strand 3 piece of work provided on this CD-ROM.
- Check for criteria which have been met.
- Decide points to be awarded within range of marks.