

L3 Lead Examiner Report 1901

January 2019

**Level 3 National in Health and
Social Care**

**Unit 4: Enquiries into Current
Research in Health and Social
Care (31494)**

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A grade boundary is where we set the level of achievement required to obtain a certain grade for the externally assessed unit. We set grade boundaries for each grade, at Distinction, Merit and Pass.

Setting grade boundaries

When we set grade boundaries, we look at the performance of every learner who took the external assessment. When we can see the full picture of performance, our experts are then able to decide where best to place the grade boundaries – this means that they decide what the lowest possible mark is for a particular grade.

When our experts set the grade boundaries, they make sure that learners receive grades which reflect their ability. Awarding grade boundaries is conducted to ensure learners achieve the grade they deserve to achieve, irrespective of variation in the external assessment.

Variations in external assessments

Each external assessment we set asks different questions and may assess different parts of the unit content outlined in the specification. It would be unfair to learners if we set the same grade boundaries for each assessment, because then it would not take accessibility into account.

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Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care

Grade	Unclassified	Level 3			
		N	P	M	D
Boundary Mark	0	9	19	32	45

Introduction

This is the second series for Unit 4 Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care. The assessment requires learners to consider articles provided from research undertaken in health and social care, making judgements on research methodology, ethical considerations, data presented and the potential impact of research in the sectors.

The unit requires learners to consider contemporary research in health and social care, exploring a wide range of issues including health conditions, lifestyle factors and social care and welfare needs. The unit content requires learners to understand a range of research methodologies, organisations involved in research, planning and undertaking research along with ethical considerations and the skills needed to research in both health and social care sectors. The unit also requires learners to understand the wider implications of research on both service user groups and different provision offered within the sectors.

Introduction to the Overall Performance of the Unit

Preparation for this assessment was varied from centres. Many centres are clearly supporting learners in acquiring the necessary skills to complete the controlled assessment in a systematic and positive way, using varied secondary sources of evidence to support the contemporary issues provided in the pre-release material. However, it is still clear that some centres are not completing the necessary preparation to attain the higher grades. The specification content for this unit promotes the use of varied secondary sources of evidence including journals, professional bodies, textbooks, websites, research organisations etc. These types of sources should be used consistently throughout delivery of the unit to support all learners to improve their ability to read and interpret information from a range of academic writing.

There was a more varied approach to choosing the pre-release material this series, with more learners opting for the social care article than in the previous series. However, it is important to note that some centres do still appear to be guiding learners in their choice of article, with many cohorts completing the same article with little or no variation. It is intended that centres allow their learners to choose the article that suits their progression choice beyond the course to provide them with knowledge and understanding of contemporary issues in their chosen sector. In addition to this, whilst preparing notes for the controlled assessment, learners should be working

independently to choose their own sources. This should mean that learners will have varied sources of evidence in their responses to activities, rather than a whole cohort including the same secondary research.

When preparing for this assessment, it is important to remember that the notes prepared should not be potential responses to the activities. Learners should remember to read the activities set in the paper and their answers should relate to what is being asked of them. In some instances, learners appear to have not read the activity properly before responding. This has resulted in some learners missing out on vital marks due to including irrelevant information, or indeed information that should be included in a different activity.

Individual Questions

Activity one

The assessment focus for this question is **'understanding research methods, validity and reliability of results of research'**. Learners are expected to understand the research methods used, with understanding of data usage, in the chosen article. They should show understanding of validity and reliability of **research methods used** and draw conclusions in relation to the suitability of the methods used in context.

Health article

The health article included a scientific experiment in the form of a double-blind randomised controlled trial as well as questionnaire (self-administered through an electronic diary) and observation. Learners were able to identify both methodologies in most instances. However, not all learners demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of these. Where learners showed understanding of randomised controlled trials, they were able to explain this methodology in good detail. However, very few learners were able to identify independent and dependent variables for the experiment and many lacked a depth of evaluation and were unable to make judgements on suitability of this method. Learners also provided some good explanations of questionnaires, but responses remained relatively generic rather than focusing on how they would work in the context of the research.

For future series, centres should support learners to provide balanced evaluations of all methodologies included in the prerelease material; many learners focused on one methodology in detail. Another important point to note is the understanding of validity and reliability; learners are expected to understand and apply these terms in consideration of the research methodologies and not secondary sources of information. Learners should be able to provide evidence of how well the research measures the effectiveness of the drug used through randomised controlled trials, questionnaires and observations, as well as how accurately the study could be repeated using these methodologies.

Social Care article

Responses for activity one in the social care section of the paper provided a wealth of information in relation to the questionnaire/survey included in the research. In general, learners appear to find this type of methodology the easiest to explain and it was nice to see learners using correct terminology consistently. There was evidence of good evaluations in this section with learners being able to consider different types of

questions and rating scales in their responses. Again, reliability and validity were weak, if mentioned at all, in responses.

This response scored Band 4, 13 marks.

Humans have an innate need for friendship and inclusion, the ~~article~~ original article (H. Siddique, 2017) was published to raise awareness of loneliness rates in older people.

The main research method that was used was an online poll survey carried out on older people. Using a survey to gain data from people allows researchers to get a better insight on loneliness from those who are experiencing it first hand. Surveys are given to ~~the~~ older people to allow them to give feedback that can help improve society. From data and findings, research can be used to improve the outcome for those who are suffering from loneliness. Doing this allows ~~prof~~ professionals to better the care and practice they provide to people by raising all the issues ~~the~~ ~~caused~~ loneliness comes with. Providing better care improved the wellbeing of those affected and improves their quality of life. Surveys can provide quantitative and qualitative data depending on questions asked. Open questions can accumulate ~~quantitative~~ qualitative data as opinions are shared and closed questions give quantitative data, which helps with ~~the~~ numerical statistics. A lot of information can be gathered from using surveys. If a survey is checked over by more than 2 researchers, researcher bias can be eliminated as questions are appropriate for the target

group without the possibility of demand characteristics. Using interviews to gather information from older people may ~~be~~ not have been used/ appropriate as the opinions of the interviewer may impact the responses of the old people.

The Jo Cox Commission Survey can help the government and professionals help find new ways to diagnose, prevent and treat loneliness. This would vastly improve the wellbeing of the population as it can prevent the development of more serious health conditions when helped efficiently. The Jo Cox Survey used just over 1000 participants in their survey, having a big sample size provides the researcher with a more reliable results. Having a big sample size allows reliability to impact the rate of generalisability, allowing findings to be generalised to a wider population. This (Jo Cox, 2017) research shows that quantitative data was concluded, where they could numerically calculate an estimate of loneliness rates in the ~~the~~ UK. Using a survey is a reliable form of research method as there is ~~be~~ less likely to be bias in questions asked. As the research was professionally carried out by an organisation, it is fair to say that results and information found can be trusted and is reliable. The validity in this study is high as researchers researched and found out what they were aiming to. The study does not lack external validity as results have and can be generalised to a wider population. Internal validity is also high as the study went to plan without any problematic issues.

In this study there was only one research method used,

a survey through an online poll, this causes the study to not have triangulation reasoning with their results. Given this, if more than one research method was used then results could be even more reliable.

It is found in research by [H.E. Marano, 2003] that all humans have a fundamental need for friendship and group inclusion. If the social needs of people are not met, then their health is at risk of falling apart mentally and physically, from the development of high blood pressure, stress and memory and learning issues.

Surveying people online can be quick and easy to conduct, with a variety of opinions, values and beliefs being shared. This leads to lots of data being collected and can be used efficiently to find gaps in provision or care. However, some people may find it difficult to understand questions asked and will therefore not respond correctly. This is why questions must be checked to ensure there is no bias and that they are appropriate to the target group.

Validity can also be affected if there are too many closed questions in surveys but in the research by (J. Cox, 2017) ~~the~~ ~~was~~ ~~spare~~ for it is not clear of the open: closed question ratio. Research by (K. Cherry, 2018) found that in 2016, 5% of adults felt lonely 'always' or 'often', this increased by 15% to 20% in 2018, leading to 1/5 adults feeling lonely or 'often' or 'always'. (H. Schaulze, 2018).

The survey used a random sample of respondents to take part in their online poll and the 1000+ participants ~~that~~ were used to represent the wider population of people in the UK who may be lonely. This also increases reliability of the study as having a larger sample size makes the findings more reliable.

Using surveys prevents demand characteristics as participants may be unaware of the study's aim and therefore provide true and reasoned answers. Avoiding demand characteristics strengthens the reliability of the study and makes the findings more valid.

In the research of (K. Cherry, 2018) research was done on home renters and homeowners. This sample of chosen people may not be a positive representative of the rest of the population in the UK.

In surveys, honest and appropriate answers help make the study's findings more reliable, which is why surveys were a good research method to appropriately use on older people living in the UK. As findings were based on 71% of respondents, triangulation is needed as reliability of results may be altered and decreased.

This response scored highly because:

- Research methods explained
- Fully supported evaluative judgments
- Reliability/validity mentioned

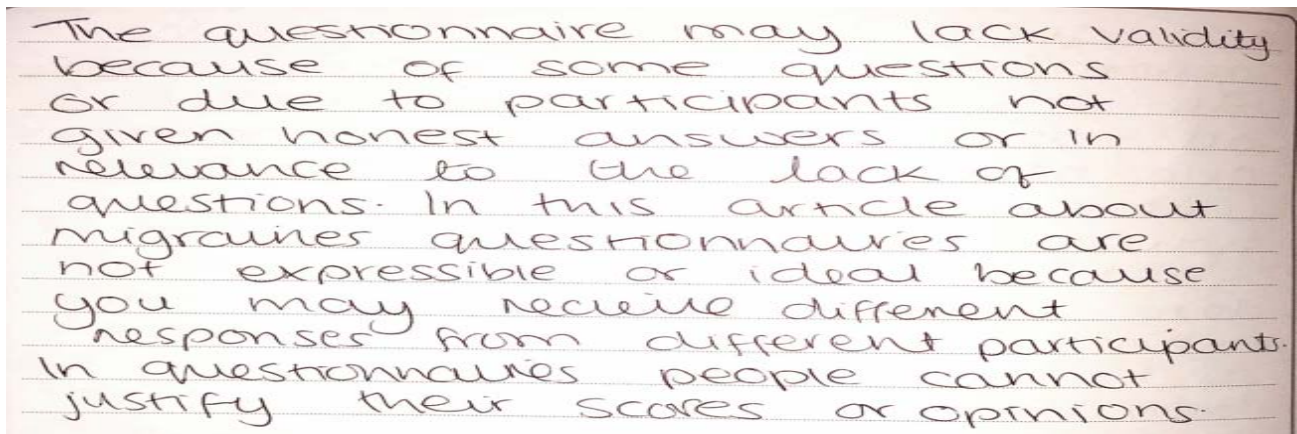
This response scored Band 2, 5 marks.

In this research, a double-blind ⁽¹⁵⁾ randomised controlled trial is used and the advantage of using that is to prevent different care or treatment given. Another advantage here is in a double blind trial results are more reliable but on the other hand the disadvantage is that there are side effects caused by ~~data~~ double blind trials. Also in this article, quota sampling was used to sample patients and were very selective. The advantage of using quota sampling is that it's cheaper which means it's cost-effective but the disadvantage is quota

sampling is that it's cheaper which means it's cost-effective but the disadvantage is quota sampling is not representative which means the study will lack validity and not very representable.

Also quota sampling cannot be generalised which could make the study ~~not~~ not applicable to all cases. In this study or article, quantitative data was used where it says the study handed out questionnaires that is where quantitative data was collected. Quantitative method is less time consuming and more reliable and valid because patients/participants had to score their migraine levels according to ~~the~~ how

bad to good it is. On the other hand, collecting quantitative data ~~via~~ through questionnaires can be expensive to carry out. When carrying out questionnaires sometimes in some cases questions ~~or answers~~ can be misunderstood or confusing and individuals may not show their full honesty due to the fact they just want to recover or receive some form of medication.



The questionnaire may lack validity because of some questions or due to participants not given honest answers or in relevance to the lack of questions. In this article about migraines questionnaires are not expressible or ideal because you may receive different responses from different participants. In questionnaires people cannot justify their scores or opinions.

This response scored lower because:

- Research methods described
- No evaluation
- Validity briefly mentioned

Overall

For both articles, there is still evidence of gaps in knowledge in relation to research methodologies for some centres. Where this has been addressed, learners have improved in their explanations and evaluations of the research methods included in the articles. However, there are still learners referring to quantitative and qualitative data as methodologies which is inaccurate; they are ways of collecting data when using a research method. For example, a randomised controlled trial would predominantly collect quantitative data, a questionnaire could use both quantitative and qualitative data depending on the types of questions asked. Some learners have solely explained these types of data collection which has inevitably limited the awarding of marks for activity one.

Sampling methods were included in very few responses from learners. Where included, there was varied levels of understanding. When considering randomised controlled trials, it is important to note that random sampling is not necessarily used to generate a sample; in the instance of the health article for this series, participants were selected based on specific criteria - occurrence of migraines. Only when chosen were they randomly allocated to conditions of the experiment. Centres need to ensure that in delivery of the unit, they support learners to understand the use of sampling, choosing target groups and allocating participants to conditions of the research.

Reliability and validity in this activity refers to the research methods used. Many learners once again discussed the reliability of the sources included, which did not gain credit because it was not in relation to the activity. Learners are expected to consider the reliability of the research methods used in the article throughout their responses.

Activity two

The assessment focus for this question is **'understanding the importance of the issue being researched, why the research is being carried out, and how the article and own secondary research reinforces the importance of the issue'**. Learners are expected to understand the importance of the issue in the chosen article and include relevant examples of how the research has affected individuals and/or professionals and/or wider society. Learners should include secondary research in their response, demonstrating an understanding of the relationship between this, and the article chosen.

Health article

Learner responses to this activity were varied. Some learners were able to provide good analysis of the issue with reference to things such as the number of individuals suffering from migraines and sick leave taken due to migraines across the UK. Where learners had read and understood the activity, they were able to provide full and detailed responses in relation to individuals, professionals and wider society. However, many learner responses focused on the secondary research and the drugs taken for migraines without referring to the importance of this issue and why the research has been carried out, with little focus on the effects that the research would have. The secondary research was often a summary of what other researchers had done/found in their research as opposed to the relationship between the two pieces of research. There was much regurgitation of the article and secondary research; centres should consider focusing on the impact that the research has on different individuals in society and the benefits that it may have in relation to health.

Social Care article

The same issues were evident within social care responses; where learners had understood the importance of the issue, they were able to provide responses clearly linked to loneliness in older adults. Learners were able to consider ideas such as depression, physical issues of loneliness and the need for professionals to understand and deal with the issue. There were some insightful and thought-provoking issues raised in response to this activity demonstrating some well-thought out ideas and considerations. There were however, many learners who simply described and explained the importance of the issue, with a distinct lack of analyses in many responses which limited the amount of marks awarded.

This response scored Band 3, 12 marks.

The migraine trust (2018) states that a migraine is the third common disease and is essentially similar to a headache, however ^{the tension} usually happens on the individual's forehead. The estimated global prevalence of migraines is 14.7%, which is 1 in 7 people. The migraine trust (2018) states that it equates to over 190,000 migraine attacks everyday in the UK. At the moment there isn't any cure for migraines. Migraines can affect an individual physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. Physically, it can include the individual to sweat, feel nausea and light headed (NHS, 2018). Also, intellectually it can lead the individuals to be absent from work or school and is estimated in the UK the population loses 25 million days in work (migraine trust, 2018). Also, the individual could start to underperform due to stress, anxiety or depression as the migraine trust (2018) states the

estimated proportion of time spent experiencing an attack per person's life is 5.3%. Also, migraines can lead to a lack of social life as the individual may be in too much pain, therefore not be able to participate in activities. This shows the importance of the introduction of ergonomics.

The Migraine trust (2018) states migraine is estimated to cost the NHS in the UK £150 million per year, mostly from costs of prescription drugs and GP visits. The financial burden on UK economy is estimated £3.426 billion per year. This shows that migraines plays big contribution to the NHS and it needs to

migranes from average of 8 a month to 4/5 month. this shows the success/powers of erenumab.

Another example is anti-depressants as people with migranes are 5 times more likely to be depressed. Amitriptyline is an antidepressant but can also be used to treat migranes. Vio-x-min X0 study on ^{tricyclic} antidepressants and if they prevent migranes. The study included RCT with adults assigned TCA etc (Total for Activity 2 = 15 marks)

This response scored highly because:

- Issue explained with conclusions about importance
- Relevant examples in relation to individuals and wider society
- Secondary research and the relationship to the issue included

This response scored Band 0, 0 marks.

~~Secondary research~~ In this essay I will be writing about article 1. what it states and I will be comparing article 1 with my own secondary research. Article 1 says how this new drug erenumab works, who carried out the trial, what research method was used for the trial, what the presearch included (the amount of people), and how the trial was carried out and ~~the~~ the results of the trial.

Article 1 says that erenumab works by disabling a 'protein known as calcitonin gene-related peptide' as the study believes that this protein causes ~~the~~ some of the symptoms of a migraine. However in my personal research I have found that ~~from~~ the long-term effects remain unclear and that 'there are concerns about the long-term effects of continuous blocking of CGRP or its receptor' even though the long-term effects aren't known. Article 1 also states that this trial ~~was~~ ^{consisted of} 955 adults aged 18-65 who measured their results for a month and when I did my research this was false, and my research was based at 'the New England Journal of medicine. which is an accurate and relevant source. Moreover

This response was not worthy of credit because:

- Does not answer the question
- Response relates to information for activity four

Overall

For both articles, learners performed at varying levels. Where learners used good quality secondary sources and understood the assessment focus, they were able to

express the importance of their chosen issue well with varied examples and the inclusion of individuals, professionals and wider society. Where learners struggled with this response, there was evidence of simple regurgitation of secondary research with little reference to things such as (for example) the cost-effectiveness of the drug in article one or compassionate care and recognition of cues for loneliness in article two.

Activity three

The assessment focus for this question is **'research implications for future provision and/or practice'**. Learners are expected to provide implications of the research for future provision/practice in the sector, with analysis of these implications. They should show understanding of the issue and implications in both the context of the article and wider research. Learners should also consider recommendations for change in provision/practice, with justification.

Health article

Responses to this activity were weak in comparison to other activities. The activity requires learners to consider implications of the research relevant to the health sector for future provision and/or practice. Where learners did this, they had clear understanding of what provision and practice were with ideas including new methods for health professionals to use when treating migraines, referrals for the use of the drug and the introduction of guidelines from relevant organisations (for example, NICE). In some instances, learners had explained implications and improvements that could be made to the research methods used rather than implications of the research on health provision. There did appear to be some confusion with this activity and centres should be mindful of providing learners with the necessary understanding of a range of health provisions and practices and the implications (either positive or negative) that research has on these. Learners are expected to consider recommendations for change in the sector in light of the research; this was not done well in the majority of cases. Learners are still providing recommendations for change in the initial research, as opposed to what changes can be made to provision and/or practice due to the results of the research.

Social Care article

Again, responses to this activity were varied; it does appear that learners have not always read the activity before writing their response. Learners did not always consider the implications for the prelease material, often explaining how research methods could be changed to improve the research. Where learners provided good answers to this activity, they considered things such as training for social care practitioners, more accessibility to support services and in some instances, government strategies that

could be used to combat loneliness. These types of responses scored well because learners had ultimately provided implications for future provision and practice in this sector. Elaborations in responses were minimal in many places with basic knowledge and understanding demonstrated, responses sometimes appeared rote learned and generic with limited understanding of the impact that this research could have on the sector.

This response scored Band 4, 16 marks.

(Siddique, 2017) research into the social care article identifies how loneliness in elderly is a major issue. It was suggested that 3/4 of the population in the UK are lonely and this is a problem as not everyone is aware of this condition. Also, 7 in 10 people who claimed to be lonely haven't expressed themselves further implying that awareness is needed.

Researching into this issue could have an affect on social care provisions because as mentioned previously, there's a huge stigma around loneliness which creates a lack of knowledge and understanding based on this issue, a lot of people don't want to change or it could be a sensitive and emotional topic where people don't want to talk about it. However researching have picked up on this issue and have found that due to a lack of awareness, health practices are unaware to provide efficient care to individuals, causing there to be gaps in provisions provided to patients. To avoid this implication, practitioners are required to do training to gain a better understanding on loneliness

so they are therefore able to provide effective care and support to their patients. However, this requires funding which could be costly furthermore, more staffs and resources to overcome loneliness within elderly would be necessary.

Another implication is that stigma on loneliness could lead to further health problems like depression, anxiety and other cardiovascular issues as the elderly are more vulnerable. This could have a greater impact, as it could become a strain to society, where there's a constant ageing population in order to overcome this more resources are needed to facilitate and support professional within the NHS to provide efficient care to improve the quality of their patients lives which would also reduce further implications and issues in the future.

Researching into this area also allows gaps in provisions to be managed also, practices are able to provide

support through policies to gain knowledge and introduce other amendments to ~~the~~ make improvements.

(Davidson and Rossau, 2015) suggested implementing social support, one to one interventions, specialised groups and systematic reviews to reduce 95% of loneliness. (Elder, 2016) recommended the "kindness can: A positive future for loneliness" which was aimed

to be displayed by 2018. Including social support from close families and friends would allow patients to express and talk about their feelings and becoming more sociable rather than bottling it all up and causing emotional distress. Moreover, having a one-to-one intervention put into place would show the individuals that there are people out there who care and are willing to make a change. Having specialised groups includes a team of people who are suffering from the same things. This allows individuals to believe that there are others out there, like them and talking about it could resolve the issue. In relation to this a small amount of funding can go into it making it possible, and if it works then it would positively impact the wider society as less people would be attending the NHS, saving money and reducing pressure. Also if people are encouraged to talk about their feelings then they are able to tackle the stigma.

In (Siddique, 2017) article the commission were encouraged to implement the '#happy to chat' initiative where people are able to express themselves freely however, not everyone has access to the internet and not all elderly are able to work electronic devices so this could be an issue. In addition to this, they have found that 3 in 5 who use social media have reduced the rates of loneliness but as previously

mentioned, not everyone is capable of accessing the internet or social media. In order to gain public awareness, people are encouraged to look for ~~the~~ signs associated to loneliness. If this is done earlier or then the increasing number and problems associated to loneliness ~~can~~ can be prevented.

I recommend including more organisations and campaigns in order to support those individuals although funding may be required however, it will make a dramatic improvement and change in individuals lives as well as the wider society, like the economy and NHS. Also, instead of fundings, charities could be put into place to help raise awareness but to also raise money to introduce more schemes and strategies to improve the rates/impact of loneliness. Another

recommendation that could reduce loneliness is encouraging individuals to speak ~~out~~ and communicate with others. This allows support to be provided but also raises awareness.

A pilot study, is a investigation that is carried out before the main one. This allows ~~and~~ any issues with the investigation / research to be identified in order to avoid long term problems in the original investigation. (~~Leanda~~ Cadete, 2017) stated that a pilot study is a small-scale investigation which is used to make improvements and identify issues. It allows accurate interpretation to take place to ensure that the investigation and research being carried out is of high quality. Finally, it allows the researcher to "evaluate the feasibility of some crucial components."

This response scored highly because:

- The implications of the research are explained
- Understanding of the issue in context is evident
- Rationale is offered, but not always supported

This response scored Band 2, 8 marks.

Firstly, this research can affect social provision when it comes to caring for older people to prevent loneliness in many ways. One of the way that this research can affect social health and social care settings is that the NHS would have to spend more money on providing spaces to those older people that had health conditions caused by loneliness. This therefore effects the national health service more this is because they will have to have more professionals such as doctors and nurses meaning spending money over their budget.

Another effect that this research has on social care provision is that social care provision will

have to find money to other organisations in order to help them to support older people from feeling lonely this is by making sure that social care provision try to support "3.6 million older people in the UK that live alone" this is by them at least providing three visits a week for those older people meaning they have to pay money to those that are going to visit those older people.

Also the ^{research} ~~social provision~~ could effect the social care provision by they will ^{not} only be caring for older people but those with disability that ~~feels~~ and those young teenagers as well. This is because from the secondary research it also shows that young children and disability people tend to feel lonely as well. In order, for the social care provision to prevent loneliness from public people they will have to ensure that

~~ensure~~ they have enough people to help out to support those who are feel lonely and to prevent lonely to those who feel lonely the health professionals will have to interact at least with those individuals that feel lonely in order for them to start socializing properly.

Furthermore, Another way that this could effect social care provision and the government is that the government will have to provide more support workers that will

long hours with those disability people that ~~feel~~ in this so that they can decrease the figures of those disability people that feel lonely and to prevent it. Also another way that this research effect the social care provision is that from secondary research from the Department for digital, culture, media and support indicates that 63% people living in urban areas were more likely to feel lonely". This effects on the provisions this is because they will have to focus on those areas of cities in order to prevent loneliness from increasing.

However, in order to prevent loneliness from increasing the social care provision will have to provide more support to those older people who ~~are~~ live by themselves this is because in this generation not all older people tend to know how to use social network. Another recommendation is that the government will have to provide society groups where ~~each~~ each older can have access to without worrying about transport. The government will also have to organise some ~~trips~~ ^{city} trips for each community where high population of older people is. Another recommendation is that for the social care provisions to do programs in ~~near~~ urban areas

in order to make sure that loneliness is not increasing. Another recommendation is by having small events in the community that are suitable suitable for older people this is because so they can be able to feel ~~safe~~ free to come and socialise and interact which could be a positive impact on their emotional and intellectual well being.

This response scored lower because:

- Implications for provision/practice were evident

- Demonstrates understanding in the context of the research
- Rationale for points raised is weak

Overall

This activity was the least understood out of all the activities completed by learners. Learners are expected to consider how the research presented affects provision and/or practice in the relevant sector. They should be providing analysis of these implications to consider relevant factors and links to the topic in question (either migraines or loneliness in older adults). Recommendations for change was not evident in many of the learner responses, and where present not always correct. Part of the focus of this activity is to consider recommendations for change in provision and/or practice in light of the research undertaken; many learners discussed changes that they would make to the initial research, including different methodologies that could be used. Although some of these recommendations were relevant and presented in a justified way, learners need to be focussing on things that could be changed in the sectors because of this, and wider research, into the issue.

It was also evident that some learners had responded to this activity with information relevant to activity four. The focus of this activity is not about ethical considerations or planning of research. Centres should ensure that they are using the most up to date guidance for this unit in future series; some of these responses appeared to be rote learned with no relevance to the activity set.

Activity four

The assessment focus for this question is '**planning and ethical consideration for further research**'. Learners are expected to offer rationalised suggestions of research methods that could be used to continue the research that they have chosen (in relation to the case study presented) and need to justify the reasons behind these choices to show effectiveness/suitability of the methods. Learners should be considering planning of further research in the case study, ethical issues and research skills that would be implemented in this research in the relevant area. They should also highlight practical problems with carrying out research in a wider context.

Health article

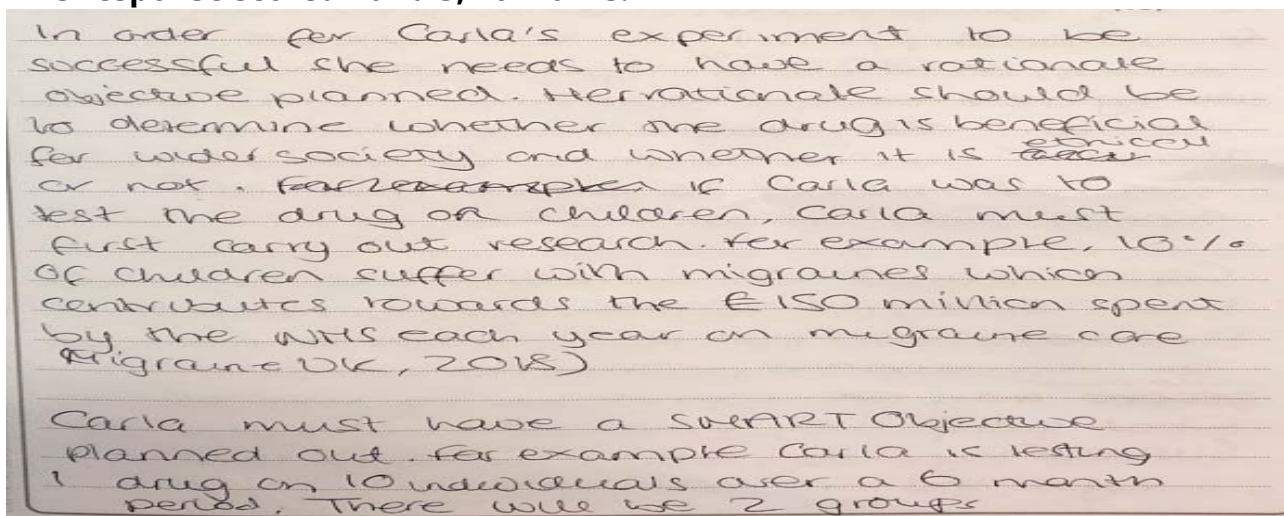
There were some good responses to this activity, with learners demonstrating reasonable knowledge and understanding of research methods, ethical considerations and planning involved in research. Where learners had used the case study provided, they were able to offer rationalised judgements and good understanding of the effectiveness of the research methods suggested. However, some responses made no reference to the case study provided with little or no understanding of neurological

tests and interviews. Learners should have been considering the use of scientific experiments and interviews, but some learners discussed the methods that they would choose to use. There appeared to be many rote learned responses to ethics in the activity; it is vital that learners apply their understanding of each element of research to the activity presented to them in order to achieve the higher marks in this activity. Where learners had explained sampling, actual methodologies were not presented. Learners in general discussed the need for more participants to support the research findings, with little justification in relation to validity and reliability. It is important to support learners in their understanding of sample sizes; a huge sample does not necessarily equate to better results and therefore suggesting sample sizes of over two hundred may not be beneficial to the research in question.

Social Care article

Again, this response lacked application to the case study provided. Learners appeared to have a good level of knowledge in relation to conducting research, but the evidence provided was not always applied to the activity. Learners tended to focus on ethics in an unbalanced way; although knowledge in this area was good, it was not always relevant to the proposed research. This activity is not intended as an exercise to write everything that the learner knows about research. Learners should be considering the research methodologies, ethical considerations, planning and research skills proposed in the case study in a balanced and systematic way. Where this was done, learners scored well and provided good analysis and judgements. Centres should consider research skills in their delivery of the unit as this appears to be the most lacking part of responses.

This response scored Band 3, 10 marks.



1 active drug and 1 placebo to determine the effectiveness of the treatment in order to improve quality of life.

Carla must also have an overall objective for example to determine ~~whether~~ ^{whether} the drug has a 95% ^{positive} ~~effective~~ outcome (clinical significance). Carla must also study 5 males and 5 females to ~~represent~~ ^{represent} both sexes. It will run over a 6 month period. Her test ~~can~~ ^{can} involve an RCT, ^{and} an open questionnaire during her ~~visit~~ ^{visits} to determine clinical outcome. She may also carry out test retest to determine clinical outcome, as well as the split half method to ensure that all aspects are covered.

Carla should use a randomised controlled trial (RCT) as according to Deranged Psychology (2018), an RCT helps to reduce ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{individual} selection and performance bias as ~~people~~ ^{people} may ~~not~~ ^{not} be aware of what group they are in. Also according to Survey Any Place (2016) interviews aren't vague and are cost efficient.

Carla must also have a target group in order to decrease demand on NHS. For example children aged 5-9 or 10% of children suffer with migraines (Migraine Trust, 2018)

Carla must have realistic time scales as it is important to plan each step of her study. She can use a Gantt chart to monitor this. As she is interviewing throughout the study, she must plan when she is going to do this to determine effectiveness. She may also do a follow up pilot study to determine validity.

Action plans may be put in place to monitor and modify the research. According to Open Edu (2018), research can provide opportunities to reflect on experiment and determine success. Carla may use a gantt chart to keep on track of this in order to increase validity of study.

Carla will need to decide measures for success and will need to ensure that the drug is 95% effective. (in the health research article, ~~the~~ erenumab was 95% effective and seen as a positive result)

Carla may need to consider practical problems, for example time and money is budgeted. Also lack of ecological validity may be high if Carla conducts her experiment inside of a lab. Carla must therefore monitor this by conducting research in a real life setting

There are many ethical considerations Carla must consider. She must ensure safety and human rights of participants by gaining written consent from the individual, and if they are vulnerable (e.g. children), Carla must gain parental consent. Carla may provide a contract to ensure participants can drop out as otherwise this breaches the Human Rights Act of 1998 (Royal College of Nursing, 2017)

This response scored highly because:

- Rationalised consideration of methods include, but not always thorough
- Analytical approach in parts of response
- Understanding of ethics, planning and research skills
- Judgments made but not always supported

This response scored Band 2, 5 marks.

When taking out this research it is very important that Natasha takes into account her planning considerations. When planning further research she needs to think of things such as time scales and appropriate research methods, ~~how~~ how the data is going to be used and who is going to be using it is also very important. When carrying out the focus groups Natasha needs to be wary of collecting reliable and valid research which relates to the topic. She also needs

to plan time scales that suit everybody. When carrying out this type of research Natasha needs to plan what method of research suits the individuals. So for example an individual who doesn't like speaking in front of other people may prefer a different method such as an online poll that can be done from home. When carrying out research for the questionnaire other planning considerations need to be taken into account such as if it is reliable or lacks personalisation.

Furthermore, ethical considerations are very important when carrying out this research. Confidentiality is one of the main ethical considerations as Natasha needs to inform the individuals taking part that their answers may be used for further research. However, if a person was to resent this then it is very important that all their information is remained undisclosed. When Natasha

uses the family members to do questionnaires on their opinions then consent may have to be given by the individual in order to refrain from damaging their human rights to their own information.

Other research methodologies that could be used are interviews. This would help Natasha to talk to individuals on a 1-1 basis meaning more reliable information could be taken from this. Interviews would also be a more suitable methodology for individuals who do not like expressing themselves in front of others. However one drawback of interviews is that an individual may not turn up and that also cost

studies as they allow a lot of detail to be collected and also can offer an insight in conducting more research. However this methodology would require a lot of time when planning.

Natasha would require good research skills in order to explore the issue. Natasha would have to take into account planning considerations and what methodologies are best suited for the type of research. She would also have to think of the best ways to gather all information that she is receiving so for example when working with the focus group she would have to think of the best way to note down all information and this also applies to ~~when~~ doing interviews. Another skill that Natasha would need is knowing how to take action after all research is gathered. Natasha's aim is to stop people from feeling isolated from society so therefore she would have to ~~gather~~ use her skills in order to gather the most reliable research as possible.

This response scored lower because:

- Basic understanding of research methods
- Ethical considerations explained with reasonable understanding
- Basic judgments made

Overall

Learners in some instances have provided generic responses to this activity. They need to use the case study presented to them, along with the design of the research proposed and the effectiveness/suitability of this. Where learners did this, they achieved good marks for the activity. However, it was evident that many learners were unable to apply their knowledge and understanding of research in a logical and sustained way. The judgements made throughout the responses to this activity were weaker when not applied to the case study which limited the awarding of marks in many instances.

Summary

Overall, the outcomes for this series are promising; many centres have clearly used guidance and support for the unit to improve on the last series. There is evidence of improved knowledge and understanding of research methods, implications, planning and future research. Centres do need to consider application to activities and support learners in this area. It should be noted that all centres need to ensure that they are using the most up to date resources for this unit in order to be successful in the controlled assessment in future series.

The following is recommended for future examination series:

- Make use of the resources and specification provided for this unit.
- Avoid re-writing the articles in responses.
- Knowledge and understanding of reliability and validity needs to be improved.
- Learner notes should be individual and not prepared in groups.
- A range of secondary sources should be included throughout the assessment.
- Teachers should support preparation for the assessment using up to date Sample Assessment Materials and a range of academic articles.
- Learners should choose their own article, it should not be centre specific.
- A more balanced approach to planning and ethical considerations for further research should be taken.
- Learners should be reminded to read the activity that they are answering.
- Centres should support the use of case studies in preparation for the controlled assessment.

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