

L3 Lead Examiner Report 1906

June 2019

**L3 Qualification in Health and
Social Care**

**Enquiries into Current
Research in Health and Social
Care**

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What is a grade boundary?

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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Grade	Unclassified	Level 3			
		N	P	M	D
Boundary Mark	0	9	18	31	45

Introduction

The third series of Unit 4 Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care requires learners to consider articles provided from research undertaken in the health and social care sectors including health conditions, lifestyle factors, social care and welfare needs. The controlled assessment aims to consider the learner's ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of methods, skills and ethical issues related to carrying out research. There should be consideration of the application of this knowledge and understanding, with a focus on analysis of information and data related to the current research presented in this assessment. Learners are required to interpret the potential impact and influence of research on practice and provision in the sectors, as well as evaluating current research to make informed judgements about the validity of research methods used and further areas for research.

Introduction to the Overall Performance of the Unit

Preparation for the assessment this series has seen an improvement in comparison to previous series. Some centres are preparing their learners well, taking into consideration the assessment outcomes of the unit during their delivery. There has been an improvement in the sources found and used by some learners, with many using varied and reliable sources of information to support preparation for the assessment. Where this has been done, learners are accessing the higher grades because they are able to use and synthesise this information in their responses to the activities.

There does appear to be guided choice in articles for the controlled assessment, with some cohorts choosing the same article and providing the same secondary sources, with little or no variation. This assessment is aimed to promote autonomy for learners with the freedom to choose the article that suits their future career choices, providing them with skills used in research to find and utilise relevant and reliable evidence from a range of sources. This secondary research should be independent, not guided by centres.

When preparing for this assessment, it is important, once again, to remind centres that notes prepared for assessment should not be potential responses to the activities. Notes for the assessment, as stipulated in Part A, should be limited to the following:

- facts, figures and data relating to secondary sources covering the article's area

- of research
- the research methods used in the learner's own secondary research.

Centres should also be reminded that when preparing learners for this assessment, they should read and respond to the activities set. Many learners have provided responses that, at times, regurgitate the article, do not answer the activity set, or include information in one activity that would be better suited to another activity; learners will not be awarded marks for responses where they have not responded to the activity set.

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 for this series included observation, questionnaires and a scientific experiment. Most learners were able to identify the methodologies used, with many being able to accurately describe and explain the methodologies from the research. Overall, learners provided good understanding of quantitative and qualitative data from the research methods with some good examples used in relation to research. Once again, there was a general lack of evaluative judgements made in response to activity one with many of the evaluative comments made being generic and not relating to the given article.

Although improvements in responses are evident for this activity, learners need to improve on their ability to understand sampling methodologies used in research, as well as their understanding of validity, reliability and generalisability. This knowledge and understanding is still lacking and is crucial for learners to be able to make informed judgements about the validity of research methods used in the article.

Social Care article

Responses for activity one varied for the social care article, with many learners not showing detailed and consistent understanding of longitudinal studies. Although most learners choosing this article were able to identify this research methodology, descriptions were lacking in response to the actual methodology and how it is used in research. Understanding was consistently weak for this methodology with, at times, incorrect information being evidenced by learners. There was, however, some good understanding presented in relation to sampling for this article with some learners being able to understand how and why participants were categorised through social class.

This response scored Band 3, 12 marks.

SECTION 1: Health Research

Activity 1

How have different research methods been used in this research?

In your answer, you should consider the:

- suitability of research methods referred to in the article
- reliability and validity of the research methods.

(15)

Article 1 has used an observational study as one of its methods. This method means that the investigator does not intervene with the research, they only observe and draw conclusions from their observation. This has some benefits. For example, it allows the investigator to assess how the relationship between the disease and the other factor (in this case their diets) is affected by time. The research was carried out over the period of 4.5 years and their aim was to see if the people scored the highest in each diet would be less likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Their results reflect their aim for the 4.5 years. This is because they found that those who had the highest score in the MIND diet were 52% less likely to be diagnosed with ~~the~~ Alzheimer's disease. But those who scored the lowest were ~~less~~ more likely compared to the ones which ~~felt~~ had a moderate score for the MIND diet. Even though the link between this was not strong, it over all shows that over the years the probability of being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease decrease by the individual having a ~~stronger~~ higher score for the MIND diet. (source 9)

~~This method is~~ However, this method is very expensive to carry out as it ~~as~~ requires a lot of time to gather the information needed. This could have influenced how long they carried ~~the~~ out the research. This has an impact on their results. For example, they could have carried out the research for 5 years but instead they only did it for 4. Years. There may have been other factors influencing this, such as ~~participan~~ participants dropping out, forcing them to stop the research earlier, but it could have been due to the fact that they no longer had any funding. ~~This~~ If they had ~~car~~ carried out the research for a longer period of time the reliability of their research would increase as they would be able to show the results were consistent over time. Also, a longer time spent ~~in~~ researching ^{could} ~~would~~ help them find a statistical cut if there isn't really any statistical reduction to the risk of Alzheimer's disease by eating the DASH and MED diet. It would provide them with more evidence. (Source 9)

Another method they used was questionnaires. This allowed them to gather information needed to assess how well a person followed the three different diets being researched, in a short period of time. Also, the standardised question increases the reliability as it means that it can be replicated and used by others. However, there are some issues, for example, each individual might interpret the questions differently and therefore provide different answers instead of the answer needed. Also, as the questions were ~~able~~ about their diets they may have chosen to write the social idealised answer. This means that they are not necessarily answering ~~the~~

correctly ~~be~~ about their diets but instead they may be writing what is expected of them to answer. An example may be that when they are asked if they eat lots of vegetable they might answer yes, but in reality it is no. (Source 6) (Source 11)

Both of the methods used in the research are suitable for what they are researching. This is because they were able to collect the main information they needed to start their research through the questionnaires and then assess how the information gathered from them would impact the individuals through observation. The ~~researcher~~ suitability of the research methods used is shown through its validity. They provided the research with ~~the~~ outcomes they wanted. They set out the research to find out ~~to~~ if the persons diet had an impact on the likelihood of them being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. The results showed that the people which scored the highest for the MIND diet were 52% less likely of being diagnosed. However, the research did not provide any statistical evidence for the other diets. (Source 11)

In source 1, they used a longitudinal study to research 960 ~~people over~~ a period of 4.7 ~~years~~

Similarly, source 1 used a longitudinal study to research the effect of diets the MIND diet on the heart and brain. It concluded that people who stuck closely to the ~~mind~~ MIND diet had brains equivalent to 7.5 years younger

compared to the people who did not follow the diet closely. This increases Article 1 validity and reliability as another research had a similar conclusion as to them. (Source 8).

This response scored highly because:

- Research methods are explained
- There is understanding of data usage in context
- There are some evaluative judgements made
- The conclusions on suitability are supported.

This response scored Band 0, 0 marks.

SECTION 1: Health Research

Activity 1

How have ~~different research methods been used in this research?~~

In your answer, you should consider the:

- ~~suitability of research methods referred to in the article~~
- ~~reliability and validity of the research methods.~~

(15)

While carrying out this research there has been many different methods to finding out important information and facts. An example can be in the given case study research was carried out on four different dates "1946, 1958,

1970 and 2001" the researcher compared the childrens body mass, height and weight of children of different incomes and backgrounds to analyse the main cause of childhood obesity. Whereas, in further research on analysing childhood obesity studies found that surveys carried out every

every 6 months, this is recommended by health care ~~pro~~ professionals as they're able to record and measure improvements in childhood obesity. The research carried out ~~showed~~ ~~focus~~ on how childhood obesity affects a child not only physically but mentally too. Children who have psychological health problems may experience bullying due to their weight being

bigger than the other students. To ~~help~~ help improve childhood obesity the NHS provide a national child measurement program for children with in ~~the~~ need of help due to being ~~obesity~~ obese when taking the survey. The provided programme is related to primary school children mainly, studies show that

1 out of 3 children are overweight when they leave education whereas when they start statistics show that 1 out of 5 children are overweight.

The ~~was~~ different research methodology, the research of 'Article 2' states that socioeconomic shows there was a rise in childhood weight between 1946 and 2001, this indicates that researchers studies had proven

that individuals from lower income suffered with obesity more ~~than~~ than well off individuals due to the point made in article 2 stating that "the rise is availability of cheap junk food high in sugar, often advertised to children and families with less money and time to prepare food."

On the other hand, the national ~~the~~ diet and nutritional survey found that soft / fizzy drinks are 30% of 4 to 10 year old's dairy sugar intake.

Overall, one research method was used over many years in article two in which suggests that childhood obesity affects more deprived or individuals with poor health more. I believe this form of methodology is reliable

reliable as they are able to track improvements in their height, weight and body mass. I believe this method of research is helping lower chance of childhood obesity. (Total for Activity 1 = 15 marks)

This response scored lower because:

- There is no rewardable material evident
- The evidence presented does not describe research methods used in the article
- The learner regurgitates facts and statistics from the article with no reference to the research methods used or suitability.

Overall

Where learners performed well in this activity, they were able to use technical terminology appropriately and consistently with reference to, and good examples of, reliability and validity. There was good understanding of qualitative and quantitative data applied to the research methodologies used, with examples of data usage and simplistic evaluations. However, there was far too much irrelevant secondary research included consistently throughout this activity. The activity requires learners to consider the research methodologies used in the article, therefore secondary sources used for this activity should support this - not offer alternatives and descriptions of other research methods. There was a lack of reference to the activity set, and research being considered; centres need to ensure that they are supporting learners to understand how suitable the research methodologies are for the given research, not alternate research undertaken in this area.

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

Responses to this activity were varied in terms of learner ability to understand the importance of the issue in the article. Learners who scored well in this activity recognised that Alzheimer's is a growing issue in the UK with more and more individuals being diagnosed, and the likelihood of diagnoses rising was supported by current and relevant secondary research. Learners were able to recognise the strain on health services and carers of those diagnosed, with varied implications being offered. Where learners offered analysis of the issue, they were able to do this well, however many responses did not go beyond descriptions and explanations of the issue's importance. The weakness in responses to this activity was a lack of consideration of wider society; although many learners were able to provide examples of how Alzheimer's affects the individual and professionals involved, few were able to go beyond funding issues to consider the impact for those not directly involved.

Social Care article

The response to this activity varied in accuracy and use of secondary sources. Some learners were able to consider how obesity is affecting individuals, professionals and the wider society but many lacked depth and analysis. There was lots of evidence provided in relation to the rise in childhood obesity, the impact that this may have in adulthood in relation to the development of health conditions, as well as the cost to the social care sector. Some learners went beyond generic and basic issues to consider the rise in fast food outlets and the impact that this is having, using comparisons of data from across the years. There were some valid and sound analyses presented which explored the impact of the issue using contemporary and relevant secondary research, but this was only evident in a small number of learners.

This response scored Band 4, 14 marks.

Activity 2
 How does secondary research support the importance of research into this issue?
 In your answer, you should consider:

- secondary research and its relationship to the issue
- an analysis of the effects on individuals, practitioners and/or wider society.

(15)

Secondary research is essential in analysing the impact of previous researchs. For example by conducting a secondary research will enable researchers to be able to prove the validity and reliability of the previous research. By doing so the researchers would be able to determine whether the patterns in health and all health has differed since the research was conducted. Additionally, this article was ~~conducted~~ began in 1946. Researchers can conclude that the research is invalid because ~~it~~ it's out of date and that there has been major industrial and technological development in society to disprove this theory. Also another limitation of this research is the 30 year gap between 1970 and 2001. ~~most research~~ it leads to other researchers to question why there is a huge yearly gap in the research. This could conclude that the research lacks accuracy and the year gap contributes to the ~~un~~ ineffectiveness of the research.

In Contemporary Society, it has been stated that childhood obesity is impacted by other factors such as family disharmony, childhood stress and emotional turmoil as well as using junk food as a form of self-healing. These factors contribute to the increasing rate of obesity in the UK (or worldwide). The article focuses on socioeconomic factors to backup up their findings. However, the rate of obesity can be influenced by the lack of governmental aid in decreasing this cause. Although the government has conducted a scheme of reducing sugar (Sugar Ban Strategy) to limit the cause of obesity, they have failed to analyse

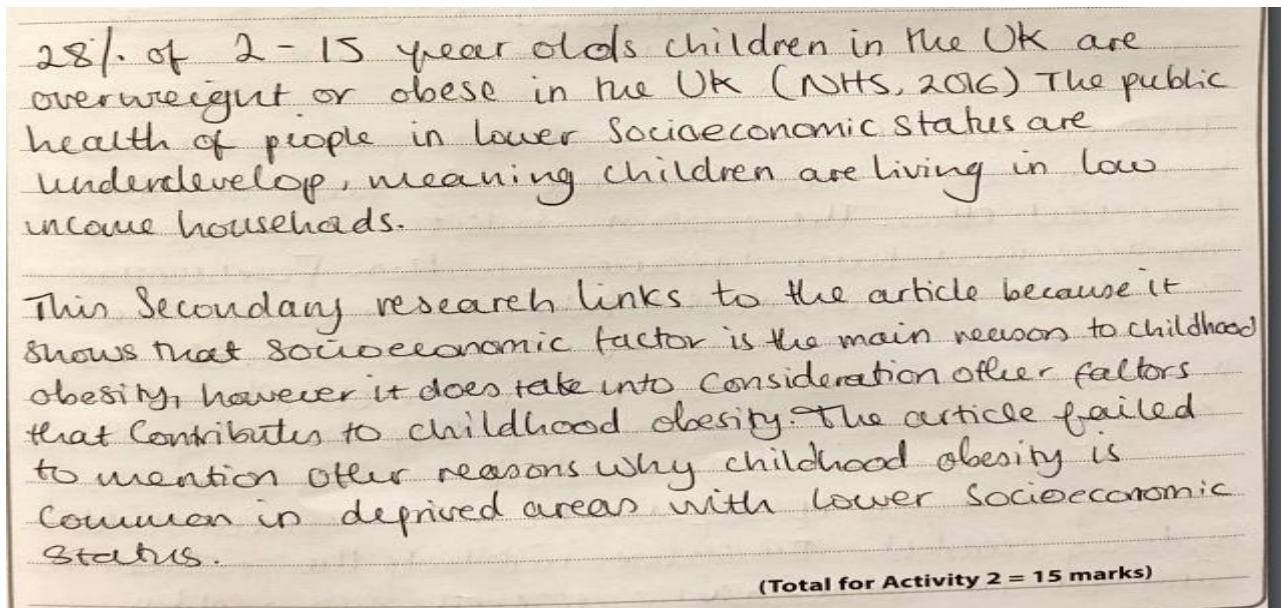
other contributing factors in childhood obesity.

In 2017 - 2018 the House of Commons Commissioned the Health Committee to conduct a study on childhood obesity. The study links with the article since it also links childhood obesity with socioeconomic status. The study showed children aged 5 from poorer low income homes are twice more likely to be obese compared to those in high income households. By the age of 11 they are three times more likely to become overly obese. The study showed that obesity costs the NHS

£6.1 billion in that year. Whereas it normally loses the NHS £5 million annually. Childhood obesity prevalence in the UK has an impact on their overall achievement in school and it may lead to the risk of becoming ~~an~~ overweight adults in the future. Furthermore ~~obesity~~ increased obesity prevalence in the UK contributes to the increasing rates of cancer (Cancer Research UK) obesity causes - (contributes to) 13 different types of cancer - gallbladder, liver, Uterus, Breast, Ovary, Kidney, Thyroid, Pancreas, Bowel, Stomach, Esophageal, Myeloma and Meningioma Cancer. This means that young children will begin to have an early screening of cancer, if the obesity crisis is not thoroughly dealt with. Moreover, these health issues have an impact on society it impacts the the government financial status - since there will be high rates of unemployment. People will also be seeking health care provisions & state (statutory and non-statutory) services.

Furthermore, government worked alongside public health sectors to conduct strategy to tackle obesity crisis in the UK. The campaign was 'Change4Life' to help people

parents make an informed decision about their health and their children's health and wellbeing. The campaign provides people with information about the complications of obesity and how it impacts health and wellbeing. This campaign provides families with ways of leading a more healthier life for their children's benefit - it provides people with guidance and food-prep meals to support people in becoming healthy. This links with Jamie Oliver's influence in making school meals more healthy and diverse for children from different ethnic background.



This response scored highly because:

- There is analysis of the issue's importance
- There are relevant examples of how the issue affects individuals and/ or wider society
- The evidence presented is supported with secondary research findings
- The relationship between the issue and secondary research is explained.

This response scored Band 2, 7 marks.

Activity 2

How does secondary research support the importance of research into this issue?

In your answer, you should consider: ^{social economic ethical} how research effects these things

- secondary research and its relationship to the issue
- an analysis of the effects on individuals, practitioners and/or wider society.

(15)

In this study, the secondary research highlights the importance of carrying out research in regards to childhood obesity. The secondary research taken from four longitudinal studies measures the BMI of children aged 7, 11, and 15 from the highest and lowest socioeconomic groups (socioeconomic groups were decided from the father's occupation). The research showed that while between 1946 and 1970 there was no significant difference in BMI, children from lower social groups did weigh up to 2.3 kg

less than those from a higher social group. In 2001 however, children from a lower social group had one BMI point more than those from a higher social group, and also weighed more.

This shows that social inequalities are reflected on a child's weight, and that therefore children from deprived backgrounds are more likely to suffer from the long term ^{health} consequences ~~of~~ that are caused by obesity. This research will benefit ~~practitioner~~ practitioners, as it will help them develop new strategies that ~~are~~ are accessible to all social groups. ~~For~~ For example, while children are encouraged to join sports clubs and activities, not all families are able to afford this. Many families have an unhealthy diet due to healthy

alternatives being costlier. Practitioners will ~~then~~ be able to ~~use this data to~~ address these issues and overcome them, which will help society to overcome the problem of ^{rising} childhood obesity. On the other hand, ~~cost~~ developing new schemes and initiatives will cost practitioners time and money, ~~on the other hand~~ which will leave other aspects of healthcare with less funding. *

Additionally, these findings could frustrate ~~and~~ and embarrass families of lower social groups. It could also make them feel guilty, ~~and~~ ^{and} like they are to blame for the health problems their children face. It could also cause prejudice, for example if a mother goes out with two overweight children, others might make assumptions on the reason

for their weight, or their social class. This is unethical.

* However if the new initiatives are successful, less money will need to be spent on treating the long term health ~~issues~~ issues that obesity causes, for example diabetes. This will save health services and individuals money. It will also benefit wider society, as they will have more money to invest in other services, for example Alzheimers research.

This response scored lower because:

- The issue is described with conclusions about its importance
- There are some relevant examples of individuals and/or wider society
- There is evidence of relevant secondary research.

Overall

There were some good, well thought out responses to this activity with good use of secondary sources by some learners. Learners were able to respond to the activity with insightful and considered examples of the issue's importance. When using the set activity, and relevant secondary sources, learners were successful in their responses. However, it is important to note that this activity does not require learners to regurgitate secondary research; many learners simply explained research that is available on the issue, without providing specific links to the importance and relevance of research in both Alzheimer's and childhood obesity. Centres also need to recognise the difference between Activity two and Activity three; many learners confused their evidence presented here and this limited the awarding of marks. Where learners explained future provision and practice in Activity two, they were limited in their ability to gain marks because the activity does not ask for this – the activity specifically relates to the importance of the issue, considering why research in this area is undertaken and how the article and secondary research reinforces the importance of the issue.

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 overall were weak for this activity in comparison to others in the controlled assessment. The activity requires learners to consider the implications of research in this area for future provision and / or practice which was not always done. Learners in some instances mixed up this response with that of Activity two, causing them to be limited on the marks awarded for their response. Where learners provided analysis of implications in relation to things such a need for more knowledge and understanding of Alzheimer's, further recruitment and training of specialists, improvements in diagnosis and prevention, they were able to achieve good marks for the activity. However, there was a clear distinction between analysis and descriptions for the responses to this activity, with many learners once again simply regurgitating secondary sources and the research that has been /is being undertaken into the issue presented rather than consideration of the implications for provision and/ or practice.

Social Care article

This activity required learners to consider the implications of childhood obesity on provision and/ or practice which was not always completed effectively. It was the weakest response of the assessment, with many learners struggling to consider recommendations for change in provision and /or practice. Learners who produced good analysis for this response included implications such as providing education for children, parents/carers and practitioners in social care and school-based interventions, the monitoring of food intake, exercise and healthy behaviours, as well as government funding needed to combat the issue. Many of the recommendations offered in responses were ideas that are already in place in the UK, such as the introduction of tax on sugary drinks. However, where learners did this, they provided some good justifications and elaborations to support these as recommendations for change.

This response scored Band 3, 15 marks.

Activity 3

How could this research affect social care provision when working with children?

In your answer, you should consider:

- the effect on provision and/or practice
- recommendations for change
- secondary research findings.

(20)

In my secondary research article, the talk a lot about ~~ways~~ the things that can be implemented to prevent obesity in children.

A recommendation was to Commission Soft drinks industry like levy across the UK and using the revenue from the industries and put them into programme that will help reduce obesity and encourage physical activity and help children to enjoy an hour of physical activity every day.

Also, by understanding the barriers and limitations to offering healthier foods for example low-income households cannot afford high priced healthy foods so they move towards the cheaper unhealthy foods which supports the theory of how children

from low-income backgrounds have a higher risk of being obese as they cannot afford healthier option of food.

Another recommendation would be to put £10 million a year into healthy breakfast clubs at schools so that ~~children can't~~ kids will be able to have a healthier start to the day, this recommendation also links into supporting early years setting as public health England (PHE) commissioned the children's food

trust to create revised menus for early years settings.

A lot of families do not struggle to read the labels on the food they wish to buy, this is why clearer food labelling need to be implemented so that families can be presented with clear information about the food they are buying.

Sugar reduction programmes also need to be implemented - to reduce 20% of sugar from products children eat the most, local authorities can help businesses and program sugar reduction programmes offer healthier foods and drinks.

Restricting the opening of new hot food takeaway outlets would encourage families to make ^{healthier} foods at home than to go out for unhealthy foods. Public health England (PHE) marketing campaigns can also be used as at a local level to encourage individuals to improve their lifestyle behaviors.

In conclusion, if all these recommendations are implemented it will allow the population to be on the road towards the abolishment of obesity which in turn will put less pressure on provisions, less money would be put towards the treatment of obesity and can be spent on more pressing issues.

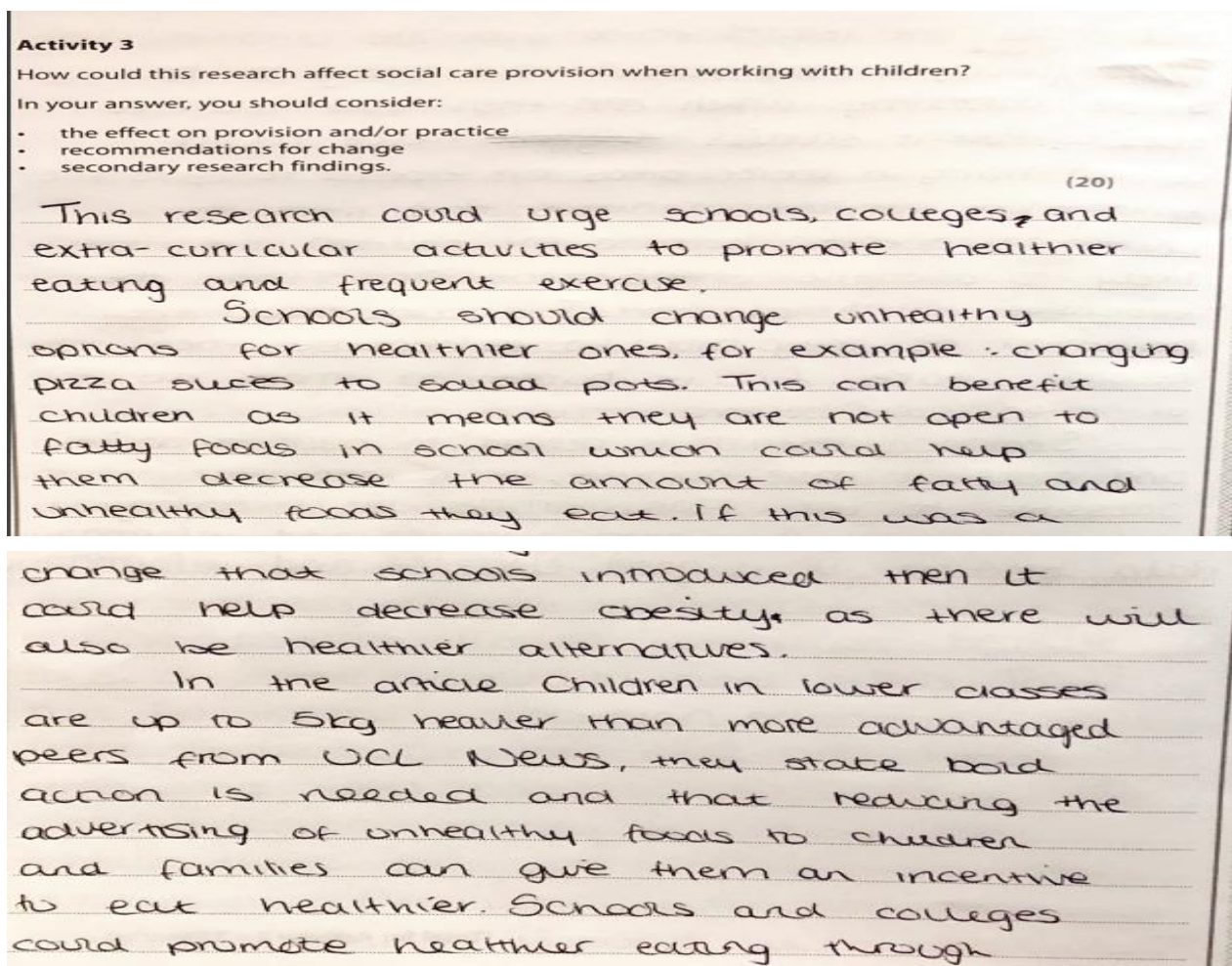
► Committed cross-government action is required on legislative changes rather than voluntary suggestions for example further legislative incentives to food manufacturers to reduce sugar and fat content in food and drinks - advertising of healthier foods to children and parents while incentivizing the sale of healthier alternatives.

Need to create new policies to reduce weight inequalities in childhood.

This response scored highly because:

- There is evidence of implications of the research for provision and /or practice
- There is a good understanding of the issue and the context of the research
- Recommendations for change in provision and /or practice are included
- The points raised are rationalized and supported by secondary evidence.

This response scored Band 2, 6 marks.



reducing sugar in their foods and drinks and promoting physical activity. Encouraging exercise can push people to want to exercise more if they believe they will see positive results.

Another thing schools and colleges can do is make sure ^{the} children are aware of the dangers of fatty foods and the bad effects it can have on your health and body. Discussing the negative of eating too many unhealthy foods can make children understand how bad it is for them and the changes they can make to be healthier.

In the article by A. Khairy, Mohamed et al stated decreased physical activity might be the main cause of increased prevalence of obesity. Schools could have more sports days or physical education lessons so that children are participating in more exercise which could slow down the rate of obesity. Free clubs for all children to join so that is accessible to all because some families may not be able to afford clubs or extra activities.

This response scored lower because:

- The implications for research for provision and /or practice are described
- The implications referred to in the response demonstrate some understanding of the issue in the context of the research.

Overall

There still appears to be some confusion between relevant information that should be included in responses to Activity three. The activity requires learners to draw conclusions about the research in relation to provision and practice; considering what changes can be made /should be made as result of the research and other research into this issue, and the difference that this would make. Consideration of things such as increasing specialists in the field of Alzheimer's or changes to the curriculum in relation to health education would be good examples of implications for future provision and /or practice in the health and social care sectors. Specific recommendations for change are needed to access the higher bands and a lack of these in many responses, meant that the awarding of marks was limited. It should also be noted that the responses should use context and reference to the article in order to access higher marks; simply summarising

secondary research findings in the response does not demonstrate ability to analyse implications, nor does this justify recommendations for change.

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 stipulated in the case study. 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 have been mixed responses to this activity with varied application to the case study and context of the activity. Where learners considered the research methods in the context of the activity, they were able to provide full and sometimes rationalised considerations of the suggested research methodologies, with emphasis on ethical considerations and some inclusion of practical skills. However, the activity focus is on further research in relation to the case study provided; learners should be using the information given in the case – in this case considering the use of scientific experiments and interviews. Many learners considered a range of alternate research methodologies that they would use which is not expected.

Social Care article

Responses to the social care activity were varied; where learners had used the case study, referring throughout their responses to the researchers and the methodologies chosen, they were successful in their application which allowed them to demonstrate good understanding consistently. Ethical considerations once again proved strong in this section of the assessment, however, centres need to keep up to date with changes in the sectors and relevant legislations should be applied. It was pleasing to see some centres updating this and including GDPR (2018) in place of the Data Protection Act (1998) but this was not done often enough. Sampling is still proving an issue for learners and should be a focus for centres to make improvements when preparing for controlled assessment.

This response scored Band 4, 14 marks.

Activity 4

Sujan is a dietician who works closely with Ada, an Alzheimer's specialist. Their work involves supporting individuals at risk of developing Alzheimer's. He wants to investigate the link between a specific diet and Alzheimer's.

Sujan and Ada are planning to carry out a scientific experiment with 20 participants to assess the relationship between a specific diet and neurological activity in individuals at risk of developing the disease. The researchers will also be carrying out interviews with the participants to assess their health and wellbeing.

What should Sujan and Ada consider when undertaking this research?

You should include judgements on:

- planning considerations ✓
- ethical issues ✓
- research methodologies ✓
- research skills required to explore the issue.

• planning (methodology, ethics area, purpose)
• practical and ethical problems. (15)

Sujan and Ada when undertaking this research, Sujan and Ada must consider the planning considerations. This would include the right to choose the right and appropriate method to get the results that are relevant to what they are measuring and looking for. A scientific experiment and an interview are suitable for what they are measuring which is to investigate the link between a specific diet and Alzheimer's. By doing a science experiment they would be able to collect results about the relationship between a specific diet and neurological activity. However they should mention an specific science experiment that would be relevant for their measuring such as scanning the brain, for example. This experiment could ethica

lly ^{be} affect individuals negatively because they may not like the environment and may not feel secure and maybe nervous and therefore this could affect the ~~rese~~ results. In relation to the other method which is interviews, it is very important that both consider ~~the~~ the type of interview they are doing. In this case, I would plan a ^{semi-}structured interview where questions are planned and therefore they are open questions ~~where~~ where individuals are allowed to give more details and express themselves. However, it is important that researchers ~~make~~ make sure that the questions are all about the topic of their research. Also, an ethical problem that this method could cause ~~is~~ is that researchers could go too further with the questions ~~and~~ and this may cause pressure on the individual ~~that~~ that is being interviewed. It is also important ~~that~~ that researchers prevent another ethical problem which is ~~the~~ ^{the} maintenance of confidentiality so that individuals feel confident during interviews. This would include ~~not~~ not mentioning name named researcher without their permission and it only should be named when needed, for example a case study. ~~On~~ ~~the~~ ~~other~~ ~~hand~~

from the ethical problems that these methods present. In addition, it includes the location, whether the individual feels confident or not and they must have the right to be accompanied by a friend or a colleague to make them feel safe. All of these ~~must~~ should matter for the interviewee so that they get the individuals confident and ~~and~~ perform their interview without any ethical problem and ~~so~~ having appropriate results for what they are measuring. They also must consider and be aware of the practical problems as well ~~if~~ both ~~to~~ experiments. In the scientific experiment, ~~it~~ might ~~be~~ very expensive and so they might choose a small sample which they did because 20 participants ~~is~~ are not enough to ~~be~~ representative. Although it could represent a small city or a certain place if all these people are from that city or that place. In relation to the second method which ~~is~~ interviews they must be aware of time because depending on the type of the interview or if it is ~~a~~ semi-structured interview, then it might take a lot of time as the individual gives a more extended answer and

share their own experiences. During their research and performance of methods, they should always go back to ~~their~~ the purpose of the research so that they can perform the methods in the right way and collect valid results.

This response scored highly because:

- There are rationalised considerations of the suggested research methods including improvements and changes
- There is evidence of understanding the suitability of the research methodologies
- An analytical approach to the response is sustained throughout
- There is coverage of planning, ethics and research skills throughout the response
- Judgments on the importance of the considerations are consistently supported.

This response scored Band 2, 8 marks.

Activity 4
 Louis conducts research for Public Health England. He has been asked to carry out research into childhood obesity in relation to the socio-economic status of families. Louis will undertake focus groups with parents of children from a variety of areas in England. He will take into account the level of income in the home. His research will also include observations of the children over a period of three months, and food diaries kept by both parents and children to assess the diet being consumed.

What should Louis consider when undertaking this research?
 You should include judgements on:

- planning considerations
- ethical issues
- research methodologies that could be used
- research skills required to explore the issue.

(15)

Louis has to find the right target he wants to find so that the people he is choosing is related to the study. He would have to think about ethical issues such as do the people know how long this study will be, Has

he got their permission, if they know his watching them could their behaviour change which could cause results to be unaccurate and what would happen if someone wants to stop or they become very ill or the long term affect it has on the individual. This all could affect the results at the end of the study. Louis could do interviews and ask the family questions or he could observe ~~the~~ them over a long period of time. The interview might be a good idea although families ~~mg~~ might lie and say what they think that the researcher

wants to hear which could lead to inaccurate research. He could observe them however he might become friends with them and the results become biased or that someone might drop out half way through. When Louis decides what method he would want to choose he would have to figure out how many people he wants involved in this study and they would have to meet the specific requirement so that they link to the study. When children keep the food diary they might get bored and lie because they probably don't see how important that would be. He would have to think about what type of data he would want quantitative or qualitative.

If he wants to do qualitative how is he going to get the information interviews and would it be structured or not, Louis would also have to find a family that is going to allow him to know their financial business as some might be too embarrassed. Louis will also need to know how is he going to find the families to participate or which would be the struggle. He would have to see if the children would change how they eat because someone is watching them. He could only tell the parents and not the children although the parents might change their diet plan for them.

Louis would have to think about the children most of all because the way they eat could impact them when they are older. Louis would have to think about what age does he want the children to be. Louis would also need a rough idea of what the results would be before he goes in to the research to see if he is right or not by the end.

Louis would need to think about the ethical issues deeply because this could make the data and results at the end not reliable meaning no one would use them again. He would also have to deeply think about how he is going to get the families to participate and also what kind of method he would want to use.

This response scored lower because:

- There are some considerations of the suggested methods and some suggestions for improvements and changes
- There is reference made to ethics, research skills and planning
- There are some judgments on the importance of considerations made.

Overall

This activity requires improvement from centres. Although some centres are clearly supporting learners to use the case study effectively in responses, this was not seen often enough. Learners appear, at times, to be producing rote learned responses with little or no application to the case study provided. The case study is intended to support learners in their ability to express their understanding of planning and ethical considerations for future research and as such should be used and referred to throughout the response. It is essential that centres promote the use of up to date and relevant legislation and policy in both the health and social care sectors; using outdated information is not supportive of learners moving forward into careers and training. There was an inconsistent approach to responses for this activity with many responses being limited in the awarding of marks due to superficial and generic responses. However, some centres are making progress and overall, there was an improvement seen from the previous series.

Summary

Overall, the responses for this series are showing improvements and it is clear that some centres are using the guidance and information provided to make changes to teaching, learning and assessment in order to allow learners to access the higher marks in this controlled assessment. There is evidence of improved knowledge and understanding of research methodologies, the importance of the contemporary issues considered and planning of future research. Centres need to consider the application of learner responses to the activities posed, with clear links being consistently made to the articles in question and the key elements of each activity. It is important that learners not only demonstrate knowledge and understanding of unit content but apply this understanding to attain higher marks throughout the controlled assessment.

The following is recommended for future examination series:

- Make use of the most up to date resources and specification provided for this unit
- Avoid re-writing the articles in responses, particularly with activity two
- Support learners to understand how to make rationalised judgments, create evaluations and undertake analysis of a range of sources
- Support learners to use technical language for this unit consistently and accurately
- Support learners to understand assessment outcomes for each activity
- Secondary research and choice of article should be independent to the learner and not centre specific.

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