

Examiners' Report

January 2012

Principal Learning Public Services
PS101

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Publications Code DP030816

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Unit PS101

Getting to Know the Public Services

This was the second opportunity for external assessment on Level 1 Principal Learning Public Services. Only a small number of learners were entered for this examination series but there was a fair range of learner achievement across all questions set.

The pre-release material was used effectively to prepare learners for the examination and that preparation helped learners to produce well researched and focussed responses. However, many learners did not demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of the command words at the beginning of each question such as 'explain' and 'analyse'.

Section A (based on the pre-release material)

Question 1, 2 and 3 were based on the pre-release material as well as the learners own knowledge and most learners performed very well on these tasks.

Question 4 had responses directly from the pre-release material and most learners were able to achieve this. Some learners were also able to draw on their own knowledge to give an appropriate response.

Section B

Question 5 was a two-part multiple choice question and many learners achieved full marks for this question.

Question 6 and 7 were answered adequately by most learners. With some learners achieving full marks on Question 7.

Question 8 required learners to expand on their knowledge and draw out information from text provided to them. This was generally not well answered, with most learners only achieving the lower end of the available mark scale.

Summary

- Learners should be made aware of the meaning of the command words at the start of each question i.e. outline; explain; identify; describe; analyse; propose. Definitions of these words appear in the specification content for this unit.
- Learners must be given the opportunity to use past examination papers to assist in their understanding of how to achieve higher grades towards the end of the examination paper.
- Centres should ensure the pre-release material is accessed on the day of release and used to prepare learners for the examination. The dates when the pre-release material will be available can be found in the Key Dates section of the Edexcel Information Manual which is available on the Edexcel website <http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/info-manual.aspx>.

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Fax 01623 450481

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Order Code DP030816 January 2012

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