

Examiners' Report

Summer 2012

Principal Learning Public Services
PS101

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Unit PS101

Getting to Know the Public Services

This was the third opportunity for external assessment on Level 1 Principal Learning Public Services. Only a very small number of learners were entered for this examination series.

It is not possible, given the number of candidates entered, to determine if 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, learners did not demonstrate good exam technique and 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)

Questions 1, 2 and 3 were knowledge based as well as based on the pre-released material. Learners did not perform very well on these tasks. Whilst Question 4 required responses directly from the pre-release material and again learners did not perform well on this question.

Section B

Question 5 was a two-part multiple choice question and many learners achieved full marks for this question. Question 6 was also answered adequately by most learners. Question 7 was answered adequately with all learners achieving some marks for the question. Question 8 required learners to expand their knowledge and draw out information from text provided to them. This was generally not well answered, with learners only achieving the lower end of the available mark scale.

Summary

- Learners must be made aware of the meaning of the command words at the start of each question i.e. outline, explain, identify, describe, analyse and 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 answer the types of questions in the paper, especially towards the end of the examination paper. Past papers are available on the Principal Learning Public Services section of the Edexcel website
- Centres must 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 at <http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/info-manual.aspx>.

Grade Boundaries

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