

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback January 2011

GCE

GCE Health & Social Care (6944)
Unit 7 - Meeting Individual Needs

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General Comments

This paper consisted of three questions, each of which totalled to 30 marks. The paper covered the specification accurately and relevantly. The format of the paper has remained unchanged from the previous series. Each question commenced with a case study scenario which provided a generic setting for the questions asked. Questions were structured in such a way that straightforward recall knowledge questions were asked at the beginning and then more complex extended writing questions were asked at the end ranging from 8-10 marks. The mark scheme was tiered to provide access for all calibre of candidate therefore making the paper fair and equitable. Consequently, the paper has discriminated well amongst candidates.

Strengths

- Candidates were well prepared for this paper. It would seem that centres have used past papers as a means of preparation and this has worked well in that candidates could provide logical, well-structured responses.
- Level of knowledge and understanding was good and is consistent with the previous series
- Ability to accurately interpret question stems and provide an accurate and relevant answer is also consistent with the previous series
- Quality of written communication has improved
- More candidates are attempting to provide coherent, structured and accurate answers to those questions which require extended writing

Weaknesses

- Candidates knowledge of quality issues still remains poor
- Gaps in responses still appearing particularly where extended writing was being asked
- Ability to keep response relevant was poor in a minority of cases
- Tendency of candidates to write 'all they know' rather than tailor their response still pre-dominates, this was particularly true in part 2 (e) on the voluntary sector.

Question 1

The case study for this question was based on a husband and wife whereby the husband had suffered a stroke and the information focused on his care needs.

Part (a) was well answered by the majority of candidates. Candidates were asked to identify 4 areas of assessment; most candidates provided answers such as Physical mobility needs, social, emotional and mental health needs.

In part (b) candidates were asked to explain the importance of recognising and supporting a client's rights when providing care services. Once again the majority were able to identify relevant rights and then explain the importance in providing care services. The vast majority of responses focused on the positives and failed to give a more balanced argument i.e. what would happen if his rights were not supported.

In part (c) candidates were asked to discuss the importance of choice. What seems a relatively straightforward question for some candidates this question proved difficult. The majority of responses lay in mark band 2.

Part (d) saw candidates being asked to assess the contribution of informal carers. This was well answered by the vast majority of candidates who were able to give a balanced structured and well-argued response, some very good responses seen here.

Question 2

This question focused on an organisation which provides support for stroke patients. Part (a) was a 2 mark question and asked candidates to define what was meant by the term voluntary organisation. Knowledge was good with many giving an accurate definition and example.

Part (b) asked candidates to explain the role of an advocate. The main reason why candidates did not score full marks was that they defined what an advocate was and did not explain why they were important e.g. in giving a client an essential voice.

Part (c) asked candidates to identify examples of ways to monitor service provision and explain their importance in promoting services. The majority were able to identify relevant examples - questionnaires, surveys, audits etc however in explaining their purpose responses became slightly repetitive.

In part (d) candidates were asked to discuss how the directory of services would promote service provision for service users. Candidates in general found this hard to discuss. They tended to focus on the term 'network' and consequently responses became slightly inaccurate and irrelevant.

Part (e) asked to assess the role of the voluntary sector. This was poorly answered as the majority of candidates wrote everything they knew about the voluntary sector and could not give a balanced logical response.

Question 3

This question focused on the quality mechanisms organisations put in place to enhance the overall quality of the organisation. Historically this question is poorly answered and this series proved no different.

Part (a) asked candidates to define what was meant by direct discrimination. In the main it was a well answered question with many candidates achieving at least one mark for stating 'face to face'.

Part (b) asked candidates to explain why anti-discriminatory legislation was important. This was well answered by the majority of candidates who stated reasons such as to promote equality, reduce discrimination etc.

Part (c) asked candidates to state why it was important for organisations to have policies and procedures. Once again many candidates provided coherent relevant answers such as stating providing a means of redress, providing equal opportunities. Many answers were vocationally relevant.

Part (d) focused on organisational culture. As per the norm with this question it was poorly answered with the majority of candidates achieving between 3-4 marks.

Part (e) directed candidates to evaluate the impact of equality legislation in promoting rights. Many candidates by this time had 'run out of steam' and provided very weak, limited in content answers.

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