

Principal Assessor Report 2003

Assessment Panel:

Care

Qualification area

**Subject(s) and Level(s)
Included in this report**

Care Issues for Society Intermediate 2 PBNC

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2002	
Pre appeal	181

Number of entries in 2003	
Pre appeal	405

General comments re entry numbers

There has been a significant increase in uptake of this course with a growing number of centres presenting candidates. Established centres have had larger cohorts of students. However, the overall percentage pass rate fell from 63.5% in Diet 2002 to 60% in Diet 2003.

Grade boundaries at C, B and A for each subject area included in the report

A: 70; B: 60; C: 50.

Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area

These are consistent with Diet 2002. The project specification has not changed and we would expect grade boundaries to remain consistent year on year.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

The projects should be marked by centres and a provisional grade awarded. In too many cases, this was not done. Where centres have marked scripts, it is important that everyone uses the same marking guidelines (in the public domain and in use in previous years).

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

Some centres made very good use of the support pack.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

Plan

Planning timescale should not just be the dates they have been given to hand in material but should be the student's detailed timescale for each part of the project.

Development: Childcare Option

The following examples illustrate areas of misunderstanding.

There is a lack of understanding of an extended family — they do not all need to live together. The quality of the relationships was not emphasised in the majority of cases.

There is a lack of understanding of the role of a nursery assistant. For example a nursery assistant would not be required to contact Social Work Department nor would she give advice to parents and a three year old child would not be able to phone Childline.

Evaluation:

There is clear evidence that candidates would benefit from opportunities to develop evaluation skills.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

- ◆ Centres are expected to mark scripts prior to submission.
- ◆ Staff should emphasise to students that they will lose marks if they exceed the word count significantly
- ◆ In some cases it would seem that the lecturers have misunderstood the project brief for example age ranges quoted should be adhered to. This has meant that students have been misdirected and have lost valuable marks.