LEVEL 3

4963UY0-1

MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2023

CHILDREN'S CARE, PLAY, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT: Practice and Theory

Unit 331: Investigating current issues in children's care, play, learning and development in Wales

EXTENDED INVESTIGATION

To be opened by centres week beginning 2 October 2023.

The extended investigation is set by WJEC each year and will be released to centres via the WJEC secure site on the first Monday in March and first Monday in October each year.

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Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory

Unit 331

Investigating current issues in children's care, play, learning and development in Wales

Extended Investigation

Autumn 2023

Assessment Pack

This assessment pack is comprised of:

- **Information for centres**
- **Candidate Pack.**

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Extended Investigation
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Information for Centres

Preparing for the assessment

This assessment requires candidates to investigate a current issue in children's care, play, learning and development in Wales.

Two topic areas are provided in the Candidate Pack. Candidates must be allowed to select the topic they wish to investigate. The topic areas provided are broad and candidates may choose to focus their research on specific 'focus areas' within the topic. These chosen 'focus areas' should be central to the topic.

Teachers are able to discuss and provide feedback to the candidate on their chosen topic and focus areas but this feedback should be limited to posing critical questions of the candidate for example, Will the chosen focus areas allow them to address all the set tasks?

Candidates will need to carry out independent research using a range of resources to investigate their chosen topic and focus areas. They will need to collect adequate and reliable evidence in preparation for the completion of the controlled tasks.

Candidates must be allowed no longer than two weeks to research from the assessment pack being issued to them.

Candidates should be encouraged to produce a plan for their research, giving consideration to:

- valid, appropriate, reliable and traceable resources/sources that they intend to use
- how they will collect evidence as part of their investigation in preparation for completing the set tasks
- the outcomes required for each set task.

Candidates are allowed to amend their chosen focus areas in light of their research should their original focus area(s) provide insufficient material.

Completing the controlled tasks

Candidates have **15 hours** to complete the tasks within this assessment. It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that candidates do not have any longer than the designated 15 hours.

No feedback should be given during the 15 hours.

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Candidates are allowed access to their research when completing the controlled tasks. The centre is responsible for ensuring that no additional research is taken into the assessment environment after the controlled assessment has commenced. All research used by the candidate must be retained by the centre until the end of the assessment period and may be requested by WJEC during this period.

All evidence for this assessment is to be submitted to WJEC for external marking by Friday 8 December 2023.

Please ensure that all work submitted for marking is clearly identified. It is recommended that the centre name and number is included, and that candidates' names and examination numbers appear on every page.

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Candidate Pack

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Instructions for candidates

Preparing for the assessment

This assessment requires you to investigate and write about a current issue in children's care, play, learning and development in Wales. You will need to draw on knowledge and understanding gained from across the qualification and your work placement.

Two topic areas are provided in this Candidate Pack. You will need to select the topic you wish to investigate. The topic areas provided are broad and you may choose to focus your research on specific areas within your chosen topic. Your chosen focus areas should be central to the topic.

You have a maximum of two weeks to complete your research.

You should plan your research, giving consideration to:
- valid, appropriate, reliable and traceable resources/sources that you intend to use
- how you will collect evidence as part of the investigation in preparation for completing the set tasks
- the outcomes required for each set task.

You may discuss your choice of topic, chosen focus areas and planned research with your teacher.

There are no restrictions on the resources you may use when undertaking research.

The evidence for this task is an extended piece of writing approximately 5000 words in total (not including referencing and bibliography). You will have **15 hours** to produce this evidence under controlled conditions.

Once the controlled assessment has started, you will only have access to the following resources:
- information and evidence collected during your independent research
- class notes
- work placement resources.

There will be **no** access to the internet during this time.

Your evidence must address all the tasks outlined on pages 8 and 9.

Your work must:
- be completed under controlled conditions
- be your own work
- not be removed from the examination environment once the 15 hours has commenced
- be completed without any teacher/tutor input.

You and authorised centre personnel will be required to sign a declaration that all work presented is your own work and that it has been completed in 15 hours under controlled conditions.

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Topics

You must select **one** of the following topics to research:

Topic 1

Accessing formal and informal learning opportunities can promote learning and development for children 0–19 years.

Research the value of promoting learning through a range of learning environments.

Topic 2

There are a range of factors that can impact on children's development in the short and long term.

Research factors that promote positive health and well-being.

You must undertake independent research using a range of resources to investigate your chosen topic and focus areas. You will need to collect adequate and reliable evidence in preparation for the completion of the tasks.

Your chosen focus areas should be appropriate to allow you to investigate in enough detail to access all available marks. You will need to be able to explain, analyse, evaluate and draw conclusions in relation to how the chosen topic can support children's care, play, learning and development.

Tasks

Read the information and tasks carefully to make sure you understand what is required.

Check your work carefully to make sure that it is accurate.

Task 1

Write an introduction to your extended investigation.

Outline:
- the main focus areas you have chosen to research in relation to your selected topic
- why you have selected the topic and the focus areas; you may wish to refer to personal interest, taught content, sector engagement and work placement for the methods of research that you have used
- sources used as part of investigating the topic and focus areas. **[9 marks]**

As a guide, aim to write approximately 450 words for this section.

Task 2

Discuss how your selected topic and focus areas support children's care, play, learning and development.

Your evidence **must** include:
- how the focus areas support (positively or negatively) children's care, play, learning and development
- a variety of viewpoints, including your own and/or those of others
- appropriate examples from theory and/or practice to support your discussion
- how relevant theory/legislation or frameworks (as appropriate) have impacted on the topic and focus areas
- traceable references or quotes to support evidence. **[30 marks]**

As a guide, aim to write approximately 1500 words for this section.

Task 3

Evaluate how the values and principles that underpin your selected topic and chosen focus areas are used in practice to support children's care, play, learning and development.

Your evidence could include reference to:
- effective communication
- teamwork and collaborative working
- equality/inclusion/diversity
- freedom to participate
- children's rights being upheld
- professional skills

  or any other skill(s), as appropriate. **[15 marks]**

As a guide, aim to write approximately 750 words for this section.

Task 4

Consider how relevant theories, legislation or frameworks (as appropriate) have influenced practice in children's care, play, learning and development settings.

Your evidence **must** include clear links to how the theories, legislation or frameworks have influenced practice in the settings you have experienced. **[14 marks]**

As a guide, aim to write approximately 700 words for this section.

Task 5

Assess how having knowledge of the selected topic and related theories and legislation can be used to bring about change in children's care, play, learning and development provision in the 21st century in Wales.

Your evidence **must**:

- demonstrate an awareness of new and developing practice approaches
- refer to a range of settings within the sector
- make judgements that link practice with theory (topic focus, related theories and legislation)
- make suggestions for future change that could be adopted in practice to support children's care, play, learning and development.

Evidence **must** refer to research undertaken and **must** relate to experiences in practice.
[20 marks]

As a guide, aim to write approximately 1000 words for this section.

Task 6

Discuss how your research and learning will support your own individual practice moving forward.

Your evidence **must** include:

- a reflection of the value or benefits of what you have learnt as part of investigating the topic and focus areas
- what you would like to do, based on your findings, to improve your own future practice
- reference to any impact changes to your own practice could have on the practice of others.

[12 marks]

As a guide, aim to write approximately 600 words for this section.

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TIME SHEET must be submitted with the candidate's work

Centre Name/*Enw'r Ganolfan*:	
Centre Number/*Rhif y Ganolfan*:	
Candidate Name/*Enw'r Ymgeisydd*:	
Candidate Number/*Rhif yr Ymgeisydd*:	

Extended Investigation

The total time allowed must not exceed 15 hours. / *Ni ddylai cyfanswm yr amser sy'n cael ei ganiatáu fod yn fwy na 15 awr.*

The timed, supervised hours took place as follows: / *Dyma'r oriau gafodd eu goruchwylio a'u hamseru:*

Dates *Dyddiadau*			Time Allowed (15 hours) *Amser sy'n cael ei ganiatáu (15 awr)*	
			Hours/*Oriau*	Minutes/*Munudau*