

WJEC Level 3

Children's Care, Play, Learning & Development: Practice & Theory

Approved by Qualifications Wales

This qualification forms part of the new suite of Health and Social Care, and Childcare qualifications in Wales provided by City & Guilds/WJEC.

This Qualifications Wales regulated qualification is not available to centres in England.

Mark scheme (Extended Investigation) Unit 331





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 Summer XXXX

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 e.g. 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 15 hours .

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 and 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 May 15th XXXX.

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.



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 Summer XXXX

Instructions for candidates

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 5,000 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.

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 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 1,500 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 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 1,000 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.



Marking grid: for WJEC examining team use only.

The grid below provides reasonable descriptions on which to justify the awarded mark for each task attempted. The candidate needs to provide evidence for each task in order to access all available marks, however if evidence is included outside of specific task headings, marks can be awarded where applicable. The examiner will reach valid conclusions on what marks to award by referring to the guidance on applying the marks detailed in the assessment grid and scripts agreed during the standardising session.

Task 1: Write an introduction to your extended investigation. [9]			
AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of key concepts, values and issues that are relevant to children's care, play, learning and development settings and contexts.			
Mark band 1	Mark band 2	Mark band 3	Mark band 4
<p>Award 1-2 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited outline showing little knowledge and understanding of the main focus areas that have been chosen. Limited outline of why the topic and focus areas have been selected. Limited reference to the methods of research used. Limited number of sources identified. 	<p>Award 3-4 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic outline showing some knowledge and understanding of the main focus areas that have been chosen. Basic outline of why the topic and focus areas have been selected, may refer to theory and practice. Basic reference to the methods of research used. A small range of sources including books, journals and websites have been identified. 	<p>Award 5-7 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good outline showing knowledge and understanding of the main focus areas that have been chosen. Good outline of why the topic and focus areas have been selected, may refer to theory and practice. Good reference to the methods of research used. A range of sources including books, journals and websites have been identified with some exemplification of why chosen. 	<p>Award 8-9 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent outline showing detailed knowledge and understanding of the main focus areas that have been chosen. Excellent outline of why the topic and focus areas have been selected; makes reference to theory and practice. Excellent reference to the research used. A range of sources including books, journals and websites have been identified and their use exemplified.
Award 0 marks for a response that is not creditworthy.			

Task 2: Discuss how your selected topic and focus areas support children's care, play, learning and development.

[30]

A02: Apply knowledge and understanding to analyse evidence-based practices (your own, or those of others) with children's care, learning and development.

Mark band 1	Mark band 2	Mark band 3	Mark band 4	Mark band 5
<p>Award 1-6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion shows limited knowledge and understanding of how the focus areas support (positively or negatively) children's care, play, learning and development. • Limited reference to own viewpoint and/or to that of others. • Response is limited, and does not include appropriate examples from theory and/or practice to support the discussion. • Limited reference to relevant theories/legislation or frameworks as appropriate. • Limited traceable references or quotes used to support evidence. 	<p>Award 7-12 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion shows basic knowledge and understanding of how focus areas support (positively or negatively) children's care, play, learning and development. • Basic reference to own viewpoint and/or those of others. • Response is basic and includes a limited amount of appropriate examples from theory and/or practice to support the discussion. • Basic reference to relevant theories/legislation or frameworks as appropriate. • A basic selection of traceable references or quotes has been used to support evidence. 	<p>Award 13-18 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion shows satisfactory knowledge and understanding of how focus areas support (positively or negatively) children's care, play, learning and development. • Satisfactory reference to own viewpoint and/or those of others. • Response is satisfactory and includes some appropriate examples from theory and/or practice to support the discussion. • Satisfactory reference to relevant theories/legislation or frameworks as appropriate. • A satisfactory selection of traceable references or quotes has been used to support evidence. 	<p>Award 19-24 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion shows good knowledge and understanding of how the focus areas support (positively or negatively) children's care, play, learning and development. • Good reference to own viewpoint and/or those of others. • Response is good and includes a number of appropriate examples from theory and/or practice to support the discussion. • Good reference to relevant theories/legislation or frameworks as appropriate. • A good selection of traceable references or quotes has been used to support evidence. 	<p>Award 25-30 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion shows excellent knowledge and understanding of how the focus areas support (positively or negatively) children's care, play, learning and development. • Excellent reference to own viewpoint and / or those of others • Response is excellent and includes a number of appropriate examples from theory and/or practice which have been exemplified to support the discussion. • Excellent reference to relevant theories/legislation or frameworks as appropriate • Excellent selection of traceable references or quotes has been used to support evidence.

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. [15]

AO3: Research and evaluate theories and practice that relate to children's care, play, learning and development and reflect on how they can influence practice.

Mark band 1	Mark band 2	Mark band 3	Mark band 4
<p>Award 1-4 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A limited evaluation showing little knowledge and understanding of how the values and principles that underpin the topic areas and chosen focus areas are used in practice to support children's care, play, learning and development in settings. 	<p>Award 5-8 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A basic evaluation showing basic knowledge and understanding of how the values and principles that underpin the topic areas and chosen focus areas are used in practice to support children's care, play, learning and development in settings. 	<p>Award 9-12 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good evaluation showing good knowledge and understanding of how the values and principles that underpin the topic areas and chosen focus areas are used in practice to support children's care, play, learning and development in settings. 	<p>Award 13-15 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An excellent evaluation showing excellent knowledge and understanding of how the values and principles that underpin the topic areas and chosen focus areas are used in practice to support children's care, play, learning and development in settings.
<p>Award 0 marks for a response that is not creditworthy.</p>			

Task 4: Consider how relevant theories, legislation or frameworks (as appropriate) have influenced practice in children's care, play, learning and development settings. [14]

AO3: Research and evaluate theories and practice that relate to children's care, play, learning and development.

Mark band 1	Mark band 2	Mark band 3	Mark band 4
<p>Award 1-3 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited consideration of how theories, legislation or frameworks have influenced practice in children's care play, learning and development settings. Limited interpretation is evident. Limited reference to the settings they have experienced. Limited reference to influence on professional practice. 	<p>Award 4-7 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic consideration of how theories, legislation or frameworks have influenced practice in children's care play, learning and development settings. Basic interpretation is evident. Basic reference to the settings they have experienced. Basic reference to influence on professional practice. 	<p>Award 8 -11 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good consideration of how theories, legislation or frameworks have influenced practice in children's care play, learning and development settings. Good interpretation is evident. Good reference to the settings they have experienced. Good reference to influence on professional practice. 	<p>Award 12-14 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent consideration of how theories, legislation have influenced practice in children's care play, learning and development settings. Excellent interpretation is evident. Excellent reference to the settings they have experienced. Excellent reference to influence on professional practice.
<p>Award 0 marks for a response that is not creditworthy.</p>			

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. [20]

AO3: Research and evaluate theories and practice that relate to children's care, play, learning and development.

Mark band 1	Mark band 2	Mark band 3	Mark band 4	Mark band 5
<p>Award 1-4 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited assessment of how the selected topic and related theories can be used to bring about change in childcare provision in the 21st century in Wales. Limited reference to theories, new and developing practice approaches and legislation. Limited reference to settings within the sector. Limited judgements have been made that link practice and theory. Limited suggestions made for future change. 	<p>Award 5-8 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic assessment of how the selected topic and related theories can be used to bring about change in childcare provision in the 21st century in Wales. Basic reference to theories, new and developing practice approaches and legislation. Basic reference to settings within the sector. Basic judgements have been made that link practice and theory. Basic suggestions made for future change. 	<p>Award 9-12 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfactory assessment of how the selected topic and related theories can be used to bring about change in childcare provision in the 21st century in Wales. Satisfactory reference to theories, new and developing practice approaches and legislation. Satisfactory reference to settings within the sector. Satisfactory judgements have been made that link practice and theory. Satisfactory suggestions made for future change. 	<p>Award 13-16 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good assessment of how the selected topic and related theories can be used to bring about change in childcare provision in the 21st century in Wales. Good reference to theories, new and developing practice approaches and legislation. Good reference to settings within the sector. Good judgements have been made that link practice and theory. Good suggestions made for future change. 	<p>Award 17-20 marks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent assessment of how the selected topic and related theories can be used to bring about change in childcare provision in the 21st century in Wales. Excellent reference to theories, new and developing practice approaches and legislation. Excellent reference to settings within the sector. Excellent judgements have been made that link practice and theory. Excellent suggestions made for future change.

Task 6: Discuss how your research and learning will support your own individual practice moving forward. [12]

A02: Apply knowledge and understanding to analyse evidence-based practices (your own, or those of others) with children's care, play, learning and development.

Mark band 1	Mark band 2	Mark band 3	Mark band 4
Award 1-3 marks	Award 4-6 marks	Award 7-9 marks	Award 10-12 marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited reference to the value and benefit of what has been learnt. • Limited discussion of how the research and learning will support own individual practice moving forward • Limited suggestions made on how practice could change moving forward, and the impact this may have on the practice of others. • Limited application of knowledge and understanding in relation to how knowledge can inform professional practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic reference to the value and benefit of what has been learnt. • Basic discussion of how the research and learning will support own individual practice moving forward. • Basic suggestions made on how practice could change moving forward, and the impact this may have on the practice of others. • Basic application of knowledge and understanding in relation to how knowledge can inform professional practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good reference to the value and benefit of what has been learnt. • Good discussion of how the research and learning will support own individual practice moving forward. • Good suggestions made on how practice could change moving forward, and the impact this may have on the practice of others. • Good application of knowledge and understanding in relation to how knowledge can inform professional practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent reference to the value and benefit of what has been learnt. • Excellent discussion of how the research and learning will support own individual practice moving forward. • Excellent suggestions made on how practice could change moving forward, and the impact this may have on the practice of others. • Excellent application of knowledge and understanding in relation to how knowledge can inform professional practice.
Award 0 marks for a response that is not creditworthy.			

External Assessment Extended Research Assignment

Mark Scheme Guidance on Applying the Assessment Grids

- Candidates are responding to set tasks that can be addressed to any topic. These are detailed with the assessment pack.
- The appropriate mark band for each task should be established by determining which performance descriptors best reflects the candidate's performance.
- The appropriate mark should then be established by determining the extent to which the candidate has met the criteria within the relevant band – completely met (upper part of band), securely met (middle of band), just met (lower part of band).
- The mark awarded for each task may reflect performance at different bands across the different assessment objective. For example, a candidate may achieve mark band 4 for AO1 tasks but only mark band 2 for AO3 tasks.
- It should be noted that the bands have been designed to assist the marking process by identifying individual levels of achievement and they do not correlate with grade boundaries.
- Candidates who do not submit evidence for any task must be awarded zero marks.
- There is no additional penalty for work that is under the specified limits for time spent on the assessment (15 hours) as this will be self-penalising.
- If the evidence for **all** the set tasks exceeds the upper limit for word allowance 5,000 plus 10 % stipulated in the assessment, the examiner should not mark the additional work, as candidates can only be credited for work that falls within the stipulated limits for time and length. This does not apply to the word count suggested for the individual tasks - total marks are cumulative.
- Standards agreed using the standardisation scripts during the examiners' conferences must be referred to, to maintain consistency throughout the marking period.

Mapping Document

Extended Investigation				
Task	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total
1	9			9
2		30		30
3			15	15
4			14	14
5			20	20
6		12		12
Total marks	9	42	49	100
% weightings of this assessment	9%	42%	49%	100%