



National
Qualifications
2026

2026 Care

National 5

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by Qualifications Scotland appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

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General marking principles for National 5 Care

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the specific marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (c) The term 'or any other acceptable answer' allows for the possible variation in candidate responses. Credit should be given according to the accuracy and relevance of candidates' answers. The skill of using appropriate terminology is reflected in exemplar responses. However, at this level candidates may be awarded marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words.
- (d) Questions that ask the candidate to 'identify' or 'name' or 'give' or ask 'what is' or 'what are' are straightforward questions requiring candidates to recall key points of knowledge or to give examples. The number of marks available for these questions reflect the number of points the candidate needs to make. For example, if **1 mark** is available the candidate needs to give one correct point. If **3 marks** are available the candidate needs to make three correct key points.
- (e) Questions that ask the candidate to 'describe' require the candidate to apply their knowledge and understanding to make a point and then develop this point by giving further information. For example, if **2 marks** are available then award a mark for making the main point and a further mark for developing the point by giving additional or related information.
- (f) Questions that ask the candidate to 'explain' or 'use' require the candidate to apply their Care knowledge and understanding to give further information about the meaning of something, to give reasons or show connections. This may include explaining features of a theory, or explaining behaviour using approaches, concepts or theories, or relating these to a care context. For example, if **3 marks** are available for an 'explain' question, award **1 mark** for making a key point of explanation and a further mark for each additional correct key point of explanation.

Marking instructions for each question

Section 1 – Human development and behaviour

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
1.			This question has an ‘identify’ command. The candidate has to identify one life experience for 1 mark. A second life experience must be identified for a further 1 mark.	2	The life experiences identified must relate to ‘adulthood’ and may include: • developing relationships/meeting new people • marriage or moving in with a partner • divorce or separation • having children • moving house • caring for an elderly relative • loss of a parent • starting a job/college/university Or any other appropriate response.
2.			This question has a ‘describe’ command. Award up to 2 marks for an accurate description.	2	Cultural needs could include: • belonging to a group • belonging to society • beliefs, thoughts and behaviour • contributing to a sense of self • understanding one’s own culture • understanding other cultures • respecting other cultures Or any other appropriate response.

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
3.			This question has a ‘describe’ command. Award up to 2 marks for an accurate description.	2	A valid description of Nature could include: • the blueprint we inherit from our biological parents • genes inherited from our parents • examples could be eye colour, hair colour, etc Or any other appropriate response.
4.			This question has an ‘explain’ command. The candidate should make a point of explanation for 1 mark or develop a key point for a further 1 mark to a maximum of 4 marks.	4	The candidate can only achieve full marks by explaining the behaviourist approach and applying this to the care worker. Key concepts of the Behaviourist approach may include: • people are born as ‘blank slates’ • learning how to behave • antecedents (stimuli), behaviour (responses) and consequences Care worker explanation may link to the above key concepts and how this would be applied in the care setting: • all behaviour is a form of communication • age/stage appropriate behaviour or inappropriate behaviour should be considered • psychology helps care workers understand why people behave the way they do, for example, through learned behaviour • it is important for care workers to understand what influences individual development and behaviour Or any other appropriate response.

Section 2 – Social influences

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
5.	(a)		This question has a ‘describe’ command. Award up to 2 marks for an accurate description.	2	A valid description of stereotyping could include: • not viewing a person as an individual • labelling a person as part of a group • assuming an individual has the shared characteristics of a wider group Or any other appropriate response.
	(b)		This question has an ‘explain’ command. The candidate should make a point of explanation for 1 mark or develop a key point for a further 1 mark to a maximum of 4 marks.	4	The candidate should provide an explanation of the possible impact of stereotyping on an individual’s life chances. Points of explanation could include ‘stereotypical examples’ such as: • individuals with visual impairment being viewed as not capable and therefore excluded from sport and fitness. This impacts their health and wellbeing • homeless individuals unable to gain employment as they are viewed as unreliable. This impacts their chance of securing a property Or any other appropriate response.
6.			This question has a ‘describe’ command. Award up to 2 marks for an accurate description.	2	A valid description of roles could include: • the expected behaviour of an individual who has or occupies a given social position or status • e.g. a parent, whose role is to protect and provide for a child Or any other appropriate response.
7.			This question has a ‘describe’ command. Award up to 2 marks for an accurate description.	2	A valid description of power or conflict could include: Power: • groups are defined by their access to and control over resources such as wealth and social status

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
					Conflict: • conflict as a sociological concept states that society consists of different groups with competing interests Or any other appropriate response.

Section 3 – Values and principles

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
8.			This question has a ‘describe’ command. Award a maximum of 3 marks for correctly describing one stage. Full marks can only be awarded if an appropriate answer is provided for both stages.	4	Candidates must correctly describe the Implementation and the Evaluation stages of the care planning process. Implementation stage: • taking action to work towards the outcomes identified in the Assessment stage • carrying out what has been agreed upon in the planning process • specific details of who is to be involved and when • specific achievable outcomes for the service user (SMART) Evaluation stage: • determines whether the plan has been implemented properly • have identified outcomes been met • identify any unexpected outcomes • is the plan still appropriate or does it need to be changed due to changing needs or circumstances • improves future practice and identifies where others need to improve their own practice • explains why resources were used • should focus on the service user being at the centre Or any other appropriate response.

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
9.			This question has a ‘describe’ command. Award 3 marks for correctly describing the principle Responsive Care and Support.	3	Candidates must correctly describe the principle Responsive Care and Support from the Health and Social Care Standards. • health and social care needs are assessed and reviewed to ensure the right support and care at the right time • care and support adapts when needs, choices and decisions change • service users experience consistency in who provides their care and support and how it is provided • complaints are acted upon • service users are enabled to live in their own homes • personal preferences are respected Or any other appropriate response.
10.			This question has an ‘Describe’ command. Award 1 mark for any relevant point related to meeting cognitive needs.	4	Points of description: • opportunity to make choices, decisions, solve problems • choosing how to spend their time in the setting • socialising with others through structured activities • activities for learning new skills • opportunities to take part in activities which promote creativity • cognitive stimulation such as puzzles, games Or any other appropriate response.
11.			This question has an ‘explain’ command. Award 1 mark for any relevant point related to treating John with Compassion.	3	Points of explanation could include: • John should be treated with nurturing care and support • John should experience warmth from the worker through the creation of good working relationships • the care worker should understand John’s needs • the care worker should be sensitive to John’s needs and wishes • the care worker should enable John and believe in his potential Or any other appropriate response.

Question			General marking instructions for this type of question	Max mark	Specific marking instructions for this question
12.			This question has an ‘explain’ command. Award 1 mark for any relevant point related to being registered with a regulatory body.	4	Points of explanation could include: • increases confidence in the social services workforce • safeguards those who use a service • identifies areas for professional development • sets a clear standard of professional practice and behaviour • holds practitioners accountable for their practice Or any other appropriate response.
13.			This question has an ‘identify’ command. 1 mark can be awarded for any relevant point for each sector.	2	Candidates may identify any difference between both sectors, including the following: • the statutory care sector has been set up by acts of parliament • they ensure by law that certain services are provided • candidates could identify for example, NHS, Social work, etc • candidates could identify the difference between services in the private sector which operate as a private business • typically ran by a commercial company, on a ‘for profit’ basis, versus ‘free’ at point of service for statutory sector • may possibly provide faster access to medical treatment or care services Or any other appropriate response.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]