

LEVEL 7 ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATION

Student name:		Student ID number:	
Programme:	Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) (PCET)		
Module:	Contemporary Issues and Professional Role (CIPR)		
Module code:	M7X02282 / PCET7002	Contribution to Overall Module Assessment (%):	100%
Lecturer:	Caroline Lewis	Internal Verifier:	Mark Flagg
Assignment Title:	Professional Development for the Future	Word count (or equivalent):	3,000 words
Submission deadline:	18/03/2020 (presentations) 24/04/2020 (part 2 write-up)	Return date of provisional marks & written feedback:	08/05/2020
Submission method:	All written assessments, where practical and possible, must be submitted via Turnitin unless otherwise instructed by the Lecturer. (Please DO NOT put this assessment specification into Turnitin or it will match many similarities with other students' submissions.) Late submission of the assessment will result in a late penalty mark. Penalties for late submission: Up to one week late, maximum mark of 40%. Over one week late, 0%. Only the Extenuating Circumstances Panel may approve a change to submission dates.		
Academic honesty / referencing:	Academic honesty is required. In the main body of your submission you must give credit to authors on whose research and ideas your work is based. Append to your submission a reference list that indicates the books, articles, etc. that you have used, cited or quoted in order to complete this assessment.		

Module Learning Outcomes (from module syllabus)

1. Identify key developments in the PCET sector by critically analysing the roles of relevant bodies and agencies and the effects of national policies and initiatives.
2. Critically evaluate policies/initiatives that relate directly to professional practice.
3. Critically evaluate own strengths and weaknesses within the PCET environment and identify appropriate opportunities for personal continuing professional development.

TASK DESCRIPTION

For this assignment, you are required to:

1. Following guidance and agreement with your tutor and peers, investigate a contemporary issue that impacts upon the post compulsory education and training sector and disseminate it to your peers in an appropriate way (15 minutes / nominal 1,000 words)
2. Using the knowledge gained from the dissemination of the various issues, choose two that you believe are most likely to impact upon your professional practice in the future. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility to assess your strengths and weaknesses relative to the two issues chosen and identify opportunities for your personal and professional development following completion of the PCET programme. (2,000 words)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Students should submit the assignment via Turnitin by the submission date.
2. Students must present work that is word-processed, font 12 and 1.5 or double spaced and which contains no errors in spelling and grammar.

N.B. Written work that is submitted without reference to further reading and research will be referred automatically – see Assessment Criteria.

ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to ensure that you have included all required elements in the submission

1.	Presentation of one national policies and initiatives, including references as appropriate	
2.	Assessment of strengths, weaknesses and identification of opportunities for personal and professional development, including accompanying list of references	

GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS IN THE COMPLETION OF TASKS

NOTE: The guidance offered below is linked to the five generic assessment criteria overleaf.

1. Engagement with Literature Skills

Your work must be informed and supported by scholarly material that is *relevant* to and *focused* on the task(s) set; you should make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources, as appropriate (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline). You should provide evidence that you have accessed a wide *range* of sources, which may be academic, governmental and industrial; these sources may include academic journal articles, textbooks, current news articles, organisational documents, and websites. You should consider the *credibility* of your sources; academic journals are normally highly credible sources while websites require careful consideration/selection and should be used sparingly. Any sources you use should be current and up-to-date, mostly published within the last five years or so, though seminal/important works in the field may be older. You must provide *evidence* of your research/own reading throughout your work, using correctly a suitable referencing system, including in-text citations in the main body of your work and a reference list at the end of your work.

Guidance specific to this assessment:

The critical evaluation and dissemination of a contemporary issue impacting on the post compulsory education and training sector requires engagement with highly credible scholarly and academic literature therefore you should show a wide and broad level of reading from sources such as textbooks, academic journals and academic-based websites. Given the nature of this assignment you will also (not instead of) use governmental, industrial or similar sources.

2. Knowledge and Understanding Skills

At level 7, you should be able to demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, with a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship. Your work must demonstrate your growing mastery of these concepts, principles, current challenges, innovation and insights associated with the subject area. *Knowledge* relates to the facts, information and skills you have acquired through your learning. You demonstrate your *understanding* by interpreting the meaning of the facts and information (knowledge). This means that you need to select and include in your work the contemporary concepts, techniques, models, theories, etc. appropriate to the task(s) set. You should be able to explain the theories, concepts, etc. meaningfully to show your understanding. Your mark/grade will also depend upon the *extent* to which you demonstrate your knowledge and understanding; ideally each should be complete and detailed, with comprehensive coverage.

Guidance specific to this assessment:

You should demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of the contemporary issue that you have chosen to disseminate to your peers, which is at, or informed by, the forefront of educational research and professional practice as well as the impact of two such issues on your own personal and professional development.

3. Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

You should be able to: evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses; deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively to make

sound judgements in the absence of complete data. Your work must contain evidence of logical, analytical thinking, evaluation and synthesis. For example, to examine and break information down into parts, make inferences, compile, compare and contrast information. This means not just describing what! But also justifying: Why? How? When? Who? Where? At what cost? At all times, you must provide justification for your arguments and judgements. Evidence that you have reflected upon the ideas of experts within the subject area is crucial to you providing a reasoned and informed debate within your work. Your choice of methodologies to gather data and information must be rigorously defended. Furthermore, you should provide evidence that you are able to make sound judgements and convincing arguments using data and concepts. Sound, valid, persuasive conclusions are necessary and must be derived from the content of your work. Where relevant, alternative solutions and recommendations may be proposed.

Guidance specific to this assessment:

You should devise and sustain arguments, and/or propose practical solutions/developments, using appropriate self-assessment and professional development ideas and techniques, which are at the forefront of the educational discipline. This will involve your critically analysing and academically critiquing the two issues that are most relevant to you and your future professional role and devising a professional development plan to allow you to play to your strengths and overcome your weaknesses. You should derive and justify sound conclusions and propose appropriate targets for your own professional development and improvement as a teacher.

4. Practical Skills

At level 7, you should be able to demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline. This includes acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level, originality in tackling and solving problems, and decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts or situations.

You should be able to demonstrate mastery of the leading edge subject-related concepts and ideas as they relate to real world situations and/or particular contexts. How do they work in practice? You will deploy models, methods, techniques, and/or theories, in those contexts or circumstances, to assess current situations, perhaps to formulate plans or plausible, justifiable recommendations to solve problems, or to propose new models, or to create artefacts, which may be innovative and creative, thereby demonstrating your understanding of how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research and/or application. This is likely to involve, for instance, the use of real world artefacts, examples and cases, the application of a model within an organisation and/or benchmarking one theory or organisation against others.

Guidance specific to this assessment:

Your presentation to disseminate a contemporary issue that impacts upon the post compulsory education and training sector should be appropriate to the issue in question and your target audience. In assessing your strengths and weaknesses you should identify the practical skills you have that allow you to meet the requirements of a teacher within PCET and identify the knowledge and skills that you need to develop in order to succeed within the sector in the future. Creativity and innovation are encouraged and will be rewarded.

5. Transferable Skills for Life and Professional Practice

Your work must provide evidence of the qualities and transferable skills necessary for postgraduate-level employment in circumstances requiring sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative in complex and unpredictable professional environments. This

includes demonstrating: the independent learning ability for continuing professional development to advance existing skills and acquire new competences of a professional nature that will enable you to assume significant responsibility within organisations; that you can initiate and complete tasks, projects and procedures, whether individually and/or collaboratively, to a professional level; that you can use appropriate media to effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms for a variety of audiences; fluency of expression; clarity and effectiveness in presentation and organisation. Work should be coherent and well-structured in presentation and organisation.

Guidance specific to this assessment:

This assignment requires you to transfer skills you have developed in a fluent and effective presentation to disseminate the contemporary issue chosen to your peers. You need to consider your audience and ensure your style and approach engages with them. Following your presentation, you should critically evaluate two issues and, relevant to your current strengths and weaknesses, identify opportunities for your future professional practice and development.

STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM

This section details the *extent* to which the assessment criteria are demonstrated by you, which in turn determines your mark. The marks available for each category of skill are shown. Lecturers will use the space provided to comment on the achievement of the task(s), including those areas in which you have performed well and areas that would benefit from development/improvement.

Generic Assessment Criteria	Presentation		Professional Development	
	Marks available	Marks awarded	Marks available	Marks awarded
1. Engagement with Literature Skills	5		15	
2. Knowledge and Understanding Skills	10		10	
3. Cognitive and Intellectual Skills	5		10	
4. Practical Application Skills	10		10	
5. Transferable Skills for Life and Professional Practice	5		20	

Assessment Mark (Assessment marks are subject to ratification at the Exam Board. These comments and marks are to give feedback on module work and are for guidance only until they are confirmed.)	Late Submission Penalties (tick if appropriate)		%
	Up to 1 week late (40% Max)		
	Over 1 week late (0%)		