

T Level Technical Qualification in Health

Occupational specialism assessment (OSA)

Supporting the Midwifery Team

Assignment 3 - Professional discussion

Provider delivery guide

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Professional discussion

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Conducting the professional discussion

Assessment conditions

- during the preparation time, provider's staff will distribute the assessment materials (themes and questions) so that students can select an appropriate reflective account to support the professional discussion and make notes on the template provided
- during the 45 minutes, students will make notes to support their discussion, this should be immediately prior to the discussion
- they will use assessment materials provided and their own reflective account portfolio to produce notes which will support and guide their answers appropriately
- students are allowed to use this preparation time to make notes but may only have access to their reflective account portfolios
- there is no limit on the amount of notes that a student can take into the discussion, but the intention is that this assessment reflects an authentic professional conversation so excessive, script style notes are likely to hinder, not benefit, a student, especially when spontaneous questions are asked
- there should be no unsupervised period between the preparation and the professional discussion

Use of questioning

During the discussion, the different parts of each question (for example Question 1, part A and part B) should be asked chronologically to support structuring the student's answer. When stated, the student will have to refer to the same example in both parts but can also draw on multiple examples from their experiences in the classroom or on their work placement to illustrate their point.

The discussion supervisor has the opportunity to ask 3 questions per theme (refer to assessment materials for question content). Before moving on to the next theme, the discussion supervisor must also ask if the student would like to add or clarify anything as the student cannot return to a theme once the discussion has progressed to the next theme. In total, this brings the total to 4 questions per theme, and 12 questions per discussion.

It is important that the discussion supervisor is able to have a two-way conversation with the student while also ensuring that the assessment remains fair for all students. Students are permitted to take notes into the assessment room to support their discussion.

The acceptable questions are not subject specific but are instead based on the reflective cycle and are designed to elicit fuller responses and further detail.

When using the questions, please note:

- the discussion supervisor can ask up to 3 clarification questions per theme, adapted from the list provided
- the discussion supervisor must also ask an additional clarification question before moving on to the next theme or completing the assessment
- the discussion supervisor may repeat questions in different themes
- the discussion supervisor may repeat or rephrase questions if requested
- all questions must be asked in the allotted 1 hour
- questions can be asked at any point during a theme. However, you cannot return to a previous theme once you have moved onto the next theme

In the conversation, the discussion supervisor should choose the most appropriate keywords to form their questions.

Questions

The discussion supervisor should use a maximum of 3 questions constructed from the list below and ask an additional question before moving on to the next theme.

The wording of questions can be amended to suit the discussion supervisor's tone, the bullet points underneath are suggestions for alternatives, but the core message and content should not be altered to change or combine questions.

Can you describe what happened?

- when
- where
- who
- what
- why
- what were the results

How did you feel you impacted on the situation?

- during/before/after
- feelings of others
- difference in current perspective

Can you evaluate your experience?

- executed well/not well
- your contributions positive/negative
- others' contributions positive/negative

Can you analyse what happened with reference to your own knowledge, skills and behaviours?

- strengths and weaknesses
- knowledge and learning
- evidence-based practice

What conclusions can you draw from the situation?

- learnings
- improve outcomes
- knowledge and skill gaps

What actions are planned for next time?

- future changes
- develop skills and knowledge
- appropriate knowledge and next steps

- feedback from others

Final question: essential to include

Is there anything else that you would like to:

- add
- clarify
- reflect
- share
- contribute

SAMPLE

Information for tutors

Professional discussion questions

Please complete the details below clearly and in BLOCK CAPITALS.

	Significant learning experience discussed
Theme 1	
Theme 2	
Theme 3	

Student name	
Provider name	

Student number		Provider number	
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Please read the following out to the student

You will be asked 4 questions for each theme. The questions are divided into sub-parts but the marks will be for the question as a whole. Each theme is worth 32 marks.

The professional discussion will be recorded, and the discussion marked by an external examiner. It should last no longer than 1 hour.

Please take your time to answer the questions. You can ask me to repeat the question once. Remember you can refer to your prepared chosen reflective accounts throughout the professional discussion. Are you ready to start the assessment?

We will start with theme 1.

Themes and questions for the professional discussion

The themes and questions that will form the basis of the professional discussion for this series are below.

Theme 1: observations, screening and measurements of newborn babies

The questions that follow will be about reflecting on learning or an experience of the routine tests that make up the newborn screening programme.

Question 1

Part A

Referring to your learning or experience, discuss the routine tests that are offered in the newborn screening programme.

Part B

Referring to your learning or experience, explain the roles and responsibilities of the midwifery team involved in delivering the newborn screening programme.

(12 marks)

Question 2

Part A

Referring to your learning or experience, explain the rationale for one newborn screening test that you observed or assisted with.

Part B

Justify the need for and importance of informed consent in both this test and in general practice (you should refer to your examples given in part A).

(20 marks)

Theme 2: security and safeguarding procedures and protocols to protect the newborn baby

The questions that follow will be about reflecting on learning or an experience of security procedures and protocols to protect the newborn baby.

Question 3

Part A

Referring to your learning or experience, describe the local procedure for newborn baby identification in the maternity environment and what to do in the event of lost or detached identity bands.

Part B

Referring to your learning or experience, outline the importance of the process and purpose of other security measures in place to protect the newborn baby in the maternity environment.

(12 marks)

Question 4

Part A

Referring to your learning or experience, discuss safeguarding procedures involving raising concerns in respect of any risks, threats or signs of abuse in the maternity environment.

Part B

Referring to your learning or experience, present a time you interpreted a risk assessment to provide personalised care.

(20 marks)

Theme 3: assessing the physical and mental wellbeing of the new mother

The questions that follow will be about reflecting on learning or an experience of assessing the wellbeing of the new mother.

Question 5

Part A

Based on your learning or experience, discuss assisting to prepare a woman for an ultrasound scan, focusing on the procedure and purpose.

Part B

Referring to your learning or experience, recall and explain the preparation, procedure and purpose of a venepuncture.

(12 marks)

Question 6

Part A

Referring to your learning or experience, reflect on a time when you offered a mother and her partner advice or support in an antenatal clinic.

Part B

Referring to your learning or experience, explain the procedures in escalating any concerns about mental wellbeing to the midwifery team during any stage of pregnancy.

(20 marks)

Document information

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Change History Record

Version	Description of change	Approval	Date of Issue
v1.0	Post approval, updated for publication.		January 2021
v1.1	NCFE rebrand		September 2021
v1.2	OS review Feb 23		February 2023
v1.3	Sample added as a watermark	November 2023	21 November 2023