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**This assignment assesses the following Learning Outcomes of this module:**

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| **1.** | Critically review policy and legislation and the impact of this on managerial responses within colleges to identify a significant issue which has relevance to his/her particular teaching situation; |
| **2.** | Analyse and examine the impact of the contemporary issue in the context of current philosophies and policies within post-compulsory education; |
| **3.** | Identify and critically appraise the strategies adopted by colleges as a response to factors relating to the identified issue (e.g. constraints, opportunities and innovations) identifying the strengths and limitations to responses made. |
| **4.** | Analyse how chosen issue impinges on them as practitioners and student experience in particular; |
| **5** | Reflect on the strategies they use to ensure consistency of practice despite the constantly changing external landscape |

**Assignment Brief**

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| **Criteria relevant to this task** |
| **1. Achievement of module specific learning outcome(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5** |
| **a) provide an informed justification concerning the chosen significant issue, discussing its relevance to own teaching situation** |
| **b) examine the links between the identified issue and current educational developments and policies** |
| **c) evaluate the organisation’s responses to the chosen issue** |
| **d) critically analyse how the chosen issue impacts on the trainee teacher and their learners** |
| **e) make recommendations for practice to ensure a quality of experience for learners** |
| 2. Structure, organisation, and presentation of coursework: |
| 3. Use of sources (including referencing): |
| 4. Application of theory, use of principles and concepts: |
| 5. Evidence of analytical, critical and independent thinking: |

**Expected content of submitted work**

* This assignment requires you to explore a current, contemporary issue that is significant to you as a professional practitioner.
* Writing about your practice in a formal academic style is an important skill to develop. It is vital that you make accurate and appropriate use of language in your writing. You will need to be more thoughtful about the way you use the English language, and refine your writing to meet the demands of level 7.
* Remember that the best writing style is clear and accurate, not unnecessarily complicated. Practice your critical thinking and analysis on education press articles.
* It is important that you choose the issue carefully and conduct a thorough review of literature around the issue, and explore policy changes relating to the issues to support your discussion and recommendations. You need to digest and sift through your reading and research, and be selective.
* At Master’s level you are expected to refer to a wider range of literature. Reading around your topic will allow you to demonstrate a significant in-depth understanding.
* Explain its relevance to your teaching situation taking care to ensure your explanation is factual and objective. Consider all sides of an argument – you will find that the authors you read do not always agree and you need to present your own reader with a complete account of the topic. Therefore, you need to show you have considered the different views that exist.
* Consider the educational philosophy/ theory that underpins or contradicts the issue, what implication does this have for learning?
* It takes practice to integrate more sources and refer to them skilfully in your writing. You may find that even with a higher word count it is difficult to fit all you want to say in. It's important to make every source work for you in backing up your points, and not waste words in describing unnecessary parts of the source
* Your examination of how the issue impacts upon organisations, teachers and learners must be well- informed and grounded in factual information and current, relevant literature.
* At Masters level you cannot get away with writing about something that you only vaguely understand, or squeezing in a theory in the hope it will gain extra marks - your markers will be able to tell, and this does not demonstrate the accuracy or professionalism.
* Your recommendations need to be realistic and relate directly to the main body of your assignment.
* Good planning and structuring are vital when writing longer assignments, both for you as a writer, and for your reader. Planning will give your ideas a logical shape and guide you and your reader clearly to the conclusions you want to make.
* When writing your assignments you are leading your reader through a 'journey' - showing them what topic you decided to explore and why; who has explored it before and what they found out; how you explored it and what you found out; what did your discoveries tell you about your topic?; and what did that lead you to conclude?
* Writing a first draft will help you to get the general shape of your journey on paper and allow you to identify what you really want to say and give you a clearer idea of where you are headed.

🕘 Make sure you leave enough time between finishing your writing and handing it in for proofreading.Your work should be word-processed and indicate a word count, and be submitted with the signed cover sheet.

🕮 Refer to the comprehensive reading lists in section 2.9 of your student handbook and the [online reading list](http://readinglists.central-lancashire.ac.uk/lists/F3A06280-DC57-3A6A-FDC1-2F8061C01D69.html) for this module to support your review of literature.

🕮 All sources must be referenced using the Harvard system and included in a full reference list at the end. Please see Section 6 of your programme handbook for details of how to do this correctly.

★★ Please refer to the assessment criteria on the cover sheet to make sure that ★★

you have addressed all of them.