INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT

CONTEMPORARY POLICY ANALYSIS

Page length: 15-20 pages
Weighting: 30%


Students will select an area of policy relevant to families and children/young people, and provide analysis and critical evaluation of the chosen area, using a range of sources. Students can choose to adopt a comparative approach to this assignment. Students cannot resubmit assignments or part of assignments from other parts of their degree programmes. Unfair means/plagiarism is unacceptable. All written work must be referenced appropriately.

Guidance for Assignments

General Advice: Students should not reproduce one piece of legislation/one policy document in their assignments, and will lose marks if they do so. Policies can originate at different levels: local, regional, national, and Global. They can also originate from different agencies, for example, government bodies and non-governmental agencies. There are a range of influences on the development of policy, for example, political parties, civil service, media, lobby groups, influential figures. This does mean that there are a range of areas that may be included in assignments.

1. Planning Assignments
   Set an aim/question to explore/address. Use this as the title for the presentation and the written piece of work. It is important to do this to ensure your work is focused.

2. Structure and Content
   define the issue/problem
   present relevant factual information
   examine policies/proposed policies
   evaluate these – use evidence/literature where possible
   can also speculate about possible success of more recent policies, but this needs to be written in an objective manner.
3. Sources
Use a variety of sources: -
academic texts
journal articles (important for up-to-date information)
relevant agencies e.g. Social Services, Police
relevant organizations, e.g. voluntary sector groups
Government documents, e.g. Bills (rang undang-undang)
Media – newspapers, TV, radio
Web*

Assignments which depend solely or heavily on internet sources can be marked down, if academic content and evidence is lacking, or if work is not referenced appropriately throughout, or if no list of references is attached.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT: -

- Work-Life Balance
- Domestic Violence
- Youth Justice
- Child Abuse
- Poverty
- Children’s Rights
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Health Policy/ Mental Health
- Elderly
- Substance Abuse
- Divorce
- Marriage

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