

Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education

Chief Examiner's Annual Report: Child Care and Education

September 2008 – August 2009

CACHE Level 2 Diploma in Child Care and Education (DCCE L2) QCA – 500/1886/3

CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Child Care and Education (CCE 2000) QCA – 100/0645/X

CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Child Care and Education (DCCE L3) QCA – 500/1902/8

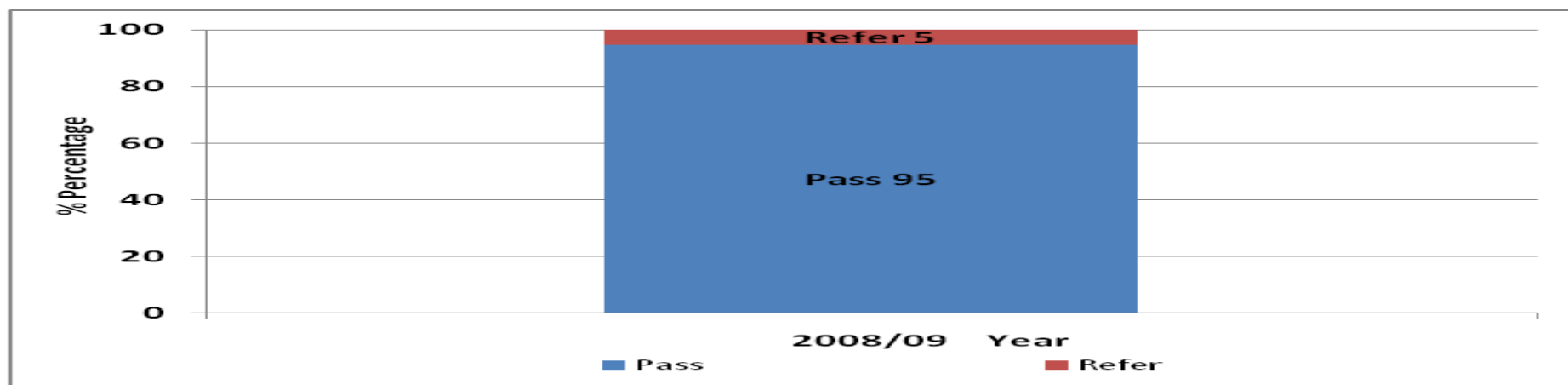
CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Child Care and Education (DCE) QCA – 100/0649/7

Note:

The report relates to the externally assessed component of qualifications.
The data included is examination entries and not qualification achievement rates.

External Assessment by MCQ test

Qualification QCA – 500/1886/3	CACHE Level 2 Diploma in Child Care and Education (DCCE L2)
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Academic Year	No of candidate entries	% pass rate	No of grade		% percentage grade	
			Pass	Refer	Pass	Refer
08/09	7,911	95	7,493	418	95	5

The external assessment for this qualification is at Certificate level, Unit 3 by MCQ test. This is the first year of implementation of the test. This unit covers three aspects; the preparation of a safe environment, how to safeguard children and adults through safe working practices and the practitioner's role in managing conflict when working with children.

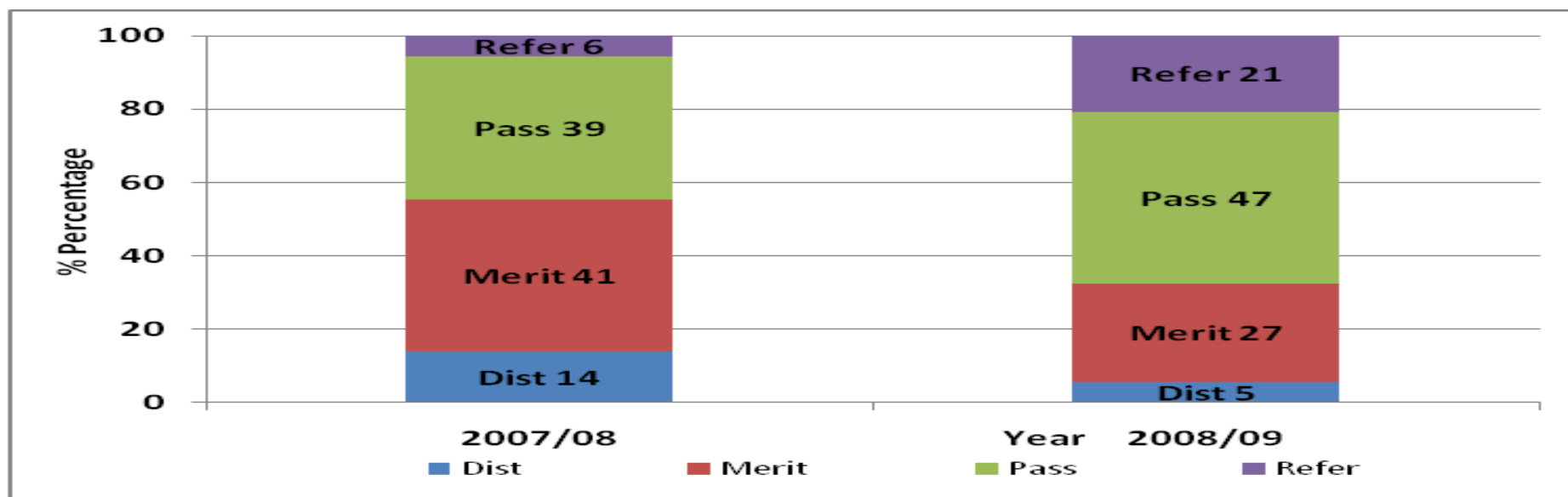
The evidence throughout the year has been that the MCQ test has been successfully adopted for this unit and that it enabled achievement for the majority of candidates. Most candidates clearly understood the key issues relating to a safe working environment including legislation, the use of policies and procedures and they were well aware of the principles of risk assessment. Most candidates were also sound in their knowledge of the issues relating to safeguarding children and of the reporting processes appropriate to Level 2 practitioners but they tended to be less successful in responding to questions relating to basic ways to keep themselves safe as practitioners and the concept of safe working practices, e.g. working in sight of others if alone with a child. Candidates understood ideas such as rules and boundaries for behaviour but often missed opportunities to gain marks in questions where selecting the correct response is dependent on candidates' recognition of a key point in the question; this was often in relation to the age of the child.

There are a small number of questions within the test that require candidates to analyse an issue or situation and then apply their understanding to achieve the correct response. It is important that candidates recognise what these questions are asking them to do e.g. A child aged 5 years is anxious because ----- The correct response may be based on showing understanding of the child's feelings which relates to candidates' learning about helping children to manage situations which they find difficult.

Otherwise, candidates seemed to be well equipped to respond to questions where they could recall knowledge and the majority were able to apply their knowledge and understanding successfully.

External Assessment by MCQ test

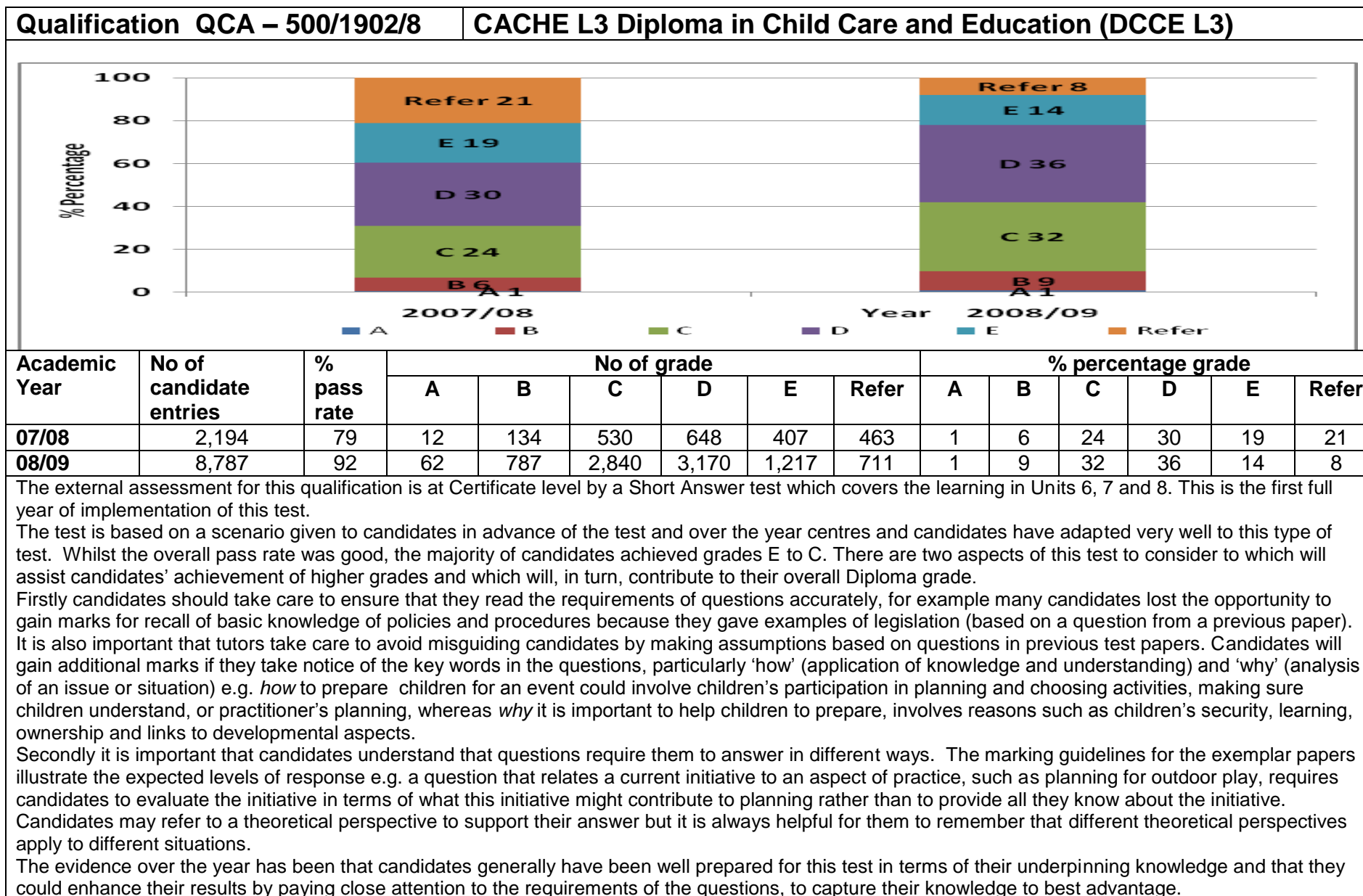
Qualification QCA – 100/0645/X **CACHE L2 Certificate in Child Care and Education (CCE 2000)**



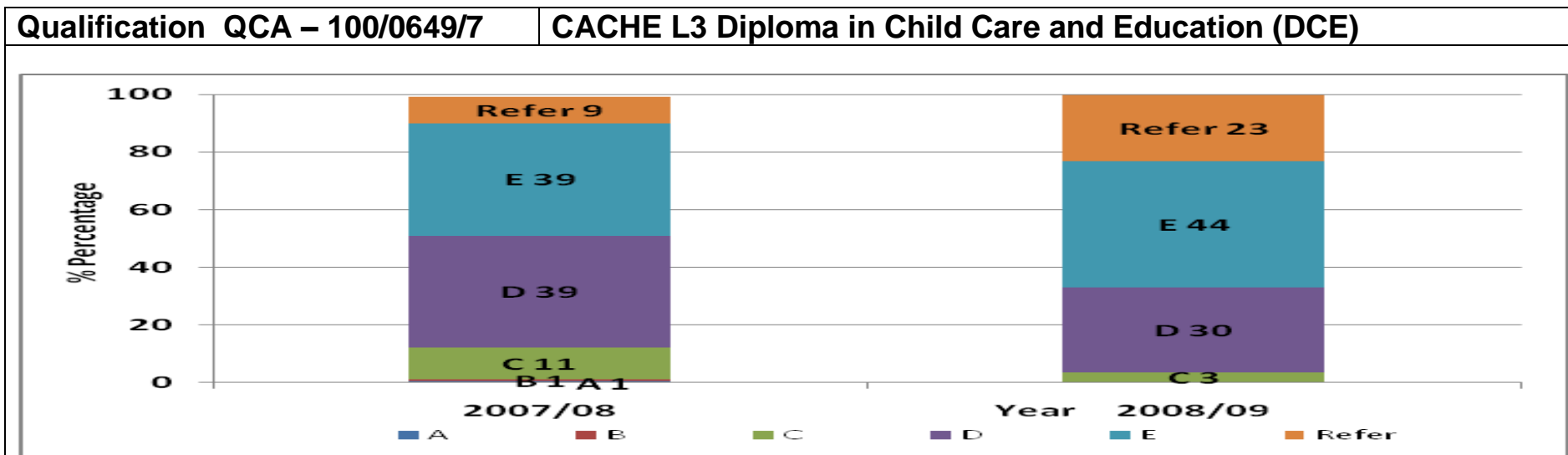
Academic Year	No of candidate entries	% pass rate	No of grade				% percentage grade			
			Dist	Merit	Pass	Refer	Dist	Merit	Pass	Refer
07/08	6,105	94	848	2524	2381	352	14	41	39	6
08/09	255	79	14	69	119	53	5	27	47	21

This qualification is no longer available for registration but a small number of candidates have continued in order to complete the qualification. These candidates have demonstrated similar characteristics of sound responses to questions requiring recall of factual knowledge but some crucial weaknesses in practice issues and in applying sound knowledge of child development. This is reflected in the comparative results.

External Assessment by Examination



External Assessment by Examination



Academic Year	No of candidate entries	% pass rate	No of grade						% percentage grade					
			A	B	C	D	E	Refer	A	B	C	D	E	Refer
07/08	7,937	91	40	41	952	3,095	3,095	714	1	1	11	39	39	9
08/09	5,676	77		7	196	1,677	2,488	1,308			3	30	44	23

This qualification is no longer available for registration. Candidates for external assessment in 2008/2009 are those who registered for the qualification up to October 2007. The external assessment is an extended answer written examination covering the syllabus for Units 3 to 11 of the qualification.

Some candidates were less informed on subjects relating to play, the curriculum and the environment. Many candidates found it difficult to develop their responses sufficiently, by using analysis and evaluation in order to achieve higher marks. Some candidates would have benefitted from supporting their responses with the appropriate theory or legislation and by giving practical examples from the workplace. Candidates would also have benefitted from attempting all questions on the paper as this can have a significant impact on the final grade awarded.

A common strength was that the importance of health and safety was frequently evident and some candidates were able to incorporate ideas on risk and challenge together with ways to encourage children to be healthy. The majority of candidates have shown that they have good understanding of child development and behaviour and of the strategies needed to encourage positive behaviour.