



**General Certificate of Education**

**Health and Social Care  
8621/8623/8626/8627/8629**

**HC06 Common Diseases and Disorders**

**Report on the Examination**

*June 2010*

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## **HC06 Common Diseases and Disorders**

Candidates produced a good range of responses on this paper broadly similar to those of last year. There were, however, slightly more higher-scoring scripts this time. As with previous papers, the more able candidates demonstrated good use of technical terminology and produced coherent and well reasoned responses. Weaker candidates tended to produce less detailed responses which lacked accuracy and their use of technical language was more limited. There was no evidence of candidates having insufficient time to complete the paper and all questions were accessible to the vast majority.

### **Question 1**

**01 and 02** The vast majority of candidates were able to name successfully a parasite other than scabies and most gave at least one of the two symptoms requested.

**03 and 04** Weaker candidates suggested that gonorrhoea is caused by a virus and tended to be vague when giving the symptoms.

**05** This was generally answered well with candidates showing understanding of the different ways disease-causing organisms can be transmitted.

**06** This proved to be more challenging with many candidates unable to offer the release of toxins and/or taking of nutrients from host cells and/or stimulating the body's defence systems.

**07** This was answered well, but a large majority gained at least three of the four marks available usually for answers based on the young and the elderly.

### **Question 2**

**08** This proved challenging for many candidates who gave vague responses which did not clearly identify the abnormality of the allergic reaction and/or the normally harmless nature of the allergen.

**09** Candidates tended to gain at least two of the three marks by successfully naming common airborne allergens. Common errors included dust and the inclusion of animal dander as a separate entity from fur or hair.

**10** There were many detailed accounts of how skin allergy testing is carried out which scored three or more of the five marks available.

**11** This proved more challenging for some candidates, who confused cataracts with other eye conditions.

### **Question 3**

**12** This produced many vague and/or confused responses from the weaker candidates who were unable to refer accurately to the appropriate components of the ear when explaining the problem.

**13** Relatively few candidates gained both marks which were available for high pitched sounds not being heard and hearing difficulties relating to background noise/noisy environments.

Weaker candidates tended to describe general loss of hearing ability. 14 The vast majority of candidates identified gum disease to gain the mark.

**15** Most gained at least one mark for an effect of gingivitis.

**16** This produced many accounts of how dental caries progresses generally, but many failed to relate the process appropriately to Myra's abscess formation. This consequently limited the marks available.

#### **Question 4**

**17** This generated a good range of responses. The more able candidates often gained five or all six marks here successfully by drawing conclusions from the data on causes of recent headaches presented in the table.

**18** Common causes of headaches were generally well known.

**19** Most candidates demonstrated their sound understanding of migraines.

**20** Answers were more variable with the weaker candidates' responses tending to lack the relevant details, i.e. pore blockage due to excessive sebum secretion and the darkening of the comedone by the skin pigment melanin.

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