



**General Certificate of Education (A-level) Applied
January 2011**

Health and Social Care

HC06

**(Specification
8621/8623/8626/8627/8629)**

Unit 6: Common Diseases and Disorders

Report on the Examination

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General comments

In this series, there was a good range of responses and pleasingly some scripts with high marks. As with previous papers, the more able candidates' use of technical terminology was good and they tended to produce coherent and well-reasoned responses. The less able candidates, however, tended to produce much less detailed responses which were often confused and/or lacking in accuracy. Lack of coherence meant they were more limited in their use of technical language.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

01 The vast majority of candidates gained both of the available marks by describing the symptoms of bacterial meningitis that Dwayne is likely to display successfully.

02 This proved to be more challenging with the majority of candidates gaining marks for their responses on the how infectious diseases are spread, but being much less successful with their explanations of what is meant by infectious disease.

03 Most candidates were able to name two other diseases caused by bacteria, usually pneumonia and gonorrhoea.

04 The different ways that bacteria may cause disease were generally understood well. Less able candidates sometimes offered different modes of transmission rather than mechanisms of damage when answering this question.

05 Most candidates gained marks for a lifestyle choice and the effect it may have on an individual, but relatively few could provide any detail of how the effect is brought about.

Question 2

06, 07, Animal dander was known by the vast majority of candidates who were also to give three allergic symptoms.

08 There were some very detailed and well-explained responses, but many less able candidates gave confused accounts which lacked technical accuracy and coherence.

09 Most candidates successfully named two common allergens other than animal dander. Some less able candidates considered animal dander to be restricted to fur or hair and incorrectly suggested feathers.

Question 3

10 The majority of candidates knew that Robert's eye condition was called presbyopia, but cataracts, astigmatism and hypermetropia were suggested by some candidates. Some less able candidates incorrectly suggested that it was the entire eyeball rather than the lens which loses elasticity and/or that Robert would be affected in both his near and distance vision rather than in his distance vision initially. It was pleasing to see a significant number of scripts with coherent and accurate accounts.

11 Glue ear was generally understood well, but a common error from weaker responses suggested that the build-up of sticky fluid occurred in the outer rather than the middle ear with a consequent restriction of ear drum movement. Information on the treatment of glue ear was often included by the more able candidates, and while this may be of interest, it is not required and gains no credit in this assessment.

12 Less able candidates tended to confuse macular and raised rashes, but there were many candidates who gained all three marks available.

Question 4

13 Many candidates successfully suggested that the reasons for the differences numbers of dental problems between males and females could be that females may brush or floss more regularly and may visit the dentist more frequently.

14 Weaker responses focussed on simple more/less and most/least comparisons with little, if any, attempt to manipulate the data or look in greater depth, e.g. very few realised that an individual may have more than one of the four dental problems and/or that gingivitis may be a relatively mild problem when compared to having one or more extractions, which indicates more serious problems.

15 Many candidates gave detailed accounts of progressive dental caries but failed to provide much information on how this may result in a gum abscess.

16 The vast majority of candidates gained the mark for a common cause of headache.

17 Most candidates understood how tension on the meninges, scalp, blood vessels and /or muscles can cause headache pain and gained at least two of the three marks available.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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