

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



HOME ECONOMICS
Unit 5 The Consumer and Consumer Protection

HEC5/PM

Prior Research Information

Research time: 15 March to 16 June 2008

Instructions to candidates

- You may begin your research from 15 March 2008.
- Research **one** topic only.
- You must write your name on all parts of your research.
- You will have **two 3-hour examination sessions** to write your response to a task based on your research.
- Your response, including any relevant research material, should be written in the 12-page answer book provided.
- The examination sessions are timetabled for Tuesday 17 June 2008 pm (Session 1) and Wednesday 18 June 2008 am (Session 2).
- You may use the research material you have collected.
- You must **not** add to your research material after Session 1 has started.
- You may use all or part of Session 1 to order your research before you begin writing your response to the Task.
- You will not have access to your research material or answer book between Session 1 and Session 2.
- At the end of Session 2 hand in both your answer book and all your research material to the invigilator.

Research **one** of the following topics.

Topic 1

Labels provide the consumer with information about a product.

Research the labelling of food or textile products and related equipment. Consider the suitability and effectiveness of the labelling on these products and the features of a well-designed label.

Investigate how the consumer is protected against misleading labelling.

Topic 2

In the last thirty years, how and where consumers shop for food or textiles has changed dramatically.

Research how shopping for food or textiles and related equipment has changed during the last thirty years. Include the changes that have occurred in the shopping environment.

Consider how these changes have affected an identified group of consumers.

Topic 3

Consumers can shop and pay for their goods in many different ways. As a result of this the number of consumer laws and their amendments has increased in order to protect consumers more effectively.

Research:

- (a) which laws protect consumers if they buy either food or textile products and related equipment;
- (b) how much knowledge and understanding consumers have of the laws that are designed to protect them when they buy one or the other of these products.

END OF TOPICS