



**General Certificate of Education (A-level) Applied
June 2012**

Leisure Studies

LS12

**(Specification
8641/8643/8646/8647/8649)**

Unit 12: Lifestyle Management

Report on the Examination

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General Comments

This paper was accessible yet challenging for all candidates. The nature of LS12 can encourage some centres and/or candidates to believe that the paper can be answered using previously studied subjects or synoptic knowledge from other Leisure Studies units. Yet all of the answers to the set questions showed that some specialist knowledge, understanding or skills was a basic requirement. The quality of the answers in this series demonstrated that the message about preparation has been heeded by most centres and candidates.

Many candidates had obviously prepared well for this paper which was reflected in some sophisticated answers. Weaker candidates still struggled to understand the subtleties of certain questions which restricted them to the lower mark bands.

What was done well

Many candidates continue to demonstrate the ability to achieve top mark bands for the more difficult questions. There is a clear trend that the more complex concepts and issues associated with LS12 are being answered well by the better candidates. There were very few scripts where there was no attempt to answer the question and improved consistency throughout the paper seemed to show an improvement from previous years. The trend continued from last year that candidates are taking much more notice of the stem and stimulus material.

What was not done so well

There was significant evidence that most candidates had prepared well for the examination yet it appears that similar mistakes continue to be made. The requirement for carrying out, for example, lifestyle analyses of individuals was neglected by a minority of candidates. This meant that quite an important feature of LS12 was given less attention than was needed for higher mark bands. The thrust of all previous European questions attempted to include the idea that comparisons are important but difficult, and that it seems wealth and social class are actually the defining factors when health and lifestyles are considered. Yet, many candidates were unable to move beyond the simplistic statistics linked to smoking, alcohol and diet.

Question 1ai and 1aii

Many candidates scored the full 4 marks on the first part of the question which was quite straight forward. The second part was also quite well answered by many candidates who used their knowledge of anatomy and physiology to support their answer.

Question 1b

This question was also generally well answered although a significant number included physiological or fitness factors which were not creditworthy.

Question 2

This was a challenging and synoptic type question which was generally well answered by most candidates. Those candidates who achieved the upper mark band weighed up the facts that were presented and accepted that there are both external and personal reasons for many people's health problems. Weaker candidates usually did not attempt to fully evaluate.

Question 3

Most candidates achieved the 2 marks for the first part of this question. The second part however presented far more difficulties for many candidates and was generally not well answered. The mark scheme allowed for a wide range of responses to quite a speculative question, which perhaps turned

out to be difficult because candidates needed to link a variety of factors beyond the direct experiences of young people. Many candidates then resorted to unfounded generalisations and were unable to present a coherent discussion.

Question 4

This type of question has been a significant feature of LS12 as the specification requires candidates to carry out lifestyle analyses of people in a practical sense. The difficulties associated with the nature of this section are fully understood, yet a significant minority had clearly not even attempted any analyses. This meant the answers were general statements about no one in particular, or a celebrity lifestyle, and then the recommendations in the second part did not make much sense. The better answers had quite obviously carried out the lifestyle analyses of people known to them and there were some very sensitive and insightful responses. The recommendations in the second part were then realistic and detailed.

Question 5

The 3 parts of question 5 were worth a total of 18 marks. There were a mixture of responses to this question and only a few candidates answered the 3 parts to a high standard. For example many candidates simply did not understand the first part of question 5 and made general statements about smoking, alcohol or diet. Although there is some relevance in making these points the question needed candidates to look at the wider factors that are used to judge the health status of different countries. Those candidates who achieved the 4 marks were able to identify how much of GDP is allocated to health, or the amount of poverty and deprivation that exists, rather than just the type of diet that people eat, or the amount of alcohol intake.

The second part required candidates to assess the extent that culture impacts on healthy lifestyles. The answers at the top of the mark band questioned the limited evidence that was available in the stimulus and that there were quite a few similarities as well as differences between the two lifestyles. It was therefore very difficult to come to any specific conclusions about the impact of culture even though there were obvious differences. Often the lower mark band answers made sweeping statements and drew definitive conclusions where there was very limited evidence.

The theme of the question continued in the 3rd part and gave candidates an opportunity to analyse the impact of individual income as a fundamental factor which determines a healthy lifestyle. Many candidates did answer this question well and provided evidence to support their statements. The inability of many people throughout Europe on a low income to afford a lifestyle which would provide them with good health is a common factor and the better candidates were able to emphasise this point. Weaker candidates did not provide sufficient detail or development to move to a higher mark band.

Question 6

There were some very good responses to this question and most candidates fully understood the dilemma that was posed in the question. Weaker answers usually could only focus the discussion towards one point of view where the better answers presented the argument from different perspectives. These answers also showed sensitivity to the practicalities of implementation even if it was agreed that people should be more responsible for their actions when drunk.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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