



## **General Certificate of Education**

# **Health and Social Care 8621/8623**

**HC06          Common Diseases and Disorders**

# **Report on the Examination**

*June examination - 2009 series*

**This Report on the Examination uses the [new numbering system](#)**

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## HC06: Common Diseases and Disorders

The pattern of candidate performance on this paper reflected that of previous series. High ability candidates score well by including relevant technical detail in their responses and applying terminology accurately. Weaker candidates tend to offer much less detail in their rather vague responses and are often confused when the appropriate terminology.

### Question 1

0	1
to	
0	7

Candidates generally scored well in questions

0	1
to	
0	4

as they gave the appropriate symptoms of ringworm and head lice infections. Athlete's foot was the most popular-scoring response in question

0	1
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with only the weakest candidates suggesting non fungal organisms, e.g. salmonella. Candidates were far less secure in question

0	5
---	---

when attempting to outline how lifestyle may make an individual more vulnerable to infection. Some weaker candidates outlined disabilities rather than lifestyle features. The vast majority understood why the elderly are generally more vulnerable to infection than others and could suggest at least two valid preventive strategies.

### Question 2

0	8
to	
1	1

Candidates were generally able to draw appropriate conclusions from the data presented. Apart from numerical manipulation marks, the more able scored marks for suggesting that allergen 1 as the most commonly-occurring may well be grass pollen or a similar widespread allergen, while allergen 3 may be a much rarer form. Others scored for suggestions relating to the possible different degree of effect each allergen may provoke, e.g. allergen 1 severe, allergen 3 possibly mild enough to be not noticed. In question

0	9
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most scored at least two marks but weaker candidates sometimes suggested "dust" rather than dust mites.

Skin allergy testing was well known by the majority, but candidates generally found explanations of sensitisation to be more challenging.

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### Question 3

1	2
---	---

to

1	5
---	---

Weaker candidates tended to confuse presbyopia with other eye disorders and/ or gave vague responses relating to long or short sight. Astigmatism was understood by the majority of candidates, and the vast majority scored at least two of the three marks for their explanations of conjunctivitis.

In questions

1	2
---	---

to

1	5
---	---

weaker candidates were often limited by their generally poor understanding of the relevant anatomy when explaining progressive deafness.

### Question 4

1	6
---	---

to

2	1
---	---

Candidates generally were able to gain at least three of the marks for common causes of headache in question

1	6
---	---

How headache pain is produced proved more challenging with weaker candidates offering vague answers relating to muscle strain and stresses. Migraines, however, were better understood as were food poisoning symptoms in question

1	9
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Many candidates were unable to identify a virus as the likely cause of Leanne's food poisoning resulting from eating shellfish. Non-infective causes of food poisoning were not well known.

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