



**General Certificate of Education (A-level) Applied
June 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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Principal Examiner's Report

This paper produced a good range of candidate responses and it was pleasing to again see some very high scoring scripts. The more-able candidates used technical terminology well and they tended to produce coherent and well-reasoned responses. The less-able candidates tended to produce much less detailed responses which were often confused and repetitive.

Question 1

01 Just over half of the candidates gained both marks by describing two symptoms of having head lice.

02 This proved to be more challenging with relatively few candidates gaining all three marks available. Many gained a mark for explaining a parasite as another life form, but did not progress their responses to gain the marks for living on/in a host organism.

03, 04 Most candidates gained both marks by naming two parasites other than head lice and for identifying thrush (candidiasis) as a fungus.

05, 06 The symptoms of thrush were generally understood well as were the ways in which disease-causing organisms enter the body.

07 Most gained one mark by explaining that Hazel's immune system would not be fully developed.

Question 2

08 A large majority of the candidates gained two of the three marks available for the allergic symptoms.

09 This differentiated well between the candidates and there were some very clear and detailed accounts describing the allergic testing to determine whether pollen and/or feathers would be the cause of Ray's allergic symptoms.

10 Less-able candidates were often confused in their responses. They named appropriate components in the mechanism of allergic response, but muddled their roles in the process.

Question 3

11 Half the candidates were able to name hypermetropia/hyperopia to gain the mark.

12 There were relatively few candidates gaining four or five marks with less-able candidates confusing long sight dysfunction with short sight or other eye dysfunctions.

13, 14 Some candidates demonstrated a good understanding of cataracts and how Tracey is likely to be affected by them, but a significant number suggested that cataracts formed on the outside of the eye rather than within the lens.

15 Tinnitus was understood well by all but the weakest candidates.

Question 4

16 Most candidates gained at least one of the two marks available by suggesting that males may be more susceptible to rashes than females.

17 There were some very good responses from the more-able candidates, with relatively few gaining only one or two marks. Better responses manipulated the data available by drawing conclusions between males and females and between the different types of rash. Very few candidates included any consideration of the different nature of the rashes, i.e. localised or generalised and/or macular or raised.

18 There was a wide range of responses on the tooth decay question with some good detailed responses gaining full marks, but a significant number of weak answers which lacked in accurate technical detail.

19 This proved challenging with many candidates being confused between infective and non-infective causes of food poisoning.

Grade boundaries

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