



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

**Health and Social Care**

**HC18**

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

**Unit 18: Social Policy**

***Report on the Examination***

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**Unit 18 Social Policy**  
**June 2011**  
**Principal Moderator's Report**

The first task facing candidates opting for this unit is to decide upon a research question relating to some aspect of an existing social policy or issue either of local or national concern. On the whole candidates chose relevant, interesting and most importantly manageable research questions. This year yielded a greater spread of topics including: community care, poverty and childhood obesity. Candidates demonstrated a better understanding of the attempts by local and central government to deal with some of the social challenges in the UK today.

The research questions were appropriately phrased and constructed. Providing a clear and unambiguous aim or introduction lays the foundation for the rest of the report and it was pleasing to see that candidates are demonstrating this skill increasingly well.

In Section B candidates are providing a description of the existing problems but there is still a lack of explanatory details. Candidates are failing to include a discussion of the actual or potential consequences of inadequate actions being taken, which would serve to demonstrate their understanding of the issues and long-term effect on society.

Tackling the reporting and explaining the available instruments of social policy has often proved difficult for candidates attempting this unit. This area still needs some attention. Candidates need to demonstrate their awareness of a range of ways in which government tries to ensure that their policies are effective. Legislation is the most popular choice, followed by taxation, but rarely is a comprehensive range provided. A list of suggestions is included in the specification and the teachers' guide for reference. It would be good to see the inclusion of the influence of funding policies and promotional techniques.

The research and analysis section is improving year on year. Candidates are demonstrating better research skills and including information from a several different sources as well as including a full explanation of any numerical data put forward. Discussing the implications of the research materials collected on the issue being examined still proves to be difficult and was poorly evidenced in the reports.

There was less generic material included. The formatting conformed to AQA requirements and overall this unit was tackled in an interesting and sociologically competent manner. The reports are not only creditworthy in terms of their academic competence but are interesting in that they reflect the sensitive, informed and responsible attitudes and thoughts of young people on the issues of our times.

**Grade boundaries**

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