



General Certificate of Education

Leisure Studies **8641/8643/8646/8649**

LS12 Lifestyle Management

Report on the Examination

2007 examination - January series

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This was the first examination for this Double Award optional unit. Overall the candidates responded well to the question paper and most managed to score marks on every question. The highest scoring candidates did not show any particular pattern in the achievement of their marks. They scored well in different questions or showed a general consistency throughout the paper. The lowest scoring candidates also showed the same patterns but were obviously much more general and descriptive.

The whole focus of this examination is to promote the ideas and philosophy of the achievement of a healthy lifestyle which was a theme clearly shown in most of the candidates' answers. To achieve the highest marks, however, it was necessary to explore the issues beyond the level of simply supporting mainstream healthy lifestyle arguments, e.g. not all exercise is healthy, not all drugs are illegal, and there are many complex reasons for people failing to achieve healthy lifestyles.

Most of Question 1 tackled a sensitive lifestyle issue concerning hygiene in a personal and more vocational sense. Most candidates scored well on this question and could answer without any specialist knowledge. However the discriminatory parts of the question were where explanations of importance needed to be linked to the implications to leisure organisations in parts (c)(i), (ii) and (iii). Many candidates found part (b), which widened the issue to personal responsibility and drug taking, difficult. All candidates scored marks on Question 1 but few managed to score at the highest levels.

Many candidates found Question 2 challenging. Only the best were able to draw out the wider socio-cultural issues required by the question. Almost all candidates restricted their answers to the personal psychological problems of 'self image'. Higher marks were also awarded to those who managed to link their answer to lifestyle management issues.

Question 3(a) was well answered by many candidates, with quite a high percentage managing to score full marks. There was often detailed understanding of the main methods of collecting sensitive information from clients in health clubs, although some methods chosen, such as surveys, were clearly unsuitable for the task.

3(b) was also answered well by many candidates who responded to the lifestyle profile and made relevant recommendations for improvement.

Question 4(a) turned out to be a challenging question for most candidates, who found it difficult to move beyond Level 1. No candidates evaluated the unsuitability of some kinds of regular exercise. All candidates discussed only the benefits of exercise, some being very detailed. However, many candidates answered Question 4(b) very well and were able to suggest realistic initiatives and benefits for employers.

Question 5 was the second 'evaluation' type question and again only a limited number of candidates were able to show any awareness or understanding of the stem, which was a pro-smoking statement. There was a general inability to grasp the thrust of the resource and most candidates responded only by giving a full anti-smoking statement.

Question 6 produced a wide range of answers and proved to be a good discriminator. Many candidates seemed well prepared to answer a question about the socio-economically disadvantaged and the factors which impact upon the achievement of a healthy lifestyle.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the results statistics page of the AQA Website at: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/over/stat.html>