



**General Certificate of Secondary Education
January 2012**

Health and Social Care

48203

(Specification 4820)

Unit 3: The Nature of Health and Well-Being

Report on the Examination

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GCSE Unit 3 4820/3 January 2012 Principal Examiner's Report

Candidate performance on this paper continues to be a little less secure than on the 48201 paper however it is pleasing to report an increase in higher scoring scripts. The more able candidates, as in previous papers, tended to produce detailed, well- reasoned responses when describing, explaining and evaluating. Weaker candidates generally produced answers which tended to state effects and facts rather than make reasoned responses. All questions appeared to be accessible to the vast majority of candidates and there was little, if any, evidence of candidates having insufficient time to complete the paper.

Question 1

Approximately three quarters of the candidates gained the mark in part a for the negative definition of health and well-being. Part b proved to be more challenging but nearly two thirds of the candidates scored two or three marks for their holistic or positive definitions of health and well-being.

Question 2

In part a some weaker candidates offered micronutrient answers rather than the macronutrients required. Most candidates gained both marks available in part b for names or types of micronutrients. Answers to part c varied in quality but most gained marks for explanations of the change from liquid to solid foods, increased quantities as body mass increases.

Question 3

There were significant numbers of high scoring scripts on this question with relatively few low scoring ones. Most marks were gained for explaining emotional and social benefits that George would gain from his happy marriage and well-paid job.

Question 4

In part a just under half the candidates gained both marks for their explanations of the purpose of risk assessment while part b proved to be slightly more challenging to the majority of candidates. Common marks in part b were for buildings safety issues and fire evacuation procedures.

Question 5

There were relatively few high scoring answers describing how Diane's blood test for diabetes would be carried out. Some weaker candidates produced blood pressure test answers while others lacked detail beyond recognising that it is a blood test for sugar content. Better answers described how the blood sample would be taken from a vein following the use of an antiseptic wipe and that a high sugar content would indicate diabetes.

Question 6

Most candidates gained a mark in part a for Huntingdon's disease being an inherited disorder but fewer knew that it is caused by a dominant mutation. In part b there were few high scoring answers but many candidates scored marks for descriptions of memory loss, personality change and clumsy and uncontrolled movements.

Question 7

About one third of the candidates gained four or more marks in part a for their detailed descriptions of the possible effects on Joanne if she continues to take very little exercise. Some weaker candidates included Joanne's alcohol intake into their descriptions which was not required here, but is the focus on the questions in parts b and c. Just under a quarter of the candidates gained all three marks in part b and a similar number gained four or more marks in part c. Candidates generally could have improved their answers in part c if they had considered the physical effects of Joanne's alcohol intake in more detail. Some weaker candidates produced answers focussing on long term effects in part b rather than the short term effects required by this question.

Question 8

Many candidates' answers to this question were restricted in that they failed to give weight to some of the positive aspects of Michael's life and tended to exaggerate the negative factors e.g. the social aspect of living alone and having no family without consideration of his friends from bowls. Candidates who scored highly were more balanced in their evaluations of the positive and negative factors and gave more reasoned accounts. Weaker candidates tended to simply state the individual effects of the different factors.