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CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Paper 0637/01

Theory Paper

General comments

There were some outstanding scripts this year. Some candidates showed a great depth of knowledge. They interpreted the questions correctly and applied their knowledge to answering the questions as set.

However, there are still some candidates who do not follow the rubric, and answer all the questions on the paper. This wastes their time, and only allows for superficial responses due to a lack of reading, thinking and answering time.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

This whole section was well answered. The only problems (when any occurred) were on:

- **Question 4 (b)** and **Question 6**, when there seemed to be a lack of knowledge about weaning.
- **Question 7** when nature and nurture were confused.
- **Question 9** when lactation was not understood.

Section B

Question 10 was the most popular question in this section. There were no common misconceptions, but parts **(c)** and **(f)** gained the lowest marks correspondingly.

In **Question 11 (a)**, many candidates were unable to *explain* the benefits of play. In **(b)**, again there were some candidates who could not identify four *types* of play with examples.

Question 12 was not a popular question, however, some candidates scored high marks for their answers. It was pleasing to see that healthy eating aspects had been learnt, together with the long and short term dangers of foods high in fat and sugar, when consumed by children.

Section C

Question 13 was by far the most popular. In general, answers to this question gained higher marks than those gained for **Question 14**.

Many candidates gave balanced answers fully explaining each section, and discussing the advantage of a home birth and a hospital birth. An excellent depth of knowledge was often shown.

However candidates *must discuss* and *explain* their answers as required to gain a high mark.

Candidates who attempted to answer **Question 14** often did so with only very superficial knowledge of the subject; resulting in answers that were often brief and very repetitious.

It is useful when answering **Section C** to draw 'thought showers' (connected ideas or lists) for each aspect of the question. This enables the candidate to sort out all their knowledge relating to the question and apply it in a logical order to answer the question as set.

Papers 0637/02 and 0637/03
Coursework (Child Study) and Coursework (Practical Investigation)

General comments

It was pleasing to moderate some excellent pieces of coursework this year. In general the standard of work is improving year on year.

However, Examiners would request that heavy folders (or any folders at all) are not sent. Treasury tags (or similar) to hold pages together are adequate.

As stated in the syllabus, the number of candidates in the sample sent for moderation is:

0 – 10	all candidates
11 – 50	10
51 – 100	15
above 100	20

This is the number required for Paper 2, Child Development Study and Paper 3, Practical Investigation, and not the number to be split between the two.

Centres are very good at selecting a good cross section of marks, with a good selection of the higher marked candidates work.

It was important that for Papers 2 and 3 some guidance is exercised by the teacher in the choice of topic to be studied for coursework.

It is very important that candidates do not select topics that are either:

- beyond the capabilities to achieve a good outcome because of the 'wide topic' they have chosen
- of a very sensitive area which is not defined in the syllabus, and one which they cannot, because of the nature of the subject, find sufficient first hand information for their work to gain the available marks.

The best work produced for either piece of coursework, is one in which the candidates clearly divides their work into the main sections required, and shows the subdivision of each to ensure they are able to achieve the available marks. These sub-section marks are also indicators to the amount of work required.

Paper 2

To enable the candidates to see the chosen area of development of a child or group of children, it is important to allow a good time span for them to space out their observations.

Weekly visits do not allow for the candidates to observe any changes/milestones to occur for them to record in their study. Equally they are then also not able to show understanding of their observations because they have nothing really to base this understanding on.

Paper 3

Again, to enable candidates to show a range of investigatory procedures, the choice of topic is vital.

The best coursework is based on a range of investigatory procedures carried out by the candidate to give first hand original material, and not all just researched from existing sources.

This is now taking place in a number of Centres.