

Home Economics (Food, Nutrition and Health)

Advanced GCE **A2 H511**

Advanced Subsidiary GCE **AS H111**

OCR Report to Centres

January 2013

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This report on the examination provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding of the specification content, of the operation of the scheme of assessment and of the application of assessment criteria.

Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the examination.

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Overview

As the specification has been assessed a number of times it is now evident that candidates are becoming more familiar with the structure of the papers and assessment requirements of each unit, no rubric errors were made by candidates.

Overall, there was a large variation in the performance of candidates. Candidates who were awarded high marks were able to clearly demonstrate that they understood the question and the context. These candidates could recall and apply subject specific knowledge with clarity and accuracy. Conversely, candidates who were awarded low marks had only a limited understanding of the key issues examined and were not able to organise their responses to meet the specific requirements of the question.

The following points are examples of good practice for all units:

- Candidates need to understand the requirements of the command verbs in questions. Some candidates fail to gain marks by 'describing' or 'identifying' in their response to an 'explain' or 'discuss' question.
- Contextualised questions require candidates to apply knowledge to a specific context rather than just recall knowledge. Candidates need to practice reading the question carefully and apply their response to the context identified in the question.
- For extended response questions candidates should practice the spelling of key subject specific terms and plan their response to ensure they do not lose focus, using the opening sentence to focus their response can also be beneficial.
- Candidates need to keep up to date with the latest developments in issues identified on the specification.
- Practising examination techniques by using previous question papers from the OCR website throughout the course will help build confidence and improve time manage skills before the examination.

The detailed reports included in this document provide more specific information on candidate performance across the units.

G001 Society and Health

General Comments

Section A was answered well by the majority of candidates.

All candidates followed the rubric for Section B and only selected two questions to answer.

The paper was completed by candidates with a wide range of abilities and marks were awarded across the whole range of the mark scheme.

The second part of each Section B question is worth 15 marks; therefore more time should be spent on answering this part of the question. In some weaker responses candidates answered both parts of a Section B questions as one piece of continuous prose which led to a lack of focus. Candidates should clearly number questions or parts to questions as this is good practice.

Candidates need to ensure they use the answer space provided in the question paper prior to using additional pages. The majority of candidates appeared to have left sufficient time to complete the paper as they had completed their answers to Section B questions; however some candidates failed to fully answer their final question which suggests that they had not planned sufficient time.

This specification requires candidate's knowledge to be current and up to date, particularly in the areas of key issues for society, social issues and the Health of the Nation. These areas are constantly changing due to government legislation and therefore candidate's need to keep abreast of current issues.

Comments on Individual Questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a)(i) The data was extracted correctly by all candidates.
- (a)(ii) The data was extracted correctly by all candidates.
- (a)(iii) This question was answered well by the majority of candidates.
- (b)(i) Some candidates misinterpreted this question and wrote generally about patterns of employment rather than the effects of an ageing population on patterns of employment. It is important that candidates read the question thoroughly and check the context.
- (b)(ii) The effect of an ageing population on social care provision was answered quite well by the majority of candidates with common answers including the need for an increase in care homes, more demand for carers and increased pressure on the NHS.
- (c) This question was either well answered or candidates did not know what the burden of dependency was and made reference to children being dependent on their parents, which was not the correct answer.

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- (d) This question was quite well answered although there was repetition in some answers therefore failing to gain marks. The most common answers made reference to the proximity to facilities and services such as transport, shops and medical services. Some incorrect answers included the proximity of the elderly to care homes and the availability of meals and wheels and sheltered housing.
- (e) This question on the whole well answered, although there were some very vague answers where it was evident that candidates knew very little about Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

Section B

There were some excellent responses seen, however some candidates need to plan their time and responses to ensure they cover all aspects of the questions.

Question 2

- (a) Many candidates answered this very well with full descriptions of the causes of obesity; however some failed to recognise that the question focused on obesity in children. Therefore candidates failed to gain marks as answers were sometimes very general and did not relate to obesity in children. Common answers included those that described lack of exercise, an increase in portion sizes, fast food and technology and the rising number of working parents with limited time to prepare meals. Some described nutritional reasons relating to the consumption of fats and sugars.
- (b) Again, the context of the question which related to young people was often missed. It is important that candidates read the whole question and note the context in which it is written. Candidates were often able to name a wide variety of policies but some were confused as to what government policies were and gave long irrelevant answers. Very few candidates mentioned policies relating to smoking and alcohol, such as no smoking in public places or the sale of cigarettes to young people. Again these are very current and candidates need to keep up-to-date with existing policies.

Question 3

- (a) This question gained mixed responses with candidates describing the range and types of housing in detail with descriptions of types of suitable housing, and renting, buying and sharing as options available to young adults. However often answers were muddled with renting and buying described briefly and the types of housing omitted from the answer.
- (b) This question was not well answered. Candidates often discussed means of saving energy instead of focusing on the design of the house and how it could be improved to be more energy efficient. Answers relating to energy efficient appliances and light bulbs were not accepted. A high number of candidates gave valid responses including explanations relating to different forms of insulation, double glazing and the use of room thermostats.

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Question 4

- (a) This question was answered quite well by those who attempted it. Some candidates demonstrated an excellent knowledge of the factors that affect the standard of living for households and families. Most candidates were able to explain factors including income, number of dependents number of people, occupation and location but few mentioned debt or the cost of housing. Some weaker responses made reference to the poverty trap and the effects of unemployment.
- (b) This question was not answered well or incorrect benefits, such as child benefit, were described. Benefits such as Jobseekers Allowance and Housing benefit were commonly described correctly. Schemes such as apprenticeships and work trials were also often correctly described. However, it is important that candidates' knowledge on areas of the specification such as support services, is current, as candidates sometimes referred to the 'New Deal' as a support option, which is no longer in existence.

G002 Resource Management

General comments

The paper was accessible and provided the appropriate level of difficulty, giving candidates the opportunity to achieve high marks. The paper was completed by candidates with a wide range of abilities and marks were awarded across the range.

There were a few misinterpretations of the questions and one misinterpretation of the rubric. The vast majority of candidates seemed to have time to complete the paper although a few candidates did not fully answer some questions. Many candidates produced short plans for Section B questions which is good practice and should be encouraged. Some candidates then used the plans to decide which questions to answer. Spelling, punctuation and grammar were generally at an acceptable level although the writing on a small number of scripts was difficult to read.

Section A

The vast majority of candidates were able to attempt all questions with very few who were unable to respond.

Question 1

- (a) (i) All candidates were able to state that most popular use for the internet was finding information about goods/services.
- (a) (ii) Most candidates were able to state that 80% of adults use the internet for email.
- (a) (iii) Most candidates were able to state the least popular use for the internet was selling goods/services.
- (b) The majority of candidates were able to describe one way the internet could be used to manage finances. Candidates who failed to achieve two marks stated 'Internet banking' for example, without describing how it could be used.
- (c) This question was less well answered with candidates failing to give a response in enough detail, only stating that the food processor could be quicker or easier. It also generated a common error that food processors could be left whilst you completed a range of other tasks
- (d) Few candidates achieved full marks on this question as they failed to qualify their answers with regard to why a consumer may prefer to purchase from a specialist food retailer. Where the answer was given as an example e.g. a butcher, the marks were then usually gained as the candidate tended to qualify the preference eg expert knowledge/advice.
- (e) There were some excellent answers to this question (retaining water soluble vitamins) but there were also common misconceptions that steamers could be left on whilst at work (confused with a slow cooker) or were quicker (confused with a pressure cooker).
- (f) Most candidates only gained half marks on this question due to lack of detail, still using the correct terminology but failing to describe how these elements protect the consumer when purchasing goods. Where this was answered well candidates were able to describe all the main parts of the act and how they protect the consumer in detail.

Section B**Question 2**

- (a) Those candidates who read and understood this question correctly gave excellent answers with subject specific terminology (*Staphylococcus aureus*). Where this was answered less well, general poor kitchen practices responsible for the transmission of food poisoning bacteria were explained instead (inaccurate fridge temperatures/dirty equipment).
- (b) Some candidates were able to access the higher marks on this question describing the role of the Environmental Health Officer in ensuring that food is fit for consumption whilst using correct subject specific terminology (Improvement Notice). Answers could have been generally improved by making stronger links with practical food safety rather than just a sequence for the inspection and the follow-up.

Question 3

- (a) This question was not answered well with very few quality answers. Candidates generalised about technological advances (focussing on packaging) rather than specific examples to do with distribution. Answers were lacking in detail and therefore many failed to access the higher marks. Where they did mention technological advances many just gave explanations about refrigerated lorries, and did not give many other examples eg B2B e-commerce.
- (b) The best answers to this question described a range of in-store marketing activities in the supermarket and linked them to consumer loyalty. Where this was answered less well, candidates described a range of facilities such as car parks or just talked generally about advertising (product placement) without any links to attracting and securing loyalty.

Question 4

- (a) Question 4 was by far the most popular question. However, part a of the question was not answered as well as part b. Candidates often listed general reasons for food choice. Where it was answered well candidates were able to describe a range of cultural factors (religion/migration/festivals) using subject specific terminology (halal/Ramadan).
- (b) There were some excellent responses to this question; the more able candidates achieving high marks by explaining a good range of factors that affect how time, money and energy are managed in the home. However, some candidates failed to access the higher marks as they simply identified factors without explaining them. Some candidates limited their answers as they were focussing on the ways to save money, time and energy rather than the factors.

G004 Nutrition and food production

General Comments

Marks were awarded across the whole range of the mark scheme, the majority of candidates performed well. There is increasing evidence that candidates' are becoming more adept at handling the paper and responding well to the questions, in particular there was an improvement in the response to questions that required complex discussions. The quality of handwriting was generally good.

Comments on individual questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) (i) The majority of candidates were able to name two fat soluble vitamins.
- (a) (ii) There was confusion over where in the body fat soluble vitamins are stored. The responses were vague and some candidates suggested 'in the tissue'.
- (b) (i) One function of thiamine was widely known and many candidates could identify 'nerve function' or 'energy release'. Some candidates associated a 'healthy immune system' or the 'formation of red blood cells' with thiamine.
- (b) (ii) The sources of thiamine differentiated well. Candidates need to avoid repetition e.g. naming two similar vegetables and generalisations e.g. 'cereals', 'meat'.
- (c) (i) A novel source of protein was not widely identified. Common misconceptions included 'lentils' and 'eggs'.
- (c) (ii) The explanation for the increased demand for novel proteins was generally well answered. Weaker candidates offered very similar health related explanations whilst stronger responses commented on environmental concerns about meat production or the cost of meat.
- (d) The explanation of the costs involved in food production was answered well by most candidates. Different aspects of the food production process were identified and developed.
- (e) Most candidates could identify some of the aspects of the HACCP system. A detailed understanding of seven stages in a HACCP system was required for high level marks to be awarded. This required each stage of the process to be referred to using the appropriate technical language and explanations of hazards, controls and critical control points. Weaker candidates lacked technical knowledge in their responses were repetitive, dwelling on methods of ensuring good personal hygiene or food storage practice.

Section B

All the candidates attempted two of the three questions and there were some excellent responses seen.

Question 2

There were some very good responses and higher achieving candidates were able to demonstrate an accurate knowledge of the role of carbohydrates. Most candidates referred to the role of carbohydrates as an energy source, often with reference to the calorific value of carbohydrates. The association between a lack of dietary fibre and health was clearly understood. Most responses included a reference to energy balance and the dangers associated with eating too much energy dense food and weight gain. To develop responses some candidates should aim to develop their understanding of the role of sugars in tooth decay.

Some responses were too generalised and described the role of a range of foods which contained some carbohydrate in the diet. More limited responses also lacked technical knowledge and subject specific terminology.

Question 3

All candidates were able to demonstrate at the least superficial knowledge of the importance and approaches towards food labelling in the UK. Features of the more limited responses included: a poor knowledge of the statutory requirements; a general discussion of the use of the food packaging to market a product.

The importance of food labelling was explained clearly in good responses. Each feature on the label was taken in turn and a clear explanation of its value was offered. Some candidates referred to the statutory guidance regarding the ingredients with a high risk of allergy.

The different approaches to food labelling were answered well by only a few candidates. Most candidates could identify the GDA and traffic light system but were unable to elaborate on the features of each.

Question 4

This question produced some excellent responses and many of the candidates produced high level responses. Good responses used technical vocabulary accurately and demonstrated detailed understanding of the nature of the different dairy products. The most popular products explored were milk, cheese, yoghurt, eggs and butter. The best responses referred to the terms coagulation, emulsification and aeration in their discussion of the food preparation. There was also accurate recall of the processing techniques applied to milk and cheese during production. Many candidates were able to show a detailed understanding of activities they had completed during practical lessons using dairy products. References to the nutritional value of dairy products were also evident and linked to the needs of different dietary groups.

Candidates who failed to achieve good marks discussed the dairy products in general terms and had inadequate knowledge of the key principles of nutrition or food preparation.

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