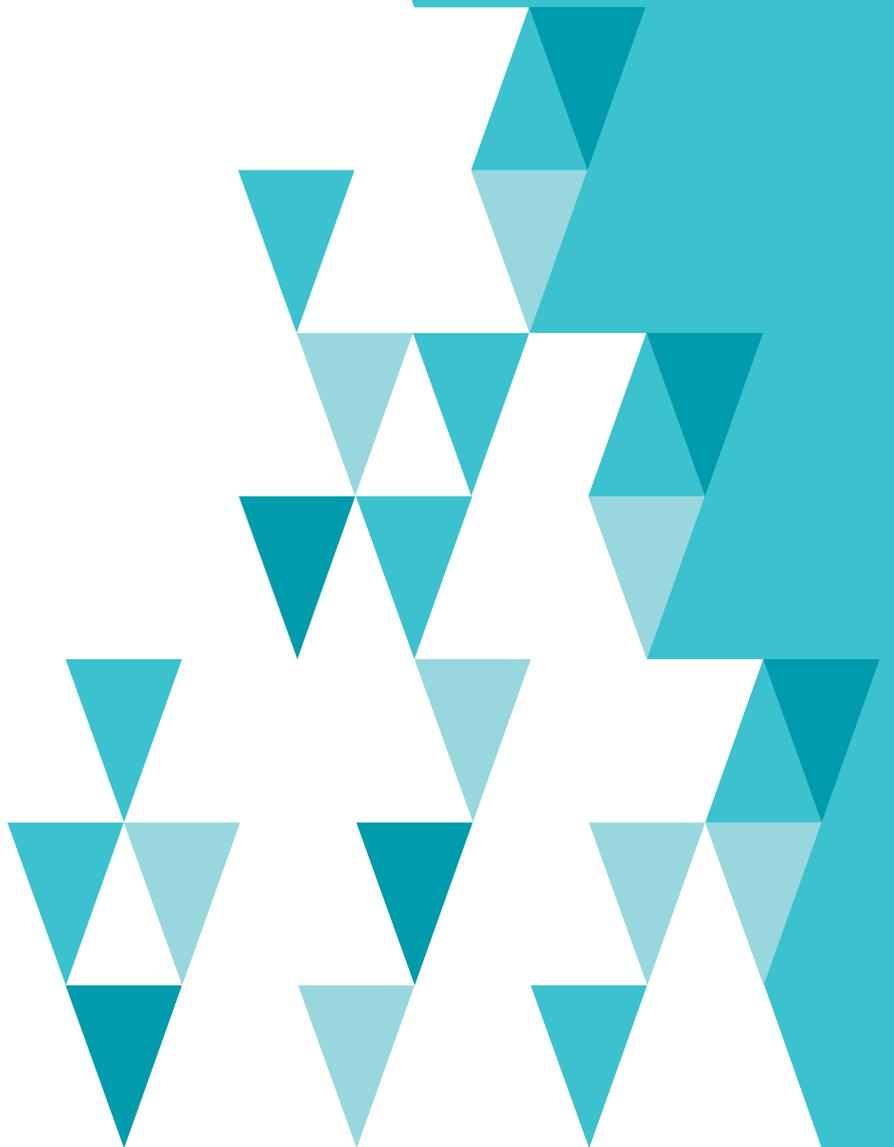


GCSE



**Chief Examiner's Report**  
**Home Economics:**  
**Child Development**

Summer Series 2018





## Foreword

This booklet outlines the performance of candidates in all aspects of CCEA's General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) in Home Economics: Child Development for this series.

CCEA hopes that the Chief Examiner's and/or Principal Moderator's report(s) will be viewed as a helpful and constructive medium to further support teachers and the learning process.

This booklet forms part of the suite of support materials for the specification. Further materials are available from the specification's microsite on our website at [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk).



## Contents

<b>Assessment Unit 1</b>	Parenthood, Pregnancy and the Newborn Baby	3
<b>Contact details</b>		5



# GCSE HOME ECONOMICS: CHILD DEVELOPMENT

## Chief Examiner's Report

### Assessment Unit 1: Parenthood, Pregnancy and the Newborn Baby

This was the first examination paper for the new revised specification with the allocation of an additional 15 marks (now out of 75 marks) and an extended time allowance. The examination paper reflected the layout of the Sample Assessment Material and the content in the Revised Specification. It was evident that candidates of the full range of abilities were able to access all the questions as there was no evidence of candidates misunderstanding questions. However some candidates, from a range of abilities, did not appear to be prepared for some of the new content from the specification eg Question 5 (b)(i) oedema and Part (ii) heartburn, Part (c)(ii) sonographer, Part (d) healthy brain development. These questions were often left blank or it was evident that the candidate had no knowledge of the topic.

There was no evidence of candidates having insufficient time to complete the examination paper. Quality of Written Communication was assessed in Questions 5 and 6 of the examination paper.

- Q1**
- (a) Very well answered.
  - (b) Quite well answered with some candidates confusing induction (correct answer) and breech.
  - (c) Reasonably well answered.
  - (d) Poorly answered with confusion between uterus (correct answer) and placenta.
  - (e) Quite well answered, with a few candidates incorrectly choosing scrotum.
- Q2**
- (a) Well answered but a few candidates still included 'put on weight' incorrectly as a sign of pregnancy.
  - (b) Very well answered by the majority of candidates with some excellent, detailed descriptions.
- Q3**
- (a)
    - (i) Male condom: candidates demonstrated very good knowledge of the male condom as a method of family planning.
    - (ii) Contraceptive implant: this was reasonably well answered. A small number of candidates confused this with an IUD.
  - (b) The question layout provided factors for candidates to discuss and this helped focus candidates' responses.

Money: candidates were able to gain one mark but many lacked the depth, understanding to gain the full two marks.

Relationship: candidates generally discussed this extremely well and showed clear understanding.

Career: some candidates confused career with money/income. The effect of taking maternity leave on career prospects was the main focus of the majority of candidates.

- Q4** (a) There were some candidates who identified the reflexes incorrectly with words that had no relevance to reflexes.
- (i) Correctly answered by the majority of candidates.
  - (ii) Reasonably well answered
  - (iii) Correctly answered by the majority of candidates.
- (b) SIDS was very well known to all but a few candidates. The majority of candidates gained the full three marks.
- (c) Not well answered with many candidates simply copying the information given in the question.
- (d) The majority of candidates were able to describe how to make a formula feed with accurate descriptions in some order.
- Q5** (a) Very well answered with detailed, accurate explanations from the majority of candidates.
- (b) Oedema: this was a new topic for this specification and it was evident that only some candidates had an understanding of the term.  
Heartburn: this was well answered with candidates generally suggesting two valid pieces of information.  
Dental care: this was very well answered by the majority of candidates.
- (c) Midwife: candidates showed overall excellent knowledge of the role of the midwife during pregnancy and childbirth.  
Sonographer: some candidates did not appear to have any knowledge of this health professional.
- (d) This was another new topic from the revised specification and some candidates showed no knowledge of the topic while a few had been extremely well prepared regarding healthy brain development.
- Q6** Candidates need to be reminded that writing in point form in a discussion type question will gain Level 1 marks only.  
Gas and Air (Entonox): this was well known with all but a few candidates including at least one advantage.  
TENS: this was reasonably well known but only some candidates included at least two advantages and discussed TENS with knowledge and understanding of the advantages.
- Q7** In this question, despite the pictures shown, some candidates failed to include a wide range of factors to consider when buying the travel system. Some candidates did include general points relevant to choosing a pram, which were acceptable, but did not include any points regarding the carrycot, buggy and car seat features of the travel system pictured.
- Q8** Candidates coped extremely well with this question and included reference to all the food and drink items in the lunch which allowed them access to the Level 3 marks. It was pleasing to see many candidates evaluate the foods while referencing the needs of the pregnant woman. General points were also credited but few candidates commented generally, with the majority evaluating each food option separately. Planning was also evident and this helped candidates ensure they included reference to all foods.

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