

CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS

Examiners' report

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

J818

R018 January 2021 series

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate responses are also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

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R018 series overview

Most answered all the questions and a wide spread of marks were achieved. There were some 'no response' answers; often these were for single word, factual responses indicating a gap in the candidate's knowledge.

Although it was clear that they possessed knowledge some candidates did gain marks at times as they did not do what the question asked. Centres need to guide candidates about the command verbs in the questions – identify, describe, explain, discuss etc. For example, for Question 4(c), if a candidate produces a list of rules relating to 'stranger danger', when an 'explanation' of how the rules would help to keep children safe has been asked for, they will not be able to achieve more than Level 1 marks.

For scripts that have been typed, it would be very helpful if centres could inform their candidates that they should use the question numbering as seen on the examination paper. This session a number of candidates created their own numbering system which means that examiners then have to work out which question is being answered, as it is not always clear. Question numbers and not page numbers should be used.

<i>Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:</i>	<i>Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrated an understanding and familiarity with the type of response different command verbs require, e.g. identify, state, describe, explain and discuss • produced well-organise and detailed responses to levels of response questions 2(d) and 4(c) • ensured their responses to Section A questions related to the context or scenario provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lacked understanding and familiarity with the different command verbs e.g. identify, describe and explain • did not read the question carefully enough: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3(c)(i) writing about signs & symptoms of pregnancy when the question is about signs of fertility - 3(c)(ii) writing about getting pregnant when the question is about contraception - 5(a) writing about caring for a baby when the question is focused on 'pregnancy' and 'birth'.

Section A overview

Section A of the paper consists of three questions based in different contexts. For this paper the three scenarios are a health centre display, Sunita giving birth and Gina and Ray thinking of starting a family. Candidates are required to apply their knowledge of the R018 specification topics to produce responses that are relevant to the scenarios provided.

Question 1 (a) (i)

1 A Health Centre decides to display information on their noticeboard to help parents/carers be more informed about the importance of providing a balanced diet for their children.

(a) (i) Name the deficiency disease children could develop if they do not have enough iron in their diet.

..... [1]

Some candidates answered correctly but not many were able to spell anaemia but they were still credited with the mark.

Iron deficiency was the most common incorrect response – using wording from the question and not answering it.

Question 1 (a)(ii)

(ii) State **two different** foods that are good sources of iron.

1

2

[2]

Examples of green vegetables and red meat were the most common correct responses.

Some candidates did not gain marks due to vague responses such as 'meat' or 'vegetables'. Specific foods were required such as beef or lamb and broccoli or spinach.

Question 1 (a)(iii)

(iii) Identify **one other** deficiency disease that children may develop by eating an unbalanced diet.

..... [1]

Many candidates incorrectly suggested diabetes or gave symptoms (not asked for) of a disease such as brittle bones. The most common correct response was rickets.

Question 1 (b)

- (b) The display will also focus on parents'/carers' responsibility to provide food for their children and will show ways parents/carers can encourage their children to eat a balanced diet.

Describe **one** way parents/carers could encourage their children to eat a balanced diet.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

Some common misconceptions include giving the child a 'reward' for eating a healthy meal, often candidates suggesting biscuits, chocolate or sweets.

Other incorrect responses suggested 'hiding' healthy food such as vegetables in meals so the child doesn't realise what they are eating. This suggestion is not a way of encouraging healthy eating as the child is unaware that they are eating healthily.

Many candidates gave a wide variety of ways of encouraging the child for example making it more appealing with reference to 'shapes', 'smiley faces' and 'colourful' as well as eating the same food together as a family and parents being role models eating healthy meals.

Question 1 (c)

There has been an increase in the number of obese children visiting the Health Centre. A workshop has been organised for parents/carers to learn about obesity in young children.

- (c) Look at the table below and identify with a tick (✓) the **two** statements that are the most common causes of obesity in children.

Causes of obesity in children	Tick (✓) two only
Eating three meals a day.	
Not getting enough exercise.	
Eating too much food that is high in calories.	
Having big bones.	

[2]

The vast majority of candidates gained both marks. Just a few incorrectly ticked 'having big bones'.

Question 2 (b)

(b) Give **two** features of a caesarean section delivery.

1

.....

.....

2

.....

.....

[2]

A number of candidates referred to 'cut the stomach' or 'take the baby out of the stomach' demonstrating a lack of understanding that the cut is made in the lower abdomen.

Otherwise, this question was well answered by most candidates with a range of correct responses including most commonly 'performed by an obstetrician', 'mother awake throughout', and 'starts with an epidural'.

Question 2 (d)

(d)* Sunita is allowed to go home from hospital three days after her son is born. She is told by her doctor to rest and recover for a few weeks.

Discuss ways that Sunita's family and friends could help to support her when she returns home with her son.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [8]

The majority of candidates gained marks on this question.

Weaker responses gained some marks for describing the tasks that Sunita's family and friends could help with, such as doing the shopping, cooking meals etc. Though not making any reference to the effects of the caesarean limited marks to Level 1. A few candidates inappropriately suggested taking Sunita out for a spa day.

Higher level responses showed understanding of the specific effects of the caesarean, for example Sunita would not be able to drive, would be feeling sore and not able to lift things. These candidates' responses related those effects of the caesarean to the help that could be provided by family and friends in order for Sunita to rest, relax and recover.

Question 3 (a) (i)

3 Gina and Ray are thinking about starting a family and have made an appointment with their GP to discuss a range of factors that could affect their decision to have children. During their appointment the GP suggests that Gina and Ray may benefit from genetic counselling before Gina becomes pregnant.

(a) (i) Explain the meaning of the term 'genetic counselling'.

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]

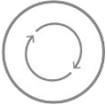
This was poorly answered by many candidates as they gave responses that related to genetic testing. Responses needed to focus on the word 'counselling' as in the question, and not on 'testing'. Counselling means talking through, not testing for, genetic disorders. Discussing the implications of genetic disorders helping parents develop understanding of the impact of genetic disorders.

Exemplar 1

genetic counselling is where you meet with
 a genetic counsellor to discuss what
 genetic problems run through the
 family.

..... [3]

A simple definition of genetic counselling is shown in Exemplar 1. This response gains the 2 marks available: 1 mark for referring to 'meeting a genetic counsellor to discuss' and the second mark for 'what genetic problems run through the family'.

	AfL	<p>Where longer questions are given with scenarios, candidates could benefit from being taught how to deconstruct the question to help develop their answer. This could be done in terms of the questions components: command verb, given factor(s) and focus.</p>
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Question 3 (a) (ii)

(ii) Give **two** reasons why the GP has suggested that Gina and Ray may benefit from genetic counselling.

1

.....

2

.....

[2]

Few candidates gained marks. Some candidates incorrectly wrote about testing and checking for disorders.

Answers could have covered that Gina might be an older mother which increases the likelihood of a disorder, Gina or Ray may have a hereditary disorder such as sickle cell anaemia or cystic fibrosis for example.

Question 3 (b)

(b) Gina's GP also recommends that she is vaccinated against whooping cough.

Give **two** reasons why Gina's GP has recommended this.

1

.....

2

.....

[2]

There seemed to be a general lack of knowledge about vaccination. Some 'No Responses' were seen and some very weak responses such as 'to prevent the baby dying'.

Stronger responses did mention antibodies and immunity or immunity passed on from the mother.

Question 3 (c) (i)

(c) (i) Gina and Ray currently use 'natural family planning' as their chosen method of contraception.

From the list below choose **three different** fertility signs that Gina would record when using this method of contraception.

Fertility signs

- Body temperature
- Changes to cervical secretions
- Frequency of passing urine
- Length of menstrual cycle
- Breast changes
- Weight gain and loss

1

2

3

[3]

The majority of candidates gained marks on this question, most gained 1 or 2 marks. With 'body temperature' being missed by most.

Weaker candidates often had not read the question carefully enough as they interpreted it as 'signs of pregnancy' rather than 'fertility signs'.

Question 3 (c) (ii)

(ii) State **one** advantage of natural family planning as a method of contraception.

.....

..... [1]

Common correct answers were 'no cost', 'acceptable to all faiths' and 'does not interrupt sex'.

Unfortunately quite a few candidates turned the question round and wrote about how this method helps you get pregnant by knowing when you are most fertile.

Candidates who did not understand the question just wrote 'it's natural'. Many gave vague answers about % effectiveness or 'it's quick/easy'.

Section B overview

Section B of the paper consists of three questions that are fact and knowledge based. Candidate responses do not have to relate to a particular situation or scenario.

Question 4 (a)

- 4 (a) Look at the picture of a child's bedroom below.



Identify **three** hazards in the bedroom shown above that could cause a child to have an accident.

Name **one** safety feature that would overcome each hazard.

Hazard in the bedroom	Safety feature
1	
2	
3	

[6]

The majority of candidates gained 3 marks for identifying the hazards. Many gained 2 additional marks for safety features, with a number of candidates gaining full marks.

A few candidates gave explanations of what accident could have happened rather than describing the safety feature as asked.

Marks were missed for lack of specific terms e.g. plug cover instead of socket cover. Other weaker responses were vague, suggesting 'move the wire' or 'close the drawer'.

Question 4 (c)

(c)* Explain safety rules children could be taught to help them keep safe from strangers.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [6]

The command verb of this question is to 'explain'. Frequently rules were given, though very list like at times. In the main explanations were lacking. It was rare for a rule to be fully explained or discussed.

Candidates needed to state two or three specific rules and explain why it is important for a child to follow them. Explanations need to relate to the dangers that could be posed by strangers.

Some candidates wrote at great length about internet safety, answers that seemed to relate to a question on a previous paper.

Question 5 (a)

5 (a) Describe **two** ways that antenatal and parenting classes help prepare a mother for pregnancy and delivery.

1

.....

.....

2

.....

.....

[4]

This question was answered very well by candidates who had read the question carefully and focused their answers on preparing a mother for her 'pregnancy' and the 'delivery'. These answers described being prepared for the birth, knowing what to expect during the pregnancy, creating a birth plan and having the opportunity to meet other mothers to be etc.

Some candidates wrote generally about parenting classes, how to look after a baby and getting the father involved. This gained no marks.

Question 5 (b) (i) and (ii)

(b) Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) is a specialist antenatal screening blood test.

(i) State from how many weeks of pregnancy this test can be carried out.

..... [1]

(ii) Name **one** condition this blood test is used to detect.

..... [1]

Few candidates knew at how many weeks the test is carried out - the answer is 10.

However many did know the name of one of the conditions that it is used to detect – the most common correct answer was Down's syndrome.

Question 5 (c)

(c) Give **four** reasons, other than to test for genetic abnormalities, why blood tests are carried out at antenatal clinics.

1

.....

2

.....

3

.....

4

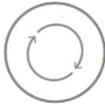
.....

[4]

Knowledge levels varied significantly. Many candidates had really good knowledge and gained full marks. Others were obviously guessing and picked up 1 or 2 marks. Usually for blood group and blood sugar level.

Some candidates lost marks for repetition, for example 'to check for diabetes' and 'to check blood sugar' or 'test for genetic abnormalities' which is an example given in the question.

Weaker responses either left the space blank or gave answers such as 'to see if she is alive' or 'to check blood pressure'.

	AfL	When asked to give a number of responses to questions candidates should be taught to give clearly different examples to avoid losing marks for repetition.
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Question 5 (d) (i)

(d) Below is a picture of a mother who has just had a water birth.



(i) Explain **one** reason why some mothers may choose to have a water birth.

.....
.....
..... [3]

A few candidates gained full marks here. Many explained how it was relaxing, soothing, and offered some pain relief, or how it provides a gentler, less stressful entry into the world for the baby. But there were many vague answers that did not address the command verb 'explain' and so limited their marks. Some candidates just stated it was 'comfortable', 'easier' or 'quicker', with no additional detail.

Exemplar 2

...some mothers may choose to have a water birth as it is a drug-free method of pain relief. The water is kept at a constant temperature of 37°C, which helps to relax muscles and ease pain. The water also releases natural endorphins which helps to relieve pain. The mother can also move around in the water as she is mobile. [3]

Exemplar 2 shows a 3 mark response. This response is well structured and contains accurate and relevant information. The candidate starts with the information that it is a 'drug free' method of pain relief. The candidate then moves on to the water temperature, and explains how this helps to relax muscles and ease pain. Release of endorphins is explained and how the mother can move around.

Question 6 (a) (i) and (ii)

6 (a) Social interaction is important for the development of babies and young children.

(i) Identify **one** way parents/carers can encourage social interaction.

(ii) Explain how the way you have identified could encourage a child's social interaction.

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

Most candidates were able to name an appropriate way to encourage social interaction. Arranging play dates or taking the child to a nursery were common suggestions.

Most candidates were able to gain at least 1 mark for the explanation. Common correct answers included making friends and learning to share, take turns, or developing confidence.

Some did not gain full marks for the explanation due to just repeating 'social interaction' which is the question.

Question 6 (b) (i)

(b) Babies are born with a number of reflexes.

(i) Give the meaning of the term 'reflexes'.

.....

.....

..... [2]

Many candidates struggled to answer this question, often naming or describing reflexes rather than defining what they are.

The exemplar below gives one candidate's response, though other terminology would have been credited such as 'automatic' 'involuntary' for example.

Exemplar 3

Reflexes are a physical action that
is done by the baby unintentionally

The definition in Exemplar 3 gained 2 marks.

The candidate has clearly stated two key points about a reflex. The first is that it is a 'physical action' and it is done 'unintentionally'.

Question 6 (b) (ii)

(ii) Name the reflexes described in the table below.

Description	Reflex name
When gently touched on the lips or cheek the baby will turn its head.	
When an object is put in a baby's hand, the baby will close its fingers around it.	
When a baby hears a loud noise they will throw back their head and move their arms away from their body.	

[3]

Many candidates gained full marks.
Some candidates did not correctly name 'rooting' and some gave 'grip' for 'grasp'.

Question 6 (c)

(c) Describe what vernix is and its purpose.

.....

 [2]

The majority of candidates gave a correct description and stated the purpose of vernix.
Some candidates confused it with lanugo or incorrectly gave the purpose as helping with the birth.

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Question 4(a): Picture of hazards in a child's bedroom – source:
https://web.archive.org/web/20140916072640/www.nationwideeducation.co.uk/safety-education/home-safety/teachers/02-07_safety-first_being-safe/interactive-activities.php

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