**Extended Response 4**

**Contraception**

Background Information

Birth control is used to promote or prevent conception

In early history, it was known that intercourse was required to establish a pregnancy, but not all intercourse resulted in a pregnancy. Reliable birth control could only occur when the reproductive processes were fully understood. It wasn’t until the 1950’s when the Pill was introduced that women had a reliable way of controlling their fertility.

Here are some of the major historical steps in understanding reproduction in humans:

1677 Leeuwenhoek reports the existence of sperm

1827 human eggs are seen for the first time

1920’s understanding meiosis ad production of gametes is used to demonstrate fertilisation and sex determination

1950’s understanding of the role of hormones in reproductive cycles leads to the development of the “Pill”.

1978 first “test tube” baby born

2000’s research into the male “Pill”.

Purpose:

* to research various birth control / contraceptive methods.
* to understand the risks, benefits and reliability of each method.

Procedure:

1. Birth control methods can be categorised into two broad types: physical and behavioural methods.
2. Draw up a table using the following headings: Method (and alternative names); description; risks (including side-effects); benefits (including reliability); costs.
3. Find 8 methods of contraception to add to this chart, four physical and four behavioural. (10 marks)

1. Rank the methods of contraception you chose from 1 to 8 based on the information from your table. Justify your rankings. (5 marks)

**Answer the following questions giving reasons for your choices.**

1. What factors influence the choice of contraception by young adults? (2 marks)
2. What factors influence the use of contraception by young adults? (2 marks)
3. Which of the contraceptive methods helps control the spread of STI’s? (2 marks)
4. How do the current contraceptive pills differ from the original ones available in the 1950’s? (2 marks)
5. Which of the methods listed can help plan a pregnancy? (2 marks)