Chapter 18: Guidance on answering the self-test questions

Question 1: Sandra applies to the CSA. Advise Barry on how much the CSA are likely to ask for.

The first step is to work out Barry's income net of tax, NI, and pension contributions. Barry will pay the basic rate as his income is over £200 per week.

£299 + £25 bonus - £50 pension = £274

As Barry has two children from a previous relationship his income is reduced by 20% to take account of this:

20% of £274 = £54.80 and so Barry's available income will be £219.20

As there are two children to maintain, Barry will pay 20% of his income:

20% of £219.20 = £43.84

Barry has contact with the children on two nights per week. If the children stay with him, his child support maintenance will be reduced by 2/7.

2/7 of £43.84 = £12.52 and so Barry would pay £43.84- £12.52 = £31.32

Question 2: Would your answer change if Barry became unemployed and claimed Jobseeker's Allowance?

If Barry became unemployed and in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance, he will pay the flat rate of £5 per week.