

Fact sheet on benefits (Q9) and Savings and Investments (Q27, Q28, Q40, Q40b)

Benefits

Here is a summary of what the different benefits at Q9 relate to. This is designed to help you code the correct benefit.

Benefit	Description
1. Child Benefit	A regular payment made to anyone bringing up children. It's paid for each child that qualifies and isn't affected by your income or savings.
2. Child Tax Credit	A means-tested allowance for parents and carers of children or young people who are still in full-time education. All families with children can claim Child Tax Credit if their income is no more than £58,000 a year (up to £66,000 if you have a child under one).
3. Income Support	A means tested benefit for people who can't be available for full-time work and don't have enough money to live on. People who may be eligible include: lone parent; registered sick or disabled; student caring for someone who's sick or elderly.
4. Jobseeker's Allowance	People of working age but unemployed and actively seeking work, may be able to claim Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA).
5. Statutory Maternity Pay or Maternity Allowance	To help you to take time off work when you have a baby, you may be able to get Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) from your employer. But if you don't qualify for Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP), you may be able to claim Maternity Allowance (MA) instead.
6. Disability Living Allowance	A tax-free benefit you can get if you need help getting around and/or looking after yourself because you are ill, disabled or terminally ill. You can also claim Disability Living Allowance for an ill or disabled child.
7. Pension Credit	If you're aged 60 or over you may be entitled to Pension Credit - extra money each week. It is made up of two elements – the 'Guarantee Credit' element and the 'Savings Credit' element (which may be payable from age 65).

Benefit	Description
8. Housing Benefit	If you're on a low income and need financial help to pay all or part of your rent, you may be able to get Housing Benefit.
9. Council Tax Benefit	If you're on a low income and need financial help to pay your Council Tax bill, you may be able to claim Council Tax Benefit.
10. Incapacity Benefit	If you can't work because of illness or disability you may be able to get Incapacity Benefit (IB), a weekly payment for people under State Pension age.
11. Severe Disablement Allowance	Before April 2001, you may have been able to claim Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) if you'd been unable to work for at least 28 weeks in a row because of an illness or disability.
12. Attendance Allowance or Carer's Allowance	Attendance Allowance is a tax-free benefit for people aged 65 or over who have an illness or disability and need help with personal care. Carer's Allowance is a benefit paid to informal carers of people who are severely disabled. You do not have to be related to, or live with, the person.
13. Working Tax Credit	If you work but are on a low income you may be able to get Working Tax Credit. You may also be able to get extra money if you pay for childcare; work 30 or more hours per week; have a disability; are aged over 50 and have recently returned to work after being on a benefit.

Savings and Investments

Q27 and Q28 ask about Savings and Q40 and Q40b ask about investment. It is important that respondents are not confused between the two (ie. include investments under savings and vice versa). A key difference between them is that for savings account, you normally **know** what return you are going to get (ie. normally the original amount you put in plus the interest payable on that amount). In contrast, investments carry a degree of risk and the amount you get back depends on how the investment is performing in the market - therefore, the returns on investments can go down as well as up. Here is a summary of the different savings at Q27/28. On the following page, we have provided a summary of the different ISAs (Individual Savings Accounts) available.

Savings (Q27/28)	Account features
1. Post Office savings accounts	Operated by the Post Office. Account openers normally keep track of their account using a passbook.
2. National Savings Account	Operated by National Savings & Investment (NS&I). Anything you save with NS&I is secure because it is backed by the Treasury.
3. Credit Union	These are financial co-operatives offering their members an easy and convenient place to save and access to low cost loans when required. It is open to everyone. They encourage members to make regular contributions into savings accounts which create a central pool of funds. This is used to provide loans to members at very favourable rates. The interest generated from the loans is used to cover admin costs, with any surplus returned to members as dividends.
4. Bank and building society accounts	Please note we are only interested in Savings account (and not current accounts which are asked separately elsewhere in the questionnaire). ISA and TESSA accounts are also asked elsewhere at Q40/40b so do not include them here.
5. Saving Gateway	This is the account that is currently being piloted. Please do not mention this account to the CONTROL group (ie. people who have not been offered the Saving Gateway account).
6. Account opened on behalf of a child	Any savings accounts opened by the respondent/partner/spouse on behalf of a child, including Child Trust Fund (CTF). CTF is a long-term tax-free savings and investment account for all children born on/after 1 September 2002. The government will give every eligible child a voucher worth at least £250 to start the fund.
7. All-in-one/offset accounts	A savings account which is linked to a mortgage. Interest earned on savings goes towards paying off the capital on a mortgage. Do not read out this code as respondent will know if they have such an account.

Q40a - What are ISAs?

Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) are tax-free savings and investment accounts. ISAs were introduced in 1999 to replace other similar savings schemes called PEPS and TESSAs. You can use an ISA to save cash, or invest in stocks and shares. There are different types of ISAs which are listed below. If respondent has **any** ISA – this should be recorded at Q40 and Q40b.

ISAs (Q40a)	Features
1. Mini Cash ISA	You can save up to £3,000 a year into a cash mini-ISA if you are a British citizen and aged 16 or over. The interest is paid tax-free.
2. Mini Stocks and Shares ISA	A stocks and shares ISA can hold an investment fund or funds, or individual stocks and shares. This type of ISA carries risks.
3. Mini Insurance ISA	An insurance ISA holds an investment from a life company, for example a with-profits fund. As of 6 April 2005 this will be scrapped as a separate element but you will still be able to hold this type of fund within a stocks and shares ISA.
4. Maxi-ISA	Maxi ISAs can contain cash, investment-based life insurance or stocks and shares. All the investments in a Maxi ISA must be with the same company
5 TESSA only ISA	<p>TESSA, the Tax Exempt Special Savings Account lasted for five years and you were allowed to invest up to £9,000 over the life of each account. You got all your interest tax-free and once your five years were up you could either take your money or put your money into a new TESSA account (and continue to receive tax-free interest).</p> <p>The last day you could open one was 5 April 1999, so there aren't any TESSAs in existence any more. But you were allowed to roll a TESSA that matured between 6 April 1999 and 5 April 2004 into what is known as a TESSA-Only ISA (or TOISA for short) so that you could continue to receive tax-free interest.</p>