

BUSINESS Paper 1 Short Answer/Essay MARK SCHEME Maximum Mark: 40

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

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## **Generic Marking Principles**

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	Define the term 'private limited company'.	2
	A small to medium sized business (1) that has a separate legal entity (1) and is owned by shareholders (1) often members of the same family (1). Shareholders have limited liability (1) and shares cannot be sold to the general public/or on stock exchange (1)	
	Sound definition given – 2 of the points listed above. (2 marks)	
	Partial definition – 1 of the points listed above. (1 mark)	
	No creditable content. (0 marks)	
1(b)	Briefly explain <u>one</u> advantage and <u>one</u> disadvantage to a business of operating as a public limited company rather than as a private limited company.	3
	<ul> <li>Advantages: <ul> <li>Easier to raise capital e.g. from existing/new investors.</li> <li>To give company a more prestigious profile – improved reputation.</li> <li>Greater creditworthiness e.g. easier to obtain loans.</li> <li>The opportunity to more easily make acquisitions e.g. by offering shares to the shareholders of the target firm.</li> <li>plc status may reduce expenditure on marketing e.g. greater discounts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Disadvantages: <ul> <li>Short-term pressure for profit maximisation/share price may mean compromising overall business aims.</li> <li>More media exposure – potentially more accountability.</li> <li>Greater transparency – accounts must be audited/fuller information on performance provided.</li> <li>No control over who buys shares/less control over business – vulnerable to a takeover/a majority shareholder having a greater say how the business is run.</li> <li>Amount of finance to set up plc is higher.</li> <li>More documentation required to set up.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	as a plc. (3 marks) Sound explanation of <b>either one</b> advantage OR <b>one</b> disadvantage, <b>or</b> partial explanation of <b>one</b> advantage AND <b>one</b> disadvantage. (2 marks)	
	Partial explanation of <b>either one</b> advantage OR <b>one</b> disadvantage, <b>or</b> a list of <b>one</b> advantage AND <b>one</b> disadvantage. (1 mark)	
	No creditable content. (0 marks)	

Question	Answer		Marks
2(a)	Define the term 'debt factoring'.		2
	The selling of the claims on trade receivables (1) to a debt factori company / third party (1) which will give immediate cash but not to amount of the trade receivables (1).		
	Sound definition – 2 of the factors listed above	(2 marks)	
	Partial definition – 1 of the factors listed above	(1 mark)	
	No creditable content.	(0 marks)	
2(b)	<ul> <li>Briefly explain two disadvantages of using debt factoring to the cash flow of a business.</li> <li>It is a short-term solution only for a cash flow problem.</li> <li>It may prevent a business dealing with the core problem.</li> <li>It may be costlier than other short-term solutions.</li> <li>It will eat into profit margins in the short-term.</li> <li>You do not get the full amount owed to the business.</li> <li>Sound explanation of two disadvantages of using debt factoring to improve cash flow</li> </ul>	(3 marks)	3
	Sound explanation of <b>one</b> disadvantage or partial explanation of	<b>two</b> (2 marks)	
	Partial explanation of <b>one</b> disadvantage or a list of <b>two</b>	(1 mark)	
	No creditable content	(0 marks)	

Question	Answer	Marks
3	Explain how an understanding of the 'product life cycle' might help a business manage its product portfolio.	5
	<ul> <li>It is important for a business to know when to launch a new product or update an existing one.</li> <li>A balanced product portfolio is one in which the range of products is one that maximises efficiency in the allocation of resources.</li> <li>The product life cycle (concept) is a mechanism for assisting with product portfolio analysis.</li> <li>The product life cycle is the pattern of sales recorded by a product from launch to withdrawal from the market.</li> <li>It is an analytical tool that examines product sales over a series of stages: introduction, growth, maturity, decline, extension.</li> <li>This analysis assists in reviewing the product portfolio and suggests when changes may be needed.</li> </ul>	
	Effective explanation of how the product life cycle helps a business manage its product portfolio – answers must clearly show an explicit understanding of <b>both</b> the product life cycle <b>and</b> product portfolio (4–5 marks)	
	Limited explanation of how the product life cycle helps a business manage its product portfolio (2–3 marks)	
	Understanding of product life cycle / product portfolio (1 mark)	
	No creditable content (0 marks)	

Question	Answer	Marks	
4(a)	Define the term 'lead time'.		
	he normal time taken between ordering new inventory (1) and its delivery / eceiving the goods (1).		
	Sound definition – 2 of the factors above (2 marks)		
	Partial definition – 1 of the factors above (1 mark)		
	No creditable content (0 marks)		

Question	Answer	Marks		
4(b)	Briefly explain <u>two</u> advantages to a business of effective inventory management.			
	<ul> <li>Ensures there are sufficient inventories to meet unforeseen changes demand – prevents shortages.</li> <li>Ensures out of date inventories are not held e.g. fresh food or technological products.</li> <li>Prevents wastage due to unsuitable storage – makes better use of resources/saves money.</li> <li>Prevents excessive storage costs and high opportunity cost.</li> <li>Good management can secure good discounts from suppliers – sav money.</li> <li>Leads to repeat customers – as they know their needs will be met.</li> <li>Sound explanation of two advantages to a business of effective inventory management (3 mathematical sources) (3 mathematical sources) (3 mathematical sources) (4 mathematical sources) (4</li></ul>	ring arks) arks) nark)		

Question		Answer		Marks
5(a)		e the advantages of a 'partnership' as a legal structure of a small business.	for the	8
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Good analysis of the advantages of a partnership as a legal structure for the owners of a small business.	7–8	
	3	Some analysis of the advantages of a partnership as a legal structure for the owners of a small business	5–6	
	2	Some explanation / application of the advantages of a partnership for the owners of a small business	3–4	
	1	Understanding of partnership / legal structure / small business	1–2	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	<ul> <li>Two and</li> <li>It ov</li> <li>Dec</li> <li>New</li> <li>It is</li> <li>Doe</li> <li>Cov</li> <li>Allo</li> <li>Dee</li> <li>votii</li> <li>In se</li> <li>Pop</li> </ul>	a may include: o or more people forming a business with shared capital, in shared responsibilities. vercomes some of the drawbacks of a sole trader. isions are shared. v partners can provide additional capital. relatively easy to set up with few legal formalities. so not have to publish its accounts. er for holidays/sickness can be provided by other partners ws specialisation within the business. eds of partnership can regularise the management roles of ng rights, management roles. ome countries, limited liability partnerships can be set up. ular form of business for small service companies such as nitects – flexibility with a measure of organisational security	s. partners,	

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Question		Answer		Marks
5(b)		the most important factors that could influence the s business manufacturing highly priced 'designer' hanc		12
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Effective evaluation of the most important factors that could influence the success of a small business manufacturing highly priced designer handbags	9–12	
	3	Limited evaluation of the most important factors that could influence the success of a small business manufacturing highly priced designer handbags	7–8	
	2	Analysis and some application of the most important factors that could influence the success of a small business	3–6	
	1	Understanding of small business / niche manufacturing	1–2	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	<ul> <li>Suc</li> <li>The imporent impo</li></ul>	a may include: cess factors could be owner / product / economy specific. quality and attractiveness and exclusivity of the product wort ortant. risks and advantages of niche market manufacturing will levant – the extent and growth of competition. competence, experience and business expertise of the sr ness. degree of capitalisation / under-capitalisation / cash flow / ere is the business in terms of market consolidation? relevance of the business model and business objectives lity of business systems – marketing, product planning. /ard reference to the uncertainties, fashion changes for the ket of handbags.	be nall ′ liquidity.	
		ve comments might include judgement on what are the month of the month of the month of the month of the sequally important?	ost	

Question		Answer		Marks
6	employ scheme	the likely advantages and disadvantages to the busir	lated pay	20
	Level	Description	Marks	
	5	Effective evaluation of the likely advantages and disadvantages to a poorly performing business of changing its method of employee payment from a salary scheme to a PRP scheme	17–20	
	4	Limited evaluation and good analysis of the likely advantages and disadvantages to a poorly performing business of changing its method of employee payment from a salary scheme to a PRP scheme	13–16	
	3	Analysis of the likely advantages and disadvantages to a poorly performing business of changing its method of employee payment from a salary scheme to a PRP scheme	11–12	
	2	Limited analysis, with application, of the likely advantages and/or disadvantages to a business of changing its method of employee payment from a salary scheme to a PRP scheme	5–10	
	1	Understanding of salary scheme / performance related pay	14	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	Answers	s may include:		
	Advanta	ages of moving to performance related pay:		
	<ul><li>Perf</li><li>Incr</li></ul>	ary payment can lead to complacency, pay unrelated to pro formance related pay provides financial incentives to meet eased production – reduced unit costs. eased motivation and morale – fairer system.		

Question	Answer	Marks
6	Disadvantages of moving to performance related pay:	
	<ul> <li>Performance related pay might cause cash flow problems if outflows (manufacturing costs rise) and inflows do not keep pace.</li> <li>Quality may decrease in the rush to maximise earnings.</li> <li>Performance related pay can cause divisions within teams – can lead to favouritism from managers / individuals seeking to drive up their own performance rather than that of team members.</li> <li>Time consuming to implement – more bureaucratic in practice.</li> <li>Evaluative comments could discuss the extent to which performance related pay is suitable for all employees in a business.</li> <li>It all depends on the cause of the poor performance – there may be more important measures to take.</li> <li>Consideration of whether a focus on pay systems neglects measuring quality of work, as it concentrates on a narrow focus on quantifiable goals.</li> </ul>	
	Impact of a change in payment methods depends on whether employee pay is <b>the</b> or <b>one</b> of the factors causing poor performance.	
	It may be other factors such as the <b>quality</b> of employees, or the inadequacy of products / services.	
	If payment system is considered to be a significant factor, then incentivising through performance related pay could work.	

Question		Answer		Marks
7(a)	Analyse objectiv	e the importance to a business of having clear marketi res.	ng	8
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Good analysis of the importance to a business of having clear marketing objectives	7–8	
	3	Some analysis of the importance to a business of having clear marketing objectives	5–6	
	2	Some explanation / application of the importance to a business of having clear marketing objectives	3–4	
	1	Understanding of marketing objectives	1–2	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	<ul> <li>Mar mar</li> <li>The busi</li> <li>The</li> <li>Exa <ul> <li>ne</li> <li>orga</li> </ul> </li> <li>If the to the mar</li> <li>If cleared and the second se</li></ul>	keting objectives set out what a business wants to achieve keting activities. y need to be consistent with the overall aims and objective iness. y need to provide a clear focus for the marketing departm mples include: market share – brand identity – launch nev ew advertising campaign. y need to be clearly communicated to all departments in th anisation. ey are clear and realistic, they will provide a clear sense on the organisation and the marketing department, eg to beco ket leader. ear, they can be progress monitored. y will form the basis of a marketing strategy for a business	es of the ent. v products he of direction me the	

Question		Answer		Marks
7(b)	without	the view that marketing objectives will not be achieve a close relationship between the marketing, finance a ons departments of a business.		12
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Effective evaluation of the view that marketing objectives will not be achieved without a close relationship between the marketing, finance and operations departments of a business	9–12	
	3	Limited evaluation of the view that marketing objectives will not be achieved without a close relationship between the marketing, finance and operations departments of a business	7–8	
	2	Analysis and some application of the view that marketing objectives will not be achieved without a close relationship between departments of a business	3–6	
	1	Understanding of marketing objectives / functional departments	1–2	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	<ul> <li>Mar and achi</li> </ul>	s may include: keting objectives can include increasing market share, dev promoting new products, entering a new market and can leved with cooperation with other functional departments. er departments will support and be coordinated by marketi	only be	
	and mar	keting will have to work within the budget agreed at corpor specified by finance – e.g. the amount of money allocated keting to market a product – and finance will use the sales narketing to devise cash flow forecasts.	d to	
	fore	ons ket research data will be important in new product plannin casts will affect capacity utilisation decisions and marketin mpt to keep operations customer orientated.	•	
	Evaluati	ve comments might include		
	activities	eeds to be alignment between marketing objectives and th of <b>all</b> functional departments if marketing objectives are t d – Finance and Operations but also HR.		