

Cambridge International Examinations

Cambridge International Advanced Level

BUSINESS 9609/32

Paper 3 Case Study March 2017

MARK SCHEME
Maximum Mark: 100

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.

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General Marking Guidance for 9609 Paper 3

- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.
- Errors that are carried forward (e.g. when an incorrect numerical answer to one part of a question is used as the starting point for a calculation in the next part of the question) should not be compounded use the 'own figure rule'.
- Poor spelling, handwriting or grammar should not be penalised as long as the answer makes sense.
- The main Scoris annotations to be used are K (Knowledge), APP (Application), AN
 (Analysis), EVAL (Evaluation). For each of these four annotations, the number of marks
 awarded for that assessment objective must match the number of times that annotation is on
 the answer.
- Only award EVAL if the candidate has also demonstrated APP.
- Other Scoris annotations that can be used are: Tick, Cross, BOD (Benefit Of Doubt), TV (Too Vague), REP (Repetition), NAQ (Not Answered Question), OFR (Own Figure Rule), SEEN, On Page Comment.
- Blank pages on a script must be annotated as SEEN.
- A blank space, dash, question mark and a response that bears no relation to the question constitutes a 'no response'.
- In Section B, candidates answer either Question 6 or Question 7. The Section B question that the candidate does not answer must be entered as 'no response'.
- Blank pages, or pages that contain crossed out material, must be annotated using 'SEEN'.

This mark scheme includes a summary of appropriate content for answering each question. It should be emphasised, however, that this material is for illustrative purposes and is not intended to provide a definitive guide to acceptable answers. It is quite possible that among the scripts there will be some candidate answers that are not covered directly by the content of this mark scheme. In such cases, professional judgement should be exercised in assessing the merits of the answer and the senior examiners should be consulted if further guidance is required.

Application marks are not awarded for repeating material from the case study. Application is by answering in the context of the case or by using the information in the case to help answer the question.

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1	Answer							
'		e likely opportunities and ven in Appendix 1.	threats to SA of the f	orecast economic	10			
	Level	Knowledge 3 marks	Application 3 marks	Analysis 4 marks				
	2	3 marks Good knowledge shown of opportunities and threats/impact of them	3 marks Points well applied	3–4 marks Good use of reasoned argument or theory to explain the likely impact of opportunities and threats				
	1	1–2 marks Knowledge shown of opportunities and threats/impact of them	1–2 marks Some attempt to apply points or one point well applied	1–2 marks Some use of reasoned argument or theory to explain likely impact of opportunities and threats				
	0		No creditable content					
	lower econor	mic growth on requires more specific re	ference to SA e.g. cos	t of fuel				
		: portunities and threats – ext	-					
	Knowledge: • Opp	:	ernal factors that impa					

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visitors may offset impact of economic changes.

Question	Answer	Marks
	 Slowing economic growth may lead to incomes for consumers and businesses increasing at a slower rate and this could slow the rate of increase in demand for flights. Low unemployment could cause rising wage costs and impact SA's competitiveness. Businesses such as SA may be less willing to make substantial investments with falling growth of real GDP. Currency appreciation will lead to fares being higher if bought in Euros and probably other currencies. Incomes still increasing at a reasonable rate, continued increase in demand for air travel. SA's profitability is relatively low and could fall, meaning reliance on loan finance for future investments, interest rates set to rise. 	

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Question		Answer						
2(a)(i)		o Append w aircraft		ulate	the net present	value (NPV) for the purchase of the	4	
	Year	Net cash flows \$m	Discou factor	ınt	Discounted cash flow \$m	Marks		
	0	(80)				1 mark for some attempt to use		
	1	8	.89		7.12	discount factors		
	2	12	.80		9.6	2 marks for arithmetic error and		
	3	15	.71		10.65	failure to subtract capital cost		
	4	20	.64		12.80	3 marks for 1 error		
	5	30	.57		17.1	4 marks for correct answer		
	6	54	.49		26.46	4 marks for correct answer		
			NPV		83.73 - 80 = 3.73			
	Answe	er	Mark	rk Rationale				
	\$3.73m 4		4	Correct answer				
	\$83.73m 3		3	Capital cost not subtracted				
	_\$8.03m 3		3	Ignores residual value		e		
	\$71.97m 2		2	Ignores residual value and capital cost not subtracted				
2(a)(ii)	purcha	ase two ne	w aircraf	t.		g ratio for SA if \$80m is borrowed to \times 100 = gearing % (1 mark)	4	
	Formula: non-current liabilities / capital employed \times 100 = gearing % (1 mark) $\frac{\$348m + 80m}{\$1128 + 80m} \frac{(1 \text{ mark})}{(1 \text{ mark})} = 428m/1208m (2 \text{ marks})$							
	35.43% (4 marks)							
	\$428/\$	1128 (fails	to add \$8	80 in c	apital employed)	= 37.94% (3 marks)		
	Alterna	tive formul	a: non-cu	rrent l	iabilities / shareh	olders' equity × 100 (1 mark)		
	$\frac{\$348m + 80m}{\$780m} \frac{(1 \text{ mark})}{(1 \text{ mark})} = 428m/780m (2 \text{ marks})$							
	54.87%	(4 marks))					
	$\frac{\$348m}{\$1128m} = 30.85\%$ (2 marks)							

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Question	Answer							
2(b)	Refer to your results from part (a) and other information in the case. Recommend whether SA should purchase or lease the two aircraft.							
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 5 marks	Evaluation 5 marks			
	2	2 marks Good knowledge shown of relevant issues	2 marks Good application to case	3–5 marks Good use of reasoned argument or theory to explain investment appraisal result and other relevant issues	3–5 marks Good judgement shown in answer and conclusion			
	1	1 mark Some knowledge of relevant issues	1 mark Some application to case	1–2 marks Some use of reasoned argument or theory to either investment appraisal result or other relevant issues	1–2 marks Some judgement shown in answer and/or conclusion			
	0		No cred	litable content				
	Knowled	dge: Investment appraisal purchase. NPV takes into accordeasing the aircraft in business assets.	l is a way of ass unt the future vanvolves a yearly	fers to results from (a) or essing future returns from alue of money. The cost/expense and aircraft ase with purchase option.	n a capital ft will not be			

Analysis:

- If the competition in the airline industry increases this would affect expected revenues.
- Purchase of aircraft will require financing and potentially increase pressure on cashflow.
- Purchase will increase value of assets of SA and increase capital employed thus increasing size of the business.
- Leasing will have less impact on the short-term cash-flow position of SA compared to outright purchase.

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Question	Answer	Marks
	 Accept either option or advise not obtaining new equipment – but must be well supported by reasoned argument. Decision may depend on value after six years/speed of depreciation. How accurate is the figure given? Decision may depend on state of economy – are interest rates likely to increase as a result of rising inflation? This could be a disadvantage for the purchase option especially as the payback is nearly 5 years. 	

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Question			A	nswer		Mai
3		nt extent could a de roposed new intern		ing plan lead to a succ s?	essful launch of	
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 6 marks	Evaluation 6 marks	
	2	2 marks Good knowledge shown of strategic marketing planning	2 marks Good application to case	4–6 marks Good use of reasoned argument or theory to explain how effective marketing planning may lead to successful launch or its limitations	4–6 marks Good judgement shown in answer and conclusion	
	1	1 mark Some knowledge of strategic marketing planning/marketin g mix	1 mark Some application to case	1–3 marks Some use of reasoned argument or theory to explain how effective marketing planning may lead to successful launch or its limitations	1–3 marks Some judgement shown in answer and/or conclusion	
	0		No cr	editable content		
	Knowle	Marketing plan – in including marketing Launch marketing	g research, mix planning – acti	egy, in this case for laun	ategy, tactics. maximum number of	
	Applica • •	Ansoff's matrix – m	needs to targe	et customers in home co	untry and destination	
	Analys	is:				
	•	SA need to research this? Is there any of Is pricing method unappreciation.	ch overseas many portunity for a sed appropriate with existing cu	te? Especially given the istomers good? How eff	e budget allow for currency ective is the website?	

Costs of initial launch strategy will be high. Will further borrowing be needed?

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Question	Answer	Marks
	 Evaluation: How competitive is the market for air travel in destination countries? Will SA be competing with national state-owned airlines that do not need to make profits? Apart from the marketing plan, what other factors will be important? For example state of economy and incomes in destination countries. As a domestic airline, do SA have the skills and knowledge to enter the new market? 	

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Question		Answer	Marks				
4(a)	Refer to the information on lines 32–34 and 42–46. Assume the average capacity utilisation will be the same on the proposed international routes as on domestic flights. Calculate SA's forecast average total revenue for one international flight.						
	Answer	Explanation					
		Capacity utilisation on current flights given in text:					
		Economy – 99% Business – 67% Apply these to international flights					
	Number of seats sold in business /	Economy $126 \times 99\% = 124.74$ seats [1] Business $16 \times 67\% = 10.72$ seats [1]					
	economy class per flight	Acceptable to round up or down 125 economy + 11 business [1 + 1] 124 economy + 10 business [1 + 1]					
		Now use business and economy prices					
	\$22999	$124.74 \times \$150 = \18711 [2] $10.72 \times \$400 = \4288 [2]					
		Total \$22 999 [6]					
	\$23 150 (usual rounding rules)	$125 \times $150 = 18750 [2] $11 \times $400 = 4400 [2] Total \$23150 [6]					
	\$22 600 (rounded seats	$124 \times \$150 = \18600 [2] $10 \times \$400 = \4000 [2]					
	sold down)	Total \$22 600 [6]					
	\$25 300	Full capacity revenue [1]					
		If no other valid working Capacity utilisation formula Current capacity (or seats sold)/maximum capacity (or seats available) × 100 [1]					
	1 error – 5 marks 2 errors – 4 marks 3 errors – 3 marks Some attempt – 1–2	2 marks					

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			. 0.	SEIGHES		
Question				Answer		Marks
4(b)					rom the case. Discuss s on the proposed new	12
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 4 marks	Evaluation 4 marks	
	2	2 marks At least two relevant points made	2 marks Application of two or more points to the case to case	3–4 marks Good use of reasoned argument or theory to answer question	3–4 marks Good judgement shown in answer and conclusion	
	1	1 mark One relevant point made	1 mark Some application to case	1–2 marks Some use of reasoned argument or theory to answer question	1–2 marks Some judgement shown in answer and/or conclusion	
	0		Ne	o creditable content		
	Knowle •	Selling a mix or different group discrimination a This is a key do	s of customers was different servi	vith different needs. (no ice but give credit). s it changes aspects of	is a way of appealing to t strictly speaking price marketing mix	
	Applica • • • • Analysis	Possibility of 'd Case suggests leisure travelle Comparison of i.e. 138 econor Full capacity: C Existing capacits:	that business trees, they are more calculation in (a my and 12 busine) old configuration ity: Old configuration	ess (allow full capacity \$25500; New configuration \$23709; New con	re price inelastic than infort and flexibility. Ising original mix of seats, calculation). The ration \$25,300. Infiguration 22,999.	
	•	Consider how a Impact of price In order to attra spend more on users. Impact on cost	elasticity on der act increased nu advertising than		d profits. llers SA may need to	

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Question	Answer	Marks
	 Evaluation: Market research suggests levels of demand and elasticity, but how accurate is this? Can the mix of seats be changed according to the route? To what extent may business traveller demand be affected by economic changes? Overall judgement in advising SA, supported by the most important factors in the case. 	

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Question			Ans	wer		Marks		
5	Evaluate the use of flexible employment contracts for SA's future success.							
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 5 marks	Evaluation 5 marks			
	2	2 marks Good knowledge shown of flexible workforce	2 marks Good application to case	4–5 marks Good use of reasoned argument or theory to explain the advantages or disadvantages of a flexible workforce	4–5 marks Good judgement shown in answer and conclusion			
	1	1 marks Some knowledge shown of flexible workforce	1 marks Some application to case	1–3 marks Some use of reasoned argument or theory to explain the advantages or disadvantages of a flexible workforce	1–3 marks Some judgement shown in answer and/or conclusion			
	0		No cre	ditable content				
	 A flexible workforce includes a mix of employees working under different contract. Typically a few key people on full time permanent basis and then others part-time, zero hours, temporary, short term. This leads to workforce planning that meets the needs of the business. Importantly some flexible working arrangements offer flexibility to accept or refuse work to the employees as well, such as zero hours contracts. 							
	 Application: In this case, the airline will need staff to cover more or less 24 hours a day flights to some destinations are seasonal, so changing needs for workers. There have been some complaints, but others will be happy to work unsocial hours, part time, and so on, to fit around other commitments. But some insecurity for both the staff and also the airline, as they can't run flights without full crew. The HR Director has suggested putting more staff on full time contracts and paying bonuses, so there could be an issue here. Are there any other benefits of working for SA? Free travel? 							
	Analysi	s:						
	•	them. Flexible arrangemen		A are only paying workers orkers and not others – mo				

The demand for air travel is growing and unemployment is low – will skilled staff still want to work for SA or might they leave and join a competitor for more

secure positions? SA is trying to grow, so will need to retain and recruit.

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Question	Answer	Marks
	 Judgement may depend on rate of growth of SA, but also nature of staff in all the different jobs with the company. The economic situation in countries where staff are recruited is important in terms of wage and employment levels. Generally jobs working for airlines, budget or otherwise, are popular, so probably unlikely to face a staff shortage. Arguments must be two sided and final judgement well supported. 	

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Question Answer Marks

Questions 6 and 7 use this marking grid:

Level	Knowledge 3 marks	Application 3 marks	Analysis 4 marks	Evaluation 10 marks
3				7–10 marks Good judgement shown throughout with well supported conclusion/ recommendation, focused on the business in the case
2	3 marks Good understanding shown	3 marks Good application to the case	3–4 marks Good use of reasoned argument or use of theory to explain points made	4–6 marks Some judgement shown in the main body of the answer and an attempt to support conclusion/ recommendation, focused on the business in the case OR effective and well supported conclusion/ recommendation, focused on the business in the case
1	1–2 marks Some understanding shown	1–2 marks Some application to the case	1–2 marks Limited use of reasoned argument or use of theory to support points made	1–3 marks Limited attempt to show judgement either within the answer OR a weakly supported conclusion/ recommendation with some focus on the business in the case
0			No creditable co	ntent

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Question	Answer	Marks	
6	Discuss the importance of contingency planning if SA is to continue to be successful.		
	Answers could include:		
	 Contingency planning – preparations made by business for future unexpected events that may adversely affect the running and reputation of the business. Contingency plans include procedures to follow when such an event occurs, such as dealing with the media and 'disaster recovery' plans. Corporate planning is the overview of company aims, objectives and strategies, in all areas for the next few years. Contingency planning is part of corporate planning. 		
	 Application: In this case, contingency planning (CP) may be used by SA to cope with disruptions such as a complete failure of the website, fuel shortage, service disruptions, such as delays, caused by factors such as weather or major incidents, such as plane technical problems, crashes or terrorism. Reference to contingency planning issues if Option B is chosen, e.g. building delays. The airline industry is vulnerable to many external factors (use of local examples allowable here). 		
	 Analysis: CP is important because of reassurance to staff (and customers?) that plans are in place and if, for instance, customers feel that problems such as major delays are dealt with efficiently and sympathetically, this will enhance reputation. CP can be costly, and requires high levels of skills and knowledge, both in the process and in terms of preparations, such as having back-up systems and even equipment. 		
	 But by the nature of CP, it is used to prepare for the unexpected, cannot prepare for all eventualities (again local examples) Importance of CP may depend on how likely these events are to occur, quite likely in this industry. A major incident would be disastrous and may cause loss of life. However, other parts of the corporate plan are also very important for the future of the airline. Maybe possible to prepare more detailed CP for more likely problems, such as passengers stranded by aircraft breakdown. Cost of CP needs to be balanced against potential damaging consequences of not doing it. Arguments must be two sided and final judgement well supported. 		

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Question	Answer	Marks		
7	Evaluate the <u>techniques</u> that SA could use to make the strategic choice between the two options for growth.			
	Answers could include:			
	Knowledge:			
	 Strategic choice – using appropriate techniques to help make decisions between alternative long term plans of action. 			
	 Decision trees; force field analysis; Ansoff's matrix to assess risk involved. Also investment appraisal; break-even. 			
	Application:			
	 Option A is market development. Lack of experience in market. Option B is diversification. 			
	 SA successful airline with core competence. 			
	 Cost comparison and comments, e.g. the joint venture sum of \$35m is initial cost only. 			
	Analysis:			
	 Option A – quite risky due to new market/country and lack of experience in international flying. However, SA is successful airline/core competency issues. Option B – but starting within the existing country, and linked with existing service. Potentially risky, though, as SA has no experience of managing hotels. How reliable is joint venture partner? 			
	 Both options rely on continued growth of travel industry, so some links between them meaning factors in strategic choice may be similar. 			
	 Decision trees could be very useful to assess risk involved and to compare this with expected payoffs – but how reliable would these estimates be? Could other hotel businesses be investigated to assess returns from Option B? Could joint venture partner help. 			
	 Force field analysis – important as option A involves operating to and from different countries and Option B entering a new market. Will SA and its staff be able to adapt to these changes? What are likely to be the main driving and restraining forces? 			
	Evaluation:			
	 Important to use scientific methods of strategic choice as these are both likely to be costly and expensive strategies and only potentially profitable in the long run. No one technique better than the others. Lack of experience in either market could make estimating cash flows very difficult. May need to use advice from external consultants? 			
	 Comparison of costs has been given and SA's profit margin is low, finance and the ability to borrow or raise more funds from shareholders must also be an important factor here. 			

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