

Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level

BUSINESS 9609/12

Paper 1 Short Answer/Essay

October/November 2017

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.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2017 series for most Cambridge IGCSE[®], Cambridge International A and AS Level components and some Cambridge O Level components.

® IGCSE is a registered trademark.



Question	Answer		Marks
1(a)	(a) Define the term 'social enterprise'.		2
	A social enterprise is a business that has mainly social objectives (1); reprofits to benefit society (1); a business whose main focus is not necess the making or maximising of profits (1); that pursues the triple bottom lir objectives (1); that engages in activities/social objectives such as creatifor the unemployed or producing in an environmentally friendly way (1).	sarily ne ng work	
	A definition that merits 2 marks will contain 2 of the 5 points listed above	e.	
	A partial definition that merits just 1 mark will contain only 1 of the 5 poil above.	nts	
	Partial definition – limited understanding	2 marks) (1 mark)) marks)	
1(b)	Briefly explain <u>two</u> aims of a social enterprise.		3
	NOTE: Questions 1(a) and 1(b) may well attract similar relevant points/information. Repeated material in 1(b) is perfectly acceptable should be rewarded as long as it is explained or developed as evidence for a brief explanation of distinctive social enterprise aims. Answers could include:		
	Sound explanation of one social enterprise aim or two partially	r grow of jobs to ainable a its are	
	Partial explanation of one social enterprise aim or a list of two	2 marks) (1 mark)) marks)	

© UCLES 2017 Page 2 of 10

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	Define the term 'retained earnings'. Retained earnings (profit) is the profit left after all deductions, including dividends, have been made (1); this is ploughed back into the business as a source of finance (1). Part of the profit that is reinvested in the business (1) rather than distributed to shareholders. (1) A definition that merits 2 marks will contain 2 of the 4 points listed above. A partial definition could be 'money put back in the business' worth 1 mark or contains only 1 of the 4 points above. Sound definition given (2 marks) Partial definition given (1 mark) No creditable content	2
2(b)	Briefly explain two uses of income statements for senior managers. Answers could include: income statements record the revenue, costs and profit (or loss) of a business over a given time provides information on the gross and operating profit of a company and shows how the operating profit is split between dividends to shareholders and retained profits can be used to measure and compare business performance over time and with other companies (ratios can be calculated to help with this analysis) used to see where costs could be reduced to increase profits actual profit data can be compared with expected levels of profit provide evidence for a bank loan all this information is useful for senior managers as they review the health of the organisation and make corporate decisions as important internal stakeholders they may well use the information of a strong set of figures in the income statement to push for improved rates of remuneration and/or propose changes in direction for the business the information in the income statement will provide vital management information as senior managers review and plan for the future of the business Sound explanation of two uses of income statements for senior managers Sound explanation of one use or partial explanation of two uses of income statements for senior managers. (2 marks) Partial explanation of one use or a list of two uses for senior managers.	3
	No creditable content (0 marks)	

© UCLES 2017 Page 3 of 10

Question	Answer	Marks
3	Explain the importance of workforce planning for the effective performance of a university.	5
	Definition – 'The analysis and forecasting of the numbers of workers and the skills of those workers that are required by an organisation to achieve its objectives'.	
	Some candidates are interpreting workforce planning in very general terms. Marks should be awarded only if the points made are clearly related to an accurate understanding of what workforce planning is said to involve.	
	Answers may include:	
	factors such as an ageing population, technological skill change, competition, changing consumer demands and expectations suggest the need for a relevant, agile and adaptable workforce. Some may well be important in a University	
	 workforce planning is about deciding how many and what types of workers are required at any particular time in line with mission and strategy of an organisation 	
	 process of analysing current competencies, competencies needed in the future, building on relevant workforce is critical for business performance workforce planning provides a strategic framework for making HRM decisions; it provides methods for addressing present and future workforce 	
	 issues it gives a focus to such issues as workforce demographics, retirement projections, skill changes, succession planning, new skills required, positions that need to be filled 	
	 organisational success and performance depends on having the right employees with the right competencies at the right time; workforce planning provides a method(s) of securing this situation 	
	 workforce planning is necessary; if a business/University does not have a sound workforce planning system, it will be reactive and suffer surprises a University needs staff engaged in relevant research and teaching 	
	Effective explanation of the importance of workforce planning for the effective performance of a University (4–5 marks) Limited explanation of the importance of workforce planning for	
	the effective performance of a business/organisation (2–3 marks) Understanding of workforce planning. (1 mark) No creditable content (0 marks)	

© UCLES 2017 Page 4 of 10

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	Define the term 'product orientation'.	2
	Product orientation is said to be an inward-looking marketing approach (1) which has a focus on making products (1) and invests a high proportion of resources on product features rather than marketing (1). The product is made without carrying out market research (1) and then the business tries to find customers to buy it (1).	
	A definition that merits 2 marks will contain 2 of the 5 points listed above.	
	A partial definition worth 1 mark will contain only 1 of the 5 points above.	
	Sound definition (2 marks) Partial definition (1 mark) No creditable content (0 marks)	
4(b)	Briefly explain <u>two</u> advantages of customer (market) orientation to a business.	3
	 this is an outward-looking marketing approach where product decisions are based on customer demand as determined by market research. it is said to be very important in fast-changing, volatile, consumer markets as it allows speedy response. market research feedback allows production and marketing to be adapted to the needs of customers before competitors get there first. it may well reduce number of market failures for newly-developed products. it reduces high cost wastage of producing an unwanted product. if business responds continually to customer preferences it is more likely to be a sustainable business. 	
	Sound explanation of two advantages to a business of customer orientation. Sound explanation of one advantage to a business of customer orientation or partial explanation of two advantages. Partial explanation of one advantage to a business or list of two No creditable content (0 marks)	

© UCLES 2017 Page 5 of 10

Question		Answer		Marks
5(a)	Analyse how a business might use a price discrimination strategy to increase profit.			
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Good analysis of how a business might use a price discrimination strategy to increase profit	7–8	
	3	Some analysis of how a business might use a price discrimination strategy to increase profit	5–6	
	2	Some application of price discrimination to business pricing decisions.	3–4	
	1	Understanding of price discrimination.	1–2	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	 com diffe mar or n edu ther the 	ipany must be able to identify different market segments. Frent segments must have different price elasticities (PED). Ket segments must be kept separate either by time, physical dature of use (e.g. Microsoft Office – available at a discount onlocational institutions). The must be no seepage between the segmented markets. The company must have some degree of monopoly power.	istance, y to	
	 Examples of possible price discrimination policies to improve profit: rail travellers sub-divided between commuter and casual travellers; 			
	senidiffecoulsplit	rent prices for export market products from those sold in home		

© UCLES 2017 Page 6 of 10

Question		Answer		Marks	
5(b)	Discuss why both the finance department and the operations department of a car manufacturing company should be involved in new product development.				
	Level	Description	Marks		
	4	Effective evaluation of why both the finance department and the operations department of a car manufacturing company should be involved in new product development.	9–12		
	3	Limited evaluation of why both the finance department and the operations department of a car manufacturing company should be involved in new product development.	7–8		
	2	Analysis and some application of why new product development should involve the finance department and the operations department.	3–6		
	1	Understanding of new product development and/or finance and/or operations.	1–2		
	0	No creditable content	0		
	departm alloc majo to su cost New proof the oper significant cars decli A ne cons Clearly th department that mato are cost of the engin	duct development clearly involves finance and the finance ent will be involved in issues such as: ating resources for new product development. or finance required for car design and development. upport innovative technology, design and production. and value management, financial planning for new product plantions department will be involved in issues such as: ficant investment likely to meet different customer demands elevation, environmentally friendly vehicles. Induct onew competitive models. In have a relatively short product life-cycle and models may be an estage. In we focus on customer required performance in safety, reliability tumption, speed, driver and passenger experience. There needs to be synergy between the operations and finance and the demands of customers in a very competitive industry are effective and financially viable. There needs to be synergy between and the management accountants. There is an	e.g. fuel at the y, fuel ce duce cars nd which tween		
	•	n these two departments is required e.g. role of marketing	DCLWVCGII		

© UCLES 2017 Page 7 of 10

Question		Answer		Marks
6	Discuss	tal requires employees to work 'long and often unsociable why and how the hospital should assist its employees to work-life balance.		2
	Level	Description	Marks	
	5	Effective evaluation of why and how a hospital should assist its employees to achieve a good work-life balance.	17–20	
	4	Good analysis and limited evaluation of why and how a hospital should assist its employees to achieve a good work-life balance.	13–16	
	3	Analysis of why and how a hospital should assist its employees to achieve a good work-life balance.	11–12	
	2	Limited analysis with application of why and/or how a hospital/organisation should assist its employees to achieve a good work-life balance.	5–10	
	1	Some understanding of the work-life balance concept.	1–4	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	 to pr it is a in a this i 	ty of care for a business. rotect staff from over-stress and mental health issues. about employee morale and welfare. more positive way it is the practice of caring for staff. may well lead to more loyalty, productivity and commitment. increases employee efficiency.		
	• it red	quires investment but can reap rewards.		
	too r intro sabb regu	pany will need to regularly review structures and processes the much pressure on employees. duce more flexible working e.g. more working from home; joboraticals. llar consultation with employees. ure management support for employees.	•	
	A signific alone (th individua	ve comments could be: cant role for HRM but WLB cannot be achieved by company acough this may be very helpful and necessary). It also require all employee recognition of the dangers of working too hard and may well be a shared responsibility.	es .	
	requires	ntext discussion will recognise that the nature of this organisal long and unsocial hours and high stress levels can result from the an HRM department should have real policies to encoura	n hospital	

© UCLES 2017 Page 8 of 10

Question		Answer		Marks
7(a)	Analyse the importance of corporate objectives and departmental objectives to the success of a business.			
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Good analysis of the importance of corporate and departmental objectives to the success of a business.	7–8	
	3	Some analysis of the importance of corporate and departmental objectives to the success of a business.	5–6	
	2	Some application of the importance of corporate and/or departmental objectives.	3–4	
	1	Understanding of business objectives.	1–2	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	 set tl corporation they Departm by the cospecifical	that all sections of a business contribute to corporate succes the framework for departmental objectives. orate objectives in a single business company might include t maximisation, market share increase. are all overall strategic objectives. tental objectives: each department of a business will be corporate objectives and will set departmental objectives that vally support and sustain the corporate objectives. may include:	growth,	
	more finan redu oper Each fun processe	keting may have a departmental objective to improve sales the effective sales promotions. Ince may have an objective of reducing long-term borrowing be cing costs by 10%. It is at a sale of the control of the contr	y 5% or ach year. at make objectives	

© UCLES 2017 Page 9 of 10

Question		Answer		Marks
7(b)	Discuss why a bank might change its corporate objectives over time.			
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Effective evaluation of why a bank might change its corporate objectives over time.	9–12	
	3	Limited evaluation of why a bank might change its corporate objectives over time.	7–8	
	2	Analysis and some application of why a bank might change its corporate objectives over time.	3–6	
	1	Understanding of corporate objectives.	1–2	
	0	No creditable content.	0	
	 these objectives may change for a number of reasons: new government regulations may require significant change; to curtail marginal potentially unethical activities so costs may increase. competition might increase from more ethical banks, credit unions; social enterprise. may be urged to pay more attention to small and medium enterprises. if a government has a shareholding, a bank may be required to withdraw from some highly profitable activities and pay more taxes or be subject to extra taxes. new senior managers may have different views on what the corporate objectives should be. the economy may change requiring a bank to play a much more social role in pumping money into an economy through a more liberal lending policy. 			
	Strong ar	nd evaluative answers will recognise that the corporate object y change as a result of internal and external forces and that l adaptive and flexible may well fail.	ctives of a	

© UCLES 2017 Page 10 of 10