

BUSINESS

9609/32 March 2018

Paper 3 Case Study 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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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.

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Question	Answer					
1	agreeme	vernment of country ints with neighbouri the likely impact on	ng countries.' (Lin		10	
	Level	Knowledge 3 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 5 marks		
	2	3 marks Good knowledge shown of impacts.	2 marks Points well applied	4–5 marks Good use of reasoned argument or theory to explain the likely impacts.		
	1	1–2 marks Knowledge shown impacts.	1 mark Some attempt to apply points or one point well applied	1–3 marks Some use of reasoned argument or theory to explain likely impacts		
	0		No creditable cor	ntent		
	 unemployment, currency depreciation Benefits Depreciating currency – exports will be more competitive Slowdown – wage rates in country X will grow more slowly 					
	 country X interest rates are likely to stay low Limitations All imported materials will be more expensive, country X consumers will have less disposable incomes, Will AP need to increase prices? Costs of all overseas projects will increase General disadvantages around uncertainty, such as banks' attitude towards lending and investor nervousness. 					
	USA • Impo beau • Fallir may	rence to data in Table and Asia orted products, includi ity ingredients from o	ing processed raw r verseas will be mor but are cosmetic p	roducts luxuries? Some		

Question	Answer	Marks
1	 Analysis New trade agreements could increase sales and market share in other countries/greater awareness Slowdown in Country X will weaken market conditions and sales but this could be offset by better sales elsewhere due to competitive prices Could this affect the decision to relocate more production overseas? Higher cost of raw materials could feed through into price rises 	

Question		Answer		Marks		
2(a)	Refer to lines 34–41 and Table 2. Calculate the forecast change in the dividend yield from 2017 to 2018.					
		2017 (actual)	2018 (forecast)			
	Revenue	550	580			
	Operating profit	56	60			
	Share price	\$4 per share	\$3.80 per share			
	Dividend per share	\$0.30 per share	\$0.28 per share			
	Retained profit	10	12			
	Dividend yield = (dividend Dividend yield 2017: 0.30	,	100 (1 mark) (2 marks)			
	Dividend yield forecast 20	018: 0.28/3.80 × 100 = 7.3	37% (2 marks)			
	Change in yield: 7.37 – 7.	.5 – = – 0.13% (or 0.13/7.	5 × 100 = 1.73%) (6 marks)			
	Accept 7.36% therefore -	0.14% (6)				
	Accept answer as decima	al i.e. 0.0737 (2), 0.075 (2)) and 0.0013 (6) etc.			

Question			Answer			Marks
2(b)	Recomm		part (a) and othe areholders whet			
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 4 marks	Evaluation 4 marks	
	2	2 marks At least two relevant points made	2 marks Points well applied	3–4 marks Good use of theory to answer the question	3–4 marks Good judgement shown	
	1	1 mark One relevant point made	1 mark Some attempt to apply points or one point well applied	1–2 marks Some use of theory to answer the question	1–2 marks Some judgement shown	
	0		No credita	ble content		
	Knowled • Shar	may include: Ige/definitions reholders as own	ers of the plc are dividend yield is ir		are prices and	
	 Application Use of figures/ratios calculated from the data, e.g. change in profit margin Detail of possible expansion plans into men's products/salons in hotels 					
	SharDividShar	lend yield is pred	ed to fall, sell befo icted to fall (but n ness about future nd dividends	ot significantly)	?	
	 Profi Inter Com Stror 	est rates still low pany expansion ng track record of	ast to increase (10 so worse returns plans announced f increasing divide could be importa	from banks at AGM may be and		

Question	Answer	Marks
2(b)	 Analysis Share price fall decreases value of investment, may be reason to sell Dividend yield is not changing significantly, so returns may still be acceptable to some investors Long term view – company success in future potentially helped by new growth plans. Evaluation Decision either way – sell or not How well has Mary communicated the company's expansion plans? Are shareholders in it for the long term or short term? Main factor for shareholders holding shares? Return or ethical considerations How are other investments performing? 	

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uestion			Answer			Marks
3	the most	t important facto	P's focus on corport for the succes nternational mar	s of the propos		10
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 6 marks	Evaluation 6 marks	
	2	2 marks At least two relevant points made	2 marks Points well applied	4–6 marks Good use of theory to answer the question	4–6 marks Good judgement shown	
	1	1 mark One relevant point made	1 mark Some attempt to apply points or one point well applied	1–3 marks Some use of theory to answer the question	1–3 marks Some judgement shown	
	0		No credital	ble content	•	
	A ma mark	ributions to socie arketing strategy acting mix. es of cost and co	includes objective	es, marketing bu	dget, USP,	
	payin explo • (NB them exan • Mark and • Coul	commitment to g ng fair prices for bitation of child o allow comments iselves in this wa nples.) teting strategy in USA.	girls' education in raw materials, not r other very low c about well known ly, such as the Bo this case the obje of worker exploita R?	t testing on anim ost labour. businesses who ody Shop and ca ective is to increa	als and no o market ndidates' local ase sales in Asia	
	e.g. • Way	s in which CSR r to 'ethical' consu s in which this co	nay be used as p mers. May enable ould also increase ying higher prices	e slightly higher p costs – pressur		

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Question	Answer	Marks
3	 Evaluation Judgement on importance Other aspects of the marketing strategy that may be more important e.g. need to ensure that all parts of the company are run responsibly How do these aspects fit in with all aspects of the marketing strategy, for example to what extent does the company have a USP Issues of consumer attitude – to what extent do these aspects 'sell' products? Might consumers in some countries be more aware than in others? Cynically, do consumers actually care? 	

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)(i)	Refer to Table 3 and the network diagram. <u>Calculate and enter on the network diagram</u> the earliest start time (EST) and latest finish time (LFT) for each activity. See diagram below:	7
	1 mark per correct node 3 marks if all ESTs correct OFR	
4(a)(ii)	Identify on the network diagram the critical path. Critical path is A,B,C,E,G,J Note: It is not necessary to redraw the network diagram, but credit candidates who have included answers on their own drawn diagram.	1

Question			Answer			Marks
4(b)	Assess t		of critical path an	r information from alysis (CPA) to AF		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 Points well applied	3–4 marks Good use of theory to answer the question	3–4 marks Good judgement shown	
	1	1 mark One relevant point made	1 mark Some attempt to apply points or one point well applied	1–2 marks Some use of theory to answer the question	1–2 marks Some judgement shown	
	0		No creditable cont	ent		
	information Answers Knowled CPA ident Need time Usef May be ke But of Applicat Refe dura Refe build Poss due f	may include Ige/definitions or network diag ifying which ma ds to be drawn u taken. May be t ul to work out w mean that resou ept for a long tim does not take ac ion rence to particu tion, e.g. installa rence to reason ing work or unre- sible lack of expec- to lack of knowle	gram is a way of see y not be delayed wi up using expert info ime consuming to o hich activities may urces, are ordered the before use. count of unforesee lar tasks which may ation of services suc s for delays, for exa eliable suppliers of l	be carried out at the when needed and c n delays. y/may not be easy t ch as water ample bad weather building materials ining this type of bu ions in Africa.	and whole project. c estimates of e same time to not have to o predict the delaying	

Question	Answer	Marks
4(b)	 Analysis Line of argument followed as to how a network diagram may help to plan and sequence activities, avoid waste of time and resources Line of argument as to why/how this may be difficult to predict and the consequences, if a critical activity is delayed, this will delay the whole project and lead to increased costs. 	
	 Evaluation Only as accurate as information and expertise used to compile it. A useful tool, along with local knowledge, e.g. in African environment in this case. 	

Question	Answer					
5	Discuss the importance of human resource management to the success of the new African factory.					
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 5 marks	Evaluation 5 marks	
	2	2 marks At least two relevant points made	2 marks Points well applied	4–6 marks Good use of theory to answer the question	4–6 marks Good judgement shown	
	1	1 mark One relevant point made	1 mark Some attempt to apply points or one point well applied	1–3 marks Some use of theory to answer the question	1–3 marks Some judgement shown	
	0		No credita	ble content		
	Knowle Hur mot Witi wor Car sub Rec Invo targ Loc	tivating the workfor hin HRM – workfor kforce needs of the reful planning will sequent running cruitment issues – plyement and mor- gets (MBO?) Kaiz cal cultural issues	orce planning – as bree planning – as he business, both be needed for bo and management - getting the right tivation of workfor	ssessing and pro now and in the th the factory se t. people for the jo rce in decision m	future. t-up and	
	plar Co- cou Dis gro Dis tear Analysi • Effe arg goir • The and • The	s is a project that nning expertise w ordination may be ntry X who are se cussion of skills r ups and related p cussion of produc mwork issues s ective HRM will be uments of how su ng motivation and e impact of local is I unsuitable' staff.	e essential, exam accessful planning l leadership may/ ssues, such as po unication barriers	et up and equip n local managers actory new systems and means of motiva ples and followe g, recruitment, tra may not lead to to pssible redundan	the new factory. s and those from d for kaizen ation and related d through aining and on- the success of the fa icy of 'unskilled	

Question	Answer	Marks
5	 Evaluation Successful set up and running will need workforce to operate as a cohesive team Communication will be essential within the factory and with AP in country X Well motivated workforce should lead to more willingness to learn new skills, but issues of education and expertise Expertise and training issues – how will modern techniques be introduced? Might it be difficult to find local managers with expertise? 	

Questio	on	Answer							
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 under- standing 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 under- standing 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 content								

Question	Answer	Marks		
6	Evaluate the usefulness of strategic choice <u>techniques</u> to AP's directors to help them decide between the two options for growth.			
	L1 Skills maximum if just making a choice based on data rather than focussing on usefulness of techniques Answers may include:			
	 Analysis Use of techniques to weigh up data – cost and risk, followed through with affordability to AP Comparison between techniques, given the data available. Evaluation Limitations of techniques Need to use other information Dynamic nature of markets concerned Which option is favoured by Directors? Examiner's note: maximum L1 Analysis and Evaluation, if only the choice 			
	between options is addressed rather than techniques.			

Question	Answer	Marks			
7	Assume that AP's directors choose option A. Evaluate how this strategy may be successfully implemented.				
	L1 maximum if implementation based only on one functional area.				
	Answers may include:				
	 Knowledge/definitions Strategic implementation follows strategic analysis and strategic choice. It means putting a strategy into effect in a planned way, with the purpose of achieving an identified objective. This is a major decision involving significant change and resources, including an entry into the service sector. Corporate and contingency planning will be needed Benefits of business planning in this context Resources and finance? Use of retained profit? Application AP knows a lot about production of products but not running salons Maintaining supplies of beauty products to salons and hotels How to plan for seasonality – flexible staffing for salons? Will staff be employed/recruited by AP or the hotels? Issues of working together with hotel group in different countries Will there be a 'pilot' project to try this out in a few hotels first? – may help to iron out difficulties If hotel group runs into business problems, this will be out of AP's 				
	 control but will have a negative impact Analysis Possible consequences of issues identified and how they may be successfully managed Followed through chain of argument of the importance of aspects such as seasonality, business planning, entry into service sector. Followed through chain of arguments about the importance of corporate planning/contingency planning. 				
	 Evaluation Planning will be essential Success will also depend on success of the hotel group, this could increase risk There is a 30% chance of failure – what could this look like? How easy might it be to withdraw if the project fails? Communication will be essential 				