

Cambridge O Level

BUSINESS STUDIES

Paper 2 Case Study MARK SCHEME Maximum Mark: 80 7115/24 May/June 2021

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.

Social Science-Specific Marking Principles (for point-based marking)

 Components using point-based marking: Point marking is often used to reward knowledge, understanding and application of skills. We give credit where the candidate's answer shows relevant knowledge, understanding and application of skills in answering the question. We do not give credit where the answer shows confusion.
From this it follows that we:
 a DO credit answers which are worded differently from the mark scheme if they clearly convey the same meaning (unless the mark scheme requires a specific term) b DO credit alternative answers/examples which are not written in the mark scheme if they
 are correct DO credit answers where candidates give more than one correct answer in one prompt/numbered/scaffolded space where extended writing is required rather than list-type answers. For example, questions that require <i>n</i> reasons (e.g. State two reasons).
 d DO NOT credit answers simply for using a 'key term' unless that is all that is required. (Check for evidence it is understood and not used wrongly.)
 DO NOT credit answers which are obviously self-contradicting or trying to cover all possibilities
 f DO NOT give further credit for what is effectively repetition of a correct point already credited unless the language itself is being tested. This applies equally to 'mirror statements' (i.e. polluted/not polluted).
g DO NOT require spellings to be correct, unless this is part of the test. However spellings of syllabus terms must allow for clear and unambiguous separation from other syllabus terms with which they may be confused (e.g. Corrasion/Corrosion)
 Presentation of mark scheme: Slashes (/) or the word 'or' separate alternative ways of making the same point. Semi colons (;) bullet points (•) or figures in brackets (1) separate different points. Content in the answer column in brackets is for examiner information/context to clarify the marking but is not required to earn the mark (except Accounting syllabuses where they indicate negative numbers).
 Calculation questions: The mark scheme will show the steps in the most likely correct method(s), the mark for each step, the correct answer(s) and the mark for each answer If working/explanation is considered essential for full credit, this will be indicated in the question paper and in the mark scheme. In all other instances, the correct answer to a calculation should be given full credit, even if no supporting working is shown. Where the candidate uses a valid method which is not covered by the mark scheme, award equivalent marks for reaching equivalent stages. Where an answer makes use of a candidate's own incorrect figure from previous working, the 'own figure rule' applies: full marks will be given if a correct and complete method is used. Further guidance will be included in the mark scheme where necessary and any exceptions to this general principle will be noted.

4 Annotation:

- For point marking, ticks can be used to indicate correct answers and crosses can be used to indicate wrong answers. There is no direct relationship between ticks and marks. Ticks have no defined meaning for levels of response marking.
- For levels of response marking, the level awarded should be annotated on the script.
- Other annotations will be used by examiners as agreed during standardisation, and the meaning will be understood by all examiners who marked that paper.

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	Explain <u>two</u> business objectives that Andrew is likely to have for AAR.	8
	Award one mark for each relevant objective (maximum of two):	
	 Increase profit – to provide funds for reinvestment – interest does not need to be paid so it's cheaper 	
	 Grow the business / expand – by selling to new types of customers – greater number of sales made leading to higher revenue / greater economies of scale 	
	 Increase market share – providing a better service than competitors – possibly increasing revenue and profit / attract new investors into the business 	
	 Gain good reputation / good customer service / improve customer loyalty to lead to word-of-mouth advertising – increasing number of customers and revenue 	
	Increase sales / increase revenue	
	Award a maximum of three additional marks for each explanation – one of which must be applied to this context.	
	For example: Andrew's main objective could be to grow the business (1) as he wants to start repairing air-conditioning equipment in offices and factories as well (app). This will allow AAR to increase its sales to a larger range of customers (1) which will probably lead to an increase in revenue and profit (1).	
	Application could include: sole trader; air-conditioning equipment; \$20,000 invested; provides a repair service to homes; start repairing equipment in factories and offices; skilled workers; repair shop; larger units repaired at customers' houses; 8 months very busy; 6 full-time employees; new equipment required.	

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Question		Answer		Marks
1(b)	sources Which is • Ban • Bus	er the advantages and disadvantages of the following <u>thr</u> s of finance Andrew could use when he expands the busi s the best source for Andrew to choose? Justify your ans k loan siness partner ange to a private limited company and sell shares	ness.	12
	Level	Description	Marks	
	3	Sound application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts using appropriate terminology.	9–12	
		Detailed discussion of two or more sources.		
		Well-justified recommendation.		
		Candidates discussing the three sources in detail, in context and with well-justified recommendation, including why the alternative sources were rejected, should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.		
	2	Sound application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts using appropriate terminology.	5–8	
		Detailed discussion of at least one source.		
		Judgement with some justification / some evaluation of choices made.		
		Candidates discussing two or more sources in detail and applying them to the case should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.		
	1	Limited application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts.	1–4	
		Limited ability to discuss the sources with little/no explanation.		
		Simple judgement with limited justification / limited evaluation of choices made.		
		Candidates outlining the three sources in context should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.		
	0	No creditable response.	0	

Question	Answer			Marks	
1(b)	Relevant points might include:				
		Advantages	Disadvantages		
	Bank loan	 Relatively easy and quick to arrange compared to selling shares No need to share profit with anyone else – as ownership has not changed and remains a sole trader Flexible time to repay the bank loan 	 Increased fixed costs for the air- conditioning business – as interest payments need to be made May not grant loan as already has a bank loan of \$10 000 – or may charge high interest rate on the bank loan due to higher risk Security/collateral may be required 		
	Business partner	 Partner can help run the repair shop and share some of the roles of operating the business – makes it easier for Andrew to take holidays / cover if ill Share responsibility of managing the 6 employees – more expertise in certain aspects of operating a business – giving more ideas of how to make it successful 	 Unlimited liability – may still lose personal possessions Need to share profit as now there are more owners No continuity of the 5 year old business so the business will cease if one partner dies Partner may hinder the progress of the business eg disagreements, dishonesty, inefficiency 		

Question		Answer		Marks
1(b)		Advantages	Disadvantages	
	Change to a private limited company and sell shares	 Limited liability – protects personal possessions if losses are made unlike the present time as a sole trader Continuity – as incorporated business Likely to raise more capital from sale of shares than other two sources No interest paid – as permanent source of finance so not repaid 	 Can only sell shares to family and friends so may restrict capital raised More administration required to set up the business – higher costs for the repair business Dividends may be expected by shareholders 	
	Recommendation	 total control of his air-c. business unlike if he s business partner when control and profits. He own decisions after be he first started the busin him carry on with this s A business partner is th no interest needs to be a partner to help run th make it more successfue how to attract busines factories and offices. A private limited compa- cheaper than taking out is paid which would he 	sold shares or took on a he would have to share did want to make all his ing made redundant when ness, and this would let sole ownership. he best source of finance as paid and it will give Andrew e business and possibly ul with more ideas about s customers with any is best because it is it a bank loan as no interest lp keep down costs during ear when the weather is	

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	Explain two benefits to AAR of having well-motivated employees.	8
	Award one mark for each benefit (maximum of two):	
	 Higher productivity / increased efficiency – higher output per worker / higher output – as employees would work faster/harder Greater willingness to accept change – so it will be easier to start having different types of services offered – and employees will be more willing to accept new equipment and training Lower labour turnover / improved employee loyalty / less likely to leave – no need to find new employees – reduces costs of recruitment and training Low rates of absenteeism – less likely to be off work due to being stressed/ill therefore more customer repairs carried out – good customer service / more repairs carried out / increase working hours if needed Low rates of industrial action / better employee relations Improved communication Fewer mistakes – less waste Provide better quality of service – improved customer satisfaction / improved reputation – more sales / fewer customer complaints 	
	Award a maximum of three additional marks for each explanation of the benefit – one of which must be in context .	
	For example: Well-motivated workers are less likely to leave (1) and Andrew will not need to keep finding new workers. (1) This will reduce recruitment costs for the business and time spent finding new workers (1) and so more air-conditioning units can be repaired. (app)	
	Application could include: sole trader; air-conditioning equipment; provides a repair service to homes; start repairing equipment in factories and offices; skilled workers; repair shop; larger units repaired at customers' houses; difficult to replace workers.	

Question	Answer				
2(b)		ng to Appendix 1, consider <u>three</u> ways Andrew could imp cash flow. Which one should he choose? Justify your an		12	
	Level	Description	Marks		
	3	Sound application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts using appropriate terminology.	9–12		
		Detailed discussion of at least two ways.			
		Well-justified recommendation linked to improving cash flow.			
		Candidates discussing the three ways in detail, in context and with well-justified recommendation, including why the alternative ways were rejected, should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.			
	2	Sound application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts using appropriate terminology.	5–8		
		Detailed discussion of at least one way.			
		Judgement with some justification / some evaluation of choices made.			
		Candidates discussing two or more ways in detail and applying it to the case should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.			
	1	Limited application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts.	1–4		
		Limited ability to discuss the ways with little/no explanation.			
		Simple judgement with limited justification / limited evaluation of choices made.			
		Candidates outlining the three ways in context should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.			
	0	No creditable response.	0		

Question		Answer	Marks
2(b)	Relevant points migh	it include:	
	Increase inflows	 Increases sales/revenue Increase inflows by raising prices – but may lead to lower sales – depends on price elasticity of demand – may be inelastic if few businesses can offer the same level of expertise in repairing airconditioning equipment Increase inflows by lowering prices to attract more customers – but will only increase revenue if there is a greater proportionate increase in sales than the reduction in price 	
	Increase inflows	 Sell unwanted assets – increases inflows into the business 	
	Reduce outflows	 Reduce costs/expenses Reduce outflows by buying cheaper components to repair the air-conditioning equipment – but may break-down more often so excellent reputation for repairing air-conditioning equipment is lost 	
	Reduce outflows	• Reduce outflows by leasing equipment instead of purchasing new equipment – lower initial outflow will help cash flow but then there will be smaller outflows over a period of time with monthly lease payments	
	Reduce outflows	 Reduce outflows by lowering total wage costs – for example reduce overtime payments / reduce hours of full-time workers – but employees may not be happy with this – demotivated employees may reduce productivity of the 6 employees 	
	Short-term finance	 Arranging an overdraft – to make payments when negative closing balance – increases costs from interest payments if overdraft is needed – increases outflows later Arrange a short-term bank loan – large inflow of cash – interest needs to be paid – increases outflows later as repayments are made 	
	Customers	 Ask customers to pay more quickly – cash flows into the business more quickly – may lose some customers to competitors that offer better credit terms Increases inflows immediately – but in future the cash flow problem may return when the weather becomes colder and equipment becomes less likely to break-down 	

Question	Answer		Marks
2(b)	Suppliers	 Delay payment to suppliers – reduces outflows in the short term – but suppliers may not be willing to supply goods in the future if AAR is late in making payments for air-conditioning gas Arrange trade credit – allows cash outflows to be delayed – may lose discount from paying in cash for air-conditioning components for repairs in houses 	
	Recommendation	 Justification may include: Reducing cash outflows by reducing the costs of components to repair air-conditioning equipment at customers' houses. Cheaper components may not affect the repairs and hence will not reduce the reputation for AAR. It may be difficult to gain an overdraft from the bank if the business is already having cash flow problems due to seasonal demand of air-conditioning repairs. It might be difficult to increase cash inflows as AAR is already busy for part of the year and it may not be able to carry out repairs for any more customers. Increasing revenue from more repairs in the shop is the best way to improve the cash flow problem as this may increase the cash inflows and AAR may not need to try to cut costs to reduce cash outflows so avoids having a poor reputation for the business if lower quality materials are used for repair of equipment in houses. 	

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	Explain <u>four</u> factors Andrew would have considered when deciding where to locate AAR's shop.	8
	Award one mark for each relevant factor (maximum of four):	
	 Owners preference – near to where Andrew lives and so it doesn't take him long to get to work on repairing equipment Market – where customers are located as he repairs air-conditioning 	
	 equipment in customers' houses Supplier location – so he can collect / dispose of air-conditioning gas quickly when needed 	
	 Communication links / infrastructure / transport links – road network to customers' houses when their equipment has broken down Competitors 	
	 Legal controls / government influence / government support Availability of [skilled] labour 	
	 Utilities / availability of power/water Cost and size of premises e.g. rent, local taxes Security / local crime rates 	
	Availability of parking for customers/employees	
	Award one additional mark for each explanation applied to this context .	
	For example: Near to where Andrew lives as it is his own preference (1) as he is a sole trader and he may not want to travel too far as he will spend many hours there when setting up (app).	
	Application could include: sole trader; air-conditioning equipment; \$20000 invested; provides a repair service to homes; start repairing equipment in factories and offices; skilled workers; air-conditioning repair shop; larger units repaired at customers' houses.	

Question	Answer			
3(b)	Andrew	er the advantages and disadvantages of <u>two</u> methods of could use to train existing employees. Which method sl ? Justify your answer.		12
	Level	Description	Marks	
	3	Sound application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts using appropriate terminology.	9–12	
		Detailed discussion of both methods.		
		Well-justified recommendation.		
		Candidates discussing both methods in detail, in context and with well-justified recommendation, including why the alternative method was rejected, should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.		
	2	Sound application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts using appropriate terminology.	5–8	
		Detailed discussion of at least one method.		
		Judgement with some justification / some evaluation of choices made.		
		Candidates discussing at least one method in detail and applying it to the case should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.		
	1	Limited application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts.	1–4	
		Limited ability to discuss the methods with little/no explanation.		
		Simple judgement with limited justification / limited evaluation of choices made.		
		Candidates outlining both methods in context should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.		
	0	No creditable response.	0	

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Question		Answer		Marks
3(b)	Relevant points mig	ht include:		
	Training method	Advantages	Disadvantages	
	On-the-job	 Individual tuition given Ensures some equipment repairs are still carried out in houses Usually costs less than off-the-job training Meets specific needs of the business 	 Trainer will not be as productive whilst training – so some customers will not have their air-conditioning equipment repaired quickly Trainer may pass on bad habits – so AAR may lose its reputation for excellent service May not be suitable for the high skilled workers employed at ARR 	
	Off-the-job	 Broad range of skills taught on how to repair air-conditioning equipment May be carried out in the evening outside of work time – no loss of output Often uses expert trainers – so high standard and up-to-date knowledge passed on New ideas brought into the business 	 Costs are usually higher – as often need to be taught by specialist trainers of air-conditioning equipment used in factories and offices Wages may be paid when at college, but no repairs are done at customers' houses – employees paid but no services carried out Additional qualifications may make it easier for employee to find alternative job May expect higher wage once trained 	

Question	Answer		Marks
3(b)	Recommendation	 Justification may include: On-the-job may be better to choose as it will allow the 6 workers to keep working at the same time as being trained. This will save AAR money on training and employees will still be working so not much reduction in repair services. It is only a small business as Andrew is a sole trader and may not be able to afford to send workers on training courses as these can be very expensive. Off-the-job may be better to choose as it will lead to higher quality training on repairing airconditioning equipment in factories and offices being given to the employees. This is a skilled job and the excellent reputation of the business is based on good service. There may not be sufficient experience amongst existing workers to train the other workers anyway as this is a new service being offered. 	

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	Explain <u>four</u> suitable methods of promotion a business could use to attract customers to a new service.	
	Award one mark for each relevant method (maximum of four):	
	 Advertise in newspapers – become more well known as seen by a large number of people who read newspapers every day Advertise in trade magazines – as more likely to be seen by business customers Billboards – seen by people passing by in their cars on a daily basis and remember the name of the new business Posters Leaflets Discount offers / promotional pricing / money-off coupons / loyalty card Social media / internet based advertising Television advertising Gifts Sponsorship Offer credit facilities 	
	Award a maximum of one additional mark for each explanation of the method.	
	For example: Leaflets through the doors of buildings (1) would be effective, as it would target possible customers in their houses (1).	

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Question	Answer			Marks
4(b)	Consider how the <u>three</u> changes in legal controls outlined in Appendix 3 are likely to affect AAR. Which change is likely to have the most effect on AAR's profit? Justify your answer.			12
	Level	Description	Marks	
	3	Sound application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts using appropriate terminology. Detailed discussion of at least two changes in legal controls.	9–12	
		Well-justified conclusion of which would have the most effect on profit.		
		Candidates discussing the three changes in detail, in context and with well-justified conclusion, including why the alternative changes were rejected, should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.		
	2	Sound application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts using appropriate terminology. Detailed discussion of at least one change in legal controls.	5–8	
		Judgement with some justification / some evaluation of choices made.		
		Candidates discussing two or more changes in detail and applying them to the case should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.		
	1	Limited application of knowledge and understanding of relevant business concepts.	1–4	
		Limited ability to discuss the changes with little/no explanation.		
		Simple judgement with limited justification / limited evaluation of choices made.		
		Candidates outlining the three changes in context should be rewarded with the top marks in the band.		
	0	No creditable response.	0	

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Question		Answer	Marks
4(b)	Relevant points might include: Effects Legal control • May need to employ more than 6 skilled workers		
	1 – Employment laws – work hours	 during busy times or fewer customers accepted as each employee can only work a maximum of 50 hours a week – possible impact on customer satisfaction and may lose sales Increased wage costs all year – increases cash flow problem Workers may be less tired, so work is more efficient / more motivated / fewer errors Lower wage costs if regularly paid overtime for the additional hours worked – add additional employees instead May lead to customer repairs being delayed – decline in reputation – possibly fewer sales May have no effect if workers already work 50 hours or less per week Workers may have to work faster in busy periods to meet demand in less time. Potential for errors / increased productivity 	
	Legal control 2 – Health and Safety laws	 Increased costs of specialist air-conditioning repair equipment and training – less likely to have accidents - less time off work through injury – more output / fewer errors Workers feel safer, more worker satisfaction / positive impact on output / efficiency If such training is already given / workers already skilled, may be no effect or extra cost 	
	Legal control 3 – Gas waste disposal	 Lower cost of disposing of waste air-conditioning gas – possibly higher profit Better ethical standards which may improve reputation / increase demand, but all competitors affected However, all air-conditioning repair businesses benefit so may not make any difference to competitiveness Pressure to reduce prices to remain competitive 	

Question	Answer		Marks
4(b)	Conclusion	 Justification may include: Employment laws may have the biggest effect on profit if AAR cannot ask employees to work overtime during busy periods when the weather is hot. It may lead to increased costs of employing additional workers to the 6 or turning down customers. Both of these actions will reduce profit. Whereas H & S equipment and training are one-off payments and will only affect costs initially and waste disposal of gas is only a small cost that will now be saved. Investing in new H & S equipment and new training for all 6 employees will be very expensive and this will cause a high increase in costs so this will have the greatest effect on AAR's profit. Free waste disposal of gas will have a large effect on profit if it is a high cost due to a lot of waste gas needing to be safely disposed of. This will significantly reduce AAR costs which should lead to the greatest effect on profit by increasing it by a large amount. 	