

Cambridge International AS & A Level

BUSINESS
9609/11
Paper 1 Short Answer and 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.

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

1 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
- **c** 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 *n* 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.)
- **e** 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)

2 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).

3 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.

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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.

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9609 Paper 1 Specific Marking Principles

Marks are awarded for each answer when the following Assessment Objectives (AO) are met. The mark scheme for each answer indicates when and how each AO can be met.

AO1 – Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of business concepts.

The focus in Section A of the Examination Paper is on this first AO.

- (a) Questions 1, 2, and 4 will meet this AO using definitions and explanations of business concepts.
- (b) Question 3 provides an opportunity for the application and a more developed explanation of a business concept. The 4–5-mark level specifically provides for this more developed explanation.

In Section B of the Examination Paper

(a) Questions 5, 6, and 7 still require supporting Knowledge and Understanding (AO1), but there is now a focus on **Application (AO2), Analysis (AO3),** and **Evaluation (AO4).** These skills are set out below:

AO2 – Apply knowledge and understanding of business concepts to general and specific situations and contexts.

- (a) Where a specific business or context is named in the question then the candidate is required to relate answers specifically to this business or context.
- (b) It is not sufficient to merely repeat the name of the business or the context.

AO3 – Analyse business problems, issues, situations and contexts, through a discussion and interpretation of evidence, debate, theory, impact and consequence, to produce reasoned and coherent arguments.

(a) Level 3 answers will likely use terms such as – because, leads to, therefore, so that, as a result, consequently – thereby showing analytical development for AO3.

AO4 – Limited Evaluation is given

- (a) When an attempt is made, (probably in a concluding section of an answer), to address and comment on the value and validity of the previous analysis.
- (b) These comments may be quite brief and be more opinionated than reasoned.
- (c) A mere concluding summary of preceding analysis is, however, not evaluation.

AO4 – Evaluation occurs

- (a) When an answer comments on the validity/significance of previous analysis in an evidence based and reasoned way.
- (b) This often leads to the presentation of appropriate substantiated judgements, decisions, or recommendations.

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Annotations and their Use

Annotation	Use
√	As an indication of relevant and rewardable content. Better to put these in the body of the answer.
NAQ	Used when the answer or parts of the answer are not answering the question asked.
BOD	Used when the benefit of the doubt is given in order to reward a response.
TV	Used when parts of the answer are considered to be too vague.
К	Indicates knowledge and understanding of the concepts and issues relating to the question.
APP	Indicates that there is specific application to the context of the question.
AN	Indicates where the answer has demonstrated analysis.
EVAL	Indicates where the answer has demonstrated evaluation.
REP	This indicates where content has been repeated.
SEEN	Indicates that content has been recognised but not rewarded.

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Question	Answer		Marks
1(a)	Define the term 'social enterprise'.		2
	A business with mainly social objectives (1) such as environmental or social projects (1) A business which reinvests profits into the business (1) A business that reinvests profits to benefit society/community (1) rather than maximise returns to owners (1) A business that focuses on triple bottom line or corporate social responsible. (1) Often described as not-for-profit businesses/organisations (1)	onsibility	
	such as charities (1)		
	Clear definition of 2 of the factors listed above Partial definition of 1 of the factors listed above No creditable content	2 marks 1 mark 0 marks	
1(b)	Explain two advantages to a business of being a social enterpris	se.	3
	 Answers could include: A social enterprise might attract more customers just because of of benefitting the community The business might be seen as more ethical than other business again can increase demand for its product/service People might be willing to pay a higher price because the busine regards people and the planet as more important than profit Employees might be easier to recruit as people seek to work in senterprises Employees might be easier to retain leading to lower labour turnor. Employees are committed and motivated by the values and aspinal social enterprise. Government support/grants/subsidies might be available unlike in businesses with purely a profit motive. 	ss ocial over rations of	
	Accept any other valid response		
	Clear explanation of two advantages to a business of being a social enterprise Clear explanation of one advantage or a partial explanation of two	3 marks	
	advantages to a business of being a social enterprise Partial explanation of one advantage to a business of being a social	2 marks	
	enterprise or a list of two advantages No creditable content	1 mark 0 marks	

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Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	Define the term 'emotional intelligence'.	2
	The extent to which managers are aware of and understand their own emotions and feelings (1) and the feelings and emotions of others (1) Reference to Goleman's 4 competencies (1)	
	Clear definition of 2 of the factors listed above 2 marks Partial definition of 1 of the factors listed above 1 mark	
	No creditable content 0 marks	
2(b)	Explain two benefits to a business of autocratic leadership.	3
	 Answers could include: Employees know clearly that they are expected to follow orders There is close supervision of employees so fewer mistakes Quicker decision-making. Less time spent/wasted consulting employees before decisions are made Productivity may improve due to no time wasted on discussion Less conflict due to no discussion Clear communication channel from the owner/leader (clear who gives instructions and who follows them) Non-participating employees are more focused More experienced/qualified/skilled leaders take decisions Accept any other valid response.	
	Clear explanation of two benefits to a business of autocratic leadership. 3 marks Clear explanation of one benefit to a business of autocratic leadership or a partial explanation of two benefits of autocratic leadership. 2 marks Partial explanation of one benefit to a business of autocratic leadership or a list of two benefits 1 mark No creditable content 0 marks	

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Question	Answer	Marks
3	Explain how price elasticity of demand influences the pricing decisions of a business.	5
	Answers could include: Price elasticity of demand measures the response of demand to any change in the price of a product. Behaviour will depend on whether the PED of products is elastic or inelastic Price elastic – a business wishing to increase market share can reduce price knowing that demand for its products will increase by a greater percentage than the percentage decrease in price. This achieves an increase in total revenue Price inelastic – if an increase in profit is a business aim, a business might decide to increase the price of its products knowing that the percentage fall in demand will be lower than the percentage increase in price = increase in total revenue. If a business wants to increase market share, a decrease in price would possibly not be as effective as for a price elastic product – the percentage increase in demand for price elastic products would be smaller than the percentage decrease in price = reduced revenue and only a small increase in demand PED will influence the establishment by a business of an ideal price for a product in the marketing mix The way in which PED might influence businesses can depend on the objectives of the business A business that wishes to maximise its revenue might behave differently to a business that wishes to maximise sales to gain market share	
	Effective explanation of how the price elasticity of demand influences the pricing decisions of a business 4–5 marks Limited explanation of how the price elasticity of demand influences the pricing decisions of a business 2–3 marks Descriptive information of price elasticity of demand/pricing decisions 1 mark No creditable content 0 marks	

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Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	Define the term 'Computer Aided Manufacture' (CAM).	2
	Do not award marks for answers which repeat the words in the question (e.g. manufacturing using computers).	
	The use of technology/software/robots/machines (1) to create/produce/manufacture/improve products and/or production process (1)	
	Clear definition 2 of the factors listed above 2 marks	
	Partial definition 1 of the factors listed above 1 mark No creditable content 0 marks	
4(b)	Explain <u>two</u> disadvantages to a business of introducing CAM.	3
	 Answers could include: The cost of the initial software and equipment can be extremely high High maintenance costs Likelihood of breakdowns disrupting production Initial design fault in CAM could lead to waste in the manufacturing process The wage costs of highly skilled employees are likely to be higher than those previously employed therefore increasing the labour costs The systems often require highly skilled workers who require training The hiring of highly skilled employees can be difficult if the specific technology is very new to an industry The current workforce might not possess the necessary skills causing them to be made redundant leading to redundancy payments An increase in the use of computers and robots might cause an increase in local unemployment leading to negative feelings toward the business 	
	Accept any other valid response.	
	Clear explanation of two disadvantages to a business of introducing CAM 3 marks	
	Clear explanation of one disadvantage to a business of introducing CAM or a partial explanation of two disadvantages 2 marks Partial explanation of one disadvantage to a business of introducing CAM or a list of two disadvantages 1 mark No creditable content 0 marks	

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Question		Answer		Marks
5(a)		he benefits to a business of focusing on the 4Cs wh to increase its market share.	en	8
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Good analysis of the benefits to a business of focusing on the 4Cs when planning to increase its market share	7–8	
	3	Limited analysis of the benefits to a business of focusing on the 4Cs when planning to increase its market share	5–6	
	2	Application of the benefits to a business of focusing on the 4Cs	3–4	
	1	Knowledge and understanding of the 4Cs/market share	1–2	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	 Reference custor Reference Analysis Busing improvement improve	esses gain information/feedback from customers that calvements in what is offered in future. It is vital that a busing stands what its customers expect from the products it seesses succeed when they offer what the customer wants than what the business prefers to sell can be reduced by buying items to sell that meet the demers. Losses on unsold products can be avoided er loyalty can be gained from customers if they feel that is to them and their views. Communication with customer and their views are the customer and their views.	n lead to ness ells. s to buy emanded of a business	
	 Comm special spec	ess is to be achieved nunication with customers is even more essential if a retalises in selling expensive or bespoke goods or for customers to obtain the goods if, for example, they exist in convenience stores restanding its customers can enable a suitable price to be ing that it is seen as appropriate to the products sold and the level of known customers	are sold	

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Question		Answer		Marks
5(b)		ne usefulness of secondary market research to a busto launch a new luxury perfume.	siness	12
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Effective evaluation of the usefulness of secondary market research to a business planning to launch a new luxury perfume	9–12	
	3	Limited evaluation of the usefulness of secondary market research to a business planning to launch a new luxury perfume	7–8	
	2	Analysis and application of the usefulness of secondary market research to a business	3–6	
	1	Knowledge and understanding of secondary market research/product launch/luxury perfume	1–2	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	Answers c	ould include:		
	UnderUnderUnder Application Referen	standing of secondary market research standing of product launch standing of luxury perfume on 2 marks ence to stages of product launch ence to brand names / image in the perfume market		
	to the The da not be The bi The bi its nev	ollected data might not be directly relevant to perfume or type of perfume being offered by this business ata has, by definition, been collected for another purpose relevant to this business proposal usiness needs to know how old the market research infocusiness might not be planning to offer the same type of proposal warket or wishes to discover the needs/wants/preferentarket, in which case secondary market research is likely	e and might ormation is perfume to nces of its	

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Question	Answer	Marks
5(b)	 Evaluation 6 marks Any judgements/conclusions can be made at any point in the essay not just in a concluding section. A judgement may be made using arguments such as: The type of market research used might be dictated by how much finance the business has available to spend How much research is needed to establish how different this luxury perfume is to others on the market If this business is aiming at a specific luxury market segment, then existing secondary research might be less relevant Not all businesses lack finance therefore this business might not be constrained by finance and might decide that secondary market research lacks direct relevance to this proposed launch so more expensive primary research may be used However, existing information can still help to focus further research thereby saving time and allowing primary research to be much more focused and therefore more useful This business may need to turn to primary research and/or combine secondary and primary research Accept any other valid response. 	

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Question		Answer		Marks
6	employee	cial motivators are the most effective way of improve motivation in a house building business.' ne extent to which you agree with this view.	ving	20
	Level	Description	Marks	
	5	Effective evaluation of the extent to which non- financial motivators are the most effective way of improving employee motivation in a house building business	17–20	
	4	Limited evaluation of the extent to which non- financial motivators are the most effective way of improving employee motivation in a house building business	15–16	
	3	Good analysis of the extent to which non- financial/financial motivators are the most effective way of improving employee motivation in a house building business	11–14	
	2	Limited analysis of non-financial/financial motivators as a way of improving employee motivation	5–10	
	1	Knowledge and understanding of non-financial/financial motivators/employee motivation.	1–4	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	Answers co	ould include:		
	UndersUnders	e and understanding 4 marks standing of non-financial motivators standing of financial motivators standing of employee motivation		
	financi Clear I effect Refere	n 4 marks ence to changes in employee motivation resulting from n al/financial measures ink between a non-financial/financial motivator and its p ence to examples of employee roles that might be under building business	ossible	

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Question	Answer	Marks
6	 Analysis 6 marks Candidates might use specific examples of non-financial/financial motivators and make the link to how they might improve the performance of employees • Team working can meet the social needs of employees (Maslow) and lead to higher productivity • Empowerment can satisfy the need for recognition and the need to be valued in an organisation. This recognition that the employee is trusted and given some decision-making power or control over the work to be completed can raise the motivation level of employees and cause them to work even harder. • Target setting: meeting or exceeding targets gives employees a feeling of job satisfaction and achievement. However, this method is often linked to bonus payments • Job rotation helps to reduce boredom if the tasks are not complicated and are very repetitive. Bored workers may lack motivation and can have a negative impact on the morale of other employees. • Bonus payments for meeting deadlines • High wages for skilled employees (Taylor – economic man) Evaluation 6 marks Any judgements/conclusions can be made at any point in the essay not just in a concluding section.	
	 A judgement may be made using the following arguments: Not all employees will be motivated by the same approach/method Non-financial motivators are more likely to be successful when the employees are earning at least enough money to satisfy their basic needs Lower paid construction workers are more likely to look for financial incentives to motivate them Higher paid construction managers may want to fulfil their esteem needs / seek recognition / empowerment from their employer Whether or not non-financial motivators are the most effective can depend on the level of security felt by employees. Employees on short-term contracts might be more focussed on financial reward 	
	Accept any other valid response.	

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Question		Answer		Marks
7(a)	Analyse th	ne benefits to a business of using break-even analys	sis.	8
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Good analysis of the benefits to a business of using break-even analysis	7–8	
	3	Limited analysis of the benefits to a business of using break-even analysis	5–6	
	2	Application of the benefits of using break-even analysis	3–4	
	1	Knowledge and understanding of break-even analysis	1–2	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	Knowledge Unders Applicatio The us Analysis 4 Break- Howev past ar is not a A brea is too le Analys and fix The leve Break- product likely re A busin costs re A chan achieve Break- applicate applicate (any chemicate)	even analysis is thought to be easy to calculate and under, figures are based on what is known to have happened what can reasonably be expected to happen in the full always accurate k-even chart indicates the margin of safety. If the margin ow a business might reconsider its product(s) is of the break-even level of output and the link to total ved costs and total revenues well of output for a desired level of profit can be determined analysis can give a business an idea of whether of the sikely to be successful by analysing the costs involved evenues mess might see that if a certain level of profit is to be acknown that it is a certain level of profit is a certain level of pr	derstand. ed in the iture which n of safety variable ed r not the ed and nieved, is not ased loan	

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Question		Answer		Marks
7(b)		ne most appropriate source of finance for a private li to purchase an additional factory.	mited	12
	Level	Description	Marks	
	4	Effective evaluation of the most appropriate source of finance for a private limited company to purchase an additional factory	9–12	
	3	Limited evaluation of the most appropriate source of finance for a private limited company to purchase an additional factory	7–8	
	2	Analysis and application of the sources of finance available to a private limited company to purchase an additional factory	3–6	
	1	Knowledge and understanding of sources of finance/private limited company/factory	1–2	
	0	No creditable content	0	
	Knowledge Unders Unders	e and understanding 2 marks standing of sources of finance standing of private limited company standing of factory		
	Source Analysis 2 Non-releva credited if t business.	es of finance relevant to a private limited company es of finance relevant to the purchase of an additional fa marks nt sources of finance might be discussed but these can he candidate explains why they are not appropriate for	only be this type of	
	factory over a A short circum Mortga	can: long term loans can be used given that the purchase usually requires large amounts of finance and the mon- longer period. t-term loan is unlikely to be used but could be justified in stances age: the usual source of finance for the purchase of a fac- ng), given the size of the finance required and the long r	ey is repaid n certain ctory	
	Issue aInvite a	additional shares to existing shareholders additional shareholders to join the company to raise the required	additional	

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Question	Answer	Marks
7(b)	 Conversion to a public limited company: this takes a considerable amount of time and money to implement Government grants: for business expansion for example, especially if this might increase employment levels in areas of high unemployment. Grants are not repaid so do not have any interest charged Government loans: offered at lower rates of interest than private lenders (banks) which reduces the amount of repayment required by businesses Business angels / venture capital: investors might be willing to lend money to this business Crowdfunding from multiple online contributions/investments Accept any other valid sources of finance. Evaluation 6 marks Any judgements/conclusions can be made at any point in the essay not just in a concluding section. The following arguments may be used to justify/reject certain sources: The source might be heavily dependent on the actual amount required. Is the factory large or small? Do they need the money quickly? How important is it to retain the current ownership situation? Conversion to a plc, business angels / venture capital or increasing the number of shareholders all lead to dilution of the current ownership It may depend on the resources the business currently has It may depend on how stable the economy is at the time The choice of source of finance might depend on the number of loans already taken by the business. High loan repayments, or non-payment in the past, might prevent consideration of a further loan by a bank Many sources involve interest payments and the amount of this could be an issue – is the rate variable? Are interest rates rising or falling? How affordable is the interest payment? Support might be given for mainly one specific source of finance rather than a range, however	
	Accept any other valid response.	

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