

## **Cambridge Assessment International Education**

Cambridge International Advanced Level

BUSINESS 9609/32

Paper 3 Case Study March 2018

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.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the March 2018 series for most Cambridge IGCSE<sup>®</sup>, Cambridge International A and AS Level components and some Cambridge O Level components.

® IGCSE is a registered trademark.



# Cambridge International A Level – Mark Scheme PUBLISHED

# **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.

© UCLES 2018 Page 2 of 15

Question	Answer				Marks	
1	'The Government of country X has decided to end international trading agreements with neighbouring countries.' (Lines 15–16)					
	Analyse	the likely impact on	AP of this decision	on.		
	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 content					
	unemployment, currency depreciation  Benefits  Depreciating currency – exports will be more competitive  Slowdown – wage rates in country X will grow more slowly					
	<ul> <li>country X interest rates are likely to stay low</li> <li>Limitations</li> <li>All imported materials will be more expensive,</li> <li>country X consumers will have less disposable incomes,</li> <li>Will AP need to increase prices?</li> <li>Costs of all overseas projects will increase</li> <li>General disadvantages around uncertainty, such as banks' attitude towards lending and investor nervousness.</li> </ul>					
	<ul><li>USA</li><li>Impo beau</li><li>Fallir may</li></ul>	rence to data in Table and Asia rted products, includi ty ingredients from o	ing processed raw r verseas will be more but are cosmetic p	roducts luxuries? Some		

© UCLES 2018 Page 3 of 15

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

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 per share/share price) × 100 (1 mark)					
	Dividend yield 2017: $0.30/4 \times 100 = 7.5\%$ (2 marks)					
	Dividend yield forecast 2018: 0.28/3.80 × 100 = 7.37% (2 marks)					
	Change in yield: $7.37 - 7.5 - = -0.13\%$ (or $0.13/7.5 \times 100 = 1.73\%$ ) (6 marks)					
	Accept 7.36% therefore -0.14% (6)					
	Accept answer as decima	l i.e. 0.0737 (2), 0.075 (2)	and 0.0013 (6) etc.			

© UCLES 2018 Page 4 of 15

estion			Answer				
(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 creditable content					
	Knowled Shar retur  Applicat Use marg	n on shares, so on the state of	ers of the plc are dividend yield is in calculated from the pansion plans into	nportant e data, e.g. chai	nge in profit		
	<ul> <li>Reasons to sell shares</li> <li>Share price is predicted to fall, sell before it falls further?</li> <li>Dividend yield is predicted to fall (but not significantly)</li> <li>Shareholder nervousness about future of company</li> <li>Recent fall in profit and dividends</li> </ul>						
	<ul><li>Profi</li><li>Inter</li><li>Com</li><li>Stroi</li></ul>	est rates still low pany expansion ng track record o	ast to increase (10 so worse returns plans announced f increasing divide could be importar	from banks at AGM may be end			

© UCLES 2018 Page 5 of 15

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

© UCLES 2018 Page 6 of 15

Question			Answer			Marks	
3	the most	t important facto	or's focus on corport for the succes	s of the propos		16	
	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			
	<ul> <li>Corporate social responsibility includes attitudes and activities undertaken by AP to show their company in a positive light in terms of contributions to society.</li> <li>A marketing strategy includes objectives, marketing budget, USP, marketing mix.</li> <li>Issues of cost and competitiveness</li> </ul>						
	<ul> <li>Application</li> <li>AP's commitment to girls' education in Africa. Ethical trading includes paying fair prices for raw materials, not testing on animals and no exploitation of child or other very low cost labour.</li> <li>(NB allow comments about well known businesses who market themselves in this way, such as the Body Shop and candidates' local examples.)</li> <li>Marketing strategy in this case the objective is to increase sales in Asia and USA.</li> <li>Could media reports of worker exploitation in Africa work against AP's declared belief in CSR?</li> </ul>						
	e.g. f Ways cost Do c	s in which CSR r to 'ethical' consu s in which this co reasons, e.g. pa	mers. May enable ould also increase ying higher prices care? May not infl	e slightly higher p costs – pressure to suppliers.	e on price for		

© UCLES 2018 Page 7 of 15

Question	Answer	Marks
3	<ul> <li>Judgement on importance</li> <li>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</li> <li>How do these aspects fit in with all aspects of the marketing strategy, for example to what extent does the company have a USP</li> <li>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?</li> </ul>	

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)(i)	Refer to Table 3 and the network diagram.	7
	Calculate and enter on the network diagram the earliest start time (EST) and latest finish time (LFT) for each activity.	
	See diagram below:	
	H 4	
	1 0 A 2 8 8 3 10 C 4 11 E 5 15 F 6 18 J 7 19 19 D G 3	
	1 mark per correct node 3 marks if all ESTs correct 3 marks if all LFTs correct OFR	
4(a)(ii)	Identify on the network diagram the critical path.	1
	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.	

© UCLES 2018 Page 8 of 15

Question			Answer			Marks
4(b)	Refer to your answer to part (a) and other information from the case. Assess the usefulness of critical path analysis (CPA) to AP when planning the new factory project.					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 content					
	information  Answers  Knowled  CPA ident  Need time  Usef  May be keed  But of	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	ram is a way of sec y not be delayed wi up using expert info ime consuming to c hich activities may urces, are ordered was ne before use.	quencing activities a ithout delaying the rmation and realisti carry out. be carried out at the when needed and c	and whole project. c estimates of e same time	
	durate Refe build Possible due 1	rence to particu tion, e.g. installa rence to reason ing work or unrestible lack of expeto lack of knowle	lar tasks which may ation of services suc s for delays, for exa eliable suppliers of l ertise in AP for plan edge of local condit ance of activities on	ch as water ample bad weather building materials ining this type of buildins in Africa.	delaying	

© UCLES 2018 Page 9 of 15

Question	Answer	Marks
4(b)	<ul> <li>Analysis</li> <li>Line of argument followed as to how a network diagram may help to plan and sequence activities, avoid waste of time and resources</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Evaluation</li> <li>Only as accurate as information and expertise used to compile it.</li> <li>A useful tool, along with local knowledge, e.g. in African environment in this case.</li> </ul>	

© UCLES 2018 Page 10 of 15

Question			Answei	•		Marks	
5		s the importance s of the new Afr		urce manageme	ent to the	16	
	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			
	<ul> <li>Knowledge/definitions</li> <li>Human resources management – all aspects of planning, recruiting, and motivating the workforce</li> <li>Within HRM – workforce planning – assessing and providing for the workforce needs of the business, both now and in the future.</li> <li>Careful planning will be needed for both the factory set-up and subsequent running and management.</li> <li>Recruitment issues – getting the right people for the jobs.</li> </ul>						
	<ul> <li>Involvement and motivation of workforce in decision making, teamwork, targets (MBO?) Kaizen groups.</li> <li>Local cultural issues and language barriers</li> </ul>						
	<ul> <li>Application</li> <li>This is a project that is being set up 'from scratch'. Considerable planning expertise will be needed to set up and equip the new factory.</li> <li>Co-ordination may be difficult between local managers and those from country X who are sent to set up the factory</li> <li>Discussion of skills required, both for new systems and for kaizen groups and related points.</li> <li>Discussion of production targets as a means of motivation and related teamwork issues</li> </ul>						
	arg goir • The and • The	ective HRM will be uments of how su	iccessful planning I leadership may/ ssues, such as po unication barriers	g, recruitment, tra may not lead to t ossible redundan	aining and on- he success of the fa cy of 'unskilled		

© UCLES 2018 Page 11 of 15

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

© UCLES 2018 Page 12 of 15

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 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 <b>and</b> 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					

© UCLES 2018 Page 13 of 15

Question	Answer	Marks
6	Evaluate the usefulness of strategic choice techniques to AP's directors to help them decide between the two options for growth.	20
	L1 Skills maximum if just making a choice based on data rather than focussing on usefulness of techniques	
	Answers may include:	
	<ul> <li>Knowledge/definitions</li> <li>Strategic choice techniques – Ansoff, Force Field analysis, Decision trees and how they might be used in this case to weigh up the options</li> <li>Option A is selling the same products but in a different market, but also a new direction into service sector.</li> <li>Option B is developing a new range of related products, for a market that AP has limited knowledge of.</li> <li>Balance of costs and risk</li> <li>Would either option prove a disaster for the company in the case of failure?</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Application</li> <li>Reference to data in table 4 and other information as it applies to techniques</li> <li>Detail of two options applied to strategic choice techniques</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Analysis</li> <li>Use of techniques to weigh up data – cost and risk, followed through with affordability to AP</li> <li>Comparison between techniques, given the data available.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Evaluation</li> <li>Limitations of techniques</li> <li>Need to use other information</li> <li>Dynamic nature of markets concerned</li> <li>Which option is favoured by Directors?</li> </ul> Examiner's note: maximum L1 Analysis and Evaluation, if only the choice between options is addressed rather than techniques.	

© UCLES 2018 Page 14 of 15

Question	Answer	Marks
7	Assume that AP's directors choose option A. Evaluate how this strategy may be successfully implemented.	20
	L1 maximum if implementation based only on one functional area.	
	Answers may include:	
	<ul> <li>Knowledge/definitions</li> <li>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.</li> <li>This is a major decision involving significant change and resources, including an entry into the service sector.</li> <li>Corporate and contingency planning will be needed</li> <li>Benefits of business planning in this context</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Resources and finance? Use of retained profit?</li> </ul> Application	
	<ul> <li>AP knows a lot about production of products but not running salons</li> <li>Maintaining supplies of beauty products to salons and hotels</li> <li>How to plan for seasonality – flexible staffing for salons? Will staff be employed/recruited by AP or the hotels?</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Issues of working together with hotel group in different countries</li> <li>Will there be a 'pilot' project to try this out in a few hotels first? – may help to iron out difficulties</li> </ul>	
	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	
	<ul> <li>Followed through chain of argument of the importance of aspects such as seasonality, business planning, entry into service sector.</li> <li>Followed through chain of arguments about the importance of corporate planning/contingency planning.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Evaluation</li> <li>Planning will be essential</li> <li>Success will also depend on success of the hotel group, this could increase risk</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>There is a 30% chance of failure – what could this look like? How easy might it be to withdraw if the project fails?</li> <li>Communication will be essential</li> </ul>	

© UCLES 2018 Page 15 of 15