

IGCSE BUSINESS EXAM TIPS (0450)

Syllabus: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/Images/596930-2023-2025-syllabus.pdf>

Assessment overview:

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short Answer and Data Response 50%• 80 marks• Four questions requiring a mixture of short answers and structured data responses	Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case Study 50%• 80 marks• Four questions based on a case study, provided as an insert with the paper
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Command words:

Calculate- work out from given facts, figures or information

Consider- review and respond to given information

Define- give precise meaning

Explain- set out purposes or reasons / make the relationships between things evident / provide why and/or how and support with relevant evidence

Identify- name/select/recognise

Justify- support a case with evidence/argument

Outline- set out main points

State- express in clear terms

Tips for paper 1

1. In paper one the entire syllabus is important but you should focus on the
 - **Section 2 (Motivation, Recruitment)**
 - **Section 3 (marketing mix and research)**
 - **Section 5 (cash flow forecast, balance sheet and income statement)**
 - **Sources of finance**
2. In paper 1 the real deal is the knowledge points which make up to **40 marks** of the paper which is 50% of the paper 1, that's a lot! So if you wanna grab those in your pockets, memorise knowledge points well and knowledge points are needed for both questions d and e you can't start without them
3. Always keep in mind at least up to 2 advantages and 2 disadvantages for any points
4. When reading the short business cases:
 - **Always underline the main points and the numbers!** Because you can use those for application marks later on, it will also save you lots of time so you won't have to re-read each case

- Underline points like for example : 13 years of experience , has 50 employees and plans to make 10 redundant , what type of business organisation is that? business objectives ex : expansion
- When writing your answers in questions c , d and e Always write the business product or service instead of just writing the word "product or service"
For example: if the business makes toys write toys instead of products
- Also think of how that product or service is used? And who uses them?
For example : ... , so that the children can play with the toys as intended.
This is a very neat way to gain application marks

Tips for paper 2

1. The most vital thing is to underline the entire important parts in the case because the case is bigger so you'll most likely waste time if you don't underline it while reading in your first time
2. Paper 2 is all about **application marks** and it should be easy because there's plenty in the case!
3. You can also add any mentioned business objectives , numbers , recruitment plans, expansion plans , type of organisation? What's the product or service? ..are there competitors? Competitors products? What are my raw materials?
4. You don't get app marks from "appendixes WITH NUMBERS" unless the question tells you to refer to that appendix.
5. Whenever there is an accounting question always calculate what isn't there
Ex : if you got the revenue , profits , liquidity ratios , and capital employed
Go ahead and calculate the ROCE and Profit margins and use them when answering. You'll be rewarded with marks upon showing your work and calculating them!
6. Before entering paper 2 it's vital to study the accounting % and ratios , breakeven , cash flow forecasts and income statement
7. Before writing, plan first!
8. Enrich your words by saying "this leads to" , "in conclusion the ---- will----" you'll find yourself writing the analysis that way and of course there's many more sentences that you can use
9. In the evaluation you can start with "from my point of view ,...."

Rubrics:

Rubric

Paper 2 Question A. [8] marks

P1

↓

4 marks

K(1)

App(2)

An(1)

app is needed here.

P2

↓

4 marks

K(1)

App(2)

An(1)

Paper 2 Question B.

Kn-3

An-3

App-2

EV-4

}

[12] marks

Paper 1

Qa - kn x 2 marks

Qb - kn x 2 marks

Qc - kn' + ap' x 2 = 4 marks

Qd - kn' + ap' + an' x 2 = 6 marks

Qe - kn' + ap' + an' + ev' = 6 marks

Paper 2 - 12 marks

PI - what's it?
how to use it in case?
consequences

positive

negative

2 chain of analyse.

P II

P III

Recommendation:

1. Which one you chose?
2. Why? Give evidence from case.
3. Disadvantage → how it can be solved.
4. Why you didn't choose other 2 options?

↓

evidence + apply.

Paper 2 - 8 marks

PI - what is it?
- how it can be used in case.
- Consequences:
what result → impact } 2 chain of positive analyse. - impact

- However, ... → impact (disadvantage)

8 mark

4 mark - kn + ap

{

positive impact

negative impact

4 mark

3a6au apply opyytax!

Paper 2 - 12 marks

Ex:
Paragraph 1: Job rotation - what's it?
how to use it in case?

Consequences

Positive

↓

motivated

↓

output

Negative

↓

efficiency

↓

fall

2 chain of analyse

Paragraph 2: Promotion

Paragraph 3: Increase wage

Recommendation:

1. Which one you choose?
2. Why? Give evidence from case.
3. Disadvantage → how it can be solved
4. Why you did not choose other 2 options?

↓

evidence + apply.

- Be brief!
- Remember paragraph structure!
- Apply while analyse!
- Think about business feature!
- Recommendation structure!

Additional sources:

Key terms: <https://quizlet.com/541935654/igcse-business-studies-flash-cards/?i=4o5t51&x=1jqt>

Notes:

<https://images.znotes.org/pdf/caie-igcse-business-studies-0450-theory-v1.pdf>

<https://igcseaid.com/notes/business-studies-0450/>

Past papers:

<https://pastpapers.co/cie/?dir=IGCSE/Business-Studies-0450>

Example candidate response paper 1:

https://myeducite.com/uploads/0450_Example_Candidate_Responses_Paper_1.pdf

Example candidate response paper 2:

https://myeducite.com/uploads/0450_Example_Candidate_Responses_Paper_2.pdf

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