

Cambridge International AS & A Level

BUSINESS		9609/23
Paper 2 Data Response		May/June 2021
MARK SCHEME		
Maximum Mark: 60		
	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.

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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.)
- 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.

PREPARATION FOR MARKING

- 1 Make sure that you have completed the relevant training and have access to the RM Assessor Guide.
- 2 Make sure that you have read and understand the question paper, which you can download from https://support.rm.com/ca
- 3 Log in to RM Assessor then mark and submit the required number of practice and standardisation scripts. You will need to mark the standardisation scripts to the required accuracy in order to be approved for marking live scripts. You may be asked to re-mark them, or to mark a second sample, if you do not meet the required accuracy on your first attempt.

MARKING PROCESS

- 1 Mark strictly to the FINAL mark scheme, applying the criteria consistently and the general marking principles outlined on the previous page.
- 2 If you are in doubt about applying the mark scheme, consult your Team Leader.
- Mark at a steady rate through the marking period. Do not rush, and do not leave too much until the end. If you anticipate a problem in meeting the deadline, contact your Team Leader immediately and the Examiners' Helpdesk.
- 4 Examiners will prepare a brief report on the performance of candidates to send to their Team Leader via email by the end of the marking period. The Examiner should note strengths seen in answers and common errors or weaknesses. Constructive comments on the question paper, mark scheme or procedures are also appreciated.

MARKING SPECIFICS

Crossed out work

- 1 All of a candidate's answers, crossed out or not, optional or not, must be marked.
- 2 The only response not to be marked is one that has been crossed out and <u>replaced</u> by another response for that exact same question.
- 3 Consequently, if a candidate has crossed out their response to an <u>optional</u> question and gone on to answer a <u>different</u> optional question then <u>both</u> attempts must be marked. The higher mark will be awarded by the system according to the rubric.

0 (zero) marks or NR (no response)

- Award **NR** if there is <u>nothing</u> at all written in answer to that question (often the case for optional questions).
- Award **NR** if there is a <u>comment</u> which is <u>not an attempt</u> at the question (e.g. 'can't do it' or 'don't know' etc.)
- 3 Award **NR** if there is a <u>symbol</u> which is <u>not an attempt</u> at the question, such as a dash or question mark.
- 4 Award **0** (zero) if there is any <u>attempt</u> at the question which <u>does not score marks</u>. This includes copying the question onto an Answer Booklet.

Annotation

- 1 Every <u>question</u> must have <u>at least one</u> annotation e.g. <NAQ> if it is an NR and <X> or <seen> if 0 marks are awarded.
- 2 Every page of a script must have at least one annotation e.g. <BP> for a blank page.

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estion		Answer			
1(a)(i)	Define the term 'market research' (line 15).				
	Knowledge		Marks		
	A correct definition		2		
	A partial, vague or unfocused of	definition	1		
	No creditable content		0		
	A correct definition should include Gaining information / fir	•	service		
	A correct definition should include Gaining information / fir	de the following elements:	service		
	A correct definition should include Gaining information / fir about the potential cust Exemplar	de the following elements: Inding out about somers for a product/service. Rationale	service Marks		
	A correct definition should include Gaining information / fir about the potential cust	de the following elements: Inding out about somers for a product/service.			
	A correct definition should include Gaining information / fir about the potential cust Exemplar Finding out about potential	de the following elements: Inding out about somers for a product/service. Rationale	Marks		
	Gaining information / fir about the potential cust Exemplar Finding out about potential customers for a food Researching about	de the following elements: Inding out about comers for a product/service. Rationale Both elements	Marks 2		

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estion			Answer		Mark
1(a)(ii)	Expla	ain the term 'social aware	eness' (line 29).		
		Kn	owledge	Marks	
	С	Example or some other will understanding, e.g. one of	way of showing good of Goleman's competencies	1	
	В	Understanding of the issu	ues/problems/have empathy	1	
		Understanding that it is disociety/community/organ		1	
	memb empa	bers of society / the commutathy/understanding of the is	anding of the problems that differ unity / an organisation face; havi ssues in a business e.g. is able to	ng	
	memb empa	bers of society / the commu	unity / an organisation face; havi	ng	
	member succe	bers of society / the commuthy/understanding of the isessfully. Exemplar ording to Goleman's	unity / an organisation face; havi	ng	
	Accordant and a member of the community	bers of society / the commutatry/understanding of the isessfully. Exemplar	unity / an organisation face; havies unity / an organisation face; havies uses in a business e.g. is able to	ng o negotiate Marks	
	Accordant and problems	bers of society / the commutative the commutative the commutative that t	unity / an organisation face; havies unity / an organisation face; havies uses in a business e.g. is able to	ng o negotiate Marks	
	According communication with the communication communicati	Exemplar ording to Goleman's apetencies (C) it means erstanding a society's (A) olems (B). ing empathy with the es (B) facing a	Rationale All three elements	mg o negotiate Marks	

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Question	Answer		Marks
1(b)(i)	Refer to Table 1.1. Calculate the profit margin Bilal made of three apartments that he bought and sold.	n the last	4
	Rationale	Marks	
	Correct answer(s) with or without correct working or units	4	
	Correct calculation of total revenue AND total profit(s)	3	
	Correct calculation of total revenue OR total profit(s)	2	
	Formula (can be implied from the correct use of figures)	1	
	No creditable content	0	
	Formula: $\frac{\text{Total revenue}}{\text{Total profit}} \times 100 \text{ (1)}$ $\text{Apartment A} - \$14 000 \text{ profit}$ $\frac{\$14 000}{\$8000} \times 100 = 17.5\%$ $\text{Apartment B} - \$20 000 \text{ profit}$ $\frac{\$20 000}{\$150 000} \times 100 = 13.33\%$ $\text{Apartment C} - \$10 000 \text{ loss}$ $\frac{\$-10 000}{\$70 000} \times 100 = -14.29\%$ $\text{Total = } \$24 000 \text{ total profit}$ $\text{Total revenue = } \$80 000 + \$150 000 + \$70 000 = \$300 000 \text{ (1)}$ $\frac{\$24 000}{\$300 000} \times 100 = 8\% \text{ (4)}$ OFR		

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Question		Answer		Marks	
1(b)(ii)	Explain <u>one</u> way in which Bilal may add value to the apartments he buys.				
	Level	Knowledge and Application	Marks		
	2 (APP)	Explanation of a way in which Bilal may add- value to the houses that he sells	2		
	1 (K)	Identification of a way of adding value	1		
	0	No creditable content	0		
	 Increa Create Application ma Renove bathrough apartress Brande buyer Buyin 	ence between the price of a product and cost of in ase in value of a product/service created by a bus ed by the production process	iness ew the an		
	ARA				

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Question			Answer			Marks
1(c)	_	wo factors which counts in city W.	ld influen	ce the demand for bu	ying	8
	Level	Knowledge and Application (4 marks)	Marks	Analysis (4 marks)	Marks	
	2b	Shows understanding of two factors which could influence demand in context	4	Good analysis of two factors which could influence demand in context	4	
	2a	Shows understanding of one factor which could influence demand in context	3	Good analysis of one factor which could influence demand in context	3	
	1b	Shows knowledge of two factors which could influence demand	2	Limited analysis of two factors which could influence demand	2	
	1a	Shows knowledge of one factor which could influence demand	1	Limited analysis of one factor which could influence demand	1	
	0	1	No credita	ble content		
	P a d d M m th local loc	fluencing demand could price expectations/subst partment will influence isposable income for polytortgage rates – people nortgage, so the rate at neir ability to purchase sastes and preferences ocated may affect the wompetition – the other affect people's willingness ashion – how trendy an ould come from relating Property market city e.g. to find jobs, avoid added from renoval	itutes/com demand be otential cus often pure which the the area illingness apartment as to purch area is to: bid commu	ecause it will affect the stomers. chase apartments with mortgage is repaid will in which the apartmen of customers to purchas in the area for sale/renase	a ⊧affect t is se	
	ARA	Renting versus buying				

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Question		Ans	swer		Marks
1(d)	Recommend whether Bilal with Sophie. Justify your r			ership	11
	Knowledge and Application (4 marks)	Marks	Analysis and Evaluation (7 marks)	Marks	
			Justified recommendation based on arguments in context	7	
			Developed recommendation based on arguments in context	6	
			An evaluative statement/recommendati on based on arguments in context	5	
	Shows understanding of a partnership in context	3–4	Arguments based on Bilal entering into a partnership with Bilal.	3–4	
	Shows knowledge of a partnership	1–2	Limited analysis of becoming a partnership	1–2	
	1	No credita	ble content		
	 profit margin (11%) Sophie has manage past year. Sophie has a lower compared with Bilal Sophie has working take advantage of t Sophie has the soc buyers / be able to contractors – so ad 	ets ills/profits/ are his profits higher success red to buy a success red (four out g capital of he housing ial skills th sell at high d more va	ofit with Sophie – however Sofit with Sophie – however Sofithan Bilal's at 8%. Industrial more houses than Exate (four out of six made proof five made profit, in total). If \$150 000 which may allow g boom. In Bilal lacks – may help to the prices / negotiate better	Bilal in the ofit) Bilal to find rates with	

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Question	Answer	Marks
1(d)	Arguments may include: Have to share profits Less control for Bilal May disagree over direction of the business However: Spreads the risks Sophie's skills complement Bilal's She can contribute capital Recommendation based on arguments	
	ARA	

Question		Answer		Ма
2(a)(i)	Define the term 'liquidity' (line	: 15).		
	Know	/ledge	Marks	
	A correct definition		2	
	A partial, vague or unfocused of	definition	1	
	No creditable content		0	
	The ability (cash) for a business which assets can be turned into A correct definition should include Assets that can be turn To use immediately if n	cash (or are cash) to use immede the following elements:	ediately.	
	which assets can be turned into A correct definition should include Assets that can be turn	cash (or are cash) to use immede the following elements: ed into cash	ediately.	
	which assets can be turned into A correct definition should include Assets that can be turn To use immediately if n	cash (or are cash) to use immede the following elements: ed into cash eeded or to pay short-term deb	ediately. ots	
	which assets can be turned into A correct definition should include Assets that can be turn To use immediately if n Exemplar Liquidity means current assets that can be quickly	cash (or are cash) to use immede the following elements: ed into cash eeded or to pay short-term deb	ediately. ots Marks	

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			Answer		Marks
2(a)(ii)	Expla	ain the term 'internal grov	vth' (line 13).		
	Award one mark for each point of explanation:				
	Rationale		Marks		
	С	Example or some other vunderstanding	vay of showing good	1	
	В	Understanding of the cor	ncept of internal	1	
	Α	Knowledge of growth		1	
		Exemplar	Rationale	Marks	
	as or	ganic or natural growth. Co	ed profit to buy new assets. Ofte uld come from developing new parketing, diversification, proce	oroducts,	
				IVIAI KS	
		en a business increases	A+B+C	3	
	in si resc	en a business increases ize (A) using its own ources (B) generated from eased efficiency (C)			
	in si resc incre Whe	ize (A) using its own purces (B) generated from			
	in si resc incre Whe (A) I	ize (A) using its own burces (B) generated from eased efficiency (C) en a business expands	A+B+C	3	
	in si resci incre Whe (A) I Ope	ize (A) using its own purces (B) generated from eased efficiency (C) en a business expands by reinvesting profits (B)	A+B+C A and B Expansion and internal both	3	

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Question	Answer		Marks		
2(b)(i)	Refer to Table 2.1 and any other relevant information. Calculate the total revenue from selling the Classic belt in 2020.				
	Rationale	Marks			
	Correct answer with or without correct working or \$	2			
	Formula or correct calculation of the revenue for one belt	1			
	No creditable content	0			
	Output = 265 000 Price = \$11				
	Formula: Output × price = revenue (1)				
	or 10 000 + 60 000 + 40 000 + 15 000 + 80 000 + 60 000 = 265 00	00 belts (1)			
	265 000 × \$11 = \$2 915 000 (\$2.915m)				
	Total revenue = \$2.915m (2) 2915 (1) (without \$ and million)				

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Question		Answer		Marks		
2(b)(ii)	Explain one advantage and one disadvantage to BU of selling a range of sizes and colours of the Classic belt.					
	Level	Marks				
	2b (APP+A PP)	Explanation of one advantage and one disadvantage to BU of selling a range of sizes and colours for the classic belt.	4			
	2a (APP)	Explanation of one advantage or one disadvantage to BU of selling a range of sizes and colours for the classic belt.	3			
	1b (K+K)	Identification of one advantage and one disadvantage of selling a range of products	2			
	1a (K)	Identification of one advantage or one disadvantage of selling a range of products	1			
	0	No creditable content	0			
	To large To To To To To To Disadvantage Higgen Inc.	s may include: increase sales revenue – each size and colour has a ge number of sales suit/attract a larger number of market segments target a mass market ges may include: gh levels of inventory reased training for workers ferent levels of demand	a relatively			
	• Bat	old include: ference to data in table 2.1 tch production n-perishable product				
	ARA					

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Question			Marks					
2(c)	Analyse <u>two</u> disadvantages to BU of the proposed process innovation.							
	Level	Knowledge and Application (4 marks)	Marks	Analysis (4 marks)	Marks			
	2b	Shows understanding of two elements of process innovation in context	4	Good analysis of two disadvantages of process innovation in context	4			
	2a	Shows understanding of one element of process innovation in context	3	Good analysis of one disadvantage of process innovation in context	3			
	1b	Shows knowledge of two elements of process innovation	2	Limited analysis of two disadvantages of process innovation	2			
	1a	Shows knowledge of one element of process innovation	1	Limited analysis of one disadvantage of process innovation	1			
	0	No creditable content						
	 Knowledge may include: Putting a new approach into action About adding value Improving/developing existing goods, services or processes Need to understand customer needs Developing imaginative solutions Can be expensive Analysis may include:							
	 May require retraining of the 70 workers in the factory – additional costs for BU Will require the purchase of machinery for mass production – does BU have the finance available? May lose their reputation of being hand-made Could lead to redundancy of the 70 factory workers No guarantee that the new belt will be successful, so the investment in the new process may be wasted 							

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Question	Answer							
2(d)	Evaluate the usefulness of Mintzberg's roles of management for BU when recruiting a new factory manager.							
	Knowledge and Application (4 marks)	Marks	Analysis and Evaluation (7 marks)	Marks				
			Justified evaluation based on argument in context	7				
			Developed evaluation based on argument in context	6				
			An evaluative statement based on argument in context	5				
	Shows understanding of Mintzberg's management roles in context	3–4	Argument based on the usefulness of Mintzberg's management roles in context	3–4				
	Shows knowledge of Mintzberg's management roles	1–2	Limited analysis of the use of Mintzberg's management roles	1–2				
	No creditable content							
	Knowledge may include: Interpersonal roles Figurehead Leader Liaison							
	Informational roles							
	Decisional roles							

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Question	Answer	Marks
2(d)	Application and Analysis may include Mintzberg's roles are useful because: Figurehead – Factory manager must inspire the 70 workers and 8 supervisors Leader – Factory manager must lead the 70 workers and 8 supervisors Liaison – To meet regularly with the worker representatives Monitor – New process for the mass-produced belts and the inventory in the warehouse Disseminator – 70 workers and supervisors – need to get information to them quickly and efficiently, especially with the new process Spokesperson – May need to represent the company to other stakeholders Entrepreneur – may need to innovate the processes of production further Disturbance Handler – New process may lead to conflict with the 70 workers, 8 supervisors and worker representatives. Resource Allocator – Inventory management of the warehouse Negotiator – May need to negotiate with customers (businesses) as well as the workforce Evaluation may include: Manager has authority and status so interpersonal skills necessary to earn respect Managers have to communicate to various stakeholders so important to have informational ability Managers have to make decisions, adapt to situations, allocate resources Managers ensure operations run efficiently BU can use this in recruitment, job description and interviews to ensure it employs someone who will have the correct impact on the business	

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