

RHODES UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT
TEAM PROJECT: 8 OCTOBER 2025
MAN 314: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

MARKS: 110

Introduction

The purpose of this assignment is for students to integrate and apply their knowledge of corporate finance to specific organisations listed on the Johannesburg Securities Exchange (JSE). Students will be provided with one JSE-listed organisation and will be required to research and identify a suitable peer organisation for comparative analysis. Students will learn how financial decisions and performance enable and impact other key business functions. The assignment requires a comparative analysis of selected organisations listed on the JSE over a **four-year period (2020 to 2024)**, with a primary focus on their financial strategies and their implications for overall business performance.

Assignment Requirements

1. Conduct a comparative analysis of two JSE-listed organisations, focusing on their financial strategies and their impact on overall business performance.
2. All financial and ESG data must be sourced from the **IRESS** and **LSEG** databases.
3. Students will be required to submit one team project.
4. Each team will consist of 5-6 members.
5. Apply relevant theories from textbooks, academic journals and credible online sources.
6. Synthesise information and provide thoughtful discussions and recommendations.
7. The assignment must be typed (Arial, 12 pt, 1.5 spacing, justified paragraphs, and page numbers).
8. Word limit: 4000 words (approximately 10 pages excluding cover page, references and appendices).
9. Include a signed declaration page with the contribution breakdown of each team member.
10. Provide student number, name, and surname of each team member on the cover page.
11. Include a comprehensive reference list using Harvard Style referencing technique.
12. Due date: **08 October 2025**.

Assignment Structure

1. Financial Strategy and Performance:

- a. Analyse the organisations' capital structures over the past 4 years.
- b. Perform a DuPont analysis to identify key drivers of Return on Equity (ROE).
- c. Evaluate the appropriateness of the current capital structure and suggest improvements.
- d. Conduct a comprehensive total shareholders returns analysis over the past 4 years.
- e. Discuss how the companies' investment decisions align with its overall strategy.
- f. Evaluate the dividend policy and its impact on shareholder value.

3. Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Issues:

- a. Analyse the organisations' approach to ESG risks and opportunities.

4. Strategic Management:

- a. Conduct a brief industry analysis using Porter's Five Forces.
- b. Identify the organisations' key competitive advantages and how they relate to financial performance.
- c. Analyse the organisations' growth strategies (organic growth, M&A, diversification) and its financial implications.
- d. Evaluate how financial considerations influence the company's strategic decisions.

5. Integrated Analysis and Recommendations:

- a. Synthesise the findings from all sections and explain their impact on the organisations' performance.
- b. Provide specific, actionable recommendations to the CEO/Board on:
 - i. Improving financial performance.
 - ii. Addressing key challenges identified in the analysis.
- c. Discuss potential trade-offs and challenges in implementing these recommendations.

Assessment Criteria

Each team's project will be assessed as follows:

Requirements Evaluated	Team's Mark
1. Introduction (10 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the aim of the assignment (2) Introduces the two selected JSE-listed organisations and provide justification for the peer comparison (4) Outlines the structure of the assignment (2) Briefly describes the methodology used (2) 	
2. Financial Strategy and Performance (32 marks) 2.1 Capital Structure (10 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate calculation and analysis of capital structure over 4 years (5) Well-justified suggestions for capital structure improvement (5) 2.2 Financial Performance Analysis (10 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive yearly analysis of total shareholders' returns for both organisations (4) Correct DuPont analysis with insightful interpretation (4) Insightful interpretation of ROE drivers (2) 2.3 ESG and Financial Policy (12 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive analysis of ESG approaches for both organisations (5) Insightful evaluation of dividend policies for both organisations (5) Clear discussion of dividend policy's impact on shareholder value (2) 	
3. Strategic Management (20 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct application of Porter's Five Forces at industry level and relevance to both organisations (10) Clear identification of competitive advantages for both organisations (5) Clear analysis of growth strategies for both organisations (organic, M&A, diversification) and insightful discussion of financial implications (5) 	
4. Analysis and Recommendations (10 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis of finance and strategy findings (5) Specific, and actionable recommendations for improving overall performance (5) 	
5. Research and Use of Theory (15 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of at least 10 relevant credible and academic sources (10) Correct application of financial and management theories (5) 	
6. Conclusion (5 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to the purpose of the assignment (1) Summary of key findings (2) Closing remarks on the importance of finance integration and alignment with the overall strategy (2) 	
7. Technical Requirements (18 marks) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper formatting (Arial 12, 1.5 space, justified paragraphs) (3) Correct cover page and table of contents (2) Proper use of Harvard referencing style (10) Overall presentation and visual appeal (1) Adherence to word limit (2) 	
TOTAL	/110