

ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE

APPLIED BUSINESS

Unit 3: Understanding the Business Environment

F242

Candidates answer on the question paper

OCR Supplied Materials:

- Clean copy Case Study

Other Materials Required:

- Calculator

Monday 18 May 2009

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



Candidate Forename		Candidate Surname	
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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the boxes above.
 - Use black ink. Pencil may be used for graphs and diagrams only.
 - Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
 - Answer **all** the questions.
 - Do **not** write in the bar codes.
 - Write your answer to each question in the space provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES



**A calculator may
be used for this
paper**

Examiner's Use Only:			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
Total			

Answer all questions.

- 1 (a) State **two** ways in which a limited company differs from a partnership.

Way 1:

Way 2:

[21].....

- (b)** Identify and explain **two** differences between a public limited company and a private limited company.

Difference 1:

Explanation:

Difference 2:

Explanation:

[4]

- (c)*** Evaluate the likely benefits and drawbacks to *Layton Construction plc* of being a public limited company.

.....

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.....

[12]

. [12]

[Total: 18]

2 Complete the table below to:

(a) identify **two** internal stakeholders and **two** external stakeholders in *Layton Construction plc*; [4]

(b) explain how each is able to influence the company. [8]

	Identify the stakeholder	Explanation of influence
Internal stakeholder 1		
Internal stakeholder 2		
External stakeholder 1		
External stakeholder 2		

[Total: 12]

- 3 (a)** What is meant by the term 'the external environment of a business'?

[2]

[2]

- (b) Evaluate the likely impact of changes in UK interest rates on *Layton Construction plc*.

. [12]

- (c) *Layton Construction plc* uses PEST analysis when reviewing its activities.

For each of the following activities, identify **one** different factor, (other than a change in interest rates) for each element of the PEST analysis.

	House building	Construction of out of town shopping centres
P		
E		
S		
T		

[8]

- (d) Identify and explain **two** benefits of the use of **SWOT analysis** to a business such as *Layton Construction plc*.

Benefit 1:

Explanation:

.....

.....

Benefit 2:

Explanation:

.....

[4]

[Total: 26]

- 4 (a)** Explain the difference between laws and ethics.

[2]

[2]

- (b)** Analyse why James Floud might have considered Gary's proposed tactic 'questionable in terms of ethics' (lines 72–73).

[6]

- (c) Identify **two** other ethical issues that could relate to the operations of a company such as *Layton Construction plc*.

Ethical issue 1:

.....
Ethical issue 2:

..... [2]

[Total: 10]

5 (a) Sarah produced the following costings for the 'garden grab' plot development.

- Cost of acquiring the land – £2.5 million.
- Other fixed costs involved in the development – £0.5 million.
- Variable cost per house – £65 000.
- Selling price for each house – £310 000.

(i) Calculate the number of houses that *Layton Construction plc* would have to sell to break-even on this proposal. [4]

Show your working:

Answer:

(ii) Calculate the margin of safety on this development if *Layton Construction plc* built 15 houses on the plot. [2]

Show your working:

Answer:

(iii) Calculate the profit from the development of 15 houses.

[3]

Show your working:

Answer: £

- (b) Barbara considered that the likely return on the investment in the 'garden grab' plot development was unsatisfactory.

She proposed that the Directors consider **two** alternative strategies for increasing the return. The alternatives were to:

- raise the price per house to £340 000;
 - squeeze two additional houses onto the land available.

Using break-even analysis, evaluate these **two** alternative strategies.

[12]

. [12]

- (c) (i) The variance statement below relates to the variable costs of constructing one house. Complete the variance statement below.

Item	Budget figure (£)	Actual figure (£)	Variance (£)	Favourable or unfavourable	Variance as % of budget figure
Materials	35 000	36 800			
Labour	30 000	31 600			
Total	65 000	68 400			

[9]

- (ii) Identify and explain **two** benefits of variance analysis to a business such as *Layton Construction plc*.

Benefit 1:

Explanation:

.....

.....

Benefit 2:

Explanation:

.....

[4]

[Total: 34]

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