

# ADVANCED GCE BUSINESS STUDIES

People in Organisations

F295



Candidates answer on the Question Paper

**OCR Supplied Materials:** 

None

**Other Materials Required:** 

None

**SPECIMEN 2010** 

**Duration:** 2 hours



Candidate Forename					Candidate Surname			
Centre Numb	per				Candidate N	umber		

#### **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; however additional paper may be used if necessary.
- It is recommended that you spend 10–15 minutes reading and annotating the material in the Case Study. You
  will be expected to refer to this material in your answers.

#### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is 60.
- The quality of your written communication will be assessed in questions that are indicated
  accordingly (\*). Marks will be awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar, use of appropriate
  form and style of writing, and for organising work clearly and coherently.
- This document consists of 12 pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



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Turn over

### Intermezzo Instruments Ltd (IIL)

Toni Giordano purchased Intermezzo Instruments from Pietro Inzhagi in October 2006, when Pietro decided to retire. Pietro began trading in 1986, operating from a large workshop complex in Watford. Intermezzo had soon built up a world-wide reputation for the production of quality hand-crafted violins and woodwind instruments. Pietro had only ever employed skilled craftsmen, whom he recruited from all over Europe, to work in Watford. As a result of this recruitment policy Pietro was able to ensure that Intermezzo's instruments were of the highest standard, a standard which was always expected by musicians. This method of recruitment however, caused problems when replacement workers were needed.

When Toni first visited Intermezzo to assess the business' potential he had spoken to many of the craftsmen. Several violinmakers had complained that Pietro was a very hard taskmaster. They did not like the way that he often stood over them whilst they were working, and did not like being criticised for working slowly. Some were annoyed that he did not pay them the 'going rate' for their skill, particularly as they knew that he made a handsome profit when he sold the instruments which they had painstakingly made.

Similar complaints had occurred when Toni had talked with the woodwindmakers. A further concern they had was the way Pietro forced them to work long hours to ensure that instruments were ready for when the customers needed them. They insisted that the combination of these factors made them make more mistakes and that as a result, Pietro was directly responsible for the increasing number of accidents in the workshops.

When Toni took over the business he decided that many changes needed to be made quickly. 20 At a meeting with the workforce at the end of his first week in charge, he told them that from the beginning of 2007 the following changes would be introduced:

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- Each department would be free to determine the times they started and finished work.
- Each department would vote for a rate of pay for their department from the total wages budget allocated by Toni.
- An apprenticeship scheme would be introduced to reduce the problem of recruiting replacements for craftsmen who leave or retire. Craftsmen be responsible for the training these apprentices on the basis of one apprentice to every three craftsmen.
- A new suggestion scheme would reward workers for ideas to make IIL more efficient.

Toni justified these changes by telling his workforce that they would certainly be the most empowered group of workers in the industry, if not in the whole of the U.K. He also predicted that these changes would safeguard everyone's jobs for the foreseeable future.

Toni has two other ideas which he wants to introduce. These are that:

- every worker would be responsible for their own budget for raw materials, and would be able to recommend, for example, the purchase of labour-saving equipment instead of their relying on using traditional tools only;
- representatives from each department would be expected to meet potential new customers for detailed discussions of each customer's requirements.

The combined effect of these two changes would be to make each department a profit centre and largely autonomous and responsible for much of its own marketing, costing and operations. Toni can see immediate advantages for the whole business. However, it would represent a significant cultural shift for the craftsmen, none of whom have any business experience. As a result, Toni is unsure whether or not to press ahead and make these 45 changes for 2008.



One year later Toni was comparing data from the last year Pietro had been in charge with data relating to his own first year in charge, so as to assess the impact of the changes he had introduced. He was somewhat surprised by the results. He was concerned that the Apprenticeship scheme was not yielding the results that he had wanted. furthermore, he was not convinced by the craftsmen's claims that they had too much work to be able to monitor and train the apprentices properly. toni began to wonder whether he had tried to introduce too many changes too quickly in January 2007 or whether he should have been even more radical and introduced even more changes to give IIL's employees even more empowerment over a wider number of issues/activities.

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<u>Table 1:</u> <u>Average weekly hours per employee (2006-</u>	-2007):
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 Department:
 2006:
 2007:

 Violinmakers
 64
 58

 Woodwindmakers
 66
 33

<u>Table 2:</u> Hourly rates of pay per employee (2006–2007): (£ per hour)

Department:2006:2007:Violinmakers1215Woodwindmakers820

<u>Table 3:</u> Number of employees per department (2006–2007):

 Department:
 2006:
 2007:

 Violinmakers
 15
 15

 Woodwindmakers
 21
 24

N.B. These totals do not include apprentices.

Table 4: Average number of instruments produced per week per

employee (2006-2007):

Department:2006:2007:Violinmakers11Woodwindmakers48

Table 5: Total number of accidents (2005–2007):

 Department:
 2005:
 2006:
 2007:

 Violinmakers
 1
 4
 5

 Woodwindmakers
 4
 6
 20

<u>Number of new customers (2006–2007):</u>

Department:2006:2007:Violinmakers1214Woodwindmakers824



## Answer all questions.

ı	(a)	Using Table 1 and Table 2, calculate the percentage change in average weekly wages for violinmakers between 2006 and 2007.
		[2]
	(b)	Using Table 5, calculate the percentage change in accidents in the woodwind-making department between 2006 and 2007.
		[2]
2		ere has been a much larger increase in the number of accidents amongst woodwind makers ween 2006 and 2007 than amongst violin makers (Table 5).
	Ana	alyse why this difference may have occurred.
		[6]

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Recommend, ar	d justify, a strategy	to reduce ac	ccidents at IIL		
•••••				 	



. [13]

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IIL has traditionally only employed skilled craftsmen who are recruited from all over Europe.
Analyse how this policy might have affected the methods of recruitment IIL was able to use.
[6]
[O]



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Evaluate the contribution the Apprenticeship scher IIL.	me might make to the overall penormance o
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Paper Total [60]





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