



Applied Business

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

Unit F242: Understanding the Business Environment

Mark Scheme for January 2011

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Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the Report on the Examination.

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*	Tick
×	Cross
BOD	Benefit of doubt
?	Unclear
REP	Repeat
L1	Level 1
L2	Level 2
L3	Level 3
L4	Level 4
OFR	Own figure rule
CONT	Accepted as context
NAQ	Not answering question
SEEN	Candidate's response seen

F242			Mark	Scheme				January 2011	
Question	Expected Answer					AO Mark		Additional Guidance	
	Expected AnswerUsing the information provided cash-flow forecast for Food 4 TOne mark for each answer.All figures in £Cash InflowSales RevenueTotal Cash InflowCash OutflowMortgage repaymentsBuilding costsWebsite developmentComputer hardware/softwareTillsStockWages			he un-shade March 15990 15990 1 500 0 2 500 0 (1) 5 330 1 100	d boxes of the April 21000 21000 1 500 5 150 0 0 150 7 000 3 400	AO AO1 4 AO2 3	Mark 7		
	Salaries Insurance Overheads Total Cash Outflow	2 000 400 800 42 300	2 000 400 800 21 100	2 000 400 800 23 630	2 000 800 1 500 (1) 21 500				
	Net Cash-Flow Opening Balance	-27 300 10000	-5 200 (1) -17 300	(1) -7 640 -22 500	-500 -30140				
	Closing Balance	(1) -17 300	-22 500	-30140	(1) -30640				

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Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
1 (b)	Evaluate the sources of finance Jeremy could use to raise the additional	AO1 3	12	Acceptable annotation is
	funds needed for the expansion of F4T.	AO2 3		AO1 L1
		AO3 3		AO2 L2
	Use level of response criteria.	AO4 3		AO3 L3
				AO4 L4
	Level 1 (1–3 marks)			Please indicate each time a
	Candidate states ways of raising funds.			candidate achieves a particular level
				as this will help you to allocate the
	Level 2 (4–6 marks)			marks within that level.
	Candidate explains advantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s) of ways of raising			L1: [1–3 marks]
	funds			[1 mark] candidate states one source.
				[2–3 marks] candidate states more
	Level 3 (7–9 marks)			than one source.
	Candidate analyses advantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s) of ways of raising			
	funds.			Accept sponsors
	Level 4 (10–12 marks)			L2: [4–6 marks]
	Candidate recommends the most suitable source(s) of funds using previous			[4 marks] candidate explains
	analysis with context.			advantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s) of
				one source of finance in generic
	Indicative content:			context.
	Retained profit			[5–6 marks] candidate explains
	Mortgage			advantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s) of
	Bank loan			more than one source of finance in
	Friends and family			generic context.
	Sell shares			L3: [7–9 marks]
	Venture capitalist			[7 marks] candidate analyses
	• Leasing			advantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s)
	Hire Purchase			of one source of finance in generic or
	Sale of assets			specific context.
	Government grants			[8–9 marks] candidate analyses
				advantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s)
				of more than one source of finance in
				generic or specific context.

Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
1 (b) Cont.	Exemplar responses: A business can get a bank loan to avoid running out of cash (L1). There is retained profit in F4T which Jeremy can use or he can get a bank loan to pay for the building costs (L2). The advantage of using retained profit is that there is no interest to pay and therefore reduces the cost to the business (L3). However, Jeremy might not have such a lump sum in retained profit so he would have to get a bank loan in order to avoid negative cash-flow. A combination of these two methods is recommended to keep costs at a minimum while making sure that there is enough to cover the costs of expansion (L4). Jeremy could opt for long-term sources eg bank loans and mortgages (L1). However, in the current economic climate, these sources are hard to come by (L2). Even though there is interest to pay, with the current interest rates at an all-time low (L2) bank loans are a cheap way of raising funds.(L3)			L4: [10–12 marks] [10 marks] candidate recommends the source(s) most suitable for F4T, having compared with other source(s), with weak justification in specific context. [11–12 marks] candidate recommends the source(s) most suitable for F4T, having compared with other source(s), with full justification in specific context.

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Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
2 (a)	State two types of budgeting. For each type of budgeting, state one advantage and one disadvantage.	AO1	6	Acceptable annotation is $$
				Do NOT award marks for 'easy to
	One mark for each identification up to a maximum of two identifications, plus			construct', 'more realistic and reliable',
	one mark for each advantage up to a maximum of two advantages and one mark for each disadvantage identified, up to a maximum of two			'time-consuming' without explanation.
	disadvantages.			Award marks for advantages and disadvantages of each type of
	Historic budgeting (1) Advantages:			budgeting, no marks for definitions.
	Easy to construct because it is based on past performance (1).			Accept also
	Likely to be more realistic and attainable because it is based on figures from			Top down
	previous years (1).			Bottom up
	Disadvantages:			•
	Unexpected events would render it unachievable (1) eg a sharp rise in interest rates (1).			Do not award 'loose', 'strict', 'tight' budgets
	Assumes that there are no major changes from one year to another (1).			
	Zero-based budgeting (1)			
	Advantages: As it is based on needs and benefits allocation of resources tends to be more efficient (1).			
	Drives managers to find cost effective ways to improve operations (1).			
	Useful for service departments where the output is difficult to identify (1). Increases staff motivation by providing greater initiative and responsibility in decision-making (1).			
	Increases communication and coordination within the organisation (1).			
	Forces cost centres to identify their mission and their relationship to overall			
	goals (1)			
	Disadvantages:			
	It is time-consuming because decision makers are forced to justify every detail related to expenditure (1).			
	Honesty of the managers must be reliable and uniform (1).			

Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
2 (a)	Incremental budgeting (1)			
Cont.	Advantages:			
	The budget is stable and change is gradual (1).			
	Managers can operate their departments on a consistent basis (1).			
	The system is relatively simple to operate and easy to understand (1).			
	Co-ordination between budgets is easier to achieve (1).			
	The impact of change can be seen quickly (1).			
	Disadvantages:			
	Assumes activities and methods of working will continue in the same way (1).			
	No incentive for developing new ideas (1).			
	No incentives to reduce costs (1).			
	Encourages spending up to the budget so that the budget is maintained next			
	year (1).			
	The budget may become out of date and no longer relate to the level of			
	activity or type of work being carried out (1).			
	The priority for resources may have changed since the budgets were set			
	originally (1).			

Question	n Expected Answer						AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
2 (b)	The budgeted figure below is extracted from the cast-flow forecast in Question 1(a). Complete the un-shaded boxes within the table below.							10	Acceptable annotation is $$
	One mark for each correct answer.								Ignore signs or brackets for variance in £.
	Item Cash Inflow Sales	Budget	Actual	Variance (£) (%)				No OFR
	(April 2011) Cash Outflow Website development	21000	17850	(1) 3150	(1) 15	Adverse (1)			
	(January 2011)	1500	2000	(1) 500	(1) 33.3 Or 33	Adverse (1)			
	Computer hardware/sof	tware							
	(March 2011) Mortgage repayment	2500	(1) 2375	(1) 125	5	Favourable			
	(monthly)	1500	(1) 1560	(1) 60	4	Adverse			

Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
2 (c)	Identify one possible reason for an increase in F4T's mortgage repayment. Explain the likely impact it may have on Jeremy's expansion plan.	AO1 1 AO2 2		Acceptable annotation is $$
	One mark for correct reason identified up to a maximum of one mark plus up to two marks for impact on F4T.			Award two marks for impact if it is specific to F4T's expansion plan , otherwise one mark.
	Responses include: Bank of England increases interest rate (1) Interest rate (1) The amount of mortgage has increased (1) Jeremy has decided to increase his repayment (1)		1	If reason incorrect then impact cannot be correct.
	Impacts include: Jeremy will find it more difficult to maintain a positive cash-flow (1) He might have to cut down on other expenses (1). Jeremy might have to increase his prices to cover the higher cost (1). As the cost of borrowing increases the expansion plan becomes more expensive to implement (2). Jeremy might have to compromise on the materials used for the extension as he has less money to spend (2).		2	

Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
3 (a)	Other than providing an online shopping service, identify three other examples of business activities which Jeremy could computerise in the running of F4T.	AO2	3	Acceptable annotation is $$
	One mark for each example.			No marks for 'provide online shopping' or 'e-commerce' because it is in the question
	Responses include:			
				Allow different answers from
	Stock control			same category eg Profit and
	(Employee) database, payroll			Loss a/c and Balance Sheet –
	(Supplier) database			1 mark each
	(Customer) database			
	Ordering supplies Banking			
	 Banking Advertise, website 			
	EPOS/FPOS			
	 Email, skype, social networking website 			
	Questionnaire, research			
	Self service checkouts			
	Job application			
	Accounts			
	Forecasting			
	Budgeting			
	Security/alarm systems			

Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
3 (b)	According to Jeremy's calculations, the monthly costs of running an online shopping service are as follows: Running/maintenance of website £500 Premises £200 Wages £2000 Overheads £80 Average sales revenue per transaction £60	AO1 2 AO2 2	4	 Award full marks for correct answer if no workings are shown. Award 3 marks for 69.5 Acceptable annotation is √
	The cost of sales is one third of sales revenue. Calculate the number of transactions F4T needs to break-even each month. <i>Up to four marks for calculation.</i> Break-even = FC/SP-VC (1) or FC/Unit contribution (1) FC = $500 + 200 + 2000 + 80$ (1) or £2780 (1) VC = $60/3$ (1) or £20 (1) BE = $2780/60-20$ (1) = 70 (1)			
3 (c)	Calculate the break-even sales revenue. <i>Up to 2 marks for calculation.</i> $70 \times \pounds 60 (1) = \pounds 4200 (1)$ $69.5 \times \pounds 60 (1) = \pounds 4170 (1)$ Common OFR $\pounds 60 \times 139 (1) = \pounds 8340 (1)$	AO1 1 AO2 1	2	Make sure break-even figure is taken from 3b.Acceptable annotation is √OFR applies to final answer. BE(OFR) x £60 (2) Common OFR £60 x 139 (1) = £8340 (1)If the dotted line has been used this is the final answer you must take

Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
Question 3 (d)	Expected Answer Use your results from the break-even analyses carried out in parts (b) and (c), recommend whether or not F4T should provide an online shopping service. Justify your answer. Use level of response criteria. Level 1 (1–3 marks) Candidate describes break-even analysis and/or provision of online shopping service with no context. Level 2 (4–6 marks) Candidate describes advantages/disadvantages of providing online shopping service with context. Level 3 (7–9 marks) Candidate analyses implications of providing online shopping with context. Level 4 (10–12 marks) Candidate recommends whether F4T should provide online shopping with justification. Indicative content: Advantages – raise awareness of F4T broaden customer base enhance F4T's reputation makes F4T more competitive Disadvantages – training costs 	AO1 3 AO2 3 AO3 3 AO4 4		Additional GuidanceAcceptable annotation isAO1L1AO2L2AO3L3AO4L4Please indicate each time a candidateachieves a particular level as this willhelp you to allocate the marks withinthat level.Accept OFR break-even figure.L1: [1–3 marks][1 mark] candidate describes BE orprovision of online shopping with nocontext.[2–3 marks] candidate describes the BEand providing online shopping with nocontext.L2: [4–6 marks][4 marks] candidate describesadvantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s) ofproviding online shopping with context,without Break Even[5–6 marks] candidate describesadvantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s) ofproviding online shopping with context,using Break Even from (b) and (c)L3: [7–9 marks][7 marks] candidate analyses implicationsof providing online shopping with context,without Break Even[8–9 marks] candidate analyses theimplications of providing online shopping with context,without Break Even[8–9 marks] candidate analyses theimplications of providing online shoppingwith context, using Break Even from (b)

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Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
3 (d) Cont.	Exemplar responses: A business can use BE to decide whether it is worthwhile to take up a venture (L1). Jeremy's BE shows that he only needs 69.5/70 transaction a month to break-even. This is a very reasonable figure which will bring in an additional £4170/£4200 a month (L2). This will lead to an increase in sales revenue and therefore profits (L3). However, Jeremy will need to invest in ICT (L2) which will increase the capital he needs to find for the expansion (L3). In the long run, online shopping should be provided as this is a rapidly growing market. It allows Jeremy to expand his customer base and therefore, market share (L4).			 L4: [10-12 marks] [10 marks] - candidate recommends whether F4T should provide online shopping without Break Even, with weak justification. [11-12 marks] - candidate recommends whether F4T should provide online shopping using Break Even from (b) and (c) with full justification. Note: F4T could receive orders from around the world is not acceptable as it is not realistic. By providing online shopping will allow F4T to compete with the big four is not realistic either unless correctly qualified. Reward advantages/disadvantages to the business only – not to the customer eg 'will be more convenient'

Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
4 (a)	Identify three possible disadvantages of becoming a franchisee . <i>One mark for each correct identification up to a maximum of three marks.</i> Response include: • restrictions from franchisor • cost of buying and running a franchise • cannot have full control • affected by franchisor's reputation • pay continual royalties • don't keep all the revenue/profit • geographical expansion is controlled by franchisor	AO1	3	 Candidate does not have to answer with context. Acceptable annotation is √ Do NOT accept 'unable to control business'. Do NOT accept 'high start-up costs' without explanation. Accept 'high start up fee'.
4 (b)	Identify three possible advantages of becoming a franchisor. One mark for each correct identification up to a maximum of three marks. Response include: • can expand • increase reputation of business • increase profitability of business • increase market share • you are being paid money for your idea • you get a share of the franchisee's profits	AO1	3	Candidate does not have to answer with context. Acceptable annotation is √ Watch out for answers which refer to advantages to franchisee not franchiser

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Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
4 (c)	Analyse the benefits and drawbacks to Jeremy of floating <i>F4T</i> on the Stock Exchange.	AO1 3 AO2 3	9	Acceptable annotation is
		AO3 3		AO1 L1
	Use level of response criteria.			AO2 L2
				AO3 L3
	Level 1 (1–3 marks)			
	Candidate describes ownership – Ltd and/or Plc			Please indicate each time a candidate achieves a particular level
	Level 2 (4–6 marks)			as this will help you to allocate the
	Candidate explains advantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s) of being a plc.			marks within that level.
	Level 3 (7–9 marks)			L1: [1–3 marks]
	Candidate analyses advantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s) of being a plc.			[1 -3 marks] candidate gives statements about a plc and/or ltd
	Indicative content:			
	Advantages – sell shares on the Stock Exchange			L2: [4–6 marks]
	enjoy economies of scale			[4 marks] candidate describes
	can raise huge amount of capital			advantage(s) or disadvantage(s) of
	enhance reputation			being a plc
	able to expand quickly			
	disadvantages – costs more to set up and run			[5–6 marks] candidate describes
	more red tape and regulations to deal with			advantage(s) and disadvantage(s) of
	lose control			being a plc.
	has to publish accounts			
	·			L3: [7–9 marks]
	Exemplar response:			[7 marks] candidate analyses
	A public limited company can sell shares on the Stock Exchange to raise			advantage(s) or disadvantage(s) of
	capital (L1). Raising funds for expansion this way is good for Jeremy as he			being a plc.
	can potentially raise a big sum of money (L2). This will enable him to expand			J - J - P -
	F4T rapidly (L3). However, a plc costs more to run and set up and this will			[8–9 marks] candidate analyses
	affect the profitability of the business (L3). However, they will be able to			advantage(s) and disadvantage(s) of
	achieve economies of scale as well as access to more external funds (L3).			being a plc.

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Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
4 (c) Cont.				Do NOT award for 'more income' or 'more profit' as a result of selling shares – must say 'more capital/funds/finance' Do NOT award for 'shareholders bring more ideas' as this is not the case in a Plc.

Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
5 (a)	State two external stakeholder groups with an interest in <i>F4T</i> .	AO1	2	Acceptable annotation is $$
	One mark for each identification of stakeholder group up to a maximum of two marks.			Accept any generic external stakeholder groups.
	 Response include: government/revenue and customs/tax office(1) Local government/council/parish council (1) customers (1) competitors (1) local community (1) suppliers (1) environmentalists/pressure groups (1) bank (1) investors (1) trade unions (1) 			Do NOT accept 'community' on its own Do NOT accept external factors.
5 (b)	 For each of the stakeholder group identified in part (a), explain one way in which each group could influence Jeremy's expansion plan for F4T. <i>Up to 2 marks for each explanation.</i> government may not grant planning permission (1) won't be able to build the annex (1) customers may shop elsewhere (1) as they fear higher prices or lack of personal service (1) competitors may lower their prices (1) affect sales/no. of customers (1) local community may object to the implications of a bigger business (1) might obstruct/delay planning permission. Suppliers may offer better deals (1) which could encourage Jeremy to expand (1) 	AO2	4	 Acceptable annotation is √ Do NOT reward stakeholder interest, must be influence Look for explanation of how the influence would affect F4T Award two marks for influence if it is specific to F4T's expansion plan, otherwise one mark. Influence explained must match stakeholder groups identified in part (a). If stakeholder stated in (a) is incorrect eg employees you can still reward influence in (b) if it is correct.

Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
6 (a)	What do the initials in the term PEST analysis stand for?	AO1	4	Acceptable annotation is $$
	 One mark for each correct identification up to a maximum of four marks. Indicative content: Political or politics (1) Economic (1) Social (1) Technological or technology (1). 			Do not accept economical. Do not accept technical

Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
Question 6 (b)	Expected AnswerUsing a SWOT analysis, evaluate Jeremy's decision to expand F4T.Use level of response criteria.Level 1 (1–3 marks) Candidate describes SWOT with no context.Level 2 (4–6 marks) Candidate carries out a SWOT analysis on F4T's existing 	AO1 AO2 AO3 AO4	Mark 12	Additional Guidance Acceptable annotation is AO1 L1 AO2 L2 AO3 L3 AO4 L4 Please indicate each time a candidate achieves a particular level as this will help you to allocate the marks within that level. L1: [1–3 marks] [1 mark] candidate identifies the elements of SWOT with no context
	Level 3 (7–9 marks) Candidate analyses SWOT in context of expansion Level 4 (10–12 marks) Candidate evaluates the decision to expand Indicative content: Strengths (must be internal) – sales increasing, sells fresh/organic/ethical foods, low overheads, competitive prices, expanding customer base, limited liability. Weaknesses (must be internal) – small premises, limited			 [2–3 marks] candidate describes SWOT with no context. L2: [4–6 marks] [4 marks] candidate carries out one element of SWOT analysis on F4T's existing business or F4T's expansion plans [5–6 marks] candidate carries out two or more elements of SWOT analysis on F4T's existing business or F4T's expansion plans [5–6 marks] candidate carries out two or more elements of SWOT analysis on F4T's existing business or F4T's expansion plans [5–7 marks] candidate analyses one element of SWOT, in context of Jeremy's decision to expand (advantages)
	funds for expansion, lack of ICT skills. Opportunities (must be external) – demand for organic/ethical foods increasing, low interest rates Threats (must be external) – economic downturn, planning permission not granted, local community object to expansion.			and/or disadvantages) [8–9 marks] candidate analyses two or more elements of SWOT in context of Jeremy's decision to expand (advantages and/or disadvantages) L4: [10–12 marks] [10 marks] candidate evaluates expansion with context, with weak justification [11–12 marks] candidate evaluates expansion with context , with full justification

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Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
6 (b) Cont.	Exemplar response: A SWOT analysis examines the internal/external environment a business operates in (L1). One of F4T's strengths is the organic food (L2). One of Jeremy's weaknesses is his lack of ICT skills (L2). F4T will incur training costs to improve his ICT skills (L3). As there is a growing demand for organic			No SWOT, no marks For 6 marks all elements of SWOT must be correct eg opportunities and threats must be external (things they
	food, the expansion will bring in more sales revenue (L3) . Overall, it is a good idea for Jeremy to expand because of the increasing concern about global warming and a general change towards how we source our food (L4) .			have no control over) and not internal decisions. Do not accept statements such as
				'expansion <u>will/would</u> increase customers/revenue' as this is not guaranteed but accept could/might etc

Que	estion	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance
7	(a)	Give one difference between laws and ethics?	AO1	1	Acceptable annotation is $$
		Up to one mark for stating the difference.			Candidate does not have to mention both ethics and law to get the mark.
		Laws are legal requirements while ethics are moral obligations.			Do NOT accept 'rules' on its own – must say 'rules which must be obeyed'
7	(b)	Give one example of how Jeremy could ensure that F4T meets its legal obligations.	AO2	1	Acceptable annotation is $$
		Up to one mark for description.			
		 Responses include: Make sure food on sale is described accurately. Make sure products on sale are fit for purpose. Pay at least minimum wage. Make sure he has correct planning permission Use a solicitor or legal adviser 			Examples must be specific – eg 'having good knowledge', 'keeping up to date with legislation' are too vague

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Question	Expected Answer	AO	Mark	Additional Guidance	
7 (c)	 Identify and explain one benefit to <i>F4T</i> of acting in an ethical manner. One mark for identification up to a maximum of one identification plus a further one mark for development. Response include: It will enhance the image of the business (1). This will bring in more customers and increase sales (1). This gives the business the competitive edge (1) which is vital in the retail industry for attracting and retaining customers (1). The business will be able to fulfil the changing customer need for ethical food (1) which is likely to improve sales and customer numbers (1). Workforce will be more motivated (1) so productivity will be higher (1) 	AO1 1 AO2 1	2	Acceptable annotation is $$ Accept any development eg an explanation of why the benefit has occurred or the knock on effect of the benefit.	

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