

**GCE** 

# **Applied Business**

Advanced Subsidiary GCE

Unit: **F242:** Understanding the Business Environment

## Mark Scheme for June 2013

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This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

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### **Annotations**

Annotation	Meaning
?	The response given is 'Unclear' to the marker.
1115	'Benefit of doubt' but credit given.
SCHT	To indicate the response is in 'Context' of the relevant case study.
×	Response is incorrect, no credit can be given.
<b>-11</b>	Used for Level of response answers to indicate Level 1.
11	Used for Level of response answers to indicate Level 2.
13	Used for Level of response answers to indicate Level 3.
TA T	Used for Level of response answers to indicate Level 4.
NAG	The response is not incorrect but has 'Not answered the question'.
OR	Own figure rule. Used where indicated in the mark scheme.
RLP	'Repeat' response repeats the same marking point.
	'Noted but no credit given' or to indicate all or part blank answer pages have been seen by the marker.
<b>✓</b>	Correct point/answer. Credit can be given.
NUT	No use of context/Unable to credit context

#### **Subject-specific Marking Instructions**

#### **Testing of QWC**

In this external assessment the assessment of QWC will take place in Question 2b\* which is a levels of response question and carries 12 marks.

Marks are embedded within this question for assessing the quality of written communication. The following criteria are embedded within the levels of response for Question 2b\*.

#### Level 4:

Ability to present relevant material in a well planned and logical sequence. Material clearly structured using appropriate business terminology confidently and accurately. Sentences, consistently relevant are well structured in a way that directly answers question. There will be few, if any errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

(4 marks representing the appropriate level of written communication are embedded in this level of response).

#### Level 3:

Ability to present relevant material in a planned and logical sequence. Appropriate business terminology used. Sentences for the most part relevant presented in a balanced, logical and coherent manner which addresses the question. There will be occasional errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

(3 marks representing the appropriate level of written communication are embedded in this level of response).

#### Level 2:

Limited ability to organise relevant material. Some appropriate business terminology used. Sentences are not always relevant with material presented in a way that does not always address the question. There may be noticeable errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling. (2 marks representing the appropriate level of written communication are embedded in this level of response).

#### Level 1:

Ability to communicate at least one point using some appropriate business terminology. Sentences have limited coherence and structure, often being of doubtful relevance to the main focus of question. Errors of grammar, punctuation and spelling may be noticeable and intrusive. (1 mark representing the appropriate level of written communication is embedded in this level of response).

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
1 (a) (i)	P – political, politics E – economic S – social T – technological, technology.	4	AO1:4 One mark for each correct identification up to a maximum of four identifications.  Candidate does <b>not</b> have to answer with context.  Accept 'economical' as stated in the specification.  Do not accept 'technical'.
(ii	<ul> <li>Indicative content:         <ul> <li>to help respond to external factors which might impact on business</li> <li>to help draw up contingency plans for changes in external environment</li> <li>to help to make strategic decisions based on social trends/political factors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Exemplar response(s):         <ul> <li>Eg Helps to make strategic decisions based on social trends/political factors (1).</li> <li>Eg Helps draw up contingency plans for changes in external environment (1).</li> <li>Eg Helps business to respond to external factors which might impact on the business (1).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2	One mark for each correct identification up to a maximum of two identifications.  Do not accept generic answers showing no understanding of PEST analysis eg 'help with future planning'.  Must be clearly stated 'external/uncontrollable factors' or a specific element of PEST, otherwise it does not show understanding.(Be aware of statements referring to just 'factors'/PEST.)  Care not to award for vague responses which are not clearly benefits eg 'Business can see different external factors' – make sure benefit.  Do not award for 'identify/see/understand/find out' without detail of benefit to business.

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Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
(b)	Indicative content:  • feeds become more expensive  • increase in (running) costs  • profit decreases  • get less for their money  • get less feed for their money.  Exemplar response:  Eg Feeds from China would become more expensive (1), this would increase the running cost/reduce profit (1).  Eg Get less for their money (1) so it costs more to feed the	2	AO1:1 AO2:1  Up to two marks.  Allow 'pay higher exchange rate for yuan'. Make sure right way round.
	cows(1). Eg Have to pay more (1) which they will have to pass on to their customer (1)		

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
(c)	Indicative content:      make the public aware of the benefits of organic milk (promotion/advertising/educating)      provide grants     government loans     subsidies     reduce red tape/standards     grant planning permission     change in legislation     advice on start-up     tax break     price cap     make sure farmers are paid fairly     ban imports of organic milk.  Exemplar response(s): Eg By highlighting the benefits of organic milk to the public (1). This will encourage more people to buy organic milk (1). Eg By making sure that farmers are paid fairly (1). This will encourage more farmers to convert to organic milk production (1). Eg By providing subsidies/grants to organic farmers (1). This will make the future of these farms more secure (1). Eg By changing planning regulations (1) to make it easier for farmers to convert to organic milk production (1).	6	AO1:3 AO2:3  One mark for each correct identification up to a maximum of three identifications, plus a further one mark for each of three explanations (care – not a description).  Accept identification in explanation if appropriate.  First mark (identify) is generic.  Award second mark for how method identified benefits the (organic) milk industry (farmer/retailer/customer).  However, there is no need for specific knowledge of how the organic milk industry operates.  'Offering help' – too vague – what help? - way/method needed.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
(d)	Use level of response criteria.  Indicative content: Political – government campaign/funding, change of government, EU funding Economic – recession/credit crunch, recovery, unemployment, inflation, interest rates, exchange rates Social – consumer trend, consumer attitude, lifestyle Technology – equipment/machinery to aid farming Demand Cost of supplies Legal Environmental Weather/climate Competition Pressure groups.  Exemplar response: There are many external factors e.g. social, economic etc. That could affect a business (L1). Social factors such as a decrease in consumer demand for organic products (CONT) has a direct impact on the sales of these products (L2) which would make the industry less profitable (L3). Economic factors such as increasing unemployment will also lead to a decrease in consumer demand for organic products (CONT) (L2) which will also lead to shrinkage in the industry (L3).  A weak pound would mean more expensive feeds (CONT) if the farmer import from abroad (L2). This increases the running costs (L3). By far the most important factor is the long term social trend of consumer demand for organic products (CONT) as this ensures the long–term growth of the industry (L4). The economy does not stay depressed for ever and the success of such an industry depends on consumer attitude towards the food they eat (L4).	12	A01:3 A02:3 A03:3 A04:3  Please indicate each time a candidate achieves a particular level as this will help you to allocate the marks within that level.  Context should be annotated every time L2/L4 is awarded with the 'CONT' annotation.  Non-contextual answer max Level 1.  Level 4 (10–12 marks) Candidate evaluates the external factor(s) which affect(s) the organic milk industry.  Level 3 (7–9 marks) Candidate analyses the external factor(s) which affect(s) the organic milk industry.  Level 2 (4–6 marks) Candidate applies knowledge and understanding of the external factor(s) which affect(s) the organic milk industry.  Level 1 (1–3 marks) Candidate shows knowledge of external factors with no use of context.  Accept any external factors, including for example more than one economic factor.  Do not award reverse of argument.

Level 4 (10–12 marks)  (10 marks) – candidate evaluates after analysis having made comparison to at least one other factor affecting the organic milk industry, with weak justification.  (11–12 marks) – candidate evaluates after analysis having made comparison to at least one other factor affecting the organic milk industry with full justification  Level 3 (7–9 marks)  (7 marks) candidate analyses the effect(s) of one external factor with context (look for impact on the business).  (8–9 marks) candidate analyses the effect(s) of more than one external factor with context (look for impact on the business).  Level 2 (4–6 marks)  Look for something more than Andrews' Farm, ie organic food, organic milk, Chinese yuan (4 marks) candidate applies knowledge and understanding of one external factor with context.  (5–6 marks) candidate applies knowledge and understanding of more than one external factor with context.  (5–6 marks) candidate applies knowledge and understanding of more than one external factor with context.
no use of context.  (2–3 marks) candidate identifies more than one

C	uesti	on	Answer	Marks	Guidance
2	(a)	(i)	Indicative content:  • trade under an established brand  • established customer base  • support/advice network  • training is provided  • reduced risk  • easier to obtain finance  • advertising is paid for  • financial support  • equipment provided.  Exemplar response(s): Eg Training is provided (1). This ensures smooth running of the business (1). Eg Trading under a well known name (1) means there is a ready customer base (1). Eg Good support network (1) means that less mistakes made by franchisees (1).	4	AO1:2 AO2:2  One mark for each correct identification up to a maximum of two identifications, plus a further one mark for each of two explanations.  Context not required.  Do not accept benefits of being a franchisor.  Accept identification in explanation if appropriate.  Award second mark for explain why benefit identified is good for the business.
		(ii)	Indicative content:  royalty fees/pay percentage of profit to franchisor high start up payment to franchisor does not have full control has to follow rules laid down by franchisor franchisor could close down dependent on reputation/image of other franchisees high targets set by franchisor set prices cannot sell other products cannot decorate/promote shop own way.  Exemplar response(s): Eg Royalty fees apply (1). This will reduce the profitability of the venture (1).	6	AO1:3 AO2:3  One mark for each correct identification up to a maximum of three identifications, plus a further one mark for each of three explanations.  Context not required.  Do not accept drawbacks of being a franchisor.  Accept identification in explanation if appropriate.  Award second mark for explaining why drawback identified is bad for the business.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
	Eg The franchise has to be run in the way laid down by the franchisor (1). This may make it less successful (1).  Eg A franchisee has to use the suppliers appointed by the franchisor (1). This might increase the running costs (1).  Eg A franchisee does not have full control of the business (1).  This has an impact on their motivational level (1).  Eg The franchisor can pull out (1) and close the franchisee down (1).		

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
(b)*	Use level of response criteria.  Indicative content: Advantages  Ilimited liability easier to raise funds with banks. tax advantages continuity separate legal identity. Disadvantages more expensive to run emore red tape accounts have to be published.  Exemplar response: Eg A private limited company has limited liability but a partnership does not (L1). This reduces the risk for the new venture (CONT)(L2) as if it does not work out the Andrews family will not lose the farm (CONT) (L3). However, a limited company costs more to run and set up (L1). This will reduce the profitability of the new ventures (CONT)(L2). Overall, a limited company is a better option because of the risk and high cost of the new ventures especially the truffiere (CONT) (L4). The company will also have more choice when it comes to raising the funds to establish the truffiere (CONT) as banks are more likely to lend to limited companies (L4).	12	AO1:3 AO2:3 AO3:3 AO4:3 QWC is assessed in this question.  Please indicate each time a candidate achieves a particular level as this will help you to allocate the marks within that level. Context should be annotated every time L2/L4 is awarded with the 'CONT' annotation.  Non-contextual answer max Level 1.  Do not award answers relating to share capital or loss of control or decision making as ownership remains with the same four family members.  Level 4 (10–12 marks) Candidate evaluates the decision to change Andrews' Farm to a private limited company.  Level 3 (7–9 marks) Candidate analyses the advantages and/or disadvantages of changing Andrews' Farm to a private limited company.  Level 2 (4–6 marks) Candidate applies knowledge and understanding of the advantages and/or disadvantages of changing Andrews' Farm to a private limited company.  Level 1 (1–3 marks) Candidate shows knowledge of the advantages and/or disadvantages of being a private limited company with no use of context.

Question Answer Marks Guidance	
Company   Comp	the suitability of or Andrews' to new  antage(s) or coming a private e business).  dvantage(s) and coming a private e business).  rews' Farm, n), ie the new diversification e and of Andrews' cany with

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
			Level 1 (1–3 marks) (1 mark) candidate shows knowledge of either the advantage or disadvantage of being a private limited company with no use of context.
			(2–3 marks) candidate shows knowledge of both the advantages and disadvantages of being a private limited company with no use of context.

Question			Ans	swer			Marks	Guidance
3 (a)	Item Average yield per tree Selling price per Kg	Budget 45g £2800	Actual 50g £3000	Variance  5g (1)  £200 (1)	(%) 11.1 (1) 7.1 (1)	Fav/Adv F (1) F (1)	6	AO1:3 AO2:3  Up to six marks for calculation.  Answer must be to one decimal place as specified in the question.  Award full marks for correct answer, no workings are required.  No OFR.
(b)	<ul> <li>identi</li> <li>comp</li> <li>Exemplar re</li> <li>Eg Differen</li> <li>calculate m</li> <li>Eg If the bu</li> <li>deal with th</li> <li>Eg If an are</li> <li>solutions ca</li> <li>Eg If the sa</li> </ul>	fies advers fies unders ares actua esponse: ce between ore accura isiness see e cause of ea of the buan des variance	n their bud tely next ties the variathe proble isiness is to to preverse is adver	rspend by budget figuralliget and actural ime for their ance is advected (1). found to be of	ual (1) so budget ( erse (1) the oversper nappenin can inve	(1). hey can hding (1) hg again (1).	4	AO1:2 AO2:2  One mark for each correct identification up to a maximum of two identifications, plus a further one mark for each of two explanations.  Context not required. Do not accept vague answers eg to set targets, plan expenditures.  Do not give the mark for explanation without correct identification but do allow identification mark in the explanation space.  Answer must clearly relate to variance analysis - not profit/loss.  Award second mark for explaining why variance analysis could be helpful to a business.

C	uestion	Answer	Marks	Guidance
4	(a)	Costs Fixed costs Variable costs Annual licence fee Leased equipment Insurance Animal feed Wages  Fixed costs Variable costs  ✓  ✓  ✓  ✓  ✓  ✓  ✓  ✓  ✓  ✓  ✓  ✓  ✓	5	One mark for each correct identification up to a maximum of five marks.  Costs must be identified as fixed <b>or</b> variable. Do <b>not</b> award if both fixed and variable costs are ticked for the same item.
	(b)	252 000 (3)  Award three marks if <b>252 000</b> is seen irrespective of method used. Otherwise, award workings as follows:  BE = FC/SP–VC (1)  BE = 12600/40p–35p (1)	3	AO1:1 AO2:2  Up to three marks  Award full marks for correct answer without workings.  Common mistake - 2520 = 2 marks.
	(c)	Award two marks if <b>68 000</b> is seen irrespective of method used. Otherwise, award workings as follows:  MOS = Actual production – BE (1) <b>Only award marks for formula if no other marks can be awarded.</b> MOS = 320 000 – 252 000 ofr applies (1)	2	AO1:1 AO2:1  Up to two marks.  Award full marks for correct answer without workings.  If not 68 000, check answer for 4b, ofr applies.  If 4(b) is 2520, 317480 = 2 marks.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
(d)	3 400 (3)  Award three marks if <b>3 400</b> is seen irrespective of method used.  Otherwise, award workings as follows:  MOS X Contribution (stated) (1) <b>Only award marks for formula</b>	3	AO1:1 AO2:2 Up to three marks. Award full marks for correct answer without workings.
	if no other marks can be awarded.  Margin of safety 68,000 (ofr applies) (1)  Contribution = (x 0.05) (1)		Take care to mark in box for 4d – this is the second box on the page. 1 <sup>st</sup> box will show a diagonal line to indicate that it is for OFR use only.
	OR  Profit = TR – TC (stated) (1). Only award marks for formula if no other marks can be awarded.		If contribution method is used, ofr applies – check answer for 4c.  If 4c is 317480, the answer = £15874 (3 marks)
	TR = 320 000 x 0.4 (1) <b>or</b> £128 000 (1)  TC = 12 600 + (320 000 x 0.35) (1) <b>or</b> £124 600 (1)		Remember to scroll down to make sure that all answers are marked.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
(e)	Use level of response criteria.  Indicative content:  difficult to classify costs  does not take into account impact on costs/selling price of changes in external factors  ignores economies of scale  assumes selling price does not change  selling price might change with bulk orders  fixed costs could rise with new proposals  variable costs could change  assumes everything produced is sold  does not account for a range of products  apportionment of fixed costs if more than one product is produced  assumes all costs/revenue are linear  does not take into account start-up costs.  Exemplar response:  Eg It is not possible to forecast the selling price accurately (L1). If the selling price of truffles (CONT) then increases because of a shortage of supply, this will decrease the number of saplings required to break—even (L2). Thus, relying on break-even totally might have led to a higher than required number of saplings being planted (L3).	9	Please indicate each time a candidate achieves a particular level as this will help you to allocate the marks within that level.  Context should be annotated every time L2 is awarded with the 'CONT' annotation.  Non-contextual answer max Level 1.  Level 3 (7–9 marks)  Candidate analyses the disadvantage(s) of breakeven with context.  Level 2 (4–6 marks)  Candidate applies knowledge and understanding of the disadvantage(s) of break-even with context.  Level 1 (1–3 marks)  Candidate shows knowledge of disadvantage(s) of break-even with no context.  Level 3 (7–9 marks)  (7 marks) candidate analyses one disadvantage of using break-even with context.  (8–9 marks) candidate analyses more than one disadvantage of using break-even with context.  Level 2 (4–6 marks)  Look for something more than Andrews' Farm/farm.  (4 marks) candidate applies knowledge and understanding of one disadvantage of using break-even with context.

(	Questi	on	Answer	Marks	Guidance
					(5–6 marks) candidate applies knowledge and understanding of more than one disadvantage of using break-even with context.  Level 1 (1–3 marks) (1 mark) candidate identifies one disadvantage of break-even with no context.  (2–3 marks) candidate identifies more than one disadvantage of break-even with no context.  Do not accept 'prediction/accurate figures/only an estimate' if not qualified and specific to break-even analysis rather than any decision making tool.  Only award once for each of variable costs/fixed costs/selling price.  Do not award for 'human error/mistakes could have been made'.  Make sure that points are specifically linked to break-even eg reference to costs/selling price.
5	(a)	(i)	Indicative content:  information on the status of an order  information on the despatch of an order.  Exemplar response(s):  Eg The ability to see whether your order has been despatched (1).  Eg The information on where your order is after it has been placed (1).  Eg Information on the status of your order (1).	1	For one mark.  Do <b>not</b> award advantage of order tracking.  Do <b>not</b> award mark for a simple rewording of the question.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance	
(ii)	Indicative content:      enable planning of schedule     indicate whether work can be completed on time.  Exemplar response(s): Eg To see whether a job can be done on time (1). Eg To be able to make space for the order when it arrives (1). Eg To arrange for a loan if the order is bought on credit (1).	1	AO1:1  For one mark.  Do <b>not</b> award definition of order tracking, must be an advantage.	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
(b)	Use level of response criteria.	12	AO1:3 AO2:3 AO3:3 AO4:3
	Indicative content:		Please indicate each time a candidate achieves a particular level as this will help you to allocate the
	Advantages:		marks within that level.
	Greater yields		
	Lower maintenance		Context should be annotated every time L2/L4 is
	Lower wages		awarded with the 'CONT' annotation.
	Faster output/saves production/admin time		
	Improved stock control		Non-contextual answer <b>max</b> Level 1.
	Effect on quality/less wastage.		
			Level 4 (10-12 marks)
	Disadvantages:		Candidate evaluates advantage(s) and/or
	Lack of skills		disadvantage(s) of using modern technology to
	Costs of hardware and software		improve productivity at Andrews' Farm.
	Training		1 10/7 0 1 )
	Effect on quality/wastage		Level 3 (7–9 marks)
	Maintenance / breakdown costs		Candidate analyses advantage(s) and/or
	Cost of updates in technology		disadvantage(s) of using modern technology to improve productivity at <i>Andrews' Farm</i> .
	Reliability		improve productivity at Andrews Farm.
	Reliance on technology.		Level 2 (4–6 marks)
	<b>3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3</b>		Candidate applies knowledge and understanding of
	Exemplar response:		the advantage(s) and/or disadvantage(s) of using
	Eg Modern technology can increase the output of a business		modern technology to improve productivity at
	(L1). The irrigation system (CONT) can be computerised to	he irrigation system <b>(CONT)</b> can be computerised to	Andrews' Farm.
	make sure that the soil does not dry out in order to improve the		
	yield of the truffles <b>(L2)</b> . This will help ensure that the farm gain		Level 1 (1-3 marks)
	a high return from the truffles because of the high selling price		Candidate identifies the advantage(s) and/or
	(L3) which makes the survival of the business more likely (L3).		disadvantage(s) of modern technology to improve
			productivity with no use of context.
	However, Toby needs to consider the high costs (L2) of		
	introducing the technology particularly as the farm is just		Make sure that marks awarded relate to
	beginning to do well <b>(CONT)</b> . An expensive investment now		productivity.
	might affect the cash-flow of the business (L3). Toby is also		

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
	likely to need training (L2) in using the modern technology as a novice farmer (CONT). This will reduce the profit and takes up valuable time which could be spent on other aspects of the farm (L3).  Overall, modern technology is important for the long–term future of the farm as the truffiere expands and more time is needed to monitor the growth of the fungus (CONT). The size of the farm requires modern technology to run it more efficiently and productivity is crucial in the case of the truffles because of the high price at which they can be sold (L4). A slight reduction in the yield per tree could cost a lot in revenue (L4).		L4: (10–12 marks) (10 marks) candidate evaluates the advantage(s) or disadvantage(s) of using modern technology to improve productivity at Andrews' Farm with brief justification.  (11–12 marks) candidate evaluates the advantage(s) and disadvantage(s) of using modern technology to improve productivity at Andrews' Farm with full justification.  L3: (7–9 marks) (7 marks) candidate analyses advantage(s) or disadvantage(s) of using modern technology to improve productivity at Andrews' Farm.  (8–9 marks) candidate analyses advantage(s) and disadvantage(s) of using modern technology to improve productivity at Andrews' Farm.  L2: (4–6 marks) Look for something more than Andrews' farm/farm/family/farmers.  (4 marks) candidate applies knowledge and understanding of the advantage(s) or disadvantage(s) of using modern technology to improve productivity at Andrews' Farm.  (5–6 marks) candidate applies knowledge and understanding of the advantage(s) of using modern technology to improve productivity at Andrews' Farm.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
			L1: (1–3 marks) (1 mark) candidate identifies the advantage(s) or disadvantage(s) of using modern technology to improve productivity.  (2–3 marks) candidate identifies the advantage(s) and disadvantage(s) of using modern technology to
			disadvantage(s) of using modern technology to improve productivity.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
6	Indicative content:	6	AO1:3 AO2:3  Two marks for a contextual explanation Annotation – use CONT stamp to show the context and 2 ticks.  One mark only for a non-contextual explanation. Annotation – one tick.  CONT – Look for more than Andrew's farm/farm eg organic, land, animals, nutrients, milk, truffles, pesticides, herbicides, food, crop.  Do not award marks for stating how Andrew's farm can be environmentally responsible - must be why.  Allow interpretation of environmental responsibility to include the working environment/environment in which the animals/truffiere are being kept.

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