



Examiners' Report June 2014

GCE Economics 6EB02 01

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Introduction

It was pleasing to see candidates showing a sound grasp of economic and business concepts. There appeared to be better use of precise economic and business terminology throughout rather than generalised comments. Again, the more able candidates demonstrated excellent application of their knowledge to the precise question set, while the less able candidates attempted questions from a 'common sense' approach rather than demonstrating any economic and business concepts. Examination timing skills appeared to be very good on the whole with the majority of candidates completing all questions fully.

There are a variety of ways to gain marks for part (b) Supported Multiple Choice questions:

- 1. If responses in part (a) are wrong then the maximum mark available for part (b) is 2 marks. If a candidate does no more than explain distracters in part (b) then a maximum of 2 marks is awarded. We expect to see at least a definition or explanation for selecting the correct response. Some candidates only explain why their chosen answer is correct and depending upon the quality/development of this answer, they can score 3 marks for part (b). We expect to see candidates who have briefly explained the correct answer followed by explanations as to why the other options are incorrect. This method can gain the candidate 3 marks.
- 2. Again, it is essential that candidates are taught how to tackle these questions and it is quite evident that some centres do spend time preparing and practicing these types of questions. It is not sufficient enough to simply state that the other options are incorrect. The candidate should explain why the distracters are incorrect. If the examiner can ask the question 'why?' then the answer is not fully developed to gain marks.

Many candidates were able to get part (a) correct. The majority were able to give a definition of lean management and examiners accepted reduced wastage or minimisation of costs for 1 Knowledge mark. The second mark was awarded if a candidate then gave an example of lean management such as JIT or Kaizen. Most candidates then used an explanation of a distracter for the third mark, which was usually distracter A of why stock levels were likely to fall.

Lean management mortes to minimize costs and inverte efficiency, examples are Just in time, Kanban and Kaisen. They all morte to improve quality and efficiency by getting smaller amounts of quantity supplied. So there is less mostage and little no defect, so reduce costs and lead to greater efficiency. It will not be excess capacity or high stock levels as businesses froduce shart's needed and have smaller amounts of supply so will not lead to light stock levels or excess capacity. (Total for Question 1 = 4 marks)



This response scored 3 marks for part (b).

Marks were awarded for reference to minimising cost, plus examples of JIT/Kanban. The candidates does further their explanation of why there would be increased efficiency. In addition, the candidate explains why the distracters are incorrect.



Try and start your response with a definition – usually from the question or the correct answer. This can gain you 1 mark and gives you access to all 3 marks for part (b).

Many candidates were able to get part (a) correct. Examiners allowed 2 possible definitions – delegation or empowerment with the vast majority of candidates defining delegation. The key was that employees are given responsibility for a task rather than just working on their own. Other marks were awarded for linking delegation to motivation and therefore increasing productivity. Examiners also allowed 'trusted' or 'valued' as a consequence for 1 mark. Most candidates were able to score at least 2 marks for the correct answer plus explaining a distracter.

Delegation is the act of shoring responsibility with subordinates and employees throughout the hierarchy. The offer make bother feel on Mough they are through and this employees transmissing them feel walued by the Virgin Grap. A centralised againstand structure is one where the majority of decision making is fether by seriar magges at the top of the hierarchy and this discoverages delegation. A is therefore mismed because markes after the hierarch make more decisions due to the delegation of responsibility.



This scored 3 marks for part (b).

The marks were awarded for the definition of delegation and then the development of the correct answer plus distracters. This is a very good example of a detailed response and one which does more than it needs to score full marks for part (b).



If you are unsure if you have correctly defined or explained part (a), then fully explain 2 of the distracters as you can still score 2 marks for part (b) even with an incorrect answer for part (a).

This was a calculation question and we awarded 1 mark for an accurate definition of PED (either formula or by full written explanation). If the % sign or the word 'change' was missing then this meant that the candidate could not get the 1 mark for Knowledge. If the candidate inserted the correct figures into the formula then 2 marks were awarded. Many candidates are still unable to calculate PED because they have the formula the wrong way around.

-	 In 2012, the Royal Mail announced a 30% price increase for First Class stamps to 60)p.
	If the price elasticity of demand is -2, demand will	
		(1)
	A rise by 60%	
	B fall by 60%	
	C rise by 15%	
	D fall by 15%	
	Answer B	
() Explain your answer (show your workings).	(3)
	Oria platition of down - Perference Come in	torrend
8-8-8-9-9-	Pie elabition of domini- forcemare change in	
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	Hongre: Pertentage change in dement	
	Herefre: Perfecting there in dement -2 = 50	



This scored 3 marks for part (b).

The candidate correctly gives the formula for PED and then rearranges the formula to show their workings as to how they arrived at their answer for part (a).



Make sure you can calculate PED and YED and be able to rearrange formula in case you are asked to calculate the change in QD or change in Price.

One way to remember the correct formula is that the Queen (QD) reigns over her Peasants (P) - therefore QD is always over Price!

3 (a) In 2012, the Royal Mail announced a 30% price increase for First Class stamps to 60p.

If the price elasticity of demand is -2, demand will

(1)

A rise by 60%

B fall by 60%

C rise by 15%

D fall by 15%

Answer

(b) Explain your answer (show your workings).

(3)



This shows that a candidate can still score 1 mark for the correct formula even with the incorrect answer for part (a).



Always write out the correct formula as this will score 1 Knowledge mark.

This was a more challenging question for candidates as many were able to get part (a) correct but were unable to explain why this was the correct answer. Many did not know what nominal prices were which therefore restricted their marks for this question. Most candidates were able to define inflation in order to gain 1 Knowledge mark. Examiners awarded an additional mark if candidates stated that nominal prices do not have inflation taken into account. Some candidates did gain additional marks for a full explanation of the distracters.

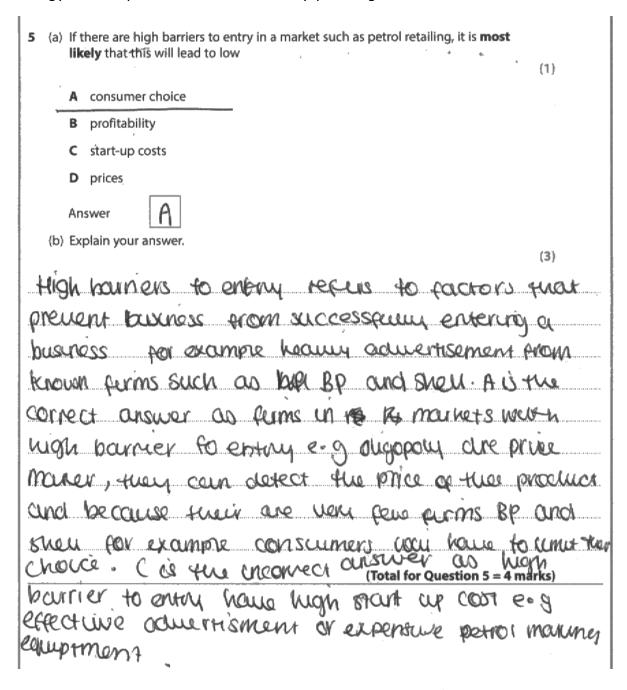
4 (a) Inflation affects us all and during 2012 inflation in the UK peaked at 4.2%.
All of the following are likely consequences of inflation, except:
A an increase in business uncertainty
B a fall in nominal prices
C a loss of competitiveness
D a redistribution of wealth
Answer B
(b) Explain your answer.
· Inflation is a subtained increase in the average price
level of a country.
. Therefore the nominal prices which don't take into
account inclation will be rising.
· A is incorrect - because because businesses will be
More uncertain as costs and prices are constantly changing
So any predicted proprits may be innacurate.



This scored 3 marks for part (b).

Marks were awarded for the definition of inflation and this candidate clearly understands what nominal prices are and why they would be increasing not falling. A third mark was awarded for the explanation of distracter A.

This was well answered with the majority of candidates able to get part (a) correct and provide a sound definition of barriers to entry. Stronger answers were able to apply to the context as to why competition might be limited as well as gain additional marks from a full explanation of the distracters. There was really good use of economic and business terminology in this question which was really pleasing.





This scored 3 marks for part (b).

This was a superb response which did more than it needed for the 3 marks - definition and good use of the context with references to BP and Shell. Each distracter has been fully explained with excellent use of economic and business terminology.



Try and use the context and you will be rewarded for good use of economic and business terminology rather than generic common sense answers.

This was another challenging SMC questions in Section A. Part (a) of a question was testing knowledge and understanding of the impact of a depreciation of the euro. Although the term 'exchange rate' was not in the question, examiners allowed this as the definition mark which enabled many candidates to access marks for part (b) even with a correct answer for part (a). Candidates needed to explain why a depreciation of the euro would lead to a fall in demand for French tourists visiting London in terms of an increase in the amount of currency which would be needed to be exchanged therefore reducing purchasing power. For the distracters, a full explanation linked to the exchange rate was required rather than just stating it would be cheaper. Examiners wanted to know why it was incorrect in order to gain the marks. Many candidates misread the question and did not realise that this was a 'least likely' question so incorrectly put A as the correct answer.

6 (a) In the first quarter of 2012, the euro fell in value against most other currencies
Which of the following is least likely to be a consequence of the above?
An increase in the (1)
A number of UK tourists to Barcelona, Spain Tules
B number of French tourists to London, UK July LC
c import of German Audi cars by the USA A Glob
D export of Italian Energie fashion clothing to the UK like
Answer
(b) Explain your answer. (3)
Curriory Company on Exchange rates are the
value of one currency expressed in terms of another. A fall
in the value of the Euro is rest likely to lead
to an increase in the number of French towists to Lander.
This is because geoft to the Eurocae would find that it
is more experie for them to buy horizon coverage such a the
Point Stoling, the Cinithy their purchasty pare in the Uk. This
would in him relies the libelpool of their hotel holidaying in the Uk.
An increase in the inpart of German case to the USA is likely
to be a consequence as a full (Total for Question 6 = 4 marks)
in the p who of the Eirs wall TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 24 MARKS
effectively love the price of Green car for people using US dollars.



This scored 3 marks for part (b).

Marks were awarded for definition of exchange rates and a fully developed explanation of the correct answer without just stating it is more expensive.



Exchange rates can be problematic so use SPICED – strong pound imports cheap exports dear or WPIDEC weak pound imports dear exports cheap to help you; but remember you have to do more than just state this – you have to fully explain the implications as to the appreciation or depreciation to gain the marks. Use the context to help you.

This was marked according to the following Assessment Objectives: Knowledge 2, Application 1 and Analysis 1. Examiners allowed 1 mark for a definition of market research and 1 mark for giving a 'way' in which market research could help reduce uncertainty. The Application mark was allowed for references to things such as chocolate, chocolate santas and advent calendars. For the Analysis mark, examiners looked for a reason, cause or consequence of the market research and this ranged from changing the type of chocolate products Thortontons were currently making to anticipating future demand which may increase sales or profits. Many candidates scored 3 marks due to providing a generic answer which had no application to Thorntons.

Cocoa prices rise

Cocoa is the main raw material in chocolate manufacturing. Cocoa prices have increased by 15% in less than a week. The price rise is due to growing demand for cocoa in China and to growing demand worldwide for dark chocolate, which is thought to be healthier. Global cocoa capacity would need to increase by around 30% in order to keep up with growing demand. Chocolate has become an 'affordable luxury' despite the global recession.

Analysts predict cocoa prices will increase by up to 110% compared to a year ago. Within eight years, there will be a shortage of one million tons of cocoa unless vast areas of land are set aside to farm the commodity.

(Source: adapted from http://www.ingredientsnetwork.com/news-content/full/cocoa-prices-rise-onsupply-shortage-fears 11 January 2012)

7 Explain one way in which the use of market research can help Thorntons reduce uncertainty.

Mor Kot research (See IS useful as it helps a business to predict the future and therefore prepare for it.

Thorntons could use a questionaire to ask to customers.

What their favourite type of chocolate is. They could use this data to supply the different chocolate according to the The survey. This would reduce uncertainty as the survey. This would have enough that the demand which would have enough may increase solve again.



This scored 4 marks and gave 2 separate Knowledge marks. It was applied to Thorntons in terms of type of chocolate and then gives a consequence of the market research.



Always use the context and do not give generic responses. Use the Evidence provided to help you gain Application marks.

Cocoa prices rise

Cocoa is the main raw material in chocolate manufacturing. Cocoa prices have increased by 15% in less than a week. The price rise is due to growing demand for cocoa in China and to growing demand worldwide for dark chocolate, which is thought to be healthier. Global cocoa capacity would need to increase by around 30% in order to keep up with growing demand. Chocolate has become an affordable luxury despite the global recession.

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7 Explain one way in which the use of market research can help Thorntons reduce uncertainty.

Market research is collecting information to see out (Richt + second hand) to see what your customers maked are. Here Part of Thorntons uncertaintly may be that they don't know what kind of predents chocolates at what sort of prices their customers want By conducting market research, it will enable Thorntons to get a better idea of what their customers are interested in, be that white, milk, dark or other flavoured and about their reduce Thombos uncertaintly + lead them to (Total for Question 7 = 4 marks) more sales and as a result, increased Profile.



This scored 4 marks and had great Application to chocolate.



Analysis is often misunderstood by candidates and the easiest way to remember how to structure your answer to gain Analysis marks is to think about giving: a reason or a cause or a consequence or a cost. These can be both positive and negative.

This was marked by the same Assessment Objectives as Question 7: Knowledge 2, Application 1 and Analysis 1. Examiners awarded 1 Knowledge mark for an accurate definition of niche market followed by a second Knowledge mark for a benefit such as being able to charge higher prices or less competition. For Application, examiners did not accept Hotel Chocolat as Application because this was given in the question. The Analysis mark could be gained by providing a reason, cause or consequence from the benefit of operating in a niche market, with many candidates linking lack of competition or high prices to an increase in profits.

Explain one possible benefit for chocolate retailer Hotel Chocolat of operating in a niche market.

A niche market is one that has a smaller tayget culdient they are normally specialised products. In more markets people are usually willing to pay more and so Hatel charact can afford to charge more for these seeds characte and they will still have solve, that means that they can accert the price increase of cases and still make a profit. This means even though they may have a local rate than thankars they soll make a high profit due to charging higher prices.

(Total for Question 8 = 4 marks)



This scored 4 marks and has great Application to chocolate and cocoa.

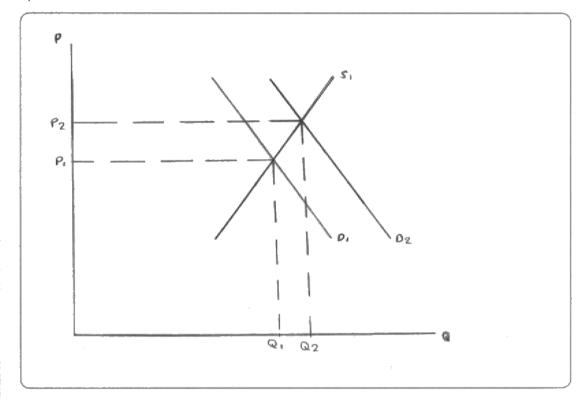


Using the name of a business is **not** classed as Application so think about using references to the products or services the business has which will make you write in context rather than giving a generic response which could apply to any business.

The diagram was marked out of 5 marks. As in previous years, the diagram has to be perfect to gain all 5 marks with an outward shift in the demand curve. The labels had to be correct and the two equilibrium points had to be extended out to the axes with labels to show the impact on Price (P1, P2) and Quantity (Q1, Q2). If these labels were missing, then candidates are not fully showing the old and new equilibrium.

The written explanation was worth 3 marks. Examiners awarded 1 mark if the candidate stated that the price has risen due to an increase in demand. Application was awarded for stating that the increase was from China and/or changes in chocolate tastes such as dark chocolate or health benefits. The third mark was awarded for stating that supply has remained the same (or supply is limited) which is why the price of cocoa is higher. Marks were not awarded for simply describing the diagram as these marks have already been awarded for the diagram.

9 Using Evidence B and a fully labelled supply and demand diagram, explain why the price of cocoa has increased.



Remend refers to the quantity of a product consumer one willing to any of a range of species prises. There's an increased demand for sociol in China and dark moralists world wide. This has led to an outward this has led to an outward this supply remaining the same) resulting in a new (wigner) equilibrium prise and quantity. In the long-turn there may be an outward this of the supply acres in order to keep up with the increased domana.



This scored 8 marks. The diagram was perfect with correct labels. The written explanation was contextualised and reference was made to both demand and supply curves.



For diagrams, please use a ruler. It makes your diagrams much clearer to mark. If you make a mistake, please cross out and redraw the whole diagram rather than trying to amend the existing one. Your written explanation is just as important as getting the correct diagram so spend time looking at past papers and the mark schemes for supply and demand diagrams. To get the highest marks, do not just describe the diagram – explain the impact on Price and Quantity and always consider what is happening to both curves.

This question was marked using Assessment Objectives Knowledge 1, Application 1 and Analysis 1 per factor. Examiners marked each factor separately and we allowed the use of Thorntons and Hotel Chocolat as Application in this question because both companies were not in the question and it did provide great context for many candidates.

The vast majority of candidates focused on weather, technology, costs and taxes as the main factors which affected the supply of chocolate. Examiners awarded 1 mark for the factor, then looked for the Application to chocolate/cocoa and then the Analysis mark could be gained for stating whether this would lead to an increase or decrease in supply. Examiners were very impressed with some of the detailed answers for this question and the insights into the growing of cocoa plants. Unfortunately, many candidates gave demand factors such as tastes and fashions rather than supply factors but we did allow marks if a candidate fully explained the profit signalling mechanism in terms of chocolate businesses either entering or leaving the market due to changes in demand. On the whole, this question performed very well in comparison to other Section B questions and it was clear that candidates had been taught supply and demand factors very well.

10 Explain two factors, other than its price, which may affect the supply of chocolate. *One factor which will affect the Supply of Chocdate is natural phenomena. If the conditions in the countries where cocoon is grown are poor for example a drought or hurricane then crops will not be able to grow. This will result in a lower supply a cocoa and therefore chocolade. Another factor which may affect the Supply of chorolate is the areas of land which are set aside to grow cocoo. If land is set opide to grow biofuels which pay more constances for example to farmers then the supply of cocoa lower on it is not the primary land use. (Total for Question 10 = 6 marks) It supply is the amount of a good or service consumers are willing and able to buy at a given time at a given price



This scored 6 marks for 2 very clear and precise supply factors which were contextualised. All the Assessment Objectives were gained for both factors.



Make sure if you are asked for 2 factors that you give 2 separate factors as some did blend into each other so make it very clear to the examiner where one factor ends and one factor starts.

This was the first Levels of Response question in Section B. Most candidates were able to define social costs and then give examples such as unemployment and a decline of the high street. Better answers were able to state that many social costs might be reduced if the unemployed workers were able to get new jobs or if other businesses are able to take over the shops which Thorntons have closed. Examiners allowed Application such as Thorntons new online sales, the growth of the chocolate industry/Hotel Chocolat, small businesses moving into the shops or using data from the case study such as market share figures. Application had to be to Thorntons and not just a generic description of the social costs from any business closing down. Some candidates did not evaluate and only gave one-sided responses which limited their marks to 5 or 6 depending on context. Some confused social costs with total costs and therefore did not score any marks.

11 Assess the likely social costs of Thorntons' decision to close 180 stores by 2014. Social costs are the consequences of business decions on society. By closing down 180 stores by 2014 Thorntons will leave many people unemplayed as well as those who warked in the DD stores that have already been Shut down. Unemployment is the number of people that are willing and able to work but unable to find a paying job. unemployment can take a high personal toll on an individual including depression and other health issues. Areas of high waremployment are Often associated with crime as people don't have an income and don't have a daily focus in the form of work. Other personal problems include howing and family problems. People who don't have an income will not be able to afford their own home. This puts pressure on the government in the form of council houses people that are unemplayed can often feel like they are a burden to parents and can expensive a lack of considere. The government will need to have a focus on education in the area to make people more employable, retraining may be needed. However people may too cose their work habbit and become demotivated. By Shutting down stores Thantons has looked to increase online sales however not everybody has given to this So the needs of some customers aren't being met. Overall Thomtons decision has a negative Social

cost however there may be the apportunity to increase employment in its ordine retailing which is a benefit to society.



This response scored 8 marks and did enter Level 4 as there was evaluation and context.



Assess and Evaluate require advantages and disadvantages so make sure you do this and do not give one-sided responses otherwise you will be restricted to Level 3. Question 11 is always an Assess or Evaluate question so be prepared for this.

This was also a Levels of Response question split into two parts and each 'way' was marked separately out of 7 marks. Many candidates used elements of 4Ps as well as mergers/ takeovers to increase Thorntons market share. Examiners rewarded any logical or realistic method if the candidate could show how it may increase market share. In addition, mergers and takeovers were only classed as one 'way' as these are both inorganic growth.

For this question – context must be present in order to access Level 4. If the Evaluation had context only on one side, then 5 marks were awarded. Examiners awarded 6-7 marks if both sides were in context depending upon the quality of the response. If the evaluation was generic and not in context then Level 3 was awarded. Many candidates only gave one-sided answers so restricted their marks to Level 3 (4 marks).

Evaluation must be developed in order to enter Level 4 and examiners did accept phrases such as 'this can be time consuming and expensive' as evaluation and examiners wanted to know **why**.

*12 Evaluate two ways in which Thorntons might increase its UK market share. Way 1 (7)one way must some sing supprished a roman sum will be to jumpma serrano min pripuro sopragon a sercaso ser o perinos and we be con year squared source servan nan numsvip blood with unana po mano sunam en que posuaciones es presidentes novament men i process with mount in the work to will be in second securion Thomsons marrie snave. Taking over a successful business vive MAR SUM SOUND SEASON; MARCH END BROWN SUNGOLD PROH as now expected for a see in contract in sec-tox property years N887 10 8011-HOWERS TONING DIES HOTAL NOTONO CONS TO I BETWEEN stategictus is for from one browners would be very exempive to comossos and source o'coloran work to 1'03 years an estinge Knomions have had a sould reduction of 31 and only made a pe-rax profix of \$600,000 10000 1000 mayore to 28.4 million lost year - so it would be very expensive and courty for her. several expressed all our commant was worn of brust citi 081A of toning overthomous and it muyund menugs. consustances to received a chance a common of such as me when you has county pure plans the hard anitem su comant, suare telapsem season; justerique succe unusus so roseros plus cosas or solicos labrania delas sidas · carriers

If Thomsons would increase main manacing share by reviewing Memanaging mix - Price product prace promonon. 1600 and state they want as or even of orece how source Some and increase wants share share and are served to be of in wowmen a coulding sonargade with melling in bearing AN I XISHW Minerian; som memp hinam soudong riem exalger may was on sure more nein some are and about in most ex overed migen is jum sun ocas sunonus camonage. or spingmes prising up so would all a persone becausing som bluow wind extern and kno seem and him womong euro un inverse mos on exempinamense seen so pero suceprisone sumplessis soon citi revenot simmilar commentral sea or bounded and inmin or constance on nonunic sois assignment was come some so the state of the son from some to signed to the on this winds to improve the wees.w isomprivagaris a estation was an example of important succe for a whence in prisuman rism primin oraprest? , such one In concusion themore sould as immer manusing of the all or sixual re beingulin con finingua finias sudrasse sistes s o more vinens when sure himmers are in the wind in the proper many restricted area and area inches (Total for Question 12 = 14 marks) est themon's peromonial them and esterniam inviews in sales



This response was one of the best and Way 1 scored 7 marks as this was fully evaluated with excellent context and a conclusion. Way 2 scored 6 marks and was also very good.



Evaluation in context will always score highly. When evaluating the disadvantages, try to avoid the usual phrases 'this is expensive' or 'this creates an opportunity cost' - you must develop this and explain **why**. You should spend as long on your counter argument as you did for the advantages in order to score highly in Level 4 and for your response to be truly evaluative.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Read the Supported Multiple Choice carefully in terms of most likely, least likely and except. Many did not spend enough time doing this and did not fully develop their reasons as to why distracters are incorrect.
- Contextualise responses both in Section A and Section B. This is particularly important for Section B where Level 4 can only be accessed if the response is in context.
- Pay attention to the command words Assess and Evaluate are largely ignored and this will restrict marks to Level 3.
- Use economic and business concepts rather than generic 'common sense' answers.
- Draw accurately labelled supply and demand diagrams. It is still very worrying that many candidates do not know how to correctly label axes and curves.
- Read and use the Evidence provided it is there for a reason.
- Calculate PED and YED.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx





