

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

IGCSE

IGCSE COMMERCE (4340) Paper 03

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PE Report On Examination Paper 4340/03

General Comments

The scripts seen covered the whole mark range, with a few particularly outstanding scripts.

Comments on Individual Questions

Question 1

This required a basic understanding of the scenario. Most recognised the need to make the best investment securing at least one mark, but too many went into unnecessary detail about specific accounts rather than looking at the whole picture.

Question 2

Knowledge and understanding of certain financial terms was sought. Interest was convincingly explained by most and Commission by many. However the term Capital gain produced many unclear answers. A significant number talked about dividends and a gain on their capital whilst others focussed wrongly on buying shares to provide capital for the business.

The calculations in part b were generally well done, especially the interest earned. However when it came to deducting the tax from the interest, a common error was to take it off the total sum (212,000) rather than just off the interest part (12,000)

Question 3

This required candidates to choose three places for money to be invested and to discuss the pros and cons of each. This did not pose a problem for better candidates who were able to expound three or four points. However a lot of students placed heavy reliance on source B Savings Accounts. Many did not include reference to other sources or the criteria in the scenario i.e. risk, capital gain etc. A few chose setting up your own business as an option and then considered the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of business unit.

Unfortunately some weak candidates wrote about the criteria as if they were the investments, without naming a specific institution. Furthermore, a few chose and discussed shares, despite the instruction at the start of the question.

Question 4

A reasoned judgement (ao4 skill) was needed in this answer. Nearly all the candidates that attempted this gave a well justified choice. However strong answers gained higher marks by

- splitting the funds with valid reasons
- comparing the advantages of their choice with possible alternatives
- considering the balance between income growth and risk
- looking at the decision in the context of time

Grade Boundaries - June 2010

4340 - Statistics

Option 1 - Foundation tier paper (1F) and paper 03

Grade	C	D	E	F	G
Grade Boundaries	55	45	35	26	17

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