

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2012

PL Business, Admin & Finance
(BA304)
Paper 01

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications come from Pearson, the world's leading learning company. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information, please call our GCE line on 0844 576 0025, our GCSE team on 0844 576 0027, or visit our qualifications website at www.edexcel.com. For information about our BTEC qualifications, please call 0844 576 0026, or visit our website at www.btec.co.uk.

If you have any subject specific questions about this specification that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our Ask The Expert email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

Alternatively, you can speak directly to a subject specialist at Pearson about Edexcel qualifications on our dedicated **subject Advisor** telephone line: 0844 372 2187

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

January 2012

Publications Code DP030240

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2012

Unit BA304

Comments on Individual questions

Question 1 -5

These were particularly well answered.

Question 6

Better candidates were able to get full marks on this question and were able to show their workings. It was a bit worrying to see that some candidates didn't understand what adverse and favourable meant and just seemed to guess or made no attempt at this question.

Question 7

Most candidates were able to pick up a few marks on this question. Some answers were weak though and candidates to write answers in full to be able to gain maximum marks.

Question 8a

There were some very good answers on this question. Better candidates were able to compare Hire Purchase and Leasing and show good justification. Weaker candidates were unable to state the main differences between the two types of finance.

Question 8b

Most candidates were able to pick up some marks on this question. Some answers were under developed and didn't get the full marks. Some candidates misread the question and gave another external source of finance.

Question 9a

There were some very good answers on this question, with some candidates gaining full marks. The most common mistakes were in working out cost of goods sold – with many candidates adding both inventories, rather than subtracting closing. Some candidates also added Sales to cost of goods sold.

Question 9b

The ratio questions received a very mixed response this year. Better candidates were able to state the formula and show their working to achieve maximum marks. Were as other candidates didn't answer the question and wrote down the wrong formula.

Question 10a & 10aii, 11ai & 11aii

There was a lot of misunderstanding between the role of a financial and management accountant. A lot of answers showed clear lack of understanding between the different roles and the documents that they would produce. This need to be more clearly taught by some centres as there was little evidence in the answers given.

Question 10c

Some very good answers about auditors, with candidates using 'true and fair' in their answers and talking about legal requirements .

Question 11ai and aii

Most candidates were able to get part ai, but some struggles with the calculation on aii

Question 11b

Some good answers, with better candidates again stating the formula and showing working.

Question 11c

Most candidates were able to get some marks on this question. Better answers were developed and were able to talk about the risks/weaknesses with their proposed ways to improve break-even.

Question 11d

On the whole this question was poorly answered, with many candidates showing very little understanding of margin of safety. Most candidates tried to use the definition for break even.

Question 12a & 12aii

Again, better candidates were able to show the formula and their working. There were a lot of blank answers on these questions and some candidates were heavily penalised for their lack of knowledge and understanding of key ratios.

Question 12b

There were some excellent answers to this question and some candidates were able to show that they fully understood the importance of liquidity and how it could affect a business. Again there were a lot of blank answers due to candidates lack of understanding of ratios

Further copies of this publication are available from
Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4FN

Telephone 01623 467467

Fax 01623 450481

Email publication.orders@edexcel.com

Order Code DP030240 January 2012

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit
www.edexcel.com/quals

Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
with its registered office at Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE

Ofqual



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Rewarding Learning