

Cambridge International AS & A Level

BUSINESS		9609/31
Paper 3 Case Study		May/June 2020
MARK SCHEME		
Maximum Mark: 100		
	Published	

Students did not sit exam papers in the June 2020 series due to the Covid-19 global pandemic.

This mark scheme is published to support teachers and students and should be read together with the question paper. It shows the requirements of the exam. The answer column of the mark scheme shows the proposed basis on which Examiners would award marks for this exam. Where appropriate, this column also provides the most likely acceptable alternative responses expected from students. Examiners usually review the mark scheme after they have seen student responses and update the mark scheme if appropriate. In the June series, Examiners were unable to consider the acceptability of alternative responses, as there were no student responses to consider.

Mark schemes should usually be read together with the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers. However, because students did not sit exam papers, there is no Principal Examiner Report for Teachers for the June 2020 series.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the June 2020 series for most Cambridge IGCSE™ and Cambridge International A & AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

This document consists of 17 printed pages.

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Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always whole marks (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit
 is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme,
 referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these
 features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The
 meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

General Marking Guidance

- Marking should be positive: marks should not be subtracted for errors or inaccuracies.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.
- Errors that are carried forward (e.g. when an incorrect numerical answer to one part of a question is used as the starting point for a calculation in the next part of the question) should not be compounded use the 'own figure rule'.
- Poor spelling, handwriting or grammar should not be penalised as long as the answer makes sense.
- Poor grammar or spelling is not to be penalised, nor is it to be used as an excuse for rewarding unclear reasoning or explanations.
- Answers that contain poor handwriting are not to be penalised. Examiners should mark what they
 can read and make a note to that effect. Where this is a significant factor CIE should be notified.
- An answer consisting of a list should be assessed. It is unlikely that such a response will score highly in the levels in each Assessment Objective.
- If an answer does not fit on the lined paper it should be assessed as if it did.
- In numerical answers units are to be preferred but are not required.
- The main Scoris annotations to be used are K (Knowledge), APP (Application), AN (Analysis), EVAL (Evaluation). For each of these four annotations, the number of marks awarded for that assessment objective must match the number of times that annotation is on the answer.
- Only award EVAL if the candidate has also demonstrated APP.
- Blank pages on a script should be annotated as SEEN.
- A blank space, dash, question mark and a response that bears no relation to the question constitutes a 'no response'.
- In Section B, candidates answer either Question 6 or Question 7. The Section B question that the candidate does not answer must be entered as 'no response'.
- Blank pages, or pages that contain crossed out material, must be annotated using 'seen'.
- Accept Any Reasonable Answer when awarding marks

This mark scheme includes a summary of appropriate content for answering each question. It should be emphasised, however, that this material is for illustrative purposes and is not intended to provide a definitive guide to acceptable answers. It is quite possible that among the scripts there will be some candidate answers that are not covered directly by the content of this mark scheme. In such cases, professional judgement should be exercised in assessing the merits of the answer and the senior examiners should be consulted if further guidance is required.

Application marks are not awarded for repeating material from the case study. Application is by answering in the context of the case or by using the information in the case to help answer the question.

Question	Answer				
1	Analyse	the benefits to JGS o	f outsourcing.		10
	Level	Knowledge 3 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 5 marks	
	2	3 marks Two or more relevant points made about benefits	2 marks Points made are applied to JGS	3–5 marks Good use of theory to explain benefits	
	1	1–2 marks One or two relevant points made about benefits	1 mark Some application to JGS	1–2 marks Some use of theory to explain benefits	
	0		No creditable content		
	Answers Ena exp Opp No Red Ena	examiners: Disadvantage should relate to JGS, not seem to	ot e.g. to employees or on key issues relating to bility if wages, pensions de services	r other stakeholders. o competition and	
		tion could include reference and food, guide		s, village families hosting racts.	
		s e implication of points ma profit, focus on key issue		•	

Question	Answer		
2(a)	Refer to Table 1 and lines 24–26. Calculate the:		
2(a)(i)	average seasonal variation for quarter 3		2
	Identification of values for quarter 3	(1 mark)	
	(-6000 + -14 000)/2 = -\$10 000	(2 marks)	
2(a)(ii)	forecast sales for quarter 3 in 2021, assuming a forecast trend of \$86 560.		2
	Forecast sales = trend plus average seasonal variation	(1 mark)	
	86 560 + (-10 000) = \$76 560	(2 marks)	
2(b)	Refer to lines 20–21. Calculate the income elasticity of dem the residents of country K for JGS tours.	nand (YED) of	2
	YED = % change in demand / % change in income	(1 mark)	
	20 / 5 = 4	(2 marks)	

Question			Answer			Marks
2(c)		sales forecasts			mation. Discuss likely to be	12
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 3–4 marks	Evaluation 3–4 marks	
	2	2 marks Two or more relevant points	2 marks Application of two or more points to JGS	3–4 marks Good use of theory to answer question	3–4 marks Good judgment shown	
	1	1 mark One relevant point made	1 mark Some application to JGS	1–2 marks Some use of theory to answer question	1–2 marks Some judgment shown	
	0		No credita	ble content		
	TheMark	cast is based on plusting future may not be set / economic enver factors may influ	have as the past vironment change	s may or may no	uture ot be as forecasted	
	small bus	ion e to mountain wa sinesses, possible s in client countrie	changes to outs	ourcing condition	s, market	
	Analysis	s rately takes into a	account seasonal past behaviour e nvironment may i affect take-up of s why less custon	changes and tre xactly nfluence forecas holidays	nds to give reliable	
	TechRapiMany	on fied conclusion as nique only as goo dly changing mar y uncertainties rec rapid growth of cu	od as data ket environment r duce reliability of	means forecast le	ess accurate	

Question			Answe	r		Marks
3	approp	planning to incre riate organisation nendation.				16
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 6 marks	Evaluation 6 marks	
	2	2 marks Two or more relevant points	2 marks Application of two or more points to JGS	4–6 marks Good use of theory to answer question	4–6 marks Good judgment shown	
	1	1 mark One relevant point made	1 mark Some application to JGS	1–3 marks Some use of theory to answer question	1–3 marks Some judgment shown	
	0		No credita	able content		
	Answers Any/all to	examiners: Answer ion/leadership. s could include: from: flexibility/adv ts, objectives of st es, delegation and	/antages/disadva ructure, types of s	ntages of tempora structure, formal a		
	RegJanNatcus	ation ange from self-em gional managers a and Gorl have dit ture of business: to tomers vernment change	ind extra office er fferent approache purism, walks, vill	nployees es age accommodat	ion, international	
	Advanta May Eas Eas Disadva Les Mo	from self-employenges: y bring security to sier to administer sier to plan ahead	and commitment as number of em Iministration – pe	ployees known		

Question	Answer	Marks
3	 Centralising by owners means Clear goals/guidelines Faster decision making Better consistency and coordination of activities Formal hierarchy means clear chain of command and communications Managers have good knowledge of the workforce and can detect promotion candidates and direct customers to appropriate houses/guides Employees have clear set objectives, structure and guidance Customers have clear expectations that will be met hence satisfaction is increased Delegation to employees means: Employees feel valued and will be creative, faster decision taking Employees increase confidence and skills Easier to detect promotion candidates Managers freed to focus on strategic thinking Employees freer to develop relationships with customers based on their individual strengths 	
	 Still a small business so Jan and Gorl are able to know office and regional employees. Means either approach is beneficial Employee guides and hosts will be dealing directly with customers so must have some trust and authority to act in accordance with conditions as they see them Necessary to have control via expectations, contractual requirements and JGS policy Is it worth considering a change to JGS as a company to better deal with expansion and possible need for finance? Combination of approaches e.g. possible to have tight control of office and regional managers but more trust for villagers Employment contracts will inevitably mean more formality and control 	

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	Refer to Table 2. Calculate the:	
4(a)(i)	number of customers needed for a tour to break even	3
	Break even = FC / unit contribution (1) Unit contribution = price – AVC	
	Unit contribution = 480 – 370 = 110 (1)	
	Break even means zero profit or loss or formula TR=TC (1 mark) or $TR = P \times q$	
	TC = FC + $q \times VC$ FC / contribution per unit (1 mark)	
	480q = 550 + 370q 110q = 550 (1 mark)	
	Break even number of customers = 5 (3 marks)	
4(a)(ii)	total contribution from a tour with two customers	2
	Total contribution = $TR - VC$ (1 mark)	
	$480 \times 2 - 370 \times 2 = 220 (2 marks)	
4(a)(iii)	profit or loss from a tour with two customers.	3
	Profit/loss = TR – (FC + VC) Profit = Total contribution - FC (1 mark)	
	$480 \times 2 - (550 + 370 \times 2)$ (2 marks)	
	= - $$330$ (3 marks) OR $2 \times 110 - 550 = -330	

Question			Answei			Mark
4(b)	whether	your answers to a tour should go our recommend	ahead with onl			1
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 3–4 marks	Evaluation 3–4 marks	
	2	2 marks Two or more relevant points	2 marks Application of two or more points to JGS	3–4 marks Good use of theory to answer question	3–4 marks Good judgment shown	
	1	1 mark One relevant point made	1 mark Some application to JGS	1–2 marks Some use of theory to answer question	1–2 marks Some judgment shown	
	0		No credita	ble content	'	
	Applicat Guides,	ns of contribution as why a positive co	ontribution order r		·	
	 Analysis Contribution is positive (\$220) hence will contribute to fixed costs making it advisable to take the booking. More customers may appear before tour takes place Profit negative (-\$330) hence a loss on this trip so not advisable to take the booking, as is against policy Goodwill from villagers maintained as getting some income Guides may not want to look after only two and seek work from other businesses or may like small number and want more work Service industry focused on customers and their satisfaction so important not to let down customers who have booked leading to possible loss of business Possible costs involved in cancelling a booking Disagreement between Jan and Gorl could harm business operation 					
		ng bookings with			-	

Question	Answer	Marks
4(b)	 Evaluation Take these bookings as advantages of trip going ahead outweigh disadvantages Main reason is that a contribution to fixed cost is made plus the business is generating work and customers Do not take these bookings as disadvantages of trip going ahead outweigh the advantages Main reason is that a loss is made plus is against policy Another point is that the financial cost data may not be accurate. If costs turn out to be higher, then positive contribution may not be made or if costs turn out lower then more contribution is made Need to be certain of the accuracy and reliability of the data Difficult to quantify the non-financial advantages and disadvantages so better to not take these booking as only the revenue is certain 	

Question			Answer			Marks
5		whether JGS sho	ould maintain hi	gh standards of	corporate social	16
	Level	Knowledge 2 marks	Application 2 marks	Analysis 6 marks	Evaluation 6 marks	
	2	2 marks Two or more relevant points	2 marks Application of two or more points to JGS	4–6 marks Good use of theory to answer question	4–6 marks Good judgment shown	
	1	1 mark One relevant point made	1 mark Some application to JGS	1–3 marks Some use of theory to answer question	1–3 marks Some judgment shown	
	0	No creditable content				
	Applicati High Activ Cour Analysis CSR	level of 'mountain ity of country P ar itry P government	ing practice ' culture and thre nd client country p enquiry	ats to it ressure groups	ers, suppliers and	
	 Build Enga gene Press expe Enga highe CSR 	ing CSR can lead aging with CSR wi rating more future sure group activity nse of those that aging with CSR caper prices and less implemented now	Il help maintain the business / can lead to busing the business do not engage with the be expensive in sales / may be less exp	e reasons why cunesses with CSR th CSR a resources and notes than in the	gaining at noney and lead to e future	
	servi	rely on local villag ce if CSR impleme	•	rvices. More likely	y to get good	
	RankJGS'envirreasoActin	on ported conclusion cing relevant facto is business is base conment. Not enga ons for customers g in advance of the rnment focus on J	rs ed on attracting conging with CSR wing to visit/buy so munie enquiry will be	ustomers to a par Il definitely removust be concerned a selling point an	ve some of the with it	

0

Question		Answer					
Questions 6 and 7 use this marking grid:							
Level	Evaluation 10 marks						
3				7–10 marks Good judgment shown throug with well supported conclusio recommendation, focused on	n/		
2	3 marks Good understandin g shown	3 marks Good application to JGS	3–4 marks Good use of reasoned argument or use of theory to explain points made to explain points made	4–6 marks Some judgment shown in the body of the answer and an at to support conclusion/ recommendation, focused on OR effective and well supported conclusion/ recommendation focused on JGS	tempt		
1	1–2 marks Some understandin g shown	1–2 marks Some application to JGS	1–3 marks Limited use of reasoned argument or use of theory to support points made	1–3 marks Limited attempt to show judgreither within the answer OR a weakly supported conclusion recommendation with some for JGS	n/		

No creditable content

Question	Answer	Marks
6	Evaluate whether the decision tree calculation in Table 3 is sufficient for JGS to make a strategic choice between Option 1 and Option 2.	20
	Note to examiners: answers that contain an appropriate Ansoff's Matrix and/or Force Field Analysis can be awarded Kn and App marks. For An marks, there must be a commentary that makes links or implications of the use of the techniques.	
	 Knowledge Place of strategic choice in overall strategic planning Explanation of decision tree method and use Role of strategic choice in management Decision trees as one of three strategic choice techniques Explanation and/or drawing up of Ansoff Matrix, Force Field Analysis Application JGS opportunities – expanding business, multinational offer, extension to tourist sites 	
	 JGS threats – environmental and cultural degradation, competition Owner objective of expansion JGS objective of expansion Use of data in Table 3 	
	 Analysis EMVs from Table 2 indicate preferred option is 2 Ansoff's indicates Option 1 is effectively Market development (medium risk), Option 2 is effectively diversification (high risk) This analysis is reflected in decision tree figures Not much information to draw up a force field analysis Strategic choice is a stage in strategic management and is based on setting objectives and analysis 	
	 Evaluation Decision trees show clear understandable information Takes account of risk and probability of outcomes and is objective Allows for "what if" analysis Accuracy and reliability of decision trees rely on accurate data. No indication of how this was obtained. Does Jan have the competency to prepare this reliably? 	
	 However Decision trees only provide quantitative information and may be based on poor research Decision trees cannot take account of future unseen factors and only provide averages Choice is only a part of strategic management and success depends on effective implementation Summary/conclusion - likely to be that decision trees provide vital information for JGS but that other techniques are necessary for a fully informed decision 	

Question	Answer	Marks			
7	Evaluate the significance of contingency planning for JGS as it prepares to implement its future strategies.				
	Answers could include: Explanation of contingency planning process possibly including examples Place of contingency planning in strategic management				
	 Application Reference to JGS plans for the future including expansion of mountain walks, changes to structure, Options 1 and 2 Applicable activities – guides, village accommodation, internet marketing Market conditions – CSR considerations (government enquiry), possible rise of competition, income changes in client countries 				
	 Analysis Discussion of current activities and their risks Possible changes and the risks involved in them Linking process of contingency planning to present and to possible futures for JGS Possible effects of successful contingency planning and/or implications of not carrying it out advantages Facilitates quick response Enables effective PR if needed Provides confidence for managers and stakeholders disadvantages Expensive in resources and time that may not be actually used Needs constant updating/reviewing and takes focus away from core activities Having a contingency plan might mean a problem is thought to be covered so it is no longer considered Relation of contingency planning to review and process of strategic 				
	 Evaluation Conclusion on how essential contingency planning is Requires objectives and to be set in the process of strategic management Success of contingency planning only as good as the information it is based on. This may be unreliable or inaccurate. JGS faces change, whatever the outcome of decisions on expansion, structure or the 2 Options so it is essential to be prepared for results of whatever change happens Small organisation run by expert owners so may not need formal process of contingency planning Supported conclusion on role of contingency planning in the process of strategic management Comparison on importance of contingency planning compared to other elements of strategic management 				

Question 2 (a)(ii) checking/justification

	Moving Average	Seasonal Variation	Average Seasonal Variation	4 quarter total	8 quarter total	sales
Q3						34
Q4				162		78
Q1	41.50	-1.50		170	332	40
Q2	45.00	-35.00		190	360	10
Q3	48.00	-6.00	-10	194	384	42
Q4	50.00	48.00		206	400	98
Q1	52.25	-8.25		212	418	44
Q2	56.75	-34.75		242	454	22
Q3	62.00	-14.00		254	496	48
Q4	64.25	63.75		260	514	128
Q1						56
Q2						28

