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GCE Applied Business (6927) June 2015

General Comments

To successfully achieve this unit, students need to demonstrate an appropriate level of understanding and application of knowledge across the full range and scope of the unit outcomes, in particular the unit assessment outcomes/criteria, the specific assessment objectives (AO's), and the mark band (MB) distributions (Applied Business Awards Specifications 2010 Pages 126 to 127). In as much as students need to show a clear understanding of the subject and the practical application of the unit requirements from a balanced contribution across the four knowledge/applications Strands, the related AO's and marking criteria bands.

Therefore, in relation to the Unit specifications (p123 and 134) students should:

- Explain the impact and opportunities created for businesses in international context.
- Present relevant and up-to-date information, from a range of sources, on the factors influencing the establishment of an international presence.
- Perform an investigation into the chosen (international) businesses.
- Identify the advantages and disadvantages in the growth potential for a business supported by international organisations.
- Prioritise evidence and show judgment in the selection and presentation of findings
- Present exemplar material appropriate to support their conclusions
- Explain the strengths and weaknesses in all aspects of creating/developing a presence as offered to a business within an international context.
- Examine the opportunities and challenges offered by global business
- Explore and present conclusions and outcomes, reflecting the positive and negative aspects for Host countries, international organisations and businesses operating in an international environment.
- Quality of written communication (QWC) is assessed within strand (a).

For strand (a), Two businesses should be identified, they should be of a complementary nature and have differing international/global activity (one European Union (EU) and the other Global is suggested in the unit specification). In addition, sound research material and examples related to the factors that influence a business in creating an international presence should be provided.

Students should be encouraged to select the chosen business for strand (b) from those used in strand (a).

QWC marks awarded for this unit (out of three) should be identified within the assessment of this strand.

The selection of International Organisation (IO) and the effect they can have on a business are generally covered although rather generically, for MB2/3 students need to show clearly the link and in particular the relevance, between specific IOs and the business under discussion.

Students demonstrated a general understand of the issues relating to the growth in Global/Multi-National Corporations (MNC), in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) and consumer impact, further consideration of the wider socio-economic and environmental aspects on the Host country could have been included.

Standardisation

Consistent marking was evident. However, in assessing higher grade performance, assessors need to consider the depth, scope and quality of examples and quality the material used and its application in context to award the higher MB3 marks.

Enhancing Assessment

The clear identification of QWC should be included within the assessment of strand (a).

It would be of value to encourage students to select the chosen business for strand (b) from those used in strand (a).

For a Strand (c) detailed analysis and consideration of a wider range of influences, from a business perspective, of the IOs, the selection of which should be more aligned with the business area or sector rather than being over generic and descriptive of the IOs function.

Strand (d), students should consider looking beyond the financial and consumer/customer impact, to the wider socio-economic, suppliers, distribution and environmental aspects on the Host country, for higher MB2/3.

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>