

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

Principal Learning

Principal Learning - Business, Administration &
Finance - BA304 Business Finance & Accounting

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BA304 - Business Finance & Accounting

Introduction

This is the first time this externally assessed unit has been examined and again most learners were able to make a reasonable attempt at all of the questions. The majority of learners were able to complete the paper. Centres may wish to look at ensuring learners can work out break even and the margin of safety in a number of ways. They also need to ensure learners are familiar with the standard layouts of balance sheets and income statements.

Responses to questions

In this series, candidates attaining a grade E were expected to be able to answer, correctly, questions 1 to 5, 7, 8b and 10. Even with some of the other questions, candidates at this level could still expect to pick up some knowledge marks. Learners around this boundary were not expected to do well on questions 10 to 12. At the A*/A boundary, questions 10 through to 12 provided evidence of good understanding and analysis of the data provided.

Q6. Many learners were unable to calculate the VAT element of the invoice

Q7b. A number of learners selected management tasks rather than the tasks a finance assistant might undertake.

Q9. Clearly, many learners had difficulty understanding or completing the balance sheet. This is a skill learners need to practice.

Q11a. Many learners struggled to calculate the number of units needed to break even. Some tried to draw a break even chart from the given data. Failure to achieve an answer to this questions had an impact on 11b where learners needed to work out the margin of safety.

Q12. The stimulus material for this question incorrectly gave the 2008 liquidity ratio as 0.7:1 rather than the 0.5:1. This error was taken into account during marking and learners were not penalised for using either ratio. Please refer to the published mark scheme for further details of this change.

Statistics

BA304

Grade	Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Raw mark boundary	60	56	50	44	38	32	26	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0

Notes

Maximum Mark (raw): the mark corresponding to the sum total of the marks shown on the Mark Scheme or Marking Grids.

Raw boundary mark: the minimum mark required by a learner to qualify for a given grade.

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