Examiners' Report

January 2010

Information Technology Level 3
IT307/01 Making Projects Successful

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Level 3 Unit 7 – Making Projects Successful

General Comments

This was the second exam series of this examined unit. The pre-release was issued one month before the exam, giving background information that related to Section A (Delightful Cottages Ltd - a holiday cottage letting company) and Section B (the 'Revenue On-Line' project). The exam was 90 minutes long and the pre-release was also made available with the exam paper.

The questions covered aspects from all the Learning Outcomes in the unit specification and constituted a mix of recall, application and discussion questions. Most learners attempted all the questions, with only a few learners omitting a question or substantial section of a question. The quality of answers varied with many good quality answers. However it was apparent that some learners:
- were ill prepared and were only able to answer questions with broad statements or generalisations
- had not covered all of the areas in the 'What you need to cover' (WYNToC) section of the specification

The intention of the pre-release is to familiarise learners with the case studies that would be used in the exam and it is expected that learners would refer back to the case study information during the exam when forming their answers. It appears that more learners have made better use of the case study information than in the previous session.

Overall, the answers were much better answered in Section B this session but candidates did not do so well on Section A. Centres need to make sure that candidates are fully familiar with all of the learning outcomes, as questions can cover any part of the specification. Candidates also need to be encouraged to read the question thoroughly to ensure that they are providing the correct answer to the question.

Section A

Question 1

This question related to the definition of scope, objectives and benefits of the project. Most learners were able to identify the stakeholders for question 1a but were unclear as to the benefits that the project would bring to the company for question 1b.

Question 2

This question related to the stages of the project. Most learners achieved full marks for question 2a however there were many candidates who did achieve full marks for question 2b as they often discussed task that happened during the planning stage instead of during the start up stage.

Question 3

Responses to this question, explaining how to find out project requirements, were varied. Candidates made limited reference as to whom to find out the requirements from and what methods could be used.

Question 4

Question 4a, 4b and 4c, was disappointingly weak with most learners demonstrating limited knowledge of Cause and Effect charts. It is important that learners have the opportunity to investigate, use and become familiar with the different project management tools that are listed in the WYNToC section of the specification. Learners who demonstrated that they were familiar with Cause and Effect charts were able to access the mark range.

Question 5

Performance on Question 5a, project planning software, was varied. Some learners discussed the general features of project management software and not those used to update progress against the project plan.3.

Question 5b was generally well answered, discussing progress as of the 14th December. Candidates should be encouraged to use the mark shown in brackets to identify how comprehensive their answers should be to enable them to access the full mark range. A few candidates misinterpreted the question and provided general descriptions of the stages and task in the project.

Question 6

Question 6, changes in government policy affecting the financing of the project, was generally well answered. Most discussed changes in VAT, Income Tax and Rates but answers relating to non financial issues, such as changes in legislation were less well answered with candidates demonstrating limited understanding of how a legislation changes could affect the project.

Question 7

This question asked the learners to describe the tasks carried out during acceptance testing. Learners responses across the board, demonstrated that there was limited understanding of the concept of acceptance testing and the tasks that would be carried out.

Section B

Centres are reminded that this section is worth 30% of the marks and learners should be given ample opportunity to interpret the case study in relation to the specification.

Question 8

Question 8(a) asked the learners to identify three objectives of the project. Many learners had evidently studied the case study carefully and prepared appropriately. There were, however, a disappointing number of learners who had apparently made limited use of the pre-release and provided theoretical answers and therefore did not achieve the full marks.

Question 8(b)(i) asked the learners to describe the external factor that could have affected the project. This was well answered by most learners.

Most learners were also able to explain the actions taken once the external factor was identified, for question 8(b)(ii).

Question 8c, how the stakeholders and potential users ensured the project was successful, was on the whole well answered with learners achieving marks in the mid to high range.

Question 9

This question focused on the benefits realised by the project. This was on the whole well answered with learners achieving marks in the mid to high range. Once again, learners should be encouraged to use the mark shown in brackets to identify how comprehensive their answers should be to enable them to access the full mark range.

Statistics

Level 3 Unit 7 - Making Projects Successful

Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E
Raw boundary mark	90	78	69	60	51	43	35
Points score	21	18	15	12	9	6	3

Notes

Maximum Mark (Raw): the mark corresponding to the sum total of the marks shown on the mark scheme or marking grid.

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