

Examiners' Report

January 2010

Principal Learning

Manufacturing and Product Design MP101 Introduction to Manufacturing

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Principal Learning in Manufacturing and Product Design

Unit 1: Introduction to Manufacturing

Considering that this series was the first time this unit has been examined, the performance of learners was generally good. Centres are to be commended for their thorough preparation of learners in such a short period of time. However, from this series it is clear that certain topics need more attention. Specific issues, from this series, are highlighted below.

It was disappointing to see that some learners failed to respond to all questions. Centres should ensure that they encourage learners to attempt all questions on a multiple choice paper. Further, for some Level One students literacy skills may have been a factor that contributed to incorrect answers being given. Words such as "demographics" appear not to have been understood. It may be appropriate for centres to ensure that learners are familiar with the subject specific language used in the specification.

Q1 - This question related to wealth creation and support to local enterprises and charities. Whilst most learners correctly answered the question there was an impression that some learners were not familiar with the topic. It may be useful for centres to provide learners with examples of the types of support businesses offer the community.

Q2, 3, 4, 6 - The focus of these questions were business processes. They were generally well answered by learners.

Q5, 7 - These questions were associated with wealth creation. The impression was gained that this was a topic learners were less familiar with.

Q8, 10, 11 - These questions covered social and environmental issues. There appears to have been some confusion around the differences between these two topics. It may be useful for centres to teach them at the same time and make it explicit to learners what are social and what are environmental issues.

Q9, 24 - These questions were related to economic issues. There were no particular trends observed in learners' responses.

Q12 to 17 - These questions were focused on main sectors and products. Again, no particular trends were evident.

Q18, 20, 22, 23 - These questions covered costs. The wording of the specification gives useful guidance about how to answer these types of question. The specification wording is as follows:

Increased costs = increased selling price = potential loss of business;

Decreased costs = larger profit margin/increased production etc.

Q19 - This question was related to competition. The specification makes an explicit link between Asia and cheaper labour forces. This provides centres with a tight focus for this particular element when considering competition.

Q21, 25, 26 - These questions were focused on costs to consider, and they linked to economic issues in wealth creation. Consideration may be given to teaching the topics concurrently.

Q27, 28, 29, 30 - These questions related to simple costings and required learners to perform calculations. Most learners appeared to possess the required levels of numeracy to correctly answer questions 29 and 30. The most common error was for learners to only calculate the cost of 1m of carpet for question 30. This highlights the importance of reading the question carefully.

Questions 8, 11, 24, 27, 28 - These questions tended to be answered correctly only by learners that were gaining the higher total marks.

Statistics

Level 1 Unit 1 Introduction to Manufacturing

	Max. Mark	A*	A	B
Raw boundary mark	30	25	18	12
Points Score	4	3	2	1

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