

Examiners' Report

Summer 2010

Principal Learning

Manufacturing and Product Design Level 3 Controlled Assessment

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Manufacturing and Product Design

Level 3 Introduction

This is the first moderation series where all the available units for the Level 3 Principal Learning in Manufacturing and Product Design have been offered for moderation and award. This moderation series follows a limited window in January 2010 where Unit 1 was available for external assessment.

The specific reports for all units are under the appropriate heading, and broadly speaking, learners performed well. General comments related to the external unit and the internal units are noted below.

For the externally assessed units candidates were able to perform to a satisfactory standard with a basic knowledge being demonstrated across the range. There was no evidence of high performing candidates. There is clear evidence that candidates are starting to understand and explore issues across the learning outcomes for both units. However this knowledge is often basic and in some cases superficial although very occasionally a candidate will score full marks for a question. As this qualification is in it's first year this is to be expected and it is anticipated that a greater depth of knowledge is demonstrated when the next assessment opportunity is utilized.

In general, most aspects of administration for the internal units were good, with the correct samples being provided. Generally, each learner and the tutor signed a Candidate Record Sheet (CRS), and centre marks were recorded correctly on the CRS. However these are not being checked sufficiently and a few are missing key details. Most learner work was organised in such a manner that it was straightforward for the Moderators to locate the evidence for each Learning Outcome. The assignment briefs are being provided to assist in the moderation process however there is no evidence of internal moderation.

It would be helpful for assessors to annotate learner work to clearly identify where marks have been awarded, linked to the appropriate Marking Grid, with page numbers noted on the CRS. Indications such as LO1 (MB2), LO3 (MB1) etc. are very helpful to moderators. Centres are reminded that each unit specification has a section entitled 'guidance for allocating marks', which should be referred to when designing/completing summative assessments. Furthermore, centres may find it useful to refer to the Tutor Support Materials for this qualification when setting assignments that are to be internally assessed and externally moderated, in order to ensure that learners have the opportunity to address all of the assessment requirements in each of the three Mark Bands for each Learning Outcome. This could involve the use of annotated photographs and/or witness statements/learner observation records (the later completed by the tutor), this is of particular relevance for Marking Grid B and other ephemeral evidence, which centres are actively encouraged to submit as assessment evidence.

Unit 3 Supply Chain Management in Manufacturing

General comments

During this series, the internal marking for this unit was generally accurate, in comparison with national standards.

Learning Outcome 1 (Marking Grid A)

Each mark band contains three elements and candidates are awarded marks based on their depth of knowledge of these elements. The approach to cost effective supply chain management, supply and demand and the laws that apply to chain logistics were all stated (MB1). However these were insufficiently targeted, with candidate work being an overview of how manufacturing enterprises operate. Consequently there is insufficient focus being placed on the principles of supply chain logistics and the requirements to outline (MB2) and describe (MB3) these. The standard of work presented was generally appropriate however the generic nature of the work prevented higher marks being awarded. It might be helpful for centres to highlight each of the three strands to candidates, in the assignment briefs, with more targeted questions/activities to support the elements.

Learning Outcome 2 (Marking Grid A)

This outcome has two elements, focused on supply chain problems. The first of these concentrates on procurement, logistics and lean manufacturing and responses to this element were often well articulated. Overall the descriptions were detailed (MB2) although not thorough (MB3). The response to "customer focus" was generally weak however with the customer involvement in the supply chain not being explored.

Centres could encourage candidates to apply these principles to the solution of a particular supply chain problem or problems, perhaps using a case study. This could feature customers and different sections of the business including purchasing/procurement, logistics and distribution and lean management.

Learning Outcome 3.1 (Marking Grid A)

This outcome produced a mixed response although, as previously noted, the understanding of supply chain problems was mostly limited. Evidence for this outcome can be linked to LO2. Candidates could reference a particular supply chain issue within a company and analyse it possibly by linking issues with suppliers, scheduling, resources, inventory etc. This should feed into LO3.2.

Learning Outcome 3.2 (Marking Grid A)

This LO focuses on supply chain problems. There is an expectation that this element will follow on from LO2 and candidates should be generating solutions to supply chain problems. The candidates did not highlight this element sufficiently however; consequently most responses were limited (MB1). Although candidates did suggest solutions in varying degrees of detail they did not consider issues from the unit such as 2nd and 3rd tier suppliers; how buyers, production and sales interact and strategic/operational issues for organisations. All too often the problems were being discussed rather than solutions being proposed.

There is a reasonable standard of work demonstrated by candidates however the generic nature of evidence presented does not sufficiently focus on supply chain principles and closer reference to the unit specification is advisable. As this is a unit based on 30 guided learning hours centres might consider a company visit/case study to underpin the knowledge delivered in class. If the assignment brief is carefully constructed it could guide learners in explaining the principles, understanding how

supply chain problems are addressed and then introduce a specific problem to analyse and overcome.

Statistics

Level 3 Unit 3 Supply Chain Management in Manufacturing

	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E
Raw boundary mark	60	53	47	41	35	29	23
Points Score	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

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