Assessment Report

Level 2 Business Studies 2017

Standards 90843 90844 90845

Part A: Commentary

The quality of the higher end answers across all three standards is pleasing. This reflects the candidates' ability to justify their reasons in the context of the question, by adding new information to the resources and stimulus which shows in-depth understanding of the business goals, future implications (both short term and long term) for key stakeholders or relevant factors that may also have contributed to the outcome. In particular, being able to weigh up the advantages or disadvantages of solutions or options is particularly useful.

Aspects of this examination referenced aspects of the Teaching and Learning Guidelines which had not been assessed recently resulting in a higher than usual number of scripts with some unanswered questions.

Higher achieving candidates used their business language consistently and appropriately. For instance, for the term 'money', candidates who received higher grades used 'cashflow' when referring to a business' ability to pay debts, 'profit' when referring to sales less expenses, or 'sales' when referring to what customers have paid to purchase the good or service.

Part B: Report on standards

90843: Demonstrate understanding of the internal operations of a large business

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- answered all parts of the question
- explained the "what" in their answer and gave reasons for their answer
- explained business concepts by using connectives such as "because" and "as"
- answered the question being asked and not just the bullet points.

Candidates who were assessed as **Not Achieved** commonly:

- re-stated information from the resource material with no explanation of their own
- did not attempt all questions, or provided brief and incomplete responses
- could not correctly identify a leadership style or identify aspects of Rangatiratanga
- did not understand lean production and or economies of scale

- gave generic policies and procedures without specifically referring to hiring and / or termination of staff.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- fully explained business concepts using the what, why and how technique
- applied aspects of Rangatiratanga supplied in the resource to an appropriate leadership style
- included context from the stimulus in their responses
- consistently included correct business knowledge
- provided responses that did not justify but merely repeated previous ideas.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- gave justified reasons in the context of the question, that were not memorised or pre-prepared and were balanced
- added new information to justify reasons which referred to future short or long term implications for the context business or their stakeholders
- integrated business concepts throughout their answers to show in-depth understanding.

Standard specific comments

Many candidates were not familiar with the business concepts of a Shamrock organisational structure, lean production and economies of scale. Many candidates did not answer part (c) which makes achieving a higher grade considerably more difficult.

Only a few questions lent themselves to generic responses that have been seen in the past, which meant candidates needed to be very familiar with the content to be able to write effectively.

90844: Demonstrate understanding of how a large business responds to external factors

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- explained the positives and negatives of the impact of technology on the context business and the advantages and disadvantages to the employees of belonging to the trade union
- explained the purpose of the ERA but often not the cost or benefits of complying
- identified and explained a method of industrial action
- explained an action that management could take in response to industrial action
- used business knowledge and terms, but were simplistic in explaining the impact to the business
- attempted all parts of the question.

Candidates who were assessed as **Not Achieved** commonly:

- did not provide a response to all aspects of the question
- misinterpreted the question eg explained the advantages and disadvantages to the employer (business) instead of the advantages and disadvantages to the employee. Eg confused the trade union with a trade agreement
- repeated the stimulus without adding anything extra
- identified a method of industrial action but failed to explain the method used
- provided justifications and reasons with no depth

- used poor business knowledge and business terms eg: money instead of sales and profit, people instead of customers or employees
- did not attempt all questions.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- fully explained the positives and negatives of the impact of technology
- fully explained the advantages and disadvantages to the employees of belonging to a trade union
- stated a cost of complying to the ERA and/or stated two actions that management could take
- used good business terms and were able to expand on responses showing an understanding of business concepts.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- fully explained one cost and fully explained two reasons why it was in the business' interests to comply with the ERA
- fully explained two actions that management could take and fully explained two reasons why the response was preferable for management
- used good business knowledge and terms drawing on knowledge gained from other areas eg: leadership styles, production process and also reference to Maori concepts such as Rangatiratanga, Putake.

Standard specific comments

A number of candidates misread the stimulus and answered parts b and c questions incorrectly.

A number of candidates stated an answer without adding more detailed information to show their understanding of business.

Some candidates confuse basic business terms eg: using revenue instead of expenses, net profit instead of gross profit, and vice versa, and therefore use these terms in the incorrect context.

Knowledge of the business laws has improved from previous years.

90845: Apply business knowledge to a critical problem(s) in a given large business context

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- identified some reason(s), causes, effects, and/or solutions
- used some resource material as evidence to support their answers
- offered basic explanations e.g. why their identified reason caused the business to be unsuccessful. These explanations were brief (commonly a sentence including some re wording/paraphrasing of the resource material)
- used business terminology which was limited in its application and relevancy
- repeated previous answers when attempting to explain the flow on impact(s) and justifications.

Candidates who were assessed as **Not Achieved** commonly:

- copied the resource material verbatim, offering no interpretation or commentary.
- used no relevant business terminology
- misunderstood the resource material so responses were irrelevant
- offered answers based on other businesses with no reference to the business in the resource booklet
- offered solutions that were not relevant or possible for the issue
- described an answer only, with no attempt to explain why this was relevant

- used rote learned answers such as “will increase sales and therefore profit” which were used in an incorrect context
- did not attempt parts to the question.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- included some business terminology relevant to the issue which helped explain answers
- used the information in the resource booklet to develop responses relevant to the business in question but in addition provided further explanation.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- included precise and relevant business terminology.
- offered relevant solutions for the business in question and were able to fully explain the impacts of these solutions with regular reference to the business or to the resource material
- justified which solution was more appropriate, by explaining the benefit(s) of that solution to the business and/or the drawback of the other solution in comparison. The justification was linked to the business directly and the impact on it.

Standard specific comments

The resource material was generally used effectively as evidence to support answers. Candidates who did not achieve well often relied on the resource material to be their answer without offering their own interpretation and explanations.

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Previous years' reports
2016 (PDF, 0KB)

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