

# **National Certificate of Educational Achievement**

## **2011 Assessment Report**

### **Business Studies Level 2**

- 90843 Demonstrate understanding of the internal operations of a large business**
- 90844 Demonstrate understanding of how a large business responds to external factors**
- 90845 Apply business knowledge to a critical problem(s) in a given large business context**

## COMMENTARY

Candidates who performed well had a clear understanding of business concepts and knowledge and were able to relate this to business operations and its impacts on stakeholders. They were able to effectively use the terms provided in the questions for scaffolding purposes to develop their answers and demonstrate their understanding. The majority of candidates who achieved at the higher levels were able to fully support or justify their answers by adding new ideas rather than repeating earlier comments.

Candidates who did not perform well were not able to explain business concepts and/or did not use the terms provided in the questions. They often did not attempt all parts of all questions, often not addressing the parts requiring a longer response. These candidates tended to provide definitions or descriptions, rather than explanations, and were not able to integrate business and knowledge into their answers.

Some candidates used non-business vocabulary and showed a poor understanding of basic business concepts. In some cases, answers were too general and did not specifically relate to the given context or scenario.

## STANDARD REPORTS

### **90843 Demonstrate understanding of the internal operations of a large business**

#### **ACHIEVEMENT**

**Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:**

- explained key ideas, such as productivity and budget, clearly
- related the concepts learned to the business and its stakeholders.
- included business knowledge in their answers
- did not show full understanding of the questions, and missed answering parts of questions.

#### **NOT ACHIEVED**

**Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:**

- provided definitions or descriptions for terms such as productivity, rather than explanations
- used non-business vocabulary such as money instead of profit, expenses, or income
- showed a poor understanding of business inflows (revenue and income) and outflows (costs and expenses)
- did not use the terms provided in the questions for scaffolding purposes.

## **ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT**

**In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:**

- fully explained business concepts and distinguished between key terms such as production and productivity
- explained the importance of the concepts for the business and its stakeholders
- included relevant business knowledge
- used terms provided in the questions for scaffolding purposes to develop their answers.

## **ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE**

**In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:**

- understood the operations of a business clearly
- integrated business knowledge in their answers
- fully explained and justified their answers by explaining consequences for situations such as a business operating above normal capacity
- added new information to justify answers rather than repeating earlier comments.

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

### **ACHIEVEMENT**

**Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:**

- explained ideas such as supply chain and economic sustainability
- related the concepts learned to the business and its stakeholders
- included business knowledge in their answers, rather than merely re-stating the information in the examination.

### **NOT ACHIEVED**

**Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:**

- did attempt all questions, especially those items requiring longer responses
- made brief statements rather than explanations of the terms such as enterprise culture
- did not use the key terms provided in the questions.

### **ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT**

**In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:**

- fully explained business concepts
- related the concepts and their importance for the business and its stakeholders
- included relevant business knowledge
- used terms provided in the questions for scaffolding purposes to develop their answers but did not justify their answers.

## **ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE**

**In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:**

- understood the operations of a business clearly
- integrated business knowledge in their answers
- fully explained and justified their answers by providing flow-on effects
- added new understanding and information to justify answers rather than repeating earlier comments.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

Candidates were often confused between economic and environmental sustainability. However, those who used the title of the question as a guide to answer the questions were not impacted. Supply chain can be viewed as an internal operation, unless it is specifically tied to outsourcing or the extensive use of third parties. Nonetheless, the question on supply chain gave candidates opportunities to achieve Excellence.

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

### **ACHIEVEMENT**

**Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:**

- explained why investment expenditure is important for a business
- included business knowledge in their answers, beyond what is stated in the examination.

### **NOT ACHIEVED**

**Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:**

- provided definitions or descriptions rather than explanations
- showed a poor understanding of basic business concepts.

### **ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT**

**In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:**

- fully explained business concepts
- included relevant business knowledge beyond what is provided in the resource
- used terms provided in the questions for scaffolding purposes to develop their answers
- did not justify effectively by repeating previous ideas in their answer. For example, when discussing solutions to the human resource problem they focused on equipment, and not on the managerial skills of the CEO.

## **ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE**

**In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:**

- integrated business knowledge from the resource in their answers
- fully explained and justified their answers
- added new understanding and information to justify answers rather than repeating earlier comments.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

Most candidates completing this paper were able to engage and relate to the case study context easily.