

Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge Ordinary Level

BUSINESS STUDIES 7115/22

Paper 2 Case Study

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MARK SCHEME
Maximum Mark: 80

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

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Cambridge O Level – Mark Scheme **PUBLISHED**

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	Identify and explain <u>one</u> advantage and <u>one</u> disadvantage of GS being a partnership.	8
	Knowledge $[2 \times 1]$ – award one mark for each advantage/disadvantage Analysis $[2 \times 1]$ – award one mark for a relevant explanation of each advantage/disadvantage Application $[2 \times 2]$ – award two application marks for each	
	advantage/disadvantage Award one mark for each advantage/disadvantage (maximum of two), such as:	
	 Advantages Increased capital investment Share responsibilities/specialise/more skills/more ideas Share risks/losses 	
	Disadvantages Unlimited liability No separate legal identity Share profit Lack of continuity Arguments between partners	
	Award a maximum of three additional marks for each explanation – 2 of which must be applied to this context – of the advantage/disadvantage.	
	Indicative response:	
	More capital can be invested by each partner than if the business was a sole trader. (k) In this case the partners each invested \$5000. (ap) This meant that less capital was borrowed therefore reducing interest payments. (an) This will make it easier for GS to expand. (ap)	
	Possible application marks: set-up last year; set up by 2 brothers; grows plants and trees; partners invested \$5000 each; looks after the gardens of luxury hotels; want to buy more land to expand; information from Appendix 1; information from Appendix 2.	
	There may be other examples in context that have not been included here.	

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Question		Answer		Marks
1(b)	sources of fir to choose. Ju	advantages and disadvantages of nance for the new equipment. Rec estify your answer.		12
	Relevant point	s might include:		
		Advantages	Disadvantages	
	Bank loan	Raise large amounts of capital Repay in instalments	Interest paid Adds to expenses Need for security/collateral	
	Lease	No capital to find Maintenance covered by leasing company	Not an asset of the business Expensive	
	Retained profit	No interest paid Not repaid	May not be enough as only been in business for one year Reserves not available for alternative uses	
	Knowledge/An scheme below	alysis/Evaluation – award up to 10 r	marks using the levels-based mark	
		Knowledge/Analysis/ Evaluation		
	Level 3	At least 2 × Level 2 + 9–10 marks for well justified recorfinance to choose and why not the		
		7–8 marks for limited recommend to choose.	ation of which source of finance	
	Level 2	4–6 marks Detailed discussion of advantages source of finance.	s and/or disadvantages of each	
	Level 1	1–3 marks Outline of each advantages and/c of finance.	or disadvantages of each source	

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Question	Answer	Marks
1(b)	Level 1 – 1 mark for each L1 statement (max of 3 marks) e.g. Retained profit is readily available and does not have any interest payments to be made.	
	Level $2-1 \times L2$ explanation can gain 4 marks and a further mark can be awarded for each additional L2 explanation (max 6 marks) e.g. Retained profit is readily available and does not have any interest payments to be made. However, as the business is only small and a partnership, it may not have enough profit in reserves to pay \$10 000 for the new equipment. (4 marks for one Level 2 answer plus one application mark for referring to the cost of the new equipment)	
	Level 3 – For L3 to be awarded there needs to be at least two L2 marks awarded and then a recommendation of which source of finance to choose.	
	Award up to 2 additional marks for relevant application.	
	Possible application marks: Partnership; set-up last year/new business; set up by 2 brothers; grows plants and trees; partners invested \$5000 each; \$5000 profit; looks after the gardens of luxury hotels; new gardening equipment; cost \$10 000 to purchase new equipment; information on the three sites in the case; information from Appendix 1; information from Appendix 3.	
	There may be other examples in context that have not been included here.	

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Cambridge O Level – Mark Scheme PUBLISHED

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	Identify and explain two ways GS can increase added value.	8
	Knowledge $[2 \times 1]$ – award one mark for each way Analysis $[2 \times 1]$ – award one mark for a relevant explanation of each way Application $[2 \times 2]$ – award two application marks for each way	
	Award one mark for each way (maximum of two).	
	 Increase price (1) – explained why/how prices can be increased (1) such as: improve quality of products such as plant pot containers improve reputation establish brand image 	
	improve product features such as excellent customer service	
	Reduce raw material costs (1) explanation of how these can be reduced (1) such as:	
	 buy cheaper sources of flowers / find cheaper suppliers lower the quality of inputs such as cheaper seeds reduce the amount of inputs needed, e.g. less fertiliser 	
	Award a maximum of three additional marks for each explanation – 2 of which must be applied to this context – of the way.	
	Indicative response:	
	Reduce raw material costs (k) such as buy cheaper seeds and fertilizer (ap). GS could change to a cheaper supplier of flowers, plants and trees. (ap) This will increase the gap between price and input costs and therefore increase added value. (an)	
	Possible application marks: Partnership; set-up last year; set up by 2 brothers; grows plants and trees; partners invested \$5000 each; looks after the gardens of luxury hotels; holds high level of inventory; information on the three sites in the case; information from Appendix 1; information from Appendix 2; information from Appendix 3; gardeners maintaining a good reputation for the business.	
	There may be other examples in context that have not been included here.	

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Question		Answer		Marks
2(b)	plants and tree	ollowing <u>three</u> pricing strategies es to customers. Recommend w ease GS's profit. Justify your ar	hich is the best pricing strategy to	12
	Relevant point	s might include:		
		Advantages	Disadvantages	
	Cost-plus	Easy to apply Ensures costs covered	Lose sales if costs higher than competitors	
	Competitive	Sales high as price at realistic level	Research costs to compare prices Does not take account of different quality product Many competitors established in the market	
	Promotional	Useful for getting rid of old plants/not selling well Help to renew interest if sales falling Attracts more customers	Sales revenue will be lower as price of each item low	
	Knowledge/Ana scheme below.	alysis/Evaluation – award up to 10	marks using the levels-based mark	
		Knowledge/Analysis/ Evaluation		
	Level 3	At least 2 × Level 2 + 9–10 marks for well justified reconstrategy to choose to increase prostrategies.	. •	
		7–8 marks for some limited judge as to which pricing strategy to ch	ement shown in recommendation loose.	
	Level 2	4–6 marks Discussion of advantages and/or strategy.	disadvantages of each pricing	
	Level 1	1–3 marks Outline advantages and/or disad	vantages of each pricing strategy.	

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Question	Answer	Marks
2(b)	Level 1 – 1 mark for each L1 statement (max of 3 marks) e.g. Competitive pricing will increase sales as prices are set at similar level to competitors.	
	Level 2 – 1 × L2 explanation can gain 4 marks and a further mark can be awarded for each additional L2 explanation (max 6 marks) e.g. Competitive pricing will increase sales as prices are set at a similar level to competitors and may attract customers from competitors. More people will buy their garden products from GS as they set high quality standards for all their plants and trees and their gardening services. (4 marks for one L2 answer plus one application mark for referring to high quality gardening services)	
	Level 3 – For L3 to be awarded there needs to be at least two L2 marks awarded and then a recommendation of which pricing strategy to choose.	
	Award up to 2 additional marks for relevant application	
	Possible application marks: GS sells plants at the lowest prices available; finest quality plants; partnership; set-up last year; set up by 2 brothers; new business; looks after the gardens of luxury hotels; similar gardening businesses; holds high level of inventory; information from Appendix 1; information from Appendix 2; information from Appendix 3.	
	There may be other examples in context that have not been included here.	

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Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	Identify and explain <u>four</u> characteristics the partners should include in the person (job) specification when recruiting the new employees.	8
	Application $[4 \times 1]$ – award one mark for each suitable characteristic for this business Analysis $[4 \times 1]$ – award one mark for a relevant explanation of each characteristic	
	Award one mark for each characteristic (maximum of four), such as:	
	 Experience of gardening Punctual Polite Honest/trustworthy Qualifications in gardening Reliable Clean/neat appearance Physically fit Good communicator Hard working. 	
	There may be other possible answers	
	Award an additional mark for each explanation in context	
	Indicative response:	
	The applicants will need to have experience of gardening (1) this is to ensure that they can do the job that GS requires of them and maintains a high quality service to customers. (1)	

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Question		Answer		Marks
3(b)	brothers are	e advantages and disadvantages o e considering buying. Recommend tify your answer. Relevant points m	which site is the best one for GS	12
		Advantages	Disadvantages	
	Site X:	Large site Lowest cost Fertile land	Far away from market – 30 miles – high travel costs Buildings need to be built – additional cost	
	Site Y:	Near to city at lower cost Nearer to hotels than site X Large glasshouses already there – less cost and quicker to get started trading from the site	Repair costs of \$4000 has to be paid Still have to travel to customers	
	Site Z:	Very close to market/customers Close to existing site Shop and car park on site attracting customers	Highest cost - \$30 000 Smallest area and little chance of expansion in the future	
	Knowledge// scheme belo		marks using the levels-based mark	
		Knowledge/Analysis/ Evaluation		
	Level 3	At least 2 × Level 2 + 9–10 marks for well justified record choose and why not the other site		
		7–8 marks for some limited judge to best site to choose.	ment shown in recommendation as	
	Level 2	4–6 marks Explanation of advantages and/or	disadvantages of each site.	
	Level 1	1–3 marks Statement of advantages and/or of	disadvantages of each site.	

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Question	Answer	Marks
3(b)	Level 1 – 1 mark for each L1 statement (max of 3 marks) e.g. Site Z is the most expensive of the three sites.	
	Level $2-1 \times L2$ explanation can gain 4 marks and a further mark can be awarded for each additional L2 explanation (max 6 marks) e.g. Site Z is the most expensive of the three sites and this will make it more difficult to finance the purchase of the land. Also there is no room to expand and so GS may have to move again if it wants further expansion in the future. However, it is near to customers and this will reduce cost and time for the gardeners getting to and from the hotels. (4 marks for one L2 answer plus one application mark for referring to hotels, gardeners, the land being most expensive)	
	Level 3 – For L3 to be awarded there needs to be at least two L2 marks awarded and then a recommendation which justifies the best site to choose.	
	Award up to 2 additional marks for relevant application.	
	Possible application marks: Partnership; set up by 2 brothers; information about the three sites found in the case study.	
	There may be other examples in context that have not been included here.	

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Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	Identify and explain two problems for GS of having a high level of inventory.	8
	Knowledge $[2 \times 1]$ – award one mark for each problem. Analysis $[2 \times 1]$ – award one mark for a relevant explanation of each problem.	
	Application [2 × 2] – award two application marks for each problem.	
	Award one mark for each problem (maximum of two), such as:	
	 Capital tied up/ liquidity problem High levels of working capital required Inventory may deteriorate and be wasted – loss of profit Inventory may go out of date/seasonal changes / fashion changes – cannot sell inventory unless at a discount – reduce profit Costs of storage space Maintenance costs such as paying wages of workers to water plants Award a maximum of three additional marks for each explanation – 2 of which must be applied to this context – of the problem. 	
	Indicative response: Capital is tied up in stock (k) and this will mean GS has large amounts of plants and trees taking up space. (ap) The plants and trees will need to have been paid for before the gardeners will need them for planting at the hotels (ap) and this will increase the cash outflow, which may cause a cash flow problem for GS, but will certainly reduce its liquidity. (an)	
	Possible application marks: GS want to expand the business; wilting/dying plants; grows plants and trees; looks after the gardens of luxury hotels; want to buy more land to expand; information on the three sites in the case; ornamental trees; information from Appendix 1; information from Appendix 2; information from Appendix 3.	
	There may be other examples in context that have not been included here.	

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Question		Answer	Marks
4(b)	your answer u	GS will be as successful as other similar businesses? Justify sing the data in Appendix 3 and calculate appropriate ratios. Its might include:	12
	Profit	\$5 000 (L2)	
	GPM	50000/60000 × 100 = 83% (L2)	
	NPM	5000/60000 × 100 = 8% (L2)	
	ROCE	5000/10000 × 100 = 50% (L2)	
	Total revenue	e \$60 000 (L1)	
	Total cost	\$55 000 (L1)	
	Compa worseOther		
		Knowledge/Analysis/Evaluation	
	Level 3	At least 2 × Level 2 + 9–10 marks for well justified conclusion as to whether or not GS will be as successful as other similar businesses. 7–8 marks for some limited conclusion as to whether or not GS will be as successful as other similar businesses.	
	Level 2	4–6 marks Correct calculation of profit &/or profitability ratios.	
	Level 1	1–3 marks Outline of the significance of the financial information.	

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Question	Answer	Marks
4(b)	Level 1 – 1 mark for each L1 statement (max of 3 marks) e.g. The average profit for other businesses is higher than GS.	
	Level 2 – 1 × L2 calculation can gain 4 marks and a further mark can be awarded for each additional L2 calculation (max 6 marks) e.g. Gross Profit Margin is 83%. (4 marks for L2 calculation)	
	Level 3 – For L3 to be awarded there needs to be at least two L2 marks awarded for correct calculation of profit and appropriate ratios and then a conclusion as to whether or not GS will be as successful as other similar businesses.	
	Award up to 2 additional marks for relevant application.	
	Possible application marks: Partnership; set-up last year; set up by 2 brothers; grows plants and trees; looks after the gardens of luxury hotels; partners invested \$5000 each; total investment of \$10 000; new gardening equipment required costing \$10 000; holds high level of inventory; want to buy more land to expand; information on the three sites in the case; information from Appendix 1; written information from Appendix 3, e.g. seeds but NOT the financial information itself.	
	There may be other examples in context that have not been included here.	

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