



Examiners' Report June 2011

GCE Business Studies 6BS01 01

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Introduction

The mean for this paper across both cohorts (GCE Economics & Business and GCE Business Studies) was the highest in its history, since January 2009. This may be explained by a number of factors such as the relative degree of difficulty of questions, the nature of the case study in Section B, or because of centre-based factors such as increasing use of examiners reports, previous papers and mark schemes by both teachers and candidates.

It was clear from individual question scores (mode and mean scores) that some questions were more accessible than others - arguably at a level which could be answered by GCSE candidates, for example questions 1 and 9.

Part (b) answers in Section A are improving as many candidates are gaining at least 1 mark by providing a definition of some sort relating to a term in either the question or correct answer. Explanations are also improving because it is clear that candidates are asking themselves why? The sometimes illusive third mark is often being gained through the explanation as to why a distracter is incorrect for part (a) though this is not always appropriate, e.g. for this paper with respect to question 1.

Unsurprisingly, a question which was answered well by a significant number of candidates as confirmed by the modal score of 4. Most gained 3 marks for part (b) by writing the formula for break even, i.e. BE = FC/contribution, or BE = FC/selling price-average variable cost, then inserting the appropriate data, i.e. 400/100 or 400/600-500 to arrive at the answer 4 (Option C).

								SECTION	ON A						
						Answer	ALL th	ne ques	tions in	this se	ction.				
	Writ	te th	e lette	r of y	our ch	nosen a	nswer	in the b		then e	xplain	your ch	oice ir	n the sp	pace
	You	sho										oort you our ans		ers wh	nere
1	(a)	Mo	st of his	cont	tracts i	nvolve r	ewiring		s. Paul's			outh York e £400 p			12 A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
						tomers :			e, how n			s per mo		(4)	- 1 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2
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		C D	5										C=	selli	ing price
		Ans	wer	(VC	
	(b)	Exp	lain yo	ur an	swer (s	show yo	ur wor	kings).						(3)	
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	816	an	-60C1	۸٤	Fix	100 100) /	(ON)	riibuh OOS		= 4	contr	acts		



Part (a) - 1 mark

Part (b) - 3 marks for showing formula and inserting correct data.

Answered better by those candidates entered for GCE Economics and Business as opposed to GCE Business Studies. Most candidates gained 3 marks for part (b) by first defining supply as 'the amount of goods or services provided at a given price', then providing an explanation written in context to match the stem such as 'improvements in technology such as the use of hothouses or use of genetic engineering techniques tend to increase the yield of plants, such as tomatoes, which will therefore increase supply'. Some candidates gained marks by illustrating the effects of the use of technology by drawing a positive shift in the supply curve on a supply and demand diagram.

2	6	n November 2009, it was reported by the BBC that the world population of 5.5 billion is expected grow to 9 billion by 2100 and, as a result, a shortage of world food supplies is expected.	
	١	Which of the following is a direct determinant of the supply of food?	
	,	Level of technology	(1)
	E	Growth in consumer incomes ⋴००००००००००००००००००००००००००००००००००००	
	(Advertising to consumers concert	
		Fashion, tastes and preferences	
	1	Answer A	
	(b) E	xplain your answer.	(3)
		Spot is the amount produces are will is and	
,,		whe ho produce in a given time and price. Bupply	
	is	effected & technology becase it technological advence	2.5
	leco	I be an incres in est por then explice will be abole	
b->4841	ριο	duce more Advertising is likely goin to cause demand to	
		o up so it is a demand rechar and does not dis	ct4



Part (a) - 1 mark

Part (b) - 3 marks; 1 mark for definition of supply, 1 mark for indicating the effect of technology on food production, 1 mark for explaining why advertising was not correct.

(a) In November 2009, it was reported by the BBC that the world population of 6.5 billion is expected grow to 9 billion by 2100 and, as a result, a shortage of world food supplies is expected.				
Which of the following is a direct determinant of the supply of food? (1)				
Level of technology				
B Growth in consumer incomes				
Advertising to consumers				
Fashion, tastes and preferences				
Answer				
(b) Explain your answer.				
The level of cechnology dertilines the				
The level of cernology dertahines to				
consumers. It was tachagogy took				
support the technology is good then food				
ca be grown quicker.				
Advertising to consumers is only when				
to alter consumer taste and trends				
and not supply use I.				



Part (a) - 1 mark

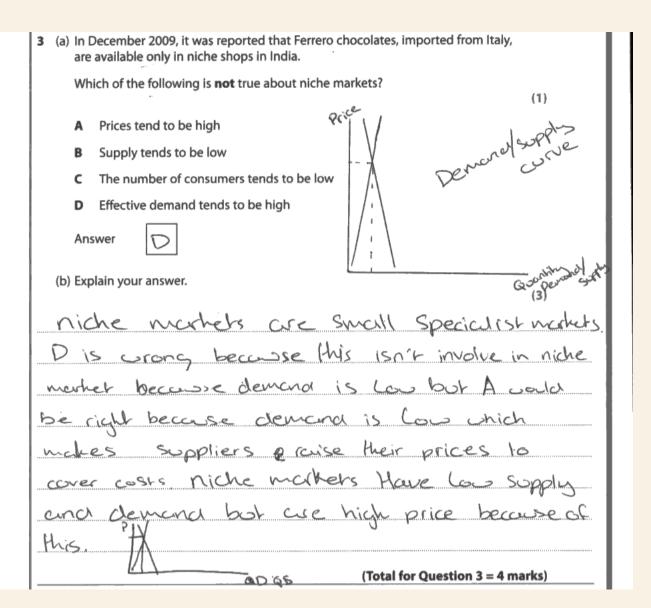
Part (b) 2 marks because the reason why technology is correct is explained to a point 'food can be grown quicker' but the candidate did not explain how; 1 mark for explaining that advertising affects consumer tastes and trends and not supply itself.

The mean on this question was 2.5 suggesting that niche marketing was generally well understood, though it is still the case that many candidates are not reading the questions carefully as a number mistakenly thought that this question was about what a niche market is actually characterised by. Effective demand was not always understood.

3 (a) In December 2009, it was reported that Ferrero choose are available only in niche shops in India.	colates, imported from Italy,
Which of the following is not true about niche mark	ets? (1)
A Prices tend to be high	
B Supply tends to be low o	
C The number of consumers tends to be low 🗸	
D Effective demand tends to be high *	
Answer	
(b) Explain your answer.	(0)
smaller	(3)
a victo water 12 a weeper	-ithis a woon lader
market usselly to meet specific	consumer needs or
chredenistics becase it is a	end noted to not read
of specific people demand text	
does not to be cater the need	of all others
termed low, it is true that price	or high but that's borase
people willing to pay mue to a prod	uct that is designed for
Abena	



Part (b) 3 marks given for definition, development and the explanation of distracter A.





Part (a) - 1 mark

Part (b) - 2 marks for defining niche markets and developing this with reference to demand.

The mean on this question was close to 3. Most candidates gained 3 marks for part (b) by defining unemployment as 'the amount of people willing and able to work in an economy but who are out of work and in receipt of welfare benefits' the explaining that because these benefits are usually lower than income from employment then this will mean that demand for products and services, which are not necessary, will fall as they can no longer be afforded.

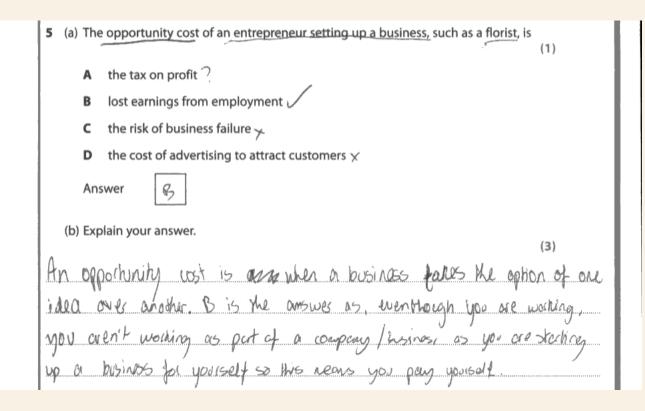
4 (a) In November 2009, the unemployment rate in the district of Handsworth, Birmingham, reached 15% – its highest for over 10 years.
The most likely impact of high local unemployment on a small business would be (1)
A rising variable costs
B problems recruiting staff ✓
C a significant fall in sales of luxury products ←
D an increase in profits if the firm imports products
Answer C
(b) Explain your answer. (3)
unemployment is the areast of people rad in work in
a population. If beople became memployed disposable
income is reduced. if dispost the income is reduced
people only lend to by necisities instead of luxury product
as this pe significantly reduces lipital available to them There
would not be a problem of recruiting staff borause
with so many unemptized people parruitin for the Gost Should
be essiel.



Part (a) - 1 mark

Part (b) - 3 marks given definition of unemployment (benefit of doubt), indicating that this will lead to lower disposable income, explaining effect on sale of luxury items. Although there was an attempt to explain the distracter B, this was incomplete.

Better answered by those entered for GCE Economics and Business, presumably given its pivotal nature to the study of the 'economic problem'. Mean mark of 1.5 overall.





Part (a) - 1 mark

Part (b) - 2 marks; 1 mark for definition of opportunity cost, 1 mark for explaining why the entrepreneur has given up wages (benefit of doubt given).

Most candidates were able to recognise the relationship between the price of petrol and the price of cars given the complementary nature of the products. Mean mark of 2.7.

6 (a) The price of petrol increased on average by 20% in the European Community in 2009.

Which of the following is a demand factor which would most likely lead to an increase in the price of petrol?

(1)

A A decrease in the price of oil

B A decrease in the price of cars

C A decrease in promotional costs of petrol retailers

D A reduction in government tax charged to oil companies

Answer B

(b) Explain your answer.

(3)

If there is a decrease in the price of cars and will mise the will be a to mare on the road and therefore more petron required, this will raws the average price of petron. All others are therefore more of petron. All others are therefore more of petron.



Part (a) - 1 mark

Part (b) - 1 mark for the statement more cars on the road therefore more petrol required no mention of this increasing demand and therefore price of petrol and no explanation as to why A, C & D will reduce the price of petrol.

Whilst a number of candidates were able to provide a definition for competitive advantage in part (b) few were able to explain why the correct answer was actually A in part (a). Better candidates recognised that a national minimum wage would apply to ALL businesses and not just to Wagamama. Where the average stay of customers is relatively short (correct response D) then more customers could be served, which would increase the rate of turnover.

7 (a) It has been reported that 'the growth of the Wagamama chain of noodle restaurants in central London has been phenomenal'. Growth centred around Wagamama's 'competitive advantage'.

Each of the following might provide Wagamama with a competitive advantage, except

- A paying the national minimum wage to employees
- **B** customer orders are taken by waiters using hand-held PDAs (electronically)
- c all food is cooked fresh to order
- D the average stay of customers is relatively short

Answer



(b) Explain your answer.

Paying the imployees minimum mage will not help the Competive edge. It anything it could hinder it. Low payment suggests a bad reformed between worker & employee Which could witimately result in the Lad reformed. If employees start to feel unapreciated.



Part (a) - 1 mark

Part (b) - 2 marks; Competitive edge (1) and explanation as why paying the NMW will hinder it (1).

12

restaurants in central London has been phenomenal.' Growth centred around Wagamama's 'competitive advantage'.	
Each of the following might provide Wagamama with a competitive advantage, except (1)	
A paying the national minimum wage to employees	
customer orders are taken by waiters using hand-held PDAs (electronically)	
✓ all food is cooked fresh to order	
the average stay of customers is relatively short	
Answer	
(b) Explain your answer. (3)	
Type Competitive advantage is	
where one business has a migue	
selling point over another that dr	aus
justomers to them. For Wagamama	
it is speed frest food as cechnolog	14.
All are demanded in the centre of	
Condon. Minimum wage is only	ikely
to heep costs down.	



Part (a) - 1 mark

Part (b) - 2 marks for defining competitive advantage and applying it to Wagamamas (fresh food and technology). Could have gained third mark if the candidate had finished last point about the minimum wage.

Well done by most candidates sitting this paper, expecially those entered for GCE Business Studies where the mean mark was near 3. A was the correct response for part (a) given that although it is often recommended that business plans are prepared in order to obtain start-up capital or provide purpose and direction or a monitoring tool, it is not compulsory.

8 (a) In 1995, Laban Roomes prepared a business plan for his business, Gold Genie.

Each of the following statements about a business plan is true, except

(1)

A it is a legal requirement for a new business

B it helps to predict profits and liquidity

C it can be modified once written

D usually it includes sections on finance, staffing and marketing

Answer

Answer

(b) Explain your answer.

(3)

A business plan is a plan which helps document a business and can be used to get the new future of your business and can be used to guill employees etc, they are not ligally required so A is the correct conswer.

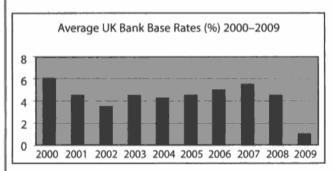


Part (a) - 1 mark

Part (b) - 2 marks; 'Used to get things like bank loans' (1 mark) 'Shows them what their potential is'/ 'help you forsee the near future' (1 mark).

Despite being asked to refer to Evidence A and Evidence B to support their ideas, not all candidates did and simply wrote a textbook answer to how ANY business might be affected by changes in interest rates. The question asked about WAYS; better candidates wrote about how high interest rates would affect the cost of Peter's borrowing as he may need to apply for a bank loan in order to finance expansion as indicated in line 22 of Evidence A; if Peter had retained profits in a bank then the 1% Base Rate of 2009 (Evidence B) would suggest that very little interest might be earned by Peter; the cost of financing an overdraft may change as Peter may need to pay for extra cleaning materials during the summer period when refurbishment may be more popular.





Evidence C: Sales Turnover for Complete Car Cosmetics 2005-2009 (£)

	Year	2005**	2006	2007	2008	2009	
ĺ	Turnover	22 000	48 000	56 400	68 200	78 400	

^{**}for 6 months only

9 Refer to Evidence A and Evidence B.

Explain two ways changes in interest rates might affect Peter's business.

When interest rates are high, it what that it becomes more expensive for people to borrow money from the banks so they incline to sowing their maney. When they are low, people spend more money and borrow from books as it is disapported do so. In 7005, that so books book base rates were at 5% and Peters' turnover was 148,000. Composing this to 2008, Books were around 4.7% and Peters' turnover was too, 200, showing to that, the lower the rate, the more! higher turnover the business made. This is furthe supported by the figures in 2009 of 1% meant that his business had a solar ternover of £78,400. If the interest rates are high in one year than it rould mean that his business will not do as well as it should be as people will leave the small prings like a scratch alone to save money:



3 marks awarded because the candidate only explains ONE way the business might be affected, i.e. that it becomes more expensive for people to borrow so they save...leave small things like scratches alone (Peter will lose custom).

Explain two ways changes in interest rates might affect Peter's business.

interest rates after the payment of borrowing money

off a lender if interest rates were low Peter could ux

the propaga this to by a loan as the lan is now better value

for money with his to by a loan as the lan is now better value

for money with his to be a loan this expansion for 2000, and

this could term him to increase his constance bese and market shore

of the car cosprection market so it would be rain by et a loon which was car expression the borres.

If interest rates were first then potor's clints who we

coedist with the wishess might leav because peters company's a

niche maket and so is a luxury so the clients my chose to seve

there money and not by leading to pote having radiced revenue and

google

a decline in profit and he eventually may have a sold the lesses day, as

because he has chang pixes and brand logally this shouldn't happen.



6 marks (2 X 3) for explaining in context 2 ways that Peter's business could be affected namely the cost of servicing a loan for the planned expansion and the cost to clients of obtaining credit for using Peter's services.

Resilience was generally understood as an entrepreneurial characteristic which means 'not giving up easily' which Peter may have done as demand for his services may have fallen during the 'current recession'. Long term is a period exceeding 12 months which suggests that a business often needs to adapt in order to survive either the competition or changes in consumer behaviour; Peter may have to introduce new ways to maintain his sales or reduce costs.

10 Analyse one reason why Peter's resilience might be important to the long-term success of Complete Car Cosmetics.
Resilience is on essential Characteristic needed
by entrepenurs. Peter possessing knu is important
Since he'll have had to persovere with the. Slow start up, to only business has to face the
Slow start up, to only business has to face the
may encounter Financial problems for
example but being strong & resulient
and Sticking through the problem
equates to success.



2 marks; 1 for identifying resilience as an essential characteristic needed by entrepreneurs, 1 mark for 'persevere'.

10 Analyse one reason why Peter's resilience might be important to the long-term success of Complete Car Cosmetics.

Positione is the ability to get by even when the good of the still enterprimers of Alan Siger. It is a crossion still enterprimers of Alan Siger. It is a crossion still enterprimers of business is a luxury one, and during procession!

These types of 6 siness field it had to general review leading to a number of them shuttings during it good to be resident as may people find it had to append with Main were the next pry slip is coming from by Peter should be able to cope as he should be able to Grin in all light because prices bether than large googles. (Total for Question 10 = 4 marks)



3 marks - 2 for knowledge 'going gets tough and characteristic of many sucessful entrepreneurs' and 1 mark for application 'luxury one/ recession' There is analysis but not related to resilience.

Product trials were generally well undertood by candidates with many able to write about them in the context of Complete Car Cosmetics. However, few candidates were able to evaluate; product trials may not be appropriate given the nature of the business (car refurbishment) or indeed the costs involved, particularly as this business was new and therefore unlikely to have the budget.

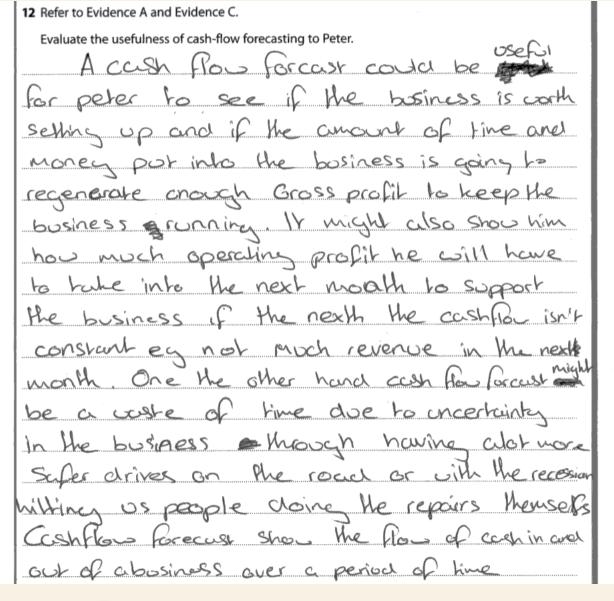
11 Discuss the likely value of Peter conducting product trials when he first set up his business. Conducting product trais would have been a valuable experence. It saves time and money. proved unsuccessful hed have advertising and manufacturing product, which Utimately could'in Under since it was only just boop 6 916 1617 unw 21 reduce the risk of failure manufacturing them could've been different products to test the popularity popular ones would have mor an increase in revenue customers being in



5 marks - argues the benefits of product trials but with no reference to Complete Car Cosmetics.

Cash flow forecasting was generally understood well by most candidates, but very few wrote their answers in context so were unable to say why CFF was either appropriate or of little value to Peter.

Better candidates recognised that although Peter had over 14 years of industry experience, he had little experience of managing a business, in which case CFF would serve as a useful financial monitoring and evaluating tool.





3 marks because although the answer shows some knowledge of CFF which is written in context there really is no analysis - candidates should explain the benefits or limitations of CFF to the business rather than how it might be used.

12 Refer to Evidence A and Evidence C.

Evaluate the usefulness of cash-flow forecasting to Peter.

Shows were you le at.

Cash-flow forecasts help businesses see where their maney is going in and out of the tousiness. In Purdence A " it states that he has a range ef services meaning that he has to buy numerous pieces of equipment to maintain theses services and by having a cash-flow breeast it will show leter the times of the year/month of when he was enough capital to see state stock up on these pieces of equipment Moreoves, by having a cash-flow forecost, it will help leter in getting a hank loan if he needed one it he earld present it to the bank and \$ if it was showing them that he will make his maney back in a short period of fine then my covid give him the the distred amount of money needed Fuithermore, a cost-flow forecost shows leter and his business whose he is/should be financially at different times of the year so, if he was making a honouce of £56,400 in 2007, then he should be aiming for higher and hopefully achieve higher which he does so in 2008 as he makes a kinoue of for ,200.



6 marks - CFF analysed well in context but the answer is one-sided.

The focus for this question was the concept of limited liability. Better candidates were able to argue that by becoming Ltd, Peter's business might find it difficult to obtain commercial finance given that he would no longer be risking his own personal assets. However, the growth in sales turnover indicated in Evidence C might be looked at favourably by potential lenders as indicating that Peter would be in a strong postion to make any capital repayments.

*13 Recommend whether or not it would have been appropriate for Complete Car Cosmetics			
to have become a private limited company in 2010. (12)			
Private Cimited companies have limited			
Clability if the company goes in to			
liogadity bus			
With popular settine up as a			
private limited company means that he			
could be the only shareholder or him and			
family numbers could be shere holders			
This calso mecons that if the company			
goes into debt all peter can loose is			
his business and none of the his personal			
posessions en his house			
On the other hand it's line			
consuming and can take application			
months la fractise legal documents, muybe			
dirroption production			
Overall i # Recommend their			
setting his company up a PLC was			
a good idea and it along has eliminated			
the rish of peter loosing everything aport			
from his bushess would the			



6 marks for analysing why becoming a Ltd company may affect Peter's personal liability. Does not really provide explanation as to why it is time consuming or may disrupt production.

*13 Recommend whether or not it would have been appropriate for Complete Car Cosmetics to have become a private limited company in 2010.

(12)

philate limited company or AKA LID's our company with limited liability that shares out be flooted on the public stack exchange. It could be benificial to Complete car cosmotics because they can get Finance From a ventre copartalist to Enal there expossion by Petr word lose a shore of a borress he has so much pride a so the more made will have be so shred so poeter could technically be walling horder by still so getting the some amont of more There's is enabled because of peters business does got in alot of debt then beter only loses the crisical more invested in the Siness so could be a contiger, plan for the unexpected, but if he needs money of a book it becomes hade becare books econ that by sings that on outteligher how how the licitly, and land to distruct them and with it being a nation backs as extremely castics to lubs they lend to those the a Cosmetics has had increasing levels of reme Since 2006 - 2009 this mens more a book could easily lend to Car Cosnetics when sided with a cost flow forcest it can get francial aid, and with him beig a sole Lader it the his full amorghing his made a succession Sessions in hard times to this entreproveried characteristics, hes Should stry a sole trade and use the help of bank to expend is he needs too, he should weit longer and gain a

Letter bisitess knowledge not bust or knowledge before
the makes this descision. He show sty a sole
trader



Answer shows some balance of argument for and against CCC becoming a Ltd company:

loss of ownership but same responsibility/liability shared; access to further funds from a venture capitalist but possible loss of interest in lending from banks Context could have been stronger, e.g. that Peter has been in the industry for 14 years plus which should help secure extra finance (though reference is made to revenues); no conclusion.

Summary
Comments regarding the general performance of candidates for each individual question are stated above.

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