

Examiners' Report November 2007

IGCSE

IGCSE Commerce (4340)

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4340/1F-2H: Written Paper (Foundation and Higher)

General Comments

This was the second November Series IGCSE Commerce examination. The overall performance of candidates in this examination continues to be encouraging. The overall marks and level of achievement for papers 1F and 2H were commensurate with those achieved last year. Generally, centres appear to be selecting and entering candidates for the appropriate tier.

Candidates coped well with the use of the question paper as answer book. There were not many occasions where candidates used space in addition to the answer lines, in order to complete their answers. Centres are again encouraged to work with their candidates to ensure that (most) answers are limited to these answer lines, the number of lines being a good indicator of the expected length of answer. The standard of written communication was generally good, and sometimes excellent.

The majority of candidates did not always answer at the appropriate level of skill. IGCSE examinations measure a far wider range of skills than recall.

The Mark Scheme contains much information that is relevant to centres, as follows.

- Each question indicates the level(s) at which it is based:
 - A01 Demonstrate - this Assessment Objective tests candidates on their ability to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the commercial term, idea or concept featured in the question. For example, Paper 1F Question 1 (c)(i) asks candidates 'What is meant by barter'. Command words such as 'Define', 'Describe', 'Name', 'List', 'State' and 'What is . . . ?' confirm the question is at this level.
 - A02 Apply - this Assessment Objective tests candidates' ability to relate their answer to the context. In this series, candidates were required to use the information to calculate profit ratios. For example, Paper 1F Question 3 (c)(iii) required candidates to 'calculate the Net Profit Ratio' from given information. Command words such as 'What was', 'Calculate' and 'Give [an example in context]' confirm the question is at this level.
 - A03 Analyse - this Assessment Objective requires candidates to select, interpret or otherwise analyse some issue presented by the question. For example, Paper 2H Question 4 (b)(ii) asked candidates to analyse the advantages to a retailer of trading directly with a manufacturer. Command words such as 'Analyse', 'Compare' and 'Select' confirm the question is at this level.

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