

## **09896, 09897, 09898, 09898** **2011-2012**

### **Preparing for a Business Venture 2011-2012**

The revised qualifications took effect towards the latter part of the previous year with nearly all centres switching to these by August 2011. Centres are to be congratulated in managing the changeover both to the new specifications and to the use of Interchange with minimal difficulties.

This year has seen a nearly 50 per cent increase in registrations with the largest absolute number being at Level 2, 09897, although the largest percentage rise was at Level 3. There was also a small increase in the number of registrations for the full qualification as against individual units: 85 as against 15 per cent.

It was very pleasing to see that the majority of centres realised that the Notes for Tutors stated that 'before starting the set tasks candidates must create written evidence for their new business venture' and that 'a copy of this must be included with all units sent to the OCR-appointed examiner-moderator so that they understand the context of the candidate's answers'. This has proved to be very helpful for the moderator in understanding many of the responses.

In addition, there have been fewer instances of work being received by the moderator without any evidence of it having been internally assessed and candidates given the opportunity to carry out further work where this was felt necessary. This has meant that the moderators have been able to accept a higher proportion of work without having to return it for marking. Many centres have moved towards having the work clearly internally verified prior to it being sent to the moderator. Not only is this good practice, but once more it reduces the chance of the work being deemed unfit to pass.

Centres are reminded, however, of the need to ensure that the work submitted fulfils all the requirements of the task including, where appropriate, the number of responses, the length of the answer, although a tolerance is allowed, and the precision of definitions.

The following tasks have given a number of candidates' particular difficulty:

- 0986/0987: Unit 4 Task 2 where the difference between formal and informal interviews has been seen as referring to the level of formality or informality rather than type of question schedule which is used
- 09898/09899: Unit 3 Task 5 where it is important to ensure that any diagram drawn does actually show the break-even point.

Administratively, centres are reminded of the need to ensure that: the packaging is sufficiently secure; they have included a print out from Interchange of their entry; and that the work of each candidate is accompanied by both sheets of the Submission Cover Sheet.