

Vocational Qualifications (QCF, NVQ, NQF)

Preparing for a Business Venture

Level 2 Award Preparing for a Business Venture – **09896**

Level 2 Certificate Preparing for a Business Venture – **09897**

Level 3 Award Preparing for a Business Venture – **09898**

Level 3 Certificate Preparing for a Business Venture – **09899**

OCR Report to Centres August 2015

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This report on the examination provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding of the specification content, of the operation of the scheme of assessment and of the application of assessment criteria.

Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the examination.

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Overview

This has proved to be a very popular qualification with an increasing number of centres, although the vast majority only do Level 2 09896 and 09897. This appears to be the result of funding issues.

General Comments

Candidates at Level 3 normally present work which has good depth of both understanding and research which should enable them to set up a successful business in the future. Occasionally a centre has not appeared to understand this need for greater depth and has submitted work which is more on a par with Level 2.

At Level 2 the Certificate [09897] has been more popular than the Award [09896]. The overall standard has continued to improve and there is good evidence of careful assessment, and in many cases internal verification, there are still too many centres where this is not the case. This is shown by: using out of date units thus ignoring the date on the task sheets; lack of any obvious assessment having taken place, even though this is a requirement; missing tasks; incorrect number of points where a number is stated; and ignoring the command word. Centres and assessors must realise that 'Explain, Assess and Evaluate' cannot be answered in two or three words and that Describe is not the same as Identify or State.

It is important that all work is internally assessed. It should then be returned to the candidate so that they can make the necessary improvements/changes. There is no point submitting work with identified errors as clearly this will not be passed.

Comments on Individual Units

Level 3 Unit 1 – It has been pleasing to see that candidates who did the Marketing unit in Level 2 have used it as the basis for their work at Level 3 and then extensively built on it. Some of the work seen would not have been out of place on a second or third year university course.

Level 3 Unit 5 – as with Unit 1 the standard of work seen this year has often been very high with some business plans being in a state that would only need updating with the latest information for them to be presented directly to a potential funder. Some centres have used templates produced by potential funders, while others have devised their own. Both are acceptable.

Level 2 Unit 1 – this is compulsory for 09896. This unit has proved somewhat problematical this year due to some centres not obeying the rubric. Task 3 says 'give two reasons' while Task 5 says 'give three reasons'. In some cases only one, Task 3, and two, Task 5, reasons have been offered. In other cases the tasks have been run together making it very difficult for the moderator to decide whether the correct number is present. In addition, the word 'Explain' has sometimes been ignored.

Level 2 Task 2 – this is compulsory for 09896. There have been few problems with this unit. It has been good to see that Tasks 2 and 3 have been better done than in past years.

Level 2 Unit 3 – this is compulsory for 09896. This unit continues to offer few issues, although more attention should be paid to Task 1's command word 'Evaluate'. It is good to see that nearly all centres now realise that for Tasks 4 and 5 specific, and not generic, locations are required.

Level 2 Unit 4 – in the past this has often proved problematical especially Tasks 2.2, formal and informal interviews, and 5.1/2, cost-plus pricing. It is pleasing that the vast majority of centres now understand what is required so their candidates are getting these correct. Care must be taken over ensuring that Tasks 3 and 7 are attached to the work and preferably with the unit. Attaching them after, for example, Unit 8 might mean they are missed.

Level 2 Unit 6 – this unit is always done by some centres and never by others. In general, those who do this unit produced sound work and show good understanding of the key ideas. Task 4, personal expenditure budget, is sometimes too brief. Candidates should be encouraged to think through their expenditure and to come up with a full list. Care must be taken, also, that it is personal and not business expenditure.

Sector Update

There is an opportunity for centres to use these qualifications for less academic candidates or for those looking to go into the world of work post qualifications.

In addition, Government policy on getting people into work is still a positive factor in terms of these qualifications. Especially at Level 3, with its emphasis on individual research based on setting up a specific business and the completion of a business plan capable of being presented to funding organisations, this qualification meets this requirement.

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