

CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS



R064 Summer 2019 series

Version 1

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates. The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report. A full copy of the question paper can be downloaded from OCR.



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Paper R064 series overview

This examination marks the completion of the first two-year cycle of the course. There has been a rapid increase in entries, to nearly 8,000 candidates this session, with a further increase expected next year.

The much larger examining team reported that the paper showed good differentiation (with total marks ranging from 79 to 0) and wide coverage of the specification. Most candidates clearly understood the nature of the scenario, appearing to be more comfortable than when dealing with the wedding photography business in January. There was no evidence of candidates running out of time and, compared to January, there were fewer answers missed out.

Overall, the standard of performance was very slightly down on that seen in January, with fewer very good scripts seen. However, at the other end of the scale, most candidates were able to make an attempt at a majority of the questions and there were fewer very poor scripts seen by the examining team.

The main differentiator between average and good scripts continues to be the ability to keep to the question being asked, considering the impact on the business and using the context in the final question.

More successful topics	Less successful topics
Break-even	Fixed and variable costs
Functional areas	Limited and unlimited liability
Forms of primary market research	Customer service
Benefits of being a sole trader	Business loans
	Impact of a recession

Section A overview

The multiple choice questions proved to be a fair test for the candidates, with a wide range in total mark on the section, including quite a few scoring full marks. Fewer candidates left out one or more questions this session. Questions 1, 8, 12, 15 and 16 were the best answered. On the other hand, only Questions 4 and 9 had more candidates getting the wrong answer than the correct answer.

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Q	ш	C.	t۱	\cap	n	Δ

4	Wh	ich of the following is an example of a variable cost for a gym?			
	(a)	Advertising in the local newspaper			
	(b)	Insurance for the gym premises			
	(c)	Rent for the gym buildings			
	(d)	The fitness instructor's wage			
			[1]		
The specification clearly sets out which costs are classified as fixed or variable for the benefit of this qualification. In this case, wages are the only variable cost. No one distractor was more popular than the other which suggests that many candidates simply do not know what a variable cost is.					
Question 9					
9	Wh	ch of the following business owners benefits from limited liability?			
	(a)	A partner			
	(b)	A shareholder			
	(c)	A sole trader			
	(d)	The Government			
			[1]		

Learning outcome 5.1 of the specification states that candidates must know which type of liability relates to each form of ownership. There is some confusion among candidates between limited and unlimited

liability which may explain the large number who gave A or C as their correct answer.

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17 You decide first to carry out some market research.

[2]

Section B overview

Candidates appeared to cope well with the nature of the business. Candidates scored less well this session on the three questions requiring analysis (Q17c, Q20b & Q24b). This was due to not considering the impact on the business which is needed for top marks. Some candidates continue to under-perform on the final question, as they often write answers which are completely generic, so limiting their mark to 4.

Question 17 (a)

Many of your friends and family have pet dogs and cats. Each summer you enjoy looking after the pets, for example, taking dogs for walks and feeding them. As you care for the animals so well, one of your friends has suggested that you should start a 'pet-care' business for pet owners within a three-mile radius of your home. You plan to look after their pet while they are on holiday.

(a)	Identify two purposes of market research.
	1

Most candidates scored at least one mark. Many did not get a mark for their second purpose as it was too similar to the first. Others did not read ahead and gave two types of market research.

Question 17 (b)

(b)	Identify two primary market research methods which you could use.			
	1			
	2			
		[2		

Most candidates scored two marks.



AfL

Candidates need to be reminded to only provide one answer on each line in questions such as 17(a) & 17(b). Regardless of where the answers are written, examiners are only allowed to reward the first two answers.

Question 17 (c)

secondary market research.	
Benefit 1	
Benefit 2	
	[6]

(c) Analyse two benefits for your business of carrying out primary market research rather than

Some candidates confused primary and secondary research; others only considered the benefits of carrying out market research. Many answers showed good understanding of one or two benefits but did not then consider the benefit of these for the business.

Better answers made good comparisons between using primary and secondary market research, often in a succinct manner.



Misconception

Answers stating that primary market research is cheaper were often seen. It is not correct to say that primary methods are cheaper. The amount of time and effort spent on designing, collecting and interpreting primary data will be significant, especially for a start-up business. It would, however, be accurate to say that primary research is more cost efficient (as you are getting more accurate, reliable and up-to-date data.)

Question 18

18	After carrying out the market research, you start to think about what price to charge for the services offered by your pet-care business.
	Explain why you need to consider the income levels of target customers when setting your prices.
	101

Many candidates did not get both marks for this question as they tended to repeat the question in most of their answer, usually with a passing reference to customers being able to 'afford' the service without saying why. Too many answers just focused on price setting without relating income to price.

Better answers referred to high or low earners and how this may affect the price which they would be willing or able to pay.

Question 19

customers.
State and explain two ways customer service could be used to attract and retain customers for your business.
Way 1
Explanation
Way 2
Explanation
[4]
his question was not answered well by many candidates. Some students wrote about customer edback rather than customer service. Others wrote about how evidence of good customer serviculd be used to promote the business (e.g. posts on social media and 'if customer service is goo

19 In addition to price, you understand that good customer service is important to attract and retain

could be used to promote the business (e.g. posts on social media and 'if customer service is good then people will tell their friends').

Around 20% of candidates had clearly remembered the difference between customer service and support and produced some excellent answers from the three entergrise in the angeligation.

Around 20% of candidates had clearly remembered the difference between customer service and customer feedback and produced some excellent answers from the three categories in the specification; product knowledge, customer engagement and after sales service. However, there was some further confusion here with extension strategies.

Question 20 (a)

20	You nlan	to run vour	business as a	sole trader
20	Tou biaii	to ruii voui	publicos as a	Sole lladel.

which you
[21
• • •

Only half of the candidates scored full marks on this question. 'shareholders' and 'limited liability' were common wrong answers.

Question 20 (b)

	6
Benefit 2	
Benefit 1	
Analyse two benefits to you of running your business as a sole trader.	

This was the better answered of the two 6-mark questions, with most candidates scoring at least 4 marks. There were some good comparisons with other types of business ownership, usually partnership. As with Question 17c, many answers did not try to show the impact on the business. Compare exemplar 1 below, which although correct does not show any impact on the business (e.g. the money could be reinvested to help your business grow and you might be able to react more quickly to changing demand) and Exemplar 2 which does. Being able to keep all the profit/money and having full decision-making power were the most common answers.

Some candidates wasted time by also providing disadvantages in their answers and there was a common misconception among many that a sole trader did not need to pay wages or employ anyone and would be able to make more profit.

·
Benefit 1 By running a business as a sole trader
you get all the profit you make from
selling the goods that you made This
Means that you don't have to share
the finance with any one elso in your
business y you were in a partnership
<u></u>
Benefit 2 IF you worked as fartnership, you get
lots of ideas however the people you
Work with Wight not eigher with your
However bei working as a sole trader, if
Upul Malce any decisions then you get
to run the business now depending on how
you want without disagneement with
Other partner (s).

Benefit 1 The sole trader gets to keep all the profet. This allow for the business to have increased profets as it is not being share	۵,
for the business to many profits as it is not being share	9
and allows for more available capital to invest into	
product development for the caring of the pets.	
Benefit 2. The sole trader makes all the decisions. This allows for them to avoid conflict over decision making. Therefore allows the business to carry out activities faster which	Æ
means the austomers will be satisfied as there is no delay in	
Moeting the customers demandin the pet cause service.	
Question 21 (a)	
You see a post on social media which promotes a business loan available for people aged 16 to 30 years, who want to set up a small business. You decide to apply for these funds to help set up your business.	
(a) Name two organisations which typically offer loans to small businesses.	
1	
2	
[2]	

Most candidates scored at least 1 mark. Some candidates thought that crowdfunding offered loans or that 'family and friends' was an organisation! Answers such as 'other businesses' or 'entrepreneurs' were also considered to be too vague. The examining team did allow a response of 'Business angel' even though these often want an equity stake.

Question 21 (b)

(b)	State and explain two benefits of obtaining capital via a business loan.	
	Benefit 1	
	Explanation	
	Benefit 2	
	Explanation	
		[4]

Even though this is only the third examination for this specification, it is clear that questions about finance and the economy are not well attempted by candidates.

More than half of all candidates did not score a mark on this question. Many were confused between a loan and a grant, often stating that a loan does not have to be paid back and no interest is charged. Other common responses wrote about the general benefits of raising capital without linking them to a loan. Some felt that loans were a bottomless money pit which any sole trader could gain easy access to and so were 'quick and easy'.

Question 22

22 The economy is predicted to enter a 'recession' in the next six months.

[4]
explanation
mpact 2
xplanation
mpact 1
State and explain two impacts of a recession in the economy on demand for your new pet-care ervices.

A previous examination had a question about 'boom' which was often wrongly associated with a declining economy. Here, the reverse was the case. Many candidates produced sensible sounding answers which were completely the wrong way around, such as customers having more money, prices rising and less unemployment.

A lot of candidates also wrote about the impact on the business (e.g. you would go out of business) when the question (and the specification) only refers to the impact on product development.

There were a small number of very good answers which wrote about the impact on demand (due to customers having less money to spend or going on holiday less often).



AfL

As with the other 'state and explain' questions, Centres are reminded to make sure that candidates are taught to give a clear advantage/impact/benefit and then give further exemplification of it. Too often, a candidate only scores half of the marks as they repeat themselves in their explanation. For example:

Impact – demand will fall

Explanation – because of the recession consumers will demand less pet care services

This explanation provides no further information that is not already in the impact. If the explanation was slightly reworded as "because of the recession consumers will have less money to spend" there is now a reason for the fall in demand, so a second mark can be given.

Question 23 (a)

Show your workings.

23 You plan to offer two different levels of service. Customers can choose from the 'standard' service which involves you visiting their pet two times per day to feed it, or the 'luxury' service which involves you visiting their pet three times per day to feed and exercise it, as required. The price and costs of each service are shown in the table below.

	Standard	Luxury
Fixed costs (for 1 week)	£2000	£2600
Variable cost per customer	£25	£35
Price per customer	£50	£75

You need to produce a business plan as part of the application process for the business loan. The business plan must include break-even calculations, using the formula below.

Fixed Costs
Selling price per unit – Variable cost per unit

(a)	Using the formula, calculate the difference in the break-even point for the 'standard' pet-care
	service compared with the 'luxury' service.

Answer	
Answer	
	Answer

This calculation was very well answered with the vast majority of candidates scoring at least 4 out of 5 marks. The main reason for scoring 4 marks was giving the answer as £15 instead of 15 customers.

[5]

Question 23 (b)

(b)	State one way that you may use this break-even information.
	[1

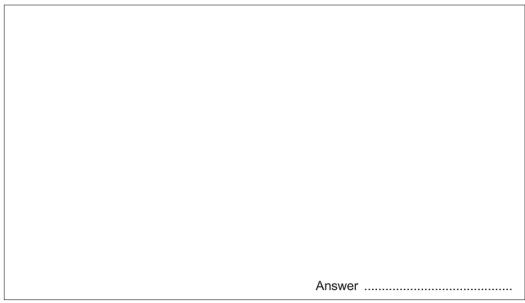
Only a quarter of candidates answered this question correctly. Most described the break-even point rather than how it might be used. A common wrong answer was to say that it shows how much profit will be made.

Question 23 (c)

(c)	You	forecast	that	200	customers	will	purchase	the	'standard'	pet-care	service	during	an
	avera	age weel	۲.										

Calculate the forecast profit or loss for the 'standard' pet-care service during an average week.

Show your workings and state whether you will make a profit or loss.



[4]

This question was not as well answered as the break-even question with the variable costs calculation causing particular challenge. Some candidates 'missed out' on the final mark by not reading the question carefully enough and so not stating the £3000 was a profit.

Question 24 (b)

(b)	Analyse one limitation for your business of carrying out all of the functional activities yourself.						
	[3]						

Zero was the most common mark for this question. Correct answers tended to focus on how time consuming this would be or that you would not have the necessary range of skills, but without considering the impact on the business. Too often, any impact was on the individual (e.g. 'too stressed') which did not then go on to say how the success, or otherwise, of the business may be affected.

Question 25

25	The organisation offering the business loan asks you a question about how you plan to keep your
	business successful in the future.

State and explain three extension strategies which you could use for your pet-care business in the future.
Strategy 1
Explanation
Strategy 2
Explanation
Strategy 3
Explanation
[6]

There were some excellent answers to this question, gaining full marks, and many more which scored 4 marks for two correct strategies. Often, marks were not gained as answers were repetitive. For example, giving two strategies which were both advertising or adding value. The first response in exemplar 3 below is advertising/promotion and the third response is a form of adding value. However, the second response is another example of promotion and too similar to the first response (as opposed to a response which wrote about a permanent price reduction).

Some candidates did not fully appreciate the nature of an extension strategy and so suggested the introduction of a new product or new buildings. Others wrote about new packaging which was not appropriate for a pet care business. There was also some confusion with pricing strategies.

Strategy 1 Deals (Bogal)
Explanation keep the Customers interested and Layar Nake them interested in more deal strategy? Extended Sales
Explanation (Sale ends sunday) Nolke Your buisiness be a priority for something consumes man to alo: Strategy 3 Loyalty scheme
Explanation The loyal customers will
Get the clears, so they will stay-161

Question 26

26 To support the launch of your pet-care service, you are considering either advertising via leaflets through the doors of local homes or setting up a website.

Recommend which of these two advertising methods you think should be used. Justify your answer. [8]

Following on from comments made in the examiners' report for both previous sessions of this examination, there are still a majority of candidates who do not try to answer this final question in context. This is shown by the fact that 4 marks is the most popular mark for this question by a very considerable margin. There were some excellent examples of detailed explanations of the two different methods which did not consider the context of the business. See exemplar 4 below which concludes with a very well written justification but refers to 'a shop' and contains no context at all.

There was plenty of opportunity to gain Level 3 or Level 4 marks through mentioning that the business has a target audience of a 3-mile area or that it is a start-up business. Exemplar 5 shows this can be done by fully integrating the context about the target market. A clear decision is made at the start of the response which then goes on to justify that choice by stating that leaflets can be focused in the 3-mile radius of the target market and how using a website could lead to huge inconvenience for your business when trying to visit a pet two or three times a day. Although this response is shorter than the previous exemplar it contains the higher order skills necessary to achieve full marks.

An advantage of a leaflet would be that you can offer or on can't (20%) and books are work likely to be attracted and usit your pet care Sexuica however priting for colour can be expensive. Selting up a water website is also good option pecause now more members of the briggie do on their electionics and one likely to the on # your site so that a physh disadvantage its also cheap and free. On the other hand, Using the method (throughth cloors) is not ideal because Not many people might pay attention to it and they might end up throwing them because Holy don't We it or Kinte 1't's Useloss. So I recommend 'leaflets' and 'setting up a website' because leaflets even it you will charge a little More price on colour, you are likely to get Whome yet were test views to lenous about your Shop because then you can offer doors on the leaflets. I also reconnect setting up a mepzife, pocamos sous boo most boobs do on Social media like young & people and Softeen eve likely to elick on it and see it as a pop up advert hert to their account so they might like it and Contact the bisiness and maybe find out I formation and will vist your shop. Although on You can also eight specked offers and cleals to make people more persuaded. Although through doors' migh be good, some people May not want mail defluered through like these lived of actuerts. That's why I personally think (leaflets) & setting up a site is better.

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