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Business management

Higher level

Paper 2

1 May 2023

Zone A afternoon | **Zone B** morning | **Zone C** morning

2 hours 15 minutes

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- A clean copy of the **business management formulae sheet** is required for this examination paper.
- Section A: answer one question.
- Section B: answer two questions.
- Section C: answer one question.
- A calculator is required for this examination paper.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[70 marks]**.

Section A

Answer **one** question from this section.

1. Joyce Trucking (JT)

Joyce Trucking (JT) is a small transport company that operates in Kent, United Kingdom (UK). *JT* currently has ten trucks and operates at high-capacity utilization. The company plans to buy one more truck, at a cost of £120 000, on 1 January 2024.

JT must decide on which depreciation method to use for the new truck: the straight-line method or the reducing/declining balance method. The new truck has an expected life of four years, and its residual value is expected to be £20 000.

JT anticipates very high revenue and profitability in 2024 and 2025, because of several major construction projects that are due to take place in Kent. When those projects are completed, *JT* anticipates a fall in sales revenue and profits.

- (a) State **two** disadvantages of operating at high-capacity utilization. [2]
- (b) Calculate:
 - (i) *JT*'s annual depreciation expense if it uses the straight-line method (*show all your working*); [2]
 - (ii) the residual value of the new truck if *JT* uses the reducing/declining balance method and chooses a depreciation rate of 35 % (*show all your working*). [4]
- (c) Explain **one** reason why *JT* should use the reducing/reclining balance method. [2]

2. Menlo Seat Covers (MSC)

Menlo Seat Covers (MSC) manufactures car seat covers. The business operates as a private limited company owned 100 % by Tony Mehta, who is also the only employee. *MSC* sells its products only online. The market is increasingly competitive. Tony will give himself a 16.66 % pay increase starting 1 April 2024.

Tony forecasts the following monthly cash outflows for the first four months of 2024:

- Heating and lighting: \$3000.
- Salary: \$6000.
- Packaging: \$2000.
- Delivery charges: 5 % of sales revenue.
- Purchases: \$20 000.

Additional information:

- Opening balance on 1 January 2024: \$14 000.
- Sales revenue: \$35 000 each month.
- Rent of \$4500 paid quarterly: first payment in January 2024.
- *MSC* will receive \$8000 from the sale of used equipment in March 2024.

Tony would like to expand the business but, lacking sufficient internal sources of finance, must seek external sources.

- (a) State **two** features of a private limited company. [2]
- (b) Using the information above, prepare a fully labelled cash-flow forecast for *MSC* for the first four months of 2024. [6]
- (c) Comment on the predicted cash flow for *MSC* for the first four months of 2024. [2]

Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section.

3. Dean West Tutoring (DWT)

Dean West was an International Baccalaureate (IB) business management teacher in a developing country (country X). He also offered private tuition to students in need of additional support. Five years ago, he decided to leave teaching and set up *Dean West Tutoring (DWT)*.

DWT has grown in the last five years and now employs ten tutors offering face-to-face tuition in a range of IB subjects. The tutors work part-time. *DWT* takes a percentage of the fees that students pay for the tutoring. To establish positive branding for *DWT*, Dean expects all tutors to follow a strict code of conduct. He also reviews each tutor's performance and student feedback every week. Some tutors are feeling demotivated.

With the worldwide growth of online learning in the last few years, Dean saw an opportunity to expand *DWT*. He discovered a large market in Asia, particularly in China. Online one-to-one tuition in Asia is charged at an hourly rate that is three times higher than that usually charged in country X. *DWT* would need to hire agents in Asia to find potential students who want to learn online.

As the new school year is starting soon in China, Dean will need to act quickly. He is considering drawing up a Gantt chart to assist his planning.

However, *DWT*'s existing tutors are concerned about the expansion due to their lack of experience and equipment for online tutoring.

Dean is now considering two options to ensure that *DWT* has enough suitable tutors for expansion to online tuition:

- **Option 1:** Offer training and support to the existing tutors.
- **Option 2:** Recruit new tutors from anywhere in the world with online teaching experience.

- (a) Define the term *branding*. [2]
- (b) Explain **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage for *DWT* of expanding into online tuition in Asia. [4]
- (c) Explain **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage for Dean of drawing a Gantt chart to assist his planning for the expansion to online tuition. [4]
- (d) Recommend whether Dean should choose **Option 1** or **Option 2** to ensure that he has enough tutors for the expansion to online tuition. [10]

4. Les Amis PLC (LA)

Les Amis PLC (LA) is a public limited company that sells casual clothes for men. Its target market is high-income professionals who value a personalized sales service. *LA* has developed brand awareness and operates 42 shops around the country. It owns 10 of these shops and leases the remaining 32. *LA* employs 950 people, who receive a higher wage than the industry average. *LA* also pays commission to sales staff working in the shops. *LA*'s organizational culture values the wellbeing and needs of its employees. Labour turnover is very low.

Recently, *LA* launched an online shop. Since then, online sales have increased considerably, while sales in *LA*'s physical shops have fallen. Shareholders want *LA* to close all its physical shops and sell online only. However, many of the employees will be made redundant if the physical shops are closed.

LA's current chief executive officer (CEO), Marie Brossard, has a democratic leadership style, and she regularly meets with employees and encourages feedback. *LA*'s managers and employee representatives have never had a conflict. Marie plans to discuss the shareholders' desire to close *LA*'s physical shops with all the shop managers.

Customer returns of clothing orders at *LA* have increased substantially. Most returns are from online customers unfamiliar with *LA*'s clothing sizes. Marie has consulted the e-commerce department on how to reduce the increasing cost of returns, and they have suggested investing in expensive software that will enable online customers to find their correct clothing size.

- (a) Define the term *target market*. [2]
- (b) Explain **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage for *LA* of paying commission to sales staff working in its shops. [4]
- (c) Explain **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage for *LA* of Marie's democratic leadership style. [4]
- (d) Discuss whether *LA* should close all its physical shops and sell only online. [10]

5. RUZMA Coffee Ltd. (RC)

RUZMA Coffee Ltd. (RC), a private limited company, owns a national chain of coffee booths¹. It is known for its process innovation and its excellent and consistent quality of coffee. As part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) objectives, *RC* buys large quantities of fair trade² organic coffee from producers.

Two years ago, *RC* began to replace employees with robots. *RC*'s long-term objective is to have booths served entirely by robots. Until this objective is met, *RC* has cut dividend payments to shareholders. *RC* uses a price-skimming strategy whenever it replaces an employee with a robot.

Many consumers are excited about the novelty of *RC*'s robots. However, a recent economic downturn and increasing protests against businesses that replace employees with robots have affected *RC*'s reputation and sales. *RC* is thinking of boosting its ethical objectives. For every employee replaced by a robot, *RC* plans to offer enhanced redundancy (unemployment) payments and a \$2000 grant towards future training.

Other national coffee chains have started to use the same process innovation as *RC*. Although *RC* has a high gross profit margin and the market is expected to grow, some directors remain worried about future dividends.

Recently, a worldwide coffee chain, *Coffee Extra (CE)*, unexpectedly offered to buy *RC* and is willing to pay twice its value. *CE* is known for delivering coffee via drones. *CE* attracts bad publicity because of the low salaries paid to its employees and their poor working conditions.

RC's board of directors is not sure whether they should accept *CE*'s offer.

¹ booths: stands/kiosks

² fair trade: trade between companies in developed countries and producers in developing countries in which fair prices are paid to the producers

- (a) Define the term *process innovation*. [2]
- (b) Explain **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage for *RC* of using a price-skimming strategy for the coffee sold in booths served by robots. [4]
- (c) Explain **one** advantage **and one** disadvantage for *RC* of setting ethical objectives. [4]
- (d) Recommend whether *RC* should accept *CE*'s offer. [10]

Section C

Answer **one** question from this section. The organizations featured in sections A and B and in the paper 1 case study may not be used as a basis to your answer.

6. With reference to an organization of your choice, discuss the ways in which **change** can influence marketing **strategy**. [20]
7. With reference to an organization of your choice, examine the impact of **innovation** on business **ethics**. [20]
8. With reference to an organization of your choice, examine the impact of **globalization** and **culture** on human resource management. [20]

Companies, products, or individuals named in the stimuli are fictitious and any similarities with actual entities are purely coincidental.
