

Example Candidate Responses – Paper 4 Cambridge International AS & A Level Accounting 9706

For examination from 2023





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Introduction

The main aim of this booklet is to exemplify standards for those teaching Cambridge International AS & A Level Accounting, and to show how different levels of candidates' performance (high, middle or low) relate to the syllabus requirements. This document helps teachers to assess the standards required to achieve marks beyond the guidance of the mark scheme.

In this booklet candidate responses have been chosen from the June 2023 exam series to exemplify a range of answers.

For each question, the response is annotated with examiner comments about where and why marks were awarded or omitted. This is followed by comments on how the answer could be improved. There is also a list of common mistakes and guidance for candidates for each question.

Please refer to the June 2023 Examiner Report for further details and guidance.

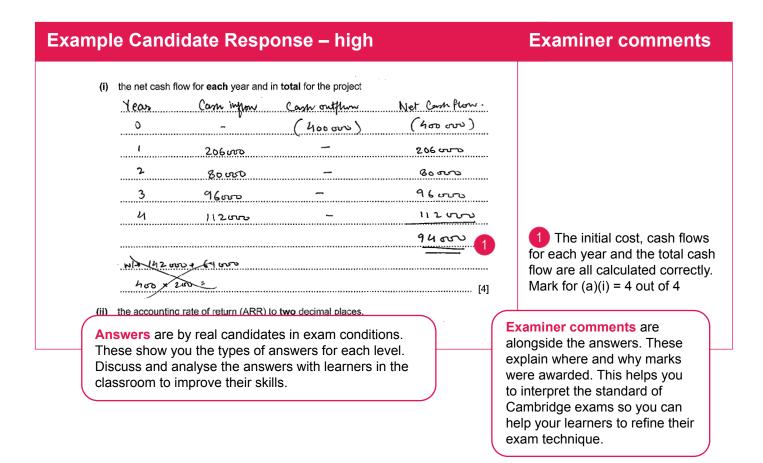
The mark scheme is available on the School Support Hub

9706 June 2023 Question Paper 42 9706 June 2023 Mark Scheme 42 9706 June 2023 Insert 42

Past exam resources and other teaching and learning resources are available on the School Support Hub

How to use this booklet

This booklet goes through the paper one question at a time, showing you the high-, middle- and low level response for each question. In the left-hand column are the candidate responses, and in the right-hand column are the examiner comments.



How the candidate could improve their answer

(e) Two extra marks could have been gained by considering the change in the accounting rate of return when the extension is built along with one other appropriate point (for example risk/estimates or specific non-financial factors).

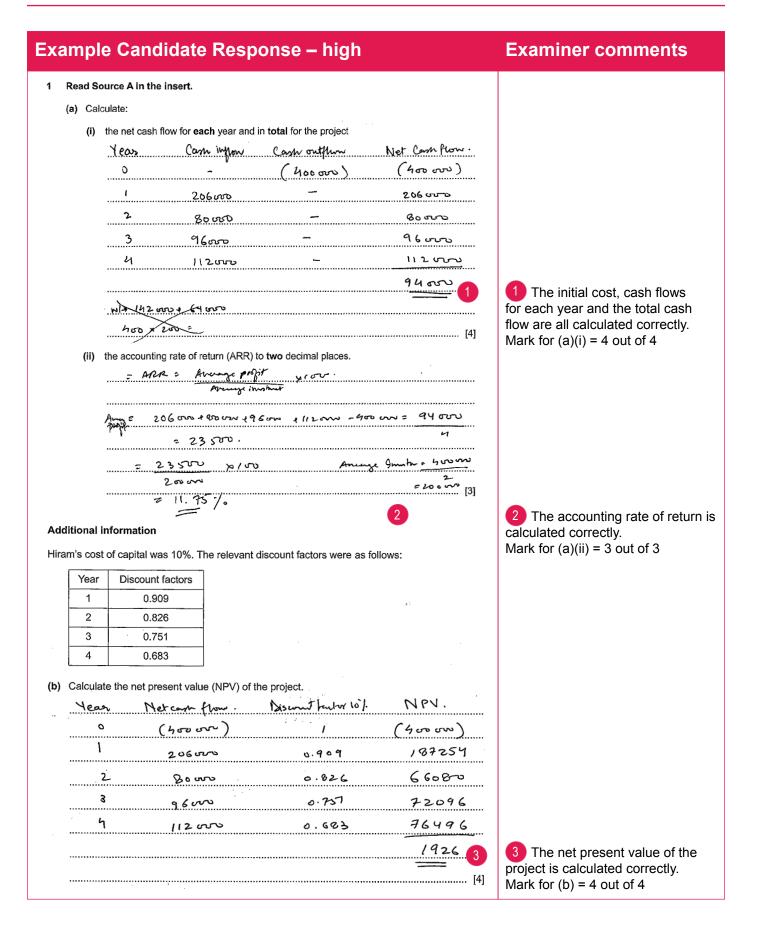
This section explains how the candidate could have improved each answer. This helps you to interpret the standards of Cambridge exams and helps your learners to refine their exam technique.

Common mistakes and guidance

- (a)(i) The candidate should have taken careful note of the question wording and identified that a total figure is also required in addition to the net cash flow for each year.
- (a)(ii) The correct calculation of the average profit would have resulted in the award of full marks.
- (c) The candidate should have ensured that the change in NPV was calculated correctly by identifying the change from a positive to a negative value of NPV.
- (d) The remaining marks could be gained by discussing relevant points.

This section lists common mistakes as well as helpful guidance from the examiner. This will help your learners to avoid these mistakes. You can use this alongside the relevant Examiner Report to guide your learners.

Question 1



Example Candidate Response – high, continued Examiner comments

Additional information

As Hiram remained undecided as to whether he should proceed, the residents made a further suggestion.

In addition to the sea wall, Hiram could build an extension to enable local fishermen to land their catches more easily. This would add \$20000 to the building cost.

The residents believed that if the extension was built, it would result in a **further** increase of another 20 new houses being built in **each** of the years 2, 3 and 4.

(c) Calculate the **change** in NPV which would arise if the extension was also built. Your answer should indicate whether the change is an increase or a decrease.

Year	Cash gion	discont facture 10%.	NPV
0	(2000)	1	(20 m)
	~	0.959	
2	4 000	0.826	3304
3	Baro	0.757	6008
И	12000	0-683	8196
			(2492)
The NP	V will decrease to	4 \$ 2492. 4	

(d) Advise Hiram whether or not he should agree to build the sea wall and the extension. Justify your answer.

The APR from building the sea is 11.75% which is higher them the cost of the capital. Moreon, the NPV from trilding the sea wall is positive of 1926 and So it seems desirance to go ahead with building The sea wall. Howeny the extension leads to a decrease in the NPV of \$2492 which would cause the whole NPV of sen wall and extension to be hegatine by (2492-1926)\$566 and hence the project would no longer be desirable. Moreon, the payback period of building the sea wall is 3 years and days which is quite high coundering the project is of 4 years. Overall, building the extention is not desirable and shouldn't go for it and building me Sea wall is also risky and Hiram would ash for higher fee per household to so that extention can be [7] desirable. Overall, in my opinion as NPV is the most important method so the sea wall and extention shouldn't [Total: 25] be built as NPV becomes negative.

4 The change in the net present value is calculated correctly and there is a statement indicating that the change is a decrease. Mark for (c) = 7 out of 7

5 There is a decision and four valid points resulting in the award of 5 marks. Mark for (d) = 5 out of 7

Total mark awarded = 23 out of 25

How the candidate could improve their answer

(d) Two extra marks could have been gained by considering the change in the accounting rate of return when the extension is built along with one other appropriate point (for example risk/estimates or specific non-financial factors).

Exampl	e Candidate	Response ·	– middle		Examiner comments
1 Read So	ource A in the insert.				
(a) Calc	culate:				
.,	the net cash flow for each 40 100002122434	st inflow -	project auffare 2	NCF (400800) 208000 208000 98000 108000 108000	The net cash flows for all years are calculated but the total is not shown. Mark for (a)(i) = 3 out of 4
(II) Additional ir	200,000 ABR ~ 4 7-25% Beg ~ 100000	[x /00 t x /00	ong fro 3000 44	[4] H 12000 378000 Y 178000 Y 1500 H 1500 t. <u>400000+0</u> +0 2 200000 _[3]	2 The average investment has been determined and the correct formula is applied so 2 marks are
Hiram's cost	of capital was 10%. The	relevant discount facto	ors were as follow	S:	awarded. Mark for (a)(ii) = 2 out of 3
Year	Discount factors				
1	0.909		,		
2	0.826				
3	0.751				
4	0.683				
(b) Calculat	te the net present value nNLF (Y00000)	× D.F(10%) 0-1	P.Y		
	20\$000	0,909	+83618	187254	
2	80000	0.826	3-62776	- 66080	
3	98000	0.751	6-90-92	- 72096	
í y	112 108 000	0.683	72764	- 76496	
	112100000		13/01	NIDY 1414	
			t 10_00	NPY 3	3 The net present value of the project is calculated correctly.
					Mark for (b) = 4 out of 4

Example Candidate Response – middle, continued Examiner comments

Additional information

As Hiram remained undecided as to whether he should proceed, the residents made a further suggestion.

In addition to the sea wall, <u>Hiram could build an extension to enable local fishermen to land their</u>, catches more easily. This would add \$20000 to the building cost. 920000

The residents believed that if the extension was built, it would result in a **further** increase of another 20 new houses being built in **each** of the years 2, 3 and 4.

(c) Calculate the change in NPV which would arise if the extension was also built. Your answer should indicate whether the change is an increase or a decrease.

year ini-1	nrest Bylow	NIF * D.F(10%), P.V
0 Cy20	0000)	(420000) ×) (420000)
1	208000	206000 × 0.909, 187254
2	80000+4000	1 84000 x 0.826 2 69384
3	92000+8000	104000×0.751 1 78104
.4	112000 102000-1 12000	124000 × 0.683 84692
an a	plA.	(566)
	, 1926-566	NPV
·····	2 1360 berease	4

- (d) Advise Hiram whether or not he should agree to build the sea wall and the extension. Justify your answer.
- extension since the sea wall NPY is 1926, while the NPV of extension since the sea wall NPY is 1926, while the NPV of extension is (566). Thus, NPY is significantly low in one and impletely regative in the other. Also, the VARR is 1.5% of the graftert, given the fact that it requires Auge initial investment. Also, the fisjet may require constant mointainence after completion, which would be an autiflow for Hiram. However, upon the completion, Hirom would Keep getting inflows from them and can veste more houses for more profits. 5

4 All revised cash flows including the total are calculated correctly. The only error is arithmetical. Mark for (c) = 6 out of 7

5 One mark has been awarded for the decision and a further 2 marks for the comments about net present value. Mark for (d) = 3 out of 7

Total mark awarded = 18 out of 25

How the candidate could improve their answer

- (a)(i) The candidate should have taken careful note of the question wording and identified that a total figure is also required in addition to the net cash flow for each year.
- (a)(ii) The correct calculation of the average profit would have resulted in the award of full marks.
- (c) The candidate should have ensured that the change in NPV was calculated correctly by identifying the change from a positive to a negative value of NPV.
- (d) The remaining marks could be gained by discussing the accounting rate of return and providing two further relevant points.

Exa	mple	Candidate R	esponse – Io	w	Examiner comments
1 Re	ad Sourc	ce A in the insert.			
· (a)) Calcula				
	(i) the	e net cash flow for each ye Cath <i>How</i> Fee Liteopoo	ar and in total för the pro Net ca 語 (4.ca 語	jèct	
2				······	
	7e=3	100000 16000	116000		
· ,	Yes 4	100000 16000	116000		
	••••	net cast flat	<u># 112720</u>		1 The initial cost and the total cash flows are treated correctly but
	••••	ater Mill to be	····		the flows for years one to four are incorrect. Mark for (a)(i) = 2 out of 4
		e accounting rate of return	(ARR) to two decimal pla	ices.	
				·····	
·.	·,	<u>UZIZOJaj)</u> Y		?2.6	
•	•••	ü			
-		100000-2		- 35.91	
		20000	·	<u>- 35.9/</u> 3]	2 The average investment
Additi	ional inf	formation	is calculated correctly with the		
Hiram	ı's cost o	of capital was 10%. The	erelevant discount fac	tors were as follows:	consequent award of 1 mark. Mark for (a)(ii) = 1 out of 3
Γ	Year	Discount factors			
	1	0.909			
	2	0.826			
	3	0.751			
	4	0.683			
(b) C	alculate	the net present value	(NPV) of the project.	pr	
	<u>Yed o</u>	400000		(900000)	
	Year 1	##2	<u>0.909</u>	149730	
	<u>1en 2</u>	116000	o · 826	95816	
•	Уен З	116000	e.75!	87116	
	Year 4	116000	0.683	79228	3 The net present value of the
			NPV	11890	project is calculated correctly based on the candidate's own figures. Mark for (b) = 4 out of 4

Examiner comments

Additional information	
As Hiram remained undecided as to whether he should proceed, the residents made a further suggestion.	
In addition to the sea wall, Hiram could build an extension to enable local fishermen to land their catches more easily. This would add \$20000 to the building cost.	
The residents believed that if the extension was built, it would result in a further increase of another 20 new houses being built in each of the years 2, 3 and 4.	
(c) Calculate the change in NPV which would arise if the extension was also built. Your answer should indicate whether the change is an increase or a decrease.	
your coshillow Add blouse Cost Net Cash Preventient PV	
Q 400000 (400000) (Gooor)	
2 (64720 2000) 144720 0.909 131550	
2 116000 25000 (2000) 121000 a 826 99946	
3.116000 25000 (2000) 12/000 0.751 90871	
4 116000 25000 2000) 121000 c. 683 82643	
NPV 5010	
The NPV decreased by 6880(11990-6da) but still is positive.	4 The discounting is carried out
(d) Advise Hiram whether or not he should agree to build the sea wall and the extension. Justify	correctly and the change in the net present value is determined,
your answer.	although the initial cost and flows
Hirom should agree to build the sea well and extension as	for years one to four are not correct,
they have positive NPV which means she have enough cash	so 3 marks are awarded. Mark for (c) = 3 out of 7
to build it.	
However ARR is negative which could lead to reduction in Protit	
of Hirom.	
This wattersion and wall will benifit Hirom as she will get	
\$200 for each home she made each year and the extension would	
get alber income from fishermen come to catch fish an	
her extension.	
3	5 One mark has been awarded for the decision and a further 2
	marks for the comments about net
	present value.
	Mark for (d) = 3 out of 7
	Total mark awarded = 13 out of 25
	·

Example Candidate Response – low, continued

How the candidate could improve their answer

- (a)(i) The candidate should have read the question data carefully to be clear on how to calculate the annual cash flows.
- (a)(ii) The average profit should have been calculated and then divided by the average investment with the result being expressed as a percentage to two decimal places.
- (b) Own figures from (a) were discounted correctly and full marks were awarded.
- (c) The revised cost should have been used and the revised cash flows for years two to four should have been calculated and discounted.
- (d) Four extra marks could be gained by addressing the accounting rate of return and providing other valid points relevant to the scenario.

Common mistakes and guidance

- (a)(i) Many candidates ignored the highlighted fact that 80 houses were built **each** year. Candidates are advised to read the question thoroughly.
- (a)(ii) There were no common errors, although candidates should ensure that the answer is stated to the required two decimal places with a % sign.
- (b) This was very well answered with few errors.
- (c) Some candidates omitted the requirement to indicate whether the change was an increase or a decrease, and the change from a positive to a negative net present value caused some arithmetical errors.
- (d) There were 7 marks available so the candidate should have given a decision along with six valid justification points, covering NPV and ARR.

Question 2

cample	Candidate R	Examiner comments				
(a) Compl	ce B in the insert. lete the following statement il 2023.	to reconcile th	e flexible budo	geted profit wit	h the actual profit	
Sta	atement to reconcile flexible	budgeted prof	fit and actual p	profit for April 2	2023	
		\$	\$	\$	7	
• •	Flexible budgeted profit			25 500		
	Variance	Favourable	Adverse	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
• ,	Sales price		18750		-	
. *	Material price	9450		,	-	
	Material usage		2700			
N	Labour rate	3825				
	Labour efficiency		3600		- -	
	Fixed overhead expenditure	1800				
	Fixed overhead volume		12000	······································		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	15075	(37050)	(<u>21975</u>)		
	Actual profit			3525	1	All variances are calculated ar entered correctly and the statemer
	$\begin{array}{rcl} & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ -A \cdot P) \times A \cdot P & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ -165) \times 750 & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & &$	1	(18-15) x31 = 9 450 (3000-3)5 = 270 B 48000 excp= 9 Volume= 3	F- 36000 = (800) 36000 - 98	1= 18 1= 15 8=3000 9=3150 A 46700 F 100 F 100 A	is reconciled. Mark for (a) = 15 out of 15

xample Candidate Response – high, continued	Examiner comments
Additional information	
The directors of QW plc discovered that the company was losing customers because they preferred he competitor's product as it was recyclable. QW plc's product was made of non-recyclable naterial.	
 b) Explain one possible reason for the material price variance. 	
material price variance is Favourable 9450 which	
means that the company have purchased cheaper	
van material which was in discount or they have	
changed their supplier and purchased from changer supplier [2] 2	2 The reason for the variance
	is identified and developed and 2
c) Explain one possible reason for the labour efficiency variance. (atow efficiency variance is Advesse 3600 which	marks are awarded. Mark for (b) = 2 out of 2
means that tabour have worked more hours than	
standard his can be because of low molivation that it	
took more hand or seating and be then about can be unstilled [2] (3)	3 Again, the reason for the
d) Advise the directors whether or not they should replace the existing material used in production with a recyclable material. The recyclable material would cost \$24 per kg. Justify	variance is identified and developed
your answer and support it with relevant calculations.	and 2 marks are awarded. Mark for (c) = 2 out of 2
current price of material is \$15 and regoloble 13624 per log	
which means that il- is 59 higher and 3150 kgs are used	
to cost will in a cased by \$28350 and the armant profit	
15 only 3525 which means they will be th loss it they	
Purchase recyclaste material However, it they replace	
excisting material then customers will be not lost to	
it's competitors and morcover selling price can also	
be increased if recyclable material in used. in	
addition community will be also hoppy and good brand image will be built if recycloble material is used	
and furthermore in future it can indrease the profit.	
Diredors Should replace the existing makinal with recyclaphe only 14	
WILLIGIT GIUMO ILLICULC UNC CUMUNG INGLIAN MUN ICCYCLOUID [6] 4	4 There is a decision, a calculation of the change in actual
	profit and three points of justification
	so 5 marks are awarded.
	Mark for (d) = 5 out of 6
	Total mark awarded =
	24 out of 25

How the candidate could improve their answer

(d) The candidate needed to calculate the profit from the flexible budget statement applying the cost of new material to be awarded the sixth mark.

Example Candidate Response – middle

2 Read Source B in the insert.

(a) Complete the following statement to reconcile the flexible budgeted profit with the actual profit for April 2023.

Statement to reconcile flexible budgeted profit and actual profit for April 2023

	\$	\$	\$		
Flexible budgeted profit	•		25 500		
Variance	Favourable	Adverse			
Sales price		18750			
Material price	9450				
Material usage		27.00			
Labour rate	3825				
Labour efficiency		3600			
Fixed overhead expenditure		\$400			
Fixed overhead volume		10900			
	13275	40680	<u>(21375)</u>		
Actual profit			(1875)	1	The sales, materials and lab variances are all correct and 10
ngs: nice=> (190 - 165) X7 nicel pnice=> (18 - 15) X nicel Usage=> (4-4.5	150 3 \$ 18	mourable			marks are awarded. Mark for (a) = 10 out of 15

Examiner comments

Example Candidate Response – middle, continued Examiner comments

Additional information	
The directors of QW plc discovered that the company was losing customers becau the competitor's product as it was recyclable. QW plc's product was made c material.	
(b) Explain one possible reason for the material price variance.	
The material price variance might have a	
due to cheap price of materials puchase	
	development. Mark for (b) = 1 out of 2
(c) Explain one possible reason for the labour efficiency variance.	
labour	2to
mare time taken in production which might	re due
to cheap quality of new-materials. 3	
(d) Advise the directors whether or not they should replace the existing n production with a recyclable material. The recyclable material would cost \$2 your answer and support it with relevant calculations.	Mark for (c) = 1 out of 2
Using the recyclade material will help d	line.las
to regain their lost customers. Also the l	labory
effectionay might impore since quality of	
materials will be used which will fur	her
improve direct nateral usage variance.	However,
it is expensive which \$9 expensive 1	<u>n&n se</u>
it will adverse the material price us	xilonce
by \$88350 (47250 - [29-15) × 4.21×750]). J
Mink directors should go with recyclas	
material as it will help them to	encir
umpetitive E prevent form loss	There is a decision and two points of justification so 3 marks are awarded. Mark for (d) = 3 out of 6
	Total mark awarded = 15 out of 25

How the candidate could improve their answer

- (a) The correct calculation of the two overhead variances and of the actual profit (rather than the use of a balancing figure) would have resulted in the award of a further 5 marks.
- (b) A development point such as the receipt of a discount would have resulted in full marks.
- (c) A development point such as demotivated workers would have resulted in full marks.
- (d) The profit calculations (flexible budget and actual) along with another relevant point would have resulted in the award of a further 3 marks.

Examiner comments

Example Candidate Response – Iow

2 Read Source B in the insert.

(a) Complete the following statement to reconcile the flexible budgeted profit with the actual profit for April 2023.

Statement to reconcile flexible budgeted profit and actual profit for April 2023

	\$	\$	\$		
Flexible budgeted profit		J	25 500		
Variance	Favourable	Adverse			
Sales price	-	18750			
Material price	9450				
Material usage	15300				
Labour rate	3825		*		
Labour efficiency	5400#				
Fixed overhead expenditure	1700				
Fixed overhead volume		12000			
	35875	3.750			
Actual profit			3525	1 1	Correct calculations are ma
ngs:				for	r the sales, materials price, lab te and fixed overhead volume
Material usuge = (° = (4	5·Q - A·Q 1000 - 3150 850 × 18) x 5P 5) x 18) = 1530	va co 9 r	riances. The actual profit is als rrectly determined and therefor marks are awarded. ark for (a) = 9 out of 15	
Labour rate = S.	P-A.PX	(A.H)r			
= (10	L - 10.50)	x 2550	= 3825	5 F	
SP -					

Example Candidate Response – Iow, continued	Examiner comments
Additional information	
The directors of QW plc discovered that the company was losing customers because they preferred the competitor's product as it was recyclable. QW plc's product was made of non-recyclable material.	
(b) Explain one possible reason for the material price variance.	
Material Prise Variance = (Stendard Prixe - Actual Price) X Actual Quantity.	
$= (18 - 47250) \times 3150$	
(3150)	
(18-15) x 3150 = 9450 Forreurable [2] (2)	2 There is no explanation. A
(c) Explain one possible reason for the labour efficiency variance.	calculation was not required and does not answer the question so no
Jobour Efficiency - (Standard neur - Actual neur) X Standard Price	marks are awarded.
- (30-15/50) × 3	Mark for (b) = 0 out of 2
<u>- (3000 - 2550) × 12</u>	
= 5900 Farmule [2]	3 Again, there is no explanation.
(d) Advise the directors whether or not they should replace the existing material used in production with a recyclable material. The recyclable material would cost \$24 per kg. Justify your answer and support it with relevant calculations.	A calculation was not required and does not answer the question so no marks are awarded.
Material used = 15300 OID	Mark for (c) = 0 out of 2
Material _ 15300 011 Material _ 4000 - 3150 × 24 _ 20400	
No, they should not replace the existing material as material usage is less between	
material as material usacy is less before	
replaining it After replacement it will 1 increase to 4900.	4 The only mark awarded is
increase to 4900.	for the decision. There is no valid
	justification provided. Mark for (d) = 1 out of 6
	Total mark awarded = 10 out of 25

How the candidate could improve their answer

- (a) Correct calculations of material usage, labour efficiency and fixed overhead expenditure variances would have resulted in full marks being awarded.
- (b), (c) The candidate needed to identify a possible reason for the variance and develop the answer, for example 'the price fell due to discounts received'.
- (d) A further 5 marks could have been obtained by submitting profit calculations and three valid points to support the decision.

Common mistakes and guidance

- (a) The most common incorrect variance calculations were those related to the fixed overhead.
- (b) There were two available marks so candidates should have ensured that a possible reason is identified and then developed sufficiently to receive the second available mark.
- (c) This was a two mark 'explain' question and, as for (b), a reason plus development was necessary to be awarded both available marks.
- (d) The question specifically asked for relevant calculations but this request was ignored by many candidates.

Cambridge Assessment International Education The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA, United Kingdom t: +44 1223 553554 e: info@cambridgeinternational.org www.cambridgeinternational.org