

Vocational Qualifications (QCF, NVQ, NQF)

Business Enterprise

Level 2 Award Business Enterprise – **10313**

Level 3 Award Business Enterprise – **10314**

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.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this report.

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Overview

The lack of funding for the mandatory unit, coupled with late decisions on funding in general, made it difficult for many centres when deciding whether or not to continue with the qualification. As a result many centres decided to opt for another qualification where funding was known to be available. This meant that candidates no longer had the flexibility in approach and methods which is the great advantage of these qualifications.

General Comments

The standard of work seen across the two qualifications has been good. Centres have largely adopted the idea of internal assessment and verification of each unit as work progresses. This has allowed them to work through problems which have been identified.

This has been particularly important for Level 2 where candidates often require considerable support when they first come to the qualification. At Level 3 where more depth is needed this has prevented individual tasks from being overlooked.

It is good to see, especially at Level 3, that a good range of assessment methods is now being used in nearly all centres including: observation; peer witness statements and 'Dragons Den' activities often with outside business people. There has also been greater use of presentations. This is something which needs to be taken down to Level 2 where learning difficulties could be partly overcome by avoiding an over-reliance on written responses to the tasks.

Comments on Individual Units

Level 2 Unit 1 – although this unit is mandatory, there is no need to do it first. In many ways this needs either a lot of teaching and discussion prior to candidates starting on their individual work or greater experience of the different business aspects gained from other units. One compromise seen this year, which was successful, was a centre which started this unit and another one at the same time allowing some cross learning to take place.

Level 2 Unit 10 – especially for candidates who may be going straight into starting their own business. This unit appears to have had considerable importance. The standard of business plans produced by many of the candidates has been very good. If a centre wishes to use this unit they are advised to carefully plan which other units to do beforehand so that candidates are able to use previous material in constructing their business plan.

Level 3 Unit 11 – where this unit is done holistically, or partially so, there is a danger that individual tasks are overlooked or only done to a bare and sometimes unsatisfactory minimum standard. Centres are advised to make sure that all tasks are properly tackled and that the whereabouts of each is clearly flagged.

Level 3 Unit 13 – there is a danger with this unit that it becomes a matter of quantity of material rather than quality. Not all the tasks need to be presented in a purely written manner. Many would benefit from opportunities for presentations, discussions etc.

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. In the area of Business, the greater flexibility provided by these qualifications would be beneficial.

In addition, Government policy on getting people into work is still a positive factor in terms of these qualifications. 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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