



Unit:

Financial Management

Sample Assignment

20 credit version

Marking Scheme

Markers are advised that, unless a task specifies that an answer be provided in a particular form, then an answer that is correct (factually or in practical terms) **must** be given the available marks. If there is doubt as to the correctness of an answer, the relevant NCC Education materials should be the first authority.

This marking scheme has been prepared as a **guide only** to markers and there will frequently be many alternative responses which will provide a valid answer.

Each candidate's script must be fully annotated with the marker's comments (where applicable) and the marks allocated for each part of the tasks.

Throughout the marking, please credit any valid alternative point.

Where markers award half marks in any part of a task, they should ensure that the total mark recorded for the task is rounded up to a whole mark.

Marker's comments:

Moderator's comments:

Mark:

Moderated mark:

Final mark:

Penalties applied for academic malpractice:

General

Please check that the student has included tables for an investment appraisal in the appendix. Students are expected to refer to this information as they answer the relevant task and to be appropriately rewarded.

Task 1 200 words

10 marks

Name and briefly describe your chosen company and its relationships with at least TWO (2) other companies in the group. For example, are they subsidiaries? Briefly highlight their main aims and objectives, products, and services. Suggest a likely reason why there are different companies in the group and not just one single organisation.

0-2 marks	3 marks	4-5 marks	6 marks	7-10 marks
Demonstrates a very limited understanding of the chosen company, the group in which it operates, aims and/or objectives, products, and services.	Demonstrates a limited understanding of the chosen company and at least one other company in the group, aims and/or objectives products, and services.	Demonstrates a consistent understanding of the chosen company, and relationships with at least two others in the group, aims and/or objectives, products, and services.	Demonstrates a critical understanding of the chosen company, and relationships with others in the group, main aims and objectives, products, and services.	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the chosen company, and others in the group, aims and objectives, products, and services. Provides a likely reason for the group existence as opposed to a single organisation.

Task 2 800 words

30 marks

Read the Chairman’s Report (or equivalent) and select TWO (2) short statements about financial performance and ONE (1) short statement about non-financial performance. Write the statements as THREE (3) separate headers in your discussion.

Use information from the remainder of the published reports to evaluate the statements made by the chairman about the performance of the business. This should include explanation and justification for the statements made from the published financial statements and non-financial statements. Give reasons why you disagree, if relevant, with any of the chairman’s statements you have selected.

0-8 marks	9-11 marks	12-17 marks	18-20 marks	21-30 marks
Demonstrates very limited understanding of financial performance.	Demonstrates limited understanding of financial performance with limited justification of statements identified, referring to at least two sources of information in the company annual report.	Provides adequate explanation and justification of statements of financial performance, referring to several sources of information in the company annual report.	Provides good explanation of statements of financial performance identified and justification of the statements, referring to a range of information across the company annual report.	Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of financial performance through reasoned explanation and justification for and/or against statements selected, using a wide range of information.
Demonstrates very limited understanding of non-financial performance.	Demonstrates limited understanding of non-financial performance with limited justification of statement identified.	Provides adequate explanation and justification of statements of non-financial performance.	Provides good explanation of statements of non-financial performance identified and justification of the statements.	Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of non-financial performance through reasoned explanation and justification for and/or against statements selected.

Task 3 500 words

20 marks

Explain why ethics and corporate governance benefit companies and stakeholders. Illustrate, using TWO (2) examples from the information about corporate governance and/or ethics from the published accounts of your chosen company, how the company has or has not followed ethical and/or governance principles. Explain your reasoning for selecting your examples and what they indicate about the company’s commitment to governance and ethics.

0-5 marks	6-7 marks	8-11 marks	12-13 marks	14-20 marks
<p>Very limited discussion of ethical and/or corporate governance principles as beneficial.</p> <p>Very limited discussion of the reasons why given example(s) was/were selected and how it/they relate to ethical/corporate governance principles in the company.</p>	<p>Limited discussion of ethical and/or corporate governance principles as beneficial.</p> <p>Limited discussion of the reasons why two examples were selected and how these indicate how the company has/has not followed ethical/governance principles.</p>	<p>Adequate discussion of ethical and/or corporate governance principles as being beneficial to companies.</p> <p>Adequate discussion of the reasons for selection of two examples and indication of the company’s commitment to ethics and/or governance.</p>	<p>Sound discussion of ethical and/or corporate governance principles as being beneficial to companies and stakeholders.</p> <p>Sound discussion of the reasons for selection of two examples and what this indicates about company commitment to ethics and/or governance.</p>	<p>Detailed discussion of ethical and/or corporate governance principles as being beneficial to companies and stakeholders.</p> <p>Detailed discussion of the reasons for selection of two examples and what this indicates about company commitment to ethics and/or governance.</p>

Task 4 200 words**10 marks**

Briefly explain ONE (1) management accounting technique which could be adopted by the chosen company. Explain how it could be used, why it would be beneficial to the company and group, and why it is particularly relevant to the chosen company.

0-2 marks	3 marks	4-5 marks	6 marks	7-10 marks
Gives a very limited explanation of one management accounting technique and its relevance to the chosen company.	Gives a limited explanation of one management accounting technique and its relevance to the chosen company.	Provides a consistent understanding of one management accounting technique and why it is beneficial for and relevant to the chosen company.	Provides a well explained understanding of one management accounting technique and why it is relevant and beneficial to the chosen company and group.	Provides a comprehensive understanding of one management accounting technique, its use and relevance to the chosen company and how it is beneficial to the company and group.

Task 5 500 words**20 marks**

Refer to the data provided in the document titled ‘Management Accounting Data for Financial Management’ and dated for the relevant assessment cycle. Assume that this data is for your chosen company and reflects the type of business you have described in Task 1.

From the data provided, prepare an investment appraisal. This should include a numerical analysis and an evaluation of the options provided in your calculations. Non-financial factors should also be considered, and you should try to set your analysis in the context and industry in which your chosen business operates.

Do NOT use management accounting data from your chosen company’s real financial reports. Refer ONLY to the management accounting data provided.

0-5 marks	6-7 marks	8-11 marks	12-13 marks	14-20 marks
Calculations demonstrating a very limited understanding of investment appraisal techniques.	Calculations demonstrating a limited understanding of investment appraisal techniques.	Calculations demonstrating an adequate understanding of investment appraisal techniques.	Calculations which are largely correct and demonstrate a sound understanding of investment appraisal techniques.	Calculations which are clear and largely correct and demonstrate a coherent understanding of investment appraisal techniques.
Provides a very limited evaluation of the options calculated.	Provides a limited evaluation of the options calculated.	Provides a consistent evaluation of the options calculated.	Provides a well explained evaluation of the options calculated.	Provides a comprehensive evaluation of the options calculated in the context of the industry in which the chosen company operates.
Very limited consideration of one non-financial factor.	Limited consideration of more than one non-financial factor.	Consistent consideration of non-financial factors clearly linked to the options calculated.	Critical consideration of non-financial factors clearly related to the options calculated.	Consistently critical consideration of non-financial factors related to the options calculated and industry in which chosen company operates.

Task 6**10 marks**

Using the Rolfe, G., Freshwater, D. and Jasper, M. (2001) model, critically review the learning that you have undertaken in order to complete this assignment.

Based upon your learning, your reflection should include a description; an analysis; and an action plan in order to bring about improvements in the future.

0-2 marks	3 marks	4-5 marks	6 marks	7-10 marks
Demonstrates an inappropriate use of the Rolfe, Freshwater, and Jasper (2001) model and therefore is unable to assess the significance of the learning undertaken to complete the assignment.	Demonstrates inconsistent use of the Rolfe, Freshwater, and Jasper (2001) model and therefore superficially assesses the significance the learning undertaken to complete the assignment.	Demonstrates an appropriate use of the Rolfe, Freshwater, and Jasper (2001) model and therefore adequately assesses the significance of the learning undertaken to complete the assignment.	Demonstrates a very good use of the Rolfe, Freshwater, and Jasper (2001) model and therefore accurately assesses the significance the learning undertaken to complete the assignment.	Demonstrates excellent to outstanding use of the Rolfe, Freshwater, and Jasper (2001) model and therefore consistently assesses the significance the learning undertaken to complete the assignment.
Is unable to identify, analyse and communicate suitable activities as part of an action plan to guide further improvements in learning or practice.	Can inconsistently identify, analyse, communicate suitable activities as part of an action plan to guide further improvements in learning or practice.	Can adequately identify, analyse and communicate suitable activities as part of an action plan to guide further improvements in learning or practice.	Can precisely identify, analyse and communicate suitable activities as part of an action plan to guide further improvements in learning or practice.	Can comprehensively identify, analyse and suitable activities as part of an action plan to guide further improvements in learning or practice.

Learning Outcomes matrix

Task	Learning Outcomes assessed	Marker can differentiate between varying levels of achievement
1	1	Yes
2	1 & 2	Yes
3	2 & 3	Yes
4	2 & 3	Yes
5	2 & 3	Yes
6	All	Yes

Grade Descriptors

Learning Outcome	Pass	Merit	Distinction
LO 1 Analyse and prepare financial statements using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)	Can adequately determine, adapt and use appropriate methods to reach appropriate solutions	Can soundly determine, adapt and use appropriate methods to reach established and appropriate solutions	Can coherently determine, adapt and use appropriate methods to reach well established and highly appropriate solutions
LO 2 Assess the financial performance of companies	Provide consistent interpretation and evaluation of relevant information, concepts and ideas to address problems that are broadly defined yet complex.	Provide critical interpretation and evaluation of relevant information, concepts and ideas to address problems that are broadly defined yet complex.	Provide consistently critical interpretation and evaluation of relevant information, concepts and ideas to address problems that are broadly defined yet complex.
LO 3 Assess the use of managerial accounting in business strategy	Demonstrates adequate understanding of different perspectives, approaches or school of thought and the reasoning behind them	Demonstrates sound understanding of different perspectives, approaches or school of thought and the reasoning behind them	Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of different perspectives, approaches or school of thought and the reasoning behind them