

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

GCE Advanced Level

MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2014 series

9395 TRAVEL AND TOURISM

9395/31

Paper 3 (International Business & Leisure Travel Services),
maximum raw mark 100

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge is publishing the mark schemes for the May/June 2014 series for most IGCSE, GCE Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level components and some Ordinary Level components.

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- 1 (a) (i) Identify from Fig. 1 (Insert) two likely reasons why the city of Nanjing in China was chosen to host the Youth Olympic Games. [2]

e.g.

- Nanjing has advanced infrastructure – e.g. sports venues etc. (1)
- Nanjing has a highly advanced transport network (1)

Accept specific transport details mentioned in Fig. 1.
Award one mark for each of two correct identifications.

- (ii) State two different types of tourists that may be attracted to Nanjing as a result of the city hosting the Games. [2]

e.g.

- sports tourists (1)
- officials (1)
- athletes(1)
- spectators(1)
- cultural tourists (1)
- special interest tourists (1)
- leisure tourists (1)
- business tourists (1)
- domestic tourists (1)
- inbound tourists (1)

Award one mark for each of two valid customer types.

- (b) Using Fig. 1 (Insert) explain three ways in which Nanjing is accessible to tourists [6]

e.g.

- International airport operates services for 57 international and domestic airlines (1) this means regular arrivals and departures (1) so ease of access for those flying in from overseas. (1)
- High speed railways, (1) Nanjing is a major transport hub (1) connecting 10 neighbouring cities within one hour's journey time. (1) Visitors from other Chinese cities would find Nanjing easy to access by rail. (1)
- The subway system operates for 17 hours a day with trains every 4 minutes. (1) This means visitors will not have long to wait between trains (1) and also means that visitors can travel by subway all day and all evening making this type of transport readily available. (1)

Award one mark for the identification of each of three ways in which Nanjing is accessible and a second mark for the development of each of these three points.

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(c) Explain fully **two** likely benefits to travel and tourism organisations in Nanjing of hosting the games. [6]

e.g.

- Increased exposure to different market segments. (1) Potential customers in untapped markets may learn about Nanjing during television of the event (1) and decide to visit after the Games to visit some of the attractions they have seen on television. (1)
- Increased visitor numbers during and after the Games (1) may lead to increased revenue (1) and increased profits for years to come. (1)

Award one mark for the identification of each of two benefits and up to two more marks for explanation of each benefit.

(d) Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages for tourists of having a large number of licensed tour guides available in Nanjing. [9]

Indicative content:

Advantages:

- easy to book a guide if you want one
- know that tour guides meet licensing standard
- will have someone to help you better experience the different culture
- may be cheaper because competitive market

Disadvantages:

- difficult to know which guide to choose
- may be difficult to visit cultural sites unescorted

Use Level of Response criteria.

Each time the candidate demonstrates the skill at a particular level, assessors should annotate that level at the point of accreditation. At the end of marking the response, the highest level achieved is the one to award; the number of times that that level has been accredited will determine which mark to award from that mark band.

e.g. two L1 and **one L2** = 4 marks

e.g. one L1 and **two L3** = 8 marks

Level 1 (1–3 marks) Candidate **identifies** advantages and/or disadvantages.

Level 2 (4–6 marks) Candidate **explains** advantages and/or disadvantages.

Level 3 (7–9 marks) Candidate **evaluates** at least one advantage or disadvantage and/or reaches a conclusion.

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2 (a) (i) Identify from Fig. 2 (Insert) **two** examples of additional fees which may not be included in the advertised ticket price. [2]

- meals (1)
- seat allocations (1)
- baggage (1)
- re-booking (1)
- seatback entertainment (1)

Award one mark for each of two identified examples.

(ii) Identify from Fig. 2 (Insert) **two** different sources of information customers may use to find out about airline service charges and fees. [2]

- comparison websites (1) or Expedia (1) or Orbitz (1) or Travelocity (1)
- travel agents (1)
- by visiting websites of each airline and making a manual comparison (1)

Award one mark for each of two appropriate information sources.

(b) Using Fig. 2 (Insert), explain **three** reasons why many of those involved in air travel want to give passengers more information about prices for optional airline services. [6]

- Make it easier to compare (1) at present it is a long and slow process. (1)
- There are more than 100 different chargeable extras (1) difficult to know what hidden costs to expect. (1)
- There are few 'inclusive' prices nowadays (1) hidden costs often not visible until near the end of the booking process. (1)

Award one mark for the identification of each of three reasons and a second mark for development or explanation of each reason.

(c) Explain fully **two** ways in which scheduled airlines try to overcome competition from other airlines offering similar products. [6]

e.g.

- Quality of customer service. (1) Airlines offer specialist customer service training for staff (1) to ensure customers can receive high quality customer service irrespective of the class cabin in which they fly. (1)
- Winning awards. (1) Industry awards means that airlines gain raised profiles and publicity. (1) Many airlines will seek nomination for trade industry awards. (1)
- Innovative products/services. (1) Offering limousine transfers to the airport for Business class customers (1) the first in-flight bar or shower (1) etc.
- Safety/security measures. (1) Airlines employ additional staff to ensure passengers safety and security. (1) Additional baggage scanning at the departure gate as well as when passing through into the main airside terminal. (1)
- Cost. (1) The technology used to provide comparisons adds to an organisation's costs (1) by as much as 7%. (1)
- Complexity. (1) Airlines claim that the technology in use isn't sophisticated enough (1) and won't be able to handle the many different categories of charges that exist. (1)

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- Transparent fees may make passengers less likely to book. (1) This could lead to fewer passengers (1) and loss in revenue for some airlines who ‘hide’ the additional charges. (1)

Award one mark for the identification of each of two reasons and up to two further marks for an explanation of each reason

- (d) Airlines claim that updating their computer technology to provide more information about additional fees will be complex and expensive. Justify the reasons for airlines making this claim. [9]**

Indicative Content:

- Complex – comparison technology is currently too outdated and cannot cope with the 100+ different categories of charges; to develop new software would be a major task.
- Expensive – airlines would have to invest in new technology – this would increase expenditure; also being more transparent about their additional fees might be costly in terms of losing competitiveness and thus bookings.

Use Level of Response criteria.

Each time the candidate demonstrates the skill at a particular level, assessors should annotate that level at the point of accreditation. At the end of marking the response, the highest level achieved is the one to award; the number of times that that level has been accredited will determine which mark to award from that mark band.

e.g. two L1 and **one L2** = 4 marks

e.g. one L1 and **two L3** = 8 marks

Level 1 (1–3 marks) Candidate **identifies** one, two or more reasons why airlines may be reluctant to update their technology.

Level 2 (4–6 marks) Candidate **explains** one, two or more reasons why airlines may be reluctant to update their technology.

Level 3 (7–9 marks) Candidate makes one, two or more **analytical** or **evaluative** comments about the reasons why airlines may be reluctant to update their technology.

- 3 (a) (i) Identify from Fig. 3 (Insert) four facilities on board an IMG coach. [4]**

- comfortable/reclining seats (1)
- large/tinted windows (1)
- audio/video systems (1)
- clean restroom facilities (1)
- large luggage racks (1)
- plenty of storage space in the luggage hold (1)

Award one mark for the identification of each of four facilities

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(ii) **Other than on-board facilities, explain three reasons for the appeal of travelling with an IMG coach company.** [6]

e.g.

- Luxurious ride at reasonable price. (1) You can enjoy high level of comfort at a low price. (1)
- Environmentally sound means of travelling. (1) More fuel efficient than travelling by car. (1)
- Convenient. (1) Can be a door-to-door service. (1)

Accept any reasonable response which is taken from Fig. 2.

Award one mark for each of three identified reasons and a second mark for an explanation of each of these reasons.

(b) **Explain fully two ways in which passengers are likely to benefit from IMG tour operators working with other principals to put together holiday packages.** [6]

e.g.

- Cost saving. (1) Economies of sale likely to be achieved by IMG tour operators buying components in bulk (1) these may be passed onto customers. (1)
- Wide range of choice. (1) Not just traditional coaching holidays. (1) Aim to build exciting and adventurous holidays. (1)

Accept any reasonable answers.

Award one mark for each of two identified benefits and a second mark for an explanation of each.

(c) **Compare and contrast coach travel with other means of transport for business travellers.** [9]

Indicative content:

Comparative language in favour of coach travel:

- cost-effective
- convenience for short distances, transfers of large numbers of people
- tailor-made option

Comparative language arguing for other transport methods:

- not as convenient over longer distances
- slower
- less comfortable than other options

Use Level of Response criteria.

Each time the candidate demonstrates the skill at a particular level, assessors should annotate that level at the point of accreditation. At the end of marking the response, the highest level achieved is the one to award; the number of times that that level has been accredited will determine which mark to award from that mark band.

e.g. two L1 and **one L2** = 4 marks

e.g. one L1 and **two L3** = 8 marks

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Level 1 (1–3 marks) Candidate **identifies** one, two or more ways in which coach travel may meet the needs of business travellers but may not make any comparisons with other transport forms.

Level 2 (4–6 marks) Candidate **explains** one, two or more ways in which coach travel may meet the needs of business travellers and may make some simple comparisons with other transport forms.

Level 3 (7–9 marks) Candidate uses comparative language to make **evaluative** comments about how coach travel and other methods of transport may meet the needs of business travellers and may reach a conclusion about which mode of transport is most suitable for business travel purposes.

4 (a) Describe, using two examples from Fig. 4 (Insert) what is meant by the term *tourism product*. [4]

e.g.

- Travelling on the Swiss Chocolate Train (1) by making a seat reservation. (1)
- First class rail travel (1) in the Pullman carriage. (1)
- One day excursion (1) to take part in lots of sightseeing activities and visits to castles, and a cheese and chocolate factory. (1)

Award one mark for each of two examples taken from Fig. 4 and a second mark for a description of each of two examples.

(b) Explain three likely reasons for the appeal of a one-day leisure excursion, such as the Swiss Chocolate Train. [6]

e.g.

- full day excursion (1) value for money. (1)
- combines various activities (1) lots to see and do. (1)
- luxurious feel (1) first class travel in historic carriage (1) or great sightseeing opportunity (1) in a panoramic carriage. (1)

Award one mark for the identification of each of three reasons and a second mark for an explanation of each reason for the appeal.

Take care: do not award marks for repetition of information from **4 (a)**.

(c) Explain fully two likely reasons why the Swiss Chocolate Train operates a restricted schedule. [6]

e.g.

- Schedule based around peak season (1) when demand for this type of excursion likely to be at highest level (1) during the summer months. (1)
- Operating costs are likely to be high (1) vintage carriages unlikely to be most cost-effective due to maintenance issues linked to age (1) needs to be full each trip to generate profit. (1)

Award one mark for each of two identified reasons and up to two further marks for explanation or exemplification of each reason.

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(d) The Swiss Chocolate Train has a fixed pricing policy. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages to travel providers of using fixed pricing policies. [9]

Advantages:

- simple to administer
- can be set high to increase profits

Disadvantages:

- some customer types may be unhappy there are no concessions – seniors, students, families with small children
- may therefore lose business from some potential market segments

Use Level of Response criteria.

Each time the candidate demonstrates the skill at a particular level, assessors should annotate that level at the point of accreditation. At the end of marking the response, the highest level achieved is the one to award; the number of times that that level has been accredited will determine which mark to award from that mark band.

e.g. two L1 and **one L2** = 4 marks

e.g. one L1 and **two L3** = 8 marks

Level 1 (1–3 marks) Candidate **identifies** advantages/disadvantages of this pricing policy.

Level 2 (4–6 marks) Candidate **explains** advantages/disadvantages of this pricing policy.

Level 3 (7–9 marks) Candidate makes one, two or more **analytical** or **evaluative** comments about the advantages/disadvantages of this pricing policy or may come to a conclusion about whether this pricing policy is appropriate or may make recommendations for the use of a different pricing policy.