

# Examiners' Report June 2022

**IAL Business WBS14 01** 



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#### Introduction

The fourth sitting of the new specification WBS14 paper seemed to go well. The paper discriminated well, with candidates accessing a wide range of marks, with some good, and occasionally very good, responses to the questions set.

Strong candidates did well, with some excellent and thoughtful responses, particularly for the longer questions. By contrast, there were also some very weak responses that showed little understanding of, or even familiarity with, the specification content.

The main reasons for some candidates underachieving were not heeding command words and not reading the questions carefully enough. Command words are still being ignored by a sizeable number. Instructions to 'Assess' and 'Evaluate' were not followed by some candidates.

Some of the candidates missed out on marks because they did not answer the question that was set. This was a particular problem for Q01(c), and Q01(d) where a failure to read the wording of the question carefully cost them valuable marks.

It is worth reminding future candidates of the need to apply proper context to all responses. Good examples do much to reinforce the quality of an argument. Repeating generic or stock answers or just copying the text from the case study will not access the higher levels of the mark scheme.

# Question 1 (a)

Those candidates that knew the right formula inevitably did well on this question.

Unfortunately, some did not and missed out on what should have been a straightforward few marks. Others lost a mark by missing the dollar sign or by making mistakes with decimal places.

1 (a) Using Extract A, calculate to two decimal places the GDP per capita of Thailand.

GDP :	GDT	
Capita	Population	546 bn = 546 000 00
٩.		7
GDP	546 000 000 000	Ś
apita =	69 410 000	
	78630.77	
<u> </u>	1 7 1	
		44 ( J   19), J9 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10



This response gained 4 marks.

Note that an earlier incorrect answer has been crossed out. If the candidate had not realised their mistake, it would still have gained 3 marks for the correct formula and the correct selection of the figures.

This is a good example of why always showing your working is a good idea.

(4)

# Question 1 (b)

This was mostly answered well with candidates knowing what specialisation meant and most were able to identify a relevant advantage, such as job creation or export earnings. Use of context was generally good, but attempted analysis often lacked enough development to explain why the identified advantage came about.

Some candidates are still defining the key term in these 4-mark questions; it is not needed and is not part of the mark scheme.

(4)

(b) Explain one advantage for Thailand of specialising in the production of rubber.

he a country focuses on Specialisation is area develop expertise and On to best be hailand Specialising in rubber would Pru 2 to lower Cost. lower cost can pussed w be ON Could 60 remon largest natural ubber exourly ler in an R\*purkd tυ china oliny and 01 export marte worth VU PTEN This indurn 61 CXDON revene.



A good answer that identifies an advantage, develops the explanation as to why it is an advantage and makes good use of the evidence to support the response.

It gained all 4 marks.

# Question 1 (c)

The term 'employment patterns' was widely misunderstood and far too many candidates failed to score any marks at all.

Most discussed employment totals which is not the same thing at all. Better responses based their answer on the move that would occur from the primary sector to the secondary sector as economic growth took place and Vietnam became more industrialised. The growth of the tertiary sector, backed up by use of evidence from the extracts, was a further line of development.

Centres should note that although there is no requirement to provide a conclusion on this question, balance (assessment) is definitely needed. A number of otherwise good answers failed to do this and just described the changes without comment.

(c) Discuss the extent to which economic growth in a country such as Vietnam may have caused its employment patterns to change.

(8) Economic Growth ers Increasive 0 econo Stabilit through ountry VONTO atistics GOP Such Development Hun respectivel afference Indicates Viet Shows wheel great GDP was less Than \$50bn than\$250 bn in been has more This That Vietnam has means encountered great growth thus rethering econonic 40 deal vdo. . Overall patterns ١n most to Change derdevelged high Percentage Lounties There Ls 0 nary However, economically Vietnam graus Secondary testian 50 and production Services Such and Manufacturit There tourism. in The less Jobs as Ale Mimary Black Sector and ay econom well Condusion, emerging like Cour L Most Vietnan changed has 113 enployme Secondary Datter TO testian Sector as ext: an Primary straction modena Sector, raw GDP increase the will also txt R ract in a positive linna Standards The



A good response that gained 6 marks.

It makes effective use of the context to develop logical chains of reasoning that show how employment patterns may change in terms of the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.

However, it does lack assessment and an awareness of competing arguments.



From Q01(c) onwards, all the responses require some evaluation to reach the highest marks.

Don't forget to consider the competing arguments.

# Question 1 (d)

Instead of focusing on the trade opportunities for European businesses, many focused on the trade opportunities for developing economies which was not the question set. This illustrates the need for candidates to read the question wording carefully and think about their response before putting pen to paper.

For the most part, those that did make this distinction answered the question well. The possible opportunities for European businesses posed by the economic growth of developing economies were discussed with some development. Balance often took the form of the likelihood of the developing economies growing and posing a threat to the market share of the European businesses. Some good responses looked at the nature of the products and services and their price elasticities; others balanced the short run against the long run.

Less convincing responses suggested that European businesses should re-locate production to the developing economies to take advantage of cheaper labour costs. This rather ignored the likelihood that as economies grow, so too do wage rates and other costs. (d) Assess how economic growth in developing economies may affect the trade opportunities for European businesses.

(12)Francome graver is we increase in a country's producture capacity. Developing courries, such as: Vietnam, Thailand, UNE, and Banquadresh are courries that have Low herels of likeracy, poor inflast where, low incomes, now standards of hiring, and how incomes increased exaronic proun in such countries allows were to move closer to being developed economies. Between 2000 and 2019 many developing economies now experienced increased large cronomic grown and have improved their positions in we grober store market. The value of goods exported from developing counnies nose to 44.3% of we globar total and he value of services exported noce to 30% of me probar NOTAL. The UAT increased its share of contract export @ from 0.3% in 2010 10 1.2% in 2019 and Vietnam increased weir share of world export of goods from 0.47/in 2010 to 1.41/in 2019

The increase in grobol stomating of developing economies will likely have a neganic effect on he reade apportunities of European businesses. The increase in grobal export race of goods and services of theretoping economies will likely mean hat we have of exports per of goods and services of developed economies, such as most European contries, win nave fallen.

For Asjan countries are recognised for heir Low labour costs are to unich hey can minimise neir costs of production and offer larer prices. Furpean countries may not be abre to compete with he prices offered by developing Asian economies and might roose demond for heir exports.

however, European exports may be of bener quality and meet mighter standards, which products from developing companies don't neet. In this case European earthies will be able to charge priguer price and won't work around for new exports

Due to he lower quality of Asian products, Asian producers may be able to produce biger quantities and in paster time, which with attract me demand for he product and may harm European exports.

The increase in economic gravm in developing countries is vikely to regranizely affect to the trade opportunities of European countries, as hey might not be \$ able to march prices and quick production times of developing economies.



This is an example of a Level 3 response that gained 6 marks.

Much of the first part is taken directly from the extracts, but is not developed or used effectively.

The response improves in the second part and discusses the threat posed by increased competition.

There are developed chains of reasoning and assessment is attempted, but is rather brief.

This response is a good example of the Level 3 descriptor in the mark scheme.

(d) Assess how economic growth in developing economies may affect the trade opportunities for European businesses.

(12)

Economic growth is when the gross donoctic product of a country is continuedly increasing. A developing economy that is the an economy that is growing at a rapid speed, much faster than an a mature roat economy. An example is Brazil or south Africa. on the one hand, the economic growth is a developing ecomomy might positively affect the trade opportunities for European businesses for various reasons. Firstly economic growth usually results in improved infrastructure and technology of a country. This would benefit European pushesses as improved infrastructure leads to easier operations, as transportation of goods would become easier and Faster due to new and improved transportation methods, such as new appr auports or roads, American benefit of economic opents in developing accorption This is beneficial for European Business because it means that distribution services will improve, and they would be able to distribute to new areas and distribute more, leading to more sales opportunities which may potentially lead Mare sales and revenue for the businesses Another benefit of economic growth in developing countries IS economic growth is a result of increased GDP for the country, which which involves increased disposable income. Increased disposable income is a benefit for European

businesses because it means that the population as a whole are more likely to purchase European products as they have more money to do so. Furthermore, as the population has more disposable income the domand for European products would increase as they are more financially available to purchase imports from Europe. This is vereficial as more done leads to noversed sales and revenue, which ingo results in increased profit for European businesses, which is highly beneficial junerer, on the other hand, economic growth is a developing country will highly likely result in increased competition from both domestic and international international businesses This is disadiantageous for European pusinesses as increased competition in an economy affects the sole opportunities of each budness increased competition restricts the possible number of sales of Dusinesses, which leads to less sales and profit than there could be. Furthermore, increased competition from foreign con businesses may force developing Comptries to introduce trade barriers and tariffs in order to protect their domestic business from larger torage businesses. This is discidiantageous for European symmetries as it makes trading and expansion in desetyping cases the certain country more difficult due to trade restrictions



This is an example of a Level 4 response that gained 9 marks.

It has a clear and logical development, firstly looking at the advantages that might be gained by European businesses in the form of improved infrastructure and purchasing power.

It then provides sound assessment by looking at the potential negative effects of potential competition arising from economic growth and the possibility of protectionism.

The response could have benefited from more context and a supported judgement.



With a question like this that considers a wide subject such as 'European businesses', it can be a good idea to consider what types of business might be involved by way of assessment. For example, are makers of luxury goods likely to be more, or less, successful than those producing everyday items?

### Question 1 (e)

This questions was mostly well answered. Candidates showed a good understanding of trade blocs and the possible effects of trade liberalisation. Access to cheaper inputs and the opportunity to sell to a larger market without the cost or burden of trade restrictions were widely discussed.

Balance was usually shown by looking at the threats posed to domestic businesses once trade barriers were removed or reduced. Good responses took this a stage further and looked at the size and nature of some of the other countries such as China and Australia. (e) Assess the possible impact on businesses in countries such as Thailand and Vietnam from their membership of a trading bloc.

(12)

A trade bloc is a group of nations that agree to on trade negotiations in terms of decreasing restrictions amongst the nations as a way to increase trade. ASEAN is a trade bloc consisting of 10 nations including Thailand and Vietnam. Countries usually form a trade bloc, like EU, in order to gain the benefits of being a member.

Being part of a trade bloc allows businesses in countries such as Thailand and Vietnam to easily access new markets considering the fact that restrictions will be significantly reduced to increase the ease of trading with countries in the bloc. With more access to markets, businesses will be able to increase its sales and market share in those countries while gaining reputation. This highly benefits the businesses as more opportunities will allow them to increase its profitability and help with expansion.

With few to no restrictions or trade barriers like tariffs or quotas, businesses will see reduced cost in doing business overseas, making them more willing to settle or establish their businesses a broad. Wat This will reduce the costs of adhering to regulations while giving businesses the competitive advantage of lower costs and eventually lower prices for consumers, which will consequently lead to increase in sales and revenue.

However, the restrictions or trade barriers will only make trading within the bloc easier as countries will continue to maintain its restrictions

with countries outside the trade bloc, therefore, as retaliation, other countries will also maintain its trade restrictions. limiting the growth or expansion of Thai or Vietnamese businesses in the event of economies.

Reducing trade restrictions as part of being a trade bloc means that domestic businesses in Thailand and Vietram will see increased levels of competition, which may take away the market share of domestic ea businesses as well as cause the country to be unable to protect intant industries in the country.

Being part of a trade bloc also means that Thailand and Vietnam, as members, will need to agree on all trade negotiations made as a trade bloc is required to be united and be a collective group. By agreeing with all agreements, it would mean that countries may also have to stop trading or increase trade barriers if the trade bloc decides to do so, limiting the actions of Thailand and Vietnam when it comes to trading with countries outside the bloc.

In conclusion, although hailand and Vietnam will take competition against businesses from other countries, it doesn't restrict domestic businesses from growing overseas, especially with more trade opportunities after signing The RCEP and creating another trade bloc consisting of 15 members, making the trade bloc the largest while covering 30% of global output and significantly increasing opportunities for businesses



A well written response that reached Level 4 and gained 10 marks.

The arguments are well-developed and show accurate and thorough knowledge and understanding.

There is balance and a conclusion which supports the answer.



Remember to use the conditional when appropriate such as 'this may happen' or 'it is likely that'. It is rare that there is a ever a certain link or outcome in this subject. (e) Assess the possible impact on businesses in countries such as Thailand and Vietnam from their membership of a trading bloc.

Trading blac is when countries within the same geographic region form a treaty for the members of trading bloc to promote easy and free trade. It is mentioned in Extract D that in November 2020 after eight years of negotiations the RCEP was signed in vietnam. It consists of total 15 members from which to members alle from KSEAD including thailand and Vietnam. After being agreed from all its member it will form the world's largest hading blac, covering 301. of global output and almost one third of the global population.

This trading block can being a lot of opportunities for businesses in Vietnam and Thaikand as they can now trade easily without any tariths or innot avoid avoides. This decreasing costs and indeesing profitability. They will also be one exempted from transacting transportation fee so it will be easier to import and export goads and make production more effectent. Businesses can also more their production facility to conview in trading blac where there is cheap and skilled labour and more efficient transportations in the markets of the hadry bloc throws FDT, mergers or takeovers. This will help them target new customer base and increase the sales of their products making shaleholder satisfied. Markets, if they opt for mergers or acquisition then they

(12)

Will be able to enter new malkets without any next. As the business operating in these markets will alleady have knowledge. In eddition to this, if pa businesses from other contres invest in them then it will bring in innovation and can also encourage competition.

Howevel, reache of Thailand and vietnam might no longer oft domestic businesses and only choose other businesses which will decrease the demand of domestic products and make it difficult by them to complete with other businesses and will eventually have to shot down. There Balso a possibility other businesses from trading bloc will exploit the domestic businesses of Thailand and vietnam. Holeover, if mole businesses can easily enter markets then competian and chances of dominancy can also size. The firsthermole, hegaldless of Trading bloc life paper work (an increase as the businesses will have to show certificates as prod of where the Products are produced att. Some business might also lace habour turnover of employees leave for better salary package somewhere else.

Oterall, this can be a great oppositurity for businesses in victurian and Thailand to expand and increase their sales as well as now enter new markets without testimons. restrictions.



A good response that is typical of Level 3 and it gained 6 marks.

There is good knowledge and understanding, but there is also a tendency to make assertions without developing the causes. For example, why would the people in Vietnam and Thailand opt for foreign goods and why would other businesses from the bloc exploit domestic businesses?

# **Question 2**

This proved to be an accessible question with many candidates able to knowledgeably discuss glocalisation, ethnocentric marketing and other terms from the specification.

Common lines of argument for the benefits of adapting to local tastes included customer loyalty and a competitive advantage which could lead to increased sales, despite the extra costs of research and marketing. This was contrasted with the one size fits all approach, with its opportunity for economies of scale and strong branding. Better responses brought in outside examples (commonly McDonalds and Apple) and discussed a mix of approaches rather than one or the other, they often concluded that much depended on the product or service in question and its intended market.

For those responses that did not do so well, it was usually because they had simply copied out, or re-written the evidence, with little or no attempt at analysis or evaluation. Good conclusions were rare; simply re-writing previously made points adds nothing to the answer. As ever, the key to doing well in these longer questions is to develop the arguments and support them with evidence. 2 Evaluate the extent to which a global business will benefit from adapting to local tastes and preferences.

(20)Global businesses adapt different strategies to introduce their product in a mancet. Normally, businesses use the technique, polycentricism. It makes sure to gain information about local tastes, preferances traditions etc. How the product is introduced it all depends on what the customer likes and how he likes it. For exampte, Nilce, a sportswear has lawnched NikeUnite to connect local communities. As each Mike will seek to reflect it's local community, it is a poly centric approach. On the other hand, Aldi a German supermarket expands into the United States and it has not taken Americas tastes and preferances into account. It does not make have to vesearch on the Us community to see their preferences as their approach is ethnocentric. E.g. American consumers are used to big stores with a variety of items but that continued to expand with the same 'limited range of items but it still continues to be successful and grow on a global level.

Polycentricism is a good strategy as consumers like it when the product is according to their local expectations - People will want to try out more of & & iF the business is somewhat familiar. There will be more sales and Thus more revenue will be general ed, his will eventually allow the business to enjoy economies of scale. Adapting to local tastes and preferances is the similar to a global niche market. Consumers win be hoppy with the product and brand loyalty will increase. Although Aldi proves wrong me concept that if the business is not tailored to local needs and preferances, it will fail it still is much stable and sustainable in the long-run to keep in mind the customers preterances and tastes. Having such a global business will help businesses to grow competition will increase berveen domestic bysinesses and MNC's



A rather brief response that typifies a Level 2 response and it gained 8 marks.

There are chains of reasoning, but they are not always developed or complete.

Much of the evidence is simply reproduced with little added value, the balance is unconvincing.



In the longer questions, it is always advisable to use your own knowledge and bring in outside examples to broaden the scope of your arguments and make a more convincing response. 2 Evaluate the extent to which a global business will benefit from adapting to local tastes and preferences.

In Bohad I and F, the business shapt; Nihe and Alde adapt different fisbal marlieting Analogies to holp theme everad Whe is implied to also a adopt a more Polyconthe / Geocontre wheels refers to ulien business adopt 1 modely / kulor their goods and services to better lit the me prhouler needs and wants of customers. Aldi adopts a more a othno-contric approach which refers to not a standadesing a good or service take in its distribution across despite being in vanous a countries / markets

(20)

Fistly, a global business can benefit from adapting to local perfes and preferences as it can through increasing sales volumes. As Nike has opened live new bardhes in the UK, US and south Korea they have corned out research to undeshard cade & morthest and its spearthe needs (work. As a rearly, Nike a is boller able understand is customers and to der able to develop its product to to be beller suited they have mentioned that such Nille store will reflect reflect its local community and failor the products to local gooting interests This is important on the sporting interests of the US may have been significantly different those into UK ( br sample) However they also to weather that in order for this project to work they will use an ambarsador programme

Bu the other hand, the adaphing a more ethorenbri approachand not adopting a product may be the batter option for example, companies like Aldi have apanded to the US and have not adapted their appermarkets to take account of US a taskes and preferences. For example, they do have not their coshers a scan dose times and place them in the molter rather than packing their bage for them. One alrankage of this approach may be in that Aldi can build a greater sense of coordination between the that

their northbone n' Germany and Amanca. Morlows nevy perhaps bal even motivated a miter being tex description contributed in a boor brand identity that a constitut across the nations Aldi trades in On the hand Aldi, doo face the risk of cubbomers having a bad exponence with their service as it is not what Amancai somerimmens are ased to be which could hinder sales Auwener, Aldi does martine that peopte thus, they continue to be successful and good in both Awances & well will There the logends

hardly, then not adaphing products to customers policular needs could benahl the pubal bosinesses explait anonnies of scale. For example, as a result of producing shondordised versions of a product, in bulk, pusiness and may benefit from lower production costs. As never this would depend on the noture and site of a company. For example, Aldi's dores are 'much smaller' than American stores and soch à limiteel range of ilens', therefore, their explortation of protocoming concurries of scale in the skindarderation of their goods any be lover. However, despite thes Aldi still enjoys positive growth and acos for the bonners avoilduncte

To conclude, possinences soch as Aldi and Nile show that it and be alcontergeous to railor products / standordise them. However it the nature and size of the posiness in addettein to bactors bloe pryond the product and modeling mis well an interace the soccers of times in international molab.



A good response that reached Level 4 and gained 16 marks.

It uses the evidence which is then developed to support the points being made.

There is balance and a conclusion although it would have been stronger if it had brought in more examples in support.

# **Question 3**

As with question 2, many candidates limited their marks by just re-writing the evidence or producing lists of push and pull factors without developing or analysing them. This particular question also asked for a judgement as to which factors were more important. Although most candidates did make a choice, there was often no rationale or justification for doing so.

Better responses considered the nature of the business and the market in which it operated and then looked at the push or pull factors that might apply in that instance. Some pointed out that some businesses, such as those reliant on natural resources had little choice as to where to locate. Others realised that it was not a binary choice and that some locations, China for example, had both push and pull factors and the decision depended on the business itself and the contrasting short and long run positions. 3 Evaluate whether push or pull factors are more important for an international business when deciding where to locate.

(20) Push and pull factors help determine a business the should enter or leave a market. Push factors are very important for an international business when areading where to locate this is can be decided by the current increase in tarrif costs as tacts imposed by the US and Chinese government during the part years. which This have led to supply chain costs increasing by up to 10% for more than 40% of businesses. the · Route This means that now when business try and supply products from the suppliers its going to be more expensive by 10%. As a result of this businesses will have an increase in cash by about 10% which furthermore may lead to worse quality products being produced. Therefore businesses may want to consider maving their businesses else where so that they are not impacted by the barrits so much. However, if the business int exporting or importing any assources and is using what is available in China, they will not be impacted by the new fassilis that were imposed by the Chinese government. Due to the fact that they are manufaction, and selling products in china only so they dont need to

import as export any products

Pull fastors are also very important for international businesses when deciding where to locate. These pull fuctors concist of chap cent for land, subsidized power and water, for breaks and imposed transport times, which are often the longest component of the entire logistics journey of goods. All these factors are very beneficial to businesses because they get to benefit from lower costs, great supply chains and flexibility. for this businesses may want to consider countries like Veitnam, India and Mexico where they will benefit from much lower costs compared to china where they have high terrifs and larger casts. As a result of this businesses may want to consider these emerging economic, like Veilman, India and Mexico in order to benefit from lower costs. Therefore the pull factors may influence internations businesses to more to these contries as they have more benefits. However, countries like Vicitman, India and Menco are developing economies to depending on the Supe of product your one selling these countries may not have as much at a demand for them compared to the US or China due to them being a developed economy. This means that the general population is much weathier and have a higher disposable income to buy the products.

In conclusion, its a hard decision for the business on
where to locate as it all depends on who the
businesses larget market is and what their customer
needs are. This means that all international businesses
will interpret the push and pull Fuctors differently and
will conduct their own analysis to see that is more
buncficial from them. Thursfore its bard to make the
decision as it all depends on what type of business it
is even though I think that most will wont lower costs
for production so will choose countries like Vertham, India
and Hesico instead of US and China.



A good response that reached Level 4 and gained 17 marks.

It is well-written and argued and develops its chains of reasoning well.

The conclusion is particularly strong and effective, justifying its choice of answer to the question.

3 Evaluate whether push or pull factors are more important for an international business when deciding where to locate.

(20)

When relocating, an international business should consider
several factors. It could be analyzing the market through
Porters 5 Forces, or analyzing your own portfolio though
the Ansoffs matrix, or consider the push fractors neightage
and then the pull factors that the new market option
Pull factors may be more important for a business to consider
then push factors because they should check upon where
they are relocating and if that place will be suitable
for their particular business type.
For example, as mentioned in extract G, the main pull factors
could be the land kent, pomer and water availibility,
transport availibility etc. If the company &
The company considering to velocate may want to check
its necessities in production and anices both and
then decide. Monconer, it may mant to see the
maybet conditions. If the market is conversed, they
may not nant to more there and go in some
market which is untouched and enjoy the 'new movers
advantages. If Othernise they would have to face competition
and firms that are there single ages go may play

with the prices to kick them out, and in a saturated market,
intomics dready have lots of sptions so they may
not consider a new one.
However, unsidering the pull factors for a business, it should
then wigh it with the push factors and it it is
actually recessary to relocate, as relocating will add up
to cogs quite a bit, from logistics, to setting up a whole
production I mare house and a bircle and mortar place also.
In condition, pull and push factors both may be
ma equally important, as well as other analysis but
it is the to say that it is me indeed necessary to
where the full factors i.e. the montet conditions before
cetting up there.



This response is typical of the Level 2 descriptor and gained 8 marks.

It has some knowledge and understanding, but lacks context and is prone to assertion and never really gets to grips with the question.

#### **Paper Summary**

There was very little evidence to suggest that candidates did not have enough time to complete the paper.

#### Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Do read the question carefully and answer the question that is set.
- Do watch out for command words such as 'Assess' or 'Evaluate'.
- Do use examples to illustrate your argument.
- Do use the language of the subject and avoid generalities.
- Do watch your timing and do not spend too long on one question.
- Do write concisely (and as neatly as possible please!).
- Do add a relevant conclusion to the longer questions.

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