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Comments

For most of the questions, the candidate demonstrated sound knowledge and understanding of business management concepts and was able to apply these concepts in most of the cases. He/She was able to communicate ideas and arguments in a structured manner using appropriate business terminology.

The candidate had some ideas of the limitations of using accounting ratios in assessing the performance of a company in Question 1. The candidate identified a motivator with reference to the Herzberg's Dual-factor Theory, though the explanations were not clear enough in Question 2. In Question 3, the candidate was able to identify some benefits that a company can realise through adopting a direct distribution channel for its products but some explanations needed to be more specific. In Question 4, the candidate showed some knowledge of the objectives for a company in appraising the performance of its salespeople. He/She demonstrated good understanding of the purposes of budgeting, though the analysis on the causes of a favorable sales variance was not accurate enough in Question 5.

In Question 6, the calculation of optimal order quantity was correct but the explanation on which inventory cost component contributed to the reduction in total inventory costs was not relevant to the requirements of the question. The candidate pointed out a way to cope with Ming Kee's liquidity problem, though the explanation was not quite complete. Good explanations on why using the Net Present Value method instead of the Payback method for evaluating the online shopping project were given though the discussion of non-financial problems that may arise when launching the online shopping project tended to be too brief. In Question 7, the candidate expressed some ideas about the limitations of using secondary data to help Centralwash understand the needs of its customers, though his/her understanding of the meaning of secondary data was not complete. It was evident that the candidate had good understanding of the characteristics of the maturity stage of a product life cycle. Also, he/she demonstrated good knowledge of different off-the-job training methods, though their application to the case context needed further elaboration. Lastly, the candidate provided appropriate risk management strategies to deal with the risk of frequent damage to dishware, but his/her analysis of non-insurable risk was not accurate and relevant.

In Question 9, some important factors affecting the smartphone manufacturer when setting the price for its new mobile phone were well explained and applied to the question context. The candidate demonstrated some understanding of the steps involved in the purchase decision-making process but the elaborations and applications were not completely accurate and quite confused.

This piece of work is of level 4 in the HKDSE reporting scale.