2023.M91

2023L462C1EL

Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme 2023

Link Modules Examination

Common Level

Wednesday 3 May Morning 10:00 - 12:30

160 marks

Examination Number

Day and Month of Birth

For example, 3rd February is entered as 0302

The 2023 examination papers were adjusted to compensate for disruptions to learning due to COVID-19. This examination paper does not necessarily reflect the same structure and format as the examination papers of past or subsequent years.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Examination Number in the box on the front cover.

Write all answers into this booklet. There is space for extra work at the end of the booklet. If you need to use it, make sure to label the work clearly with the question number and part.

This examination booklet will be scanned and your work will be presented to an examiner on screen. Anything that you write outside of the answer areas may not be seen by the examiner.

There are **three** sections in this examination, as follows:

Section A – Audio Visual - Compulsory

There are eight questions. Answer **all eight** of them. 30 marks

Section B – Case Study – Compulsory

There are three questions. Answer **all three** of them. 30 marks

Section C – General Questions - Compulsory

There are seven questions. Answer **any four** of them. 100 marks

You may only use blue or black pen when writing your answers.
Do not use red pen, pencil or any other coloured pen.

Section A	Audio Visual	30 marks

- You will have **three** minutes to read the questions in Section A.
- You will be shown a DVD with a Career Investigation as the theme.
- You will see the DVD **three** times.
  - The first showing will include the whole sequence.
  - It will then be shown in **three** parts. After each part is shown, you will be given time to write your answers in the appropriate section of the answer book.
  - You will then see the entire DVD sequence again.

Answer all **eight** questions on the pages that follow. This page may be used for notes.

Part 1

Q.1 What is the title of the job that Molly is interested in? **(1 mark)**

Q.2 List the methods of research that Molly used. **(2 marks)**

Q.3 What did Molly learn about the career while completing her career investigation? **(3 marks)**

Part 2

Q.4 Why did Odhran think that Molly's email was well written? **(2 marks)**

Q.5 Why does Odhran believe Molly is a suitable candidate for work experience at Meitheal Ltd? **(4 marks)**

Q.6 How will Odhran ensure that Molly's work placement is meaningful?
Give reasons for your answers. **(6 marks)**

Part 3

Q.7 Explain **two** reasons why interpersonal skills are so important in the workplace. **(6 marks)**

Q.8 How does Meitheal Ltd benefit from having a diverse workforce? **(6 marks)**

Section B	Case Study	30 marks

Ballyfert

Ballyfert is a small, picturesque town with a population of approximately 1,200 people. It is situated on the popular Wild Atlantic Way tourist route and it is very dependent on its tourism trade. In recent years it has suffered from rural depopulation. A large number of young people have left to attend third level education in other parts of the country. Upon graduation they have moved to big cities to secure employment and have not returned to live in Ballyfert.

The town is now hosting 320 refugees and the local people have extended a very warm welcome to them. The local community held a family festival to help increase visitors to the local area and integrate the refugees. One of the main events at the festival was an open-air market, where local producers showcased their produce and the refugees performed cookery demonstrations of their country's cuisine. Locals and tourists sampled the produce on show. The event was a great success.

A local Community Development Committee has been in existence for a number of years. They noticed a change in the demographics of Ballyfert. They undertook some research which identified two key areas that needed to be focused on. Firstly, in order to make it more attractive for locals to stay, and to encourage people to relocate to Ballyfert, suitable work spaces would have to be available. The committee is aware that future trends in the workplace include more employees working remotely and support for new innovations. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown the benefits of remote working and having a better work life balance. Secondly, the research also found that to support the integration of the refugees in the local community, a number of initiatives needed to be set up. Suggestions made included English language classes, Start Your Own Business programmes and also clothing and toy appeals.

The Community Development Committee must plan continuously so that they can capitalise on their findings. To do this, they requested advice from the Western Development Commission on different types of remote working facilities and Innovation Centres. They were informed that there are numerous options available, for which suitable vacant properties have been identified. It also learned that one of the key areas to the success of the plan is broadband provision. The committee is relieved that Ballyfert has recently benefitted from the National Broadband Plan and the town now has access to high-speed broadband.

The Community Development Committee had a lot of work to do to put their plan into action, all suggestions made are now up and running. A public meeting was called by the chairperson to outline the plans to the community and everyone was invited to become involved.

The Community Development Committee plan has now been in operation for six months. A recent evaluation of the plan showed that Ballyfert's population is growing, bringing back life, activity, enterprise and innovation to the town. The capacity of the community is increasing, leading it to be more sustainable in the long term.

Answer **all three** questions.

Q.1 Explain **three** benefits the refugees may bring to the town of Ballyfert.

(6 marks)

Q.2 **(i)** Identify **three** ways to promote volunteering in the community.
(ii) Outline the advantages and the disadvantages of remote working for an employee.

(9 marks)

Q.3 **(i)** Identify **two** different types of research that may have been used by the Community Development Committee and give an example of each. Give an advantage of each method.

(ii) The committee had a lot of work to do to get their plans up and running. Describe **three** key areas, other than those already mentioned in the case study, that the committee would have considered.

(iii) Why in your opinion was it important for the Community Development Committee to hold a public meeting? Justify your answer. **(15 marks)**

Section C General Questions 100 marks

This section has seven questions. **Answer four questions**. Each question carries 25 marks.

To help you decide which questions to answer and to help you find them in the booklet, here are all the questions with the page range for each. Answer your chosen questions in the appropriate pages in this booklet.

Q.1 **Pages 16 to 18**

Entrepreneurs can encourage the Irish economy to grow and expand.

(a) Outline **two** characteristics of an entrepreneur.

(b) Describe the supports available to start-up businesses from a Local Enterprise Office (LEO).

(c) Outline the benefits that entrepreneurs can bring to the local economy.

(d) Assess the implications the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Brexit) has for businesses and consumers in Ireland.

Q.2 **Pages 19 to 21**

Your LCVP class has been asked to organise a careers exhibition for the senior students in your school.

(a) A committee has been set up to organise the exhibition. Explain **two** duties of the secretary of a committee.

(b) Identify the skills of a good secretary, explaining why these skills are important.

(c) Discuss **three** benefits of working as a team when organising the exhibition.

(d) Forming is the first stage in the process of creating a team (group dynamics). Describe **three** other stages of team development.

Q.3 **Pages 22 to 24**

Technology has enabled the online market to flourish.

(a) State **four** areas where Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is used by a business.

(b) Outline **three** challenges a business may face when moving into online sales.

(c) Identify and explain the benefits to a business of having a social media presence.

(d) A business has received negative reviews online. What can the business do to improve its online reputation?

Q.4 **Pages 25 to 27**

A business requires many elements to be successful.

(a) Why is it important for a business to plan for the future?

(b) Consider the location of a business in your local area. Outline **two** reasons why it is located there.

(c) Apply the marketing mix (Product, Price, Promotion, Place) to a business enterprise that you are familiar with.

(d) Explain **three** methods a business may use to evaluate its success. Give reasons why the business may have chosen these methods.

Q.5 **Pages 28 to 30**

The workplace and its environment are constantly changing and evolving.

(a) Identify **two** differences between work and school.

(b) What can unemployed people do to help themselves to return to the workplace?

(c) **(i)** Describe what a contract of employment is.
(ii) List the key areas included in a contract of employment.

(d) Many employers are having problems recruiting employees. What can an employer do to attract potential employees to their organisation? Explain your answers.

Q.6 **Pages 31 to 33**

The visit out and visit in activities in Link Modules can provide many learning opportunities.

(a) Name **two** Leaving Certificate subjects you are studying and outline how both would be useful in helping you to understand the operation of a business.

(b) Explain **three** skills you learned/improved as a result of planning your visit out/visit in.

(c) Why do organisations/businesses encourage visits out/visits in from schools?

(d) State and explain reasons why your class should evaluate the visit out/visit in.

Q.7 **Pages 34 to 36**

Corporate Social Responsibility plays a valuable role in society.

(a) Explain the term Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

(b) Identify an enterprise that has an active CSR policy and explain how this policy impacts on the stakeholders (e.g. employees, suppliers etc.) of this enterprise.

(c) Describe the benefits to employers who focus on employee wellbeing.

(d) Modern businesses strive to be inclusive of all. Outline **four** examples of actions an employer can take to ensure an inclusive workplace for all.

Q.1 **25 marks**

Entrepreneurs can encourage the Irish economy to grow and expand.

(a) Outline **two** characteristics of an entrepreneur.

(4 marks)

(b) Describe the supports available to start-up businesses from a Local Enterprise Office (LEO).

(6 marks)

(c) Outline the benefits that entrepreneurs can bring to the local economy.

(6 marks)

(d) Assess the implications the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Brexit) has for businesses and consumers in Ireland. **(9 marks)**

Q.2 **25 marks**

Your LCVP class has been asked to organise a careers exhibition for the senior students in your school.

(a) A committe has been set up to organise the exhibition. Explain **two** duties of the secretary of a committee. **(4 marks)**

(b) Identify the skills of a good secretary, explaining why these skills are important. **(6 marks)**

(c) Discuss **three** benefits of working as a team when organising the exhibition.

(6 marks)

(d) Forming is the first stage in the process of creating a team (group dynamics). Describe **three** other stages of team development. **(9 marks)**

Q.3 **25 marks**

Technology has enabled the online market to flourish.

(a) State **four** areas where Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is used by a business.

(4 marks)

(b) Outline **three** challenges a business may face when moving into online sales.

(6 marks)

(c) Identify and explain the benefits to a business of having a social media presence.

(6 marks)

(d) A business has received negative reviews online.
What can the business do to improve its online reputation? **(9 marks)**

Q.4 **25 marks**

A business requires many elements to be successful.

(a) Why is it important for a business to plan for the future?

(4 marks)

(b) Consider the location of a business in your local area. Outline **two** reasons why it is located there. **(4 marks)**

(c) Apply the marketing mix (Product, Price, Promotion, Place) to a business enterprise that you are familiar with.

(8 marks)

(d) Explain **three** methods a business may use to evaluate its success. Give reasons why the business may have chosen these methods.

(9 marks)

Q.5 **25 marks**

The workplace and its environment are constantly changing and evolving.

(a) Identify **two** differences between work and school. **(4 marks)**

(b) What can unemployed people do to help themselves to return to the workplace? **(6 marks)**

(c) **(i)** Describe what a contract of employment is.

(ii) List the key areas included in a contract of employment. **(6 marks)**

(d) Many employers are having problems recruiting employees. What can an employer do to attract potential employees to their organisation? Explain your answers. **(9 marks)**

Q.6 **25 marks**

The visit out and visit in activities in Link Modules can provide many learning opportunities.

(a) Name **two** Leaving Certificate subjects you are studying and outline how both would be useful in helping you to understand the operation of a business. **(4 marks)**

(b) Explain **three** skills you learned/improved as a result of planning your visit out/visit in. **(6 marks)**

(c) Why do organisations/businesses encourage visits out/visits in from schools?

(6 marks)

(d) State and explain reasons why your class should evaluate the visit out/visit in.

(9 marks)

Q.7 **25 marks**

Corporate Social Responsibility plays a valuable role in society.

(a) Explain the term Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

(4 marks)

(b) Identify an enterprise that has an active CSR policy and explain how this policy impacts on the stakeholders (e.g. employees, suppliers etc.) of this enterprise. **(7 marks)**

(c) Describe the benefits to employers who focus on employee wellbeing. **(6 marks)**

(d) Modern businesses strive to be inclusive of all. Outline **four** examples of actions an employer can take to ensure an inclusive workplace for all.

(8 marks)

You may use this page for extra work.

Make sure to label extra work clearly with the question number and part.

You may use this page for extra work.

Make sure to label extra work clearly with the question number and part.

You may use this page for extra work.

Make sure to label extra work clearly with the question number and part.

Do not write on this page

Copyright notice
This examination paper may contain text or images for which the State Examinations Commission is not the copyright owner, and which may have been adapted, for the purpose of assessment, without the authors' prior consent. This examination paper has been prepared in accordance with *Section 53(5) of the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000*. Any subsequent use for a purpose other than the intended purpose is not authorised. The Commission does not accept liability for any infringement of third-party rights arising from unauthorised distribution or use of this examination paper.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme – Common Level

Link Modules Examination

Wednesday 3 May

Morning 10:00 - 12:30