

## Examiner's Report

### Qualifications Framework

#### Stage 1: Unit 2 Written Examiner Report November 2025

#### General

2 candidates sat the Unit 2 examination paper in the November cycle and successfully passed this paper. Congratulations! The highest mark awarded was 66%.

It was pleasing to see that candidates achieved at least the pass mark or higher in every question they answered, which demonstrated a good level of knowledge across their chosen questions. Part A questions were answered to a higher standard than the questions in Part B, due to candidates lacking detail in some parts of their Part B answers.

Part B questions account for 70% of the marks available on the examination paper. Candidates preparing for future Unit 2 examinations are therefore strongly encouraged to regularly practice Part B questions to ensure their answers include clear explanations, relevant examples, and address all parts of the question.

#### Section A

**Q1** This question was chosen by 1 candidate.

For this question, candidates needed to both discuss the role and work of the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and explain how they collaborate with Trading Standards. Candidates therefore needed to answer both parts of this question to maximise the marks achieved. Factors such as their regulatory and self-regulatory role, the legal backstop via National Trading Standards and Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards, the funding levy, CAP codes etc. could have been explored, as well as the relevant fair-trading legislation that underpins their guidance and decision-making processes.

**Q2** 1 candidate elected to answer this question.

This question tested the candidate's knowledge of the 10 steps in the Better Business for All toolkit. These include doing the necessary groundwork, identifying your stakeholders, getting involved with your growth hub, refining your objectives, creating a governance structure, producing your work programme, resourcing your activity, engaging local businesses, engaging local regulators and communicating effectively.

**Q3** 1 candidate chose to answer this question.

Questions relating to business entities are a detailed knowledge requirement on the Unit 2 syllabus and candidates should ensure they are familiar with the different types of business entities and their controls. Marks were available for providing examples of private limited companies and describing the features of these types of companies such as their limited liability, legal name requirements, disclosure

requirements, 1 Director, being a separate legal entity, regulatory compliance with the Companies Act 2006 etc.

**Q4** 1 candidate chose to answer this question.

This question enabled candidates to demonstrate their knowledge of the Regulators' Code or the Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice and the mechanisms that regulators must have in place to engage with those they regulate, to enable them to offer their views and contribute to the development of regulator's policies and service standards. A strong answer to this question would include the factors set out in the relevant code. Knowledge of the Regulators' Code is important across the Stage 1 syllabi.

**Q5** No candidates chose to answer this question.

This question focused on the factors that candidates should take into account to ensure they provide effective advice to businesses and any resources that they could use to support a new business. This type of question is exploring the candidates' understanding of the different needs that the businesses Trading Standards regulate may have. Factors to consider could include language barriers, preferred methods of communication, how busy the premises are, use of simple language and avoiding jargon and ensuring they are speaking to the most appropriate person. The question also asked the candidate to identify resources they would take with them. Examples could include their identification, Business Companion guidance, Officer notebook etc. It can be helpful for candidates to go out on visits in the workplace wherever possible, to develop knowledge of the practicalities of engaging with businesses.

**Q6** Both candidates selected this question to answer and achieved excellent marks.

This question required candidates to identify and briefly explain five factors that may affect a business' attitude to compliance. Factors such as cost, the relevant stage in the product lifecycle, previous experience with regulation/regulators, barriers such as language could be identified and explained. To maximise marks in questions like this, candidates should ensure they do not repeat the same point in a different way, as no additional marks will be rewarded for the repetition.

## **Section B**

**Q7** 1 candidate elected to answer this question.

Candidates should ensure that they spend an appropriate amount of time on each part of the question, led by the marks allocated for each part.

Part (a) of this question asked candidates to discuss whether they agreed with the statement that it is more important than ever for Trading Standards services to consider the full range of enforcement options, other than taking a criminal prosecution. Candidates therefore needed to clearly state in their answers whether they agreed or disagreed with this statement and then explain their reasoning.

Part (b) assessed candidates' knowledge of alternative enforcement options, other than a criminal prosecution, and required candidates to identify five options and using examples, explain when they would be used. 25 marks were available for this part of the question. Candidates therefore needed to provide sufficient detail to achieve as many marks as possible from those on offer. There were 5 marks available for each option selected, including explaining the option, identifying when it would be used

and providing relevant examples. Answering each aspect of the question for all 5 options selected is the best way to maximise marks in this type of question. Examples could have included options such as fixed penalty notices, enforcement orders, written warnings, improvement notices, advice and guidance etc.

Lastly, part (c) of this question required candidates to identify 5 benefits of regulators working with businesses. Five different benefits needed to be clearly identified and explained to obtain full marks for this part of the question. Repeating the same point in a different way will not attract marks.

**Q8** 1 candidate choose to answer this question.

This question focused on the candidate's knowledge of the Primary Authority scheme, which is a detailed area of knowledge for this Unit. All candidates should therefore ensure they know this area of the syllabus to a detailed level when preparing for future examinations.

Part (a) required candidates to identify and discuss the supporting regulators for the Primary Authority scheme and to explain their roles and the areas of regulation that they are responsible for. A knowledge of other regulators and partnership organisations is also an important part of the Unit 2 syllabus and in the work of Trading Standards services. Candidates needed to therefore identify the Food Standards Agency/Food Standards Scotland, the Health and Safety Executive, the Competition and Markets Authority, the Gambling Commission and the Department of Business and Trade and demonstrate their knowledge of these supporting regulators.

The second part of the question asked candidates to identify five advantages and five disadvantages of the Primary Authority scheme. This afforded an opportunity for candidates with a good level of knowledge about the scheme and its operation in practice, to demonstrate their knowledge. As mentioned above, each advantage and disadvantage must be different in order for them to attract marks.

**Q9** 1 candidate chose to answer this question.

This question required candidates to demonstrate their knowledge of the impact of doorstep crime and trusted trader schemes.

Candidates were asked in part (a) of the question to explain the impact of doorstep crime on consumers, legitimate businesses and the economy. Up to 12 marks were available for this part of the question, so candidates needed to ensure they discussed the impacts on all three parts of society in their answers.

Part (b) of this question asked candidates to identify five checks that should be carried out on new businesses applying to join a trusted trader scheme and the reasons for these checks. 15 marks were available for this part of the question, so there were 3 marks available for identifying each check and explaining the reasons for carrying out that check. To maximise marks in questions like this, candidates are advised to adopt a methodical approach and be led by the number of marks available, as to the level of detail required. Checks such as financial checks, open-source research, the trader's website and paperwork, criminal record check for traders going into consumers' homes, complaint information, local intelligence on Local Authority database, Companies House if relevant to the business entity applying etc.

**Q10** This question was answered by one candidate.

This question tested candidates' knowledge across several requirements in the Unit 2 syllabus. Candidates were asked to identify seven areas of work that Trading Standards services undertake and discuss the area of work, relevant policy developments, examples of local, regional or national projects and two partnership organisations or regulators that are relevant to that area of work. There were therefore 7 marks available for each area of work identified and for covering the criteria set out in the bullet points.

This question enabled candidates to draw on examples from their own work experiences, as well as from Impacts and Outcomes reports, regional projects and local developments. There are a wide range of areas covered by Trading Standards services, depending upon their locations and jurisdictions. Examples of areas that could have been discussed include food standards, weights and measures, intellectual property, product safety, underage sales, doorstep crimes, scams, fair trading, animal health etc.