

Qualifications Framework Examiner's Report

Qualifications Framework

Stage 1: Trading Standards Law Part 1 Coursework Examiner's Report May 2026

Marks ranged from 38 - 75

Overall, the coursework submissions showed that most candidates were able to identify a relevant practical investigation and recognise at least some of the offences, breaches or procedural issues arising from it. The stronger submissions were clearly structured, applied the relevant legislation to the facts of the investigation, and explained the evidential requirements, use of powers and interview or consultation process in a way that demonstrated practical understanding. These candidates were also more likely to include appropriate supporting documents and to explain how those documents evidenced the work undertaken.

The main area for improvement across the cohort was the need for fuller explanation and analysis. Some submissions described what had happened in the investigation but did not always explain why particular evidence was required, how it helped prove the offence or breach, or why particular powers or interview/consultation approaches were appropriate. Candidates should ensure that they link their practical investigation steps back to the assessment criteria and the relevant legal framework throughout the report.

A further recurring issue was the use of supporting evidence. Some candidates did not include sufficient evidence to demonstrate the authenticity and currency of the work submitted. Candidates should be thinking about the coursework and ensure they have a relevant investigation to use.

Where appropriate, they should retain and append redacted examples of relevant documents, such as investigation notes, witness statements, notices, photographs, interview plans, correspondence, screenshots or other records showing the work undertaken. These should be used to demonstrate that the investigation is current, authentic and connected to the candidate's own role or involvement.

Research and referencing were also variable. Candidates should ensure that legislation, case law, guidance and investigative practice are referenced accurately and that any supporting material relied upon is clearly identified. Stronger submissions did not simply list legal sources but used them to support the analysis of the investigation and the decisions made.

Candidates should also be reminded that, although some candidates may work in Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey or other jurisdictions with their own legislative frameworks, the Unit 3 syllabus is based on the legislation applicable in England, Wales and Scotland. Coursework submissions and examination answers should therefore be written by reference to the legislation, procedures and legal principles set out in the syllabus, even where the candidate's own workplace context differs.