



BSC Level 6 Diploma in Occupational Safety and Health

Unit 1 Examination

Specimen document

RESOURCE BOOKLET

(for use with Question 1)

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this booklet until the invigilator tells you to do so.

You may make notes in this resource booklet, but the booklet must be handed in at the end of the examination.

Scenario

Roy Leaney is the managing director of a small engineering business based in the West Midlands. The business is family owned and has been in existence for over 150 years. Roy is nearing retirement and is looking to sell the business to a venture capital company.

The core business is bespoke precision engineering supplying high value products (stainless steel, aluminium and titanium) into the aerospace sector. They have a number of quality accreditations (e.g. ISO 9000) and awards for exports and product innovation.

Although the premises are very old, the main workshops have state-of-the-art production equipment including:

- Advanced welding - Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) and Metal Active Gas (MAG)
- Gas and Oxy cutting
- Plasma cutting
- CNC Machining
- Grinding
- Shot blasting
- Laser cutting

Over the last six months the sole focus has been on increasing profits to ensure the maximum sale value of the business. However the potential purchaser has commissioned a consultant to assess the adequacy of the safety management system as part of its own due diligence. A number of serious deficiencies have been identified including:

- Most equipment has received no statutory inspections for over 12 months
- COSHH reports indicate fume levels above approved exposure limits (welding and oil mist)
- Machine guards where limit switches have been compromised to increase production
- No evidence of any risk assessments being completed in the last two years
- Unsecured gas bottles and corroding gas pipes
- A cancellation of a contract to undertake local exhaust ventilation checks
- A recent HSE prohibition notice served for a variety of breaches as outlined above



Facts

- The company employs 35 people
- The average age of the workforce is 55
- Three workers have been diagnosed with occupational asthma
- Five workers have been identified with early symptoms of dermatitis
- The company does not have an appointed competent person
- General housekeeping across the site is poor- spillages are rarely cleaned up
- Operators are being charged if they request alternative protective equipment
- The welfare block is in poor condition

Specimen