### Marking guide for Role Simulation Examination June 2023

The Role Simulation exam aims to examine knowledge, skills and behaviours in roughly equal proportions. This is reflected in the marking process where the available marks for each requirement are identified as Knowledge marks (K), Skills marks (S) and Behaviour marks (B).

A set of answers is issued to markers, giving an overview of the K, S and B points that can attract marks for each requirement. The model answers are extensive and contain all the points that could have been made; candidates are not expected to produce such full answers in the exam.

Broadly speaking, the K marks are for demonstration of appropriate and accurate knowledge and understanding from the Learning Materials for the five Certificate syllabuses assessed by the Role Simulation. This knowledge can be explicit or implied (eg where the answer is developed using recognised terminology, not just common sense).

Specifically, the K marks are for knowledge related to:

- Technical
- Business awareness
- Ethics and standards
- Regulation and compliance
- Systems and processes

The S marks are for the following skills:

- Analysis
- Communication
- Leadership
- Planning and prioritisation
- Producing quality and accurate information (Q&AI)
- Team working and collaboration
- Using systems and processes

The B marks are for the following behaviours:

- Adaptability
- Adding value
- Ethics and integrity
- Proactivity
- Professional scepticism

For example, if the requirement was to 'analyse the industry using Porter's Five Forces model' then K marks would be available for knowing the meaning of the key headings and the terminology for items commonly seen under these headings, and both S and B marks would be available for applying this knowledge to the scenario and using the information in the scenario to explain how the force works.

For written requirements where the candidate may make many equally valid points using different aspects of knowledge, skills and behaviour, more marks were identified for explanations in the mark scheme than were available in the maximum mark awarded. In these requirements, once the maximum awarded mark was achieved by a candidate, no further marks were given.

The pass mark is 70% across the paper. There is no requirement to score at least 70% in each of the K/S/B pools of marks, nor to score at least 70% in each of the two tasks.

### June 2023 marking grid

	Marks identified in marks scheme				Maximum marks awarded	
	K	S	В	Total		
1.1a	4	9	0	13	12	Accounting
1.1b	0	2	0	2	2	Accounting
1.1c	7	0	0	7	4	Accounting
1.2	0	11	0	11	11	Accounting
1.3a	0	1	0	1	1	Law
1.3b	6	5	0	11	6	Law
1.3c	6	0	8	14	7	Assurance
1.4a	5	5	1	11	5	Assurance
1.4b	0	3	0	3	3	Assurance
1.4c	0	4	0	4	2	Assurance
1.4d	4	7	7	18	7	Assurance
				95	60	
2.1a	0	6	0	6	6	MI
2.1b	0	4	0	4	4	MI
2.1c	0	12	6	18	6	BTF
2.1d	0	4	0	4	4	MI
2.2a	0	13	9	22	12	BTF
2.2b	0	0	3	3	2	Law
2.2c	8	1	7	16	6	BTF
				73	40	
Overall total	40	87	41	168	100	
					29	Accounting
					24	Assurance
					9	Law
					24	BTF
					14	MI

The marking information set out below is that used to mark the requirements in the December 2022 exam. Markers were encouraged to use discretion and generally to give the benefit of the doubt where it was evident what the candidate was trying to explain even though the explanation could have been expressed more clearly. No partial marks were awarded but the 'own figure' (OF) rule in calculations was applied.

Task 1.1

General comments

Overall this sub-task was very well-answered, with the highest average mark on the paper.

Task 1.1 (a)			Marks	Nature
	Land and buildings	Vehicles and machinery		
	£	£		
Cost				
At 1 May 2022	87,500,000	41,210,000		
Additions	1,500,000	752,000	1	SQ&AI
Disposals	0	1,200,000	1	S Q & AI
At 30 April 2023	89,000,000	40,762,000		

Depreciation						
1 May 2022	28,120,000		34,472,000		1 for both cost	K Technical
Charge for the year Disposals At 30 April 2023	1,126,000 0 29,246,000	W2	2,708,000 480,000 36,700,000	W3 W1	and acc dep bf 6 see workings 1 see working 1 OF for both cost and acc dep cf	S Analysis S Analysis K Technical
At 30 April 2023 At 1 May 2022	59,754,000 59,380,000		4,062,000 6,738,000		1 OF for both years	K Technical
Workings W1: £1,200 x 40% = £4 W2: (£87,500 - £31,500 marks W3: (£40,762 - £34,472	0)/50 + (£1,500 * (		,	l.		
Wording and layout				1	K Technical	
Examiner comments This requirement was tackled very well by the majority of candidates.						
Total possible marks Maximum full marks	·				13 12	4K, 90S

Task 1.1 (b)	Mark	Nature
800 - (1200 - 480  OF) = £80,000  profit	1 for calc 1 for profit	S Analysis
Examiner comments This requirement was tackled year well by the majority of condidates		
This requirement was tackled very well by the majority of candidates.		
Total possible marks Maximum full marks	2 2	2S

Task 1.1 (c)	Mark	Nature
Definition:	Max 2	
The purpose of depreciation is to spread the cost of an asset	1	K Technical
net of its residual value	1	K Technical
by charging it as an expense in the SOPOL to the accounting periods over which it is helping to generate revenue (its useful life)	1	K Technical
It is an application of accrual accounting / the matching principle.	1	K Technical
Building	Max 1	
The building is depreciated over 50 years because buildings have a definite life	1	K Technical
after which they need to be replaced/renewed	1	K Technical
Land	Max 1	
But the land is not depreciated as land is regarded as having an indefinite life.	1	K Technical
Examiner comments		•
This requirement was tackled very well by the majority of candidates.		
Total possible marks	7	7K
Maximum full marks	4	

Task 1.2			Mark	Nature
Draft PBT Depreciation	1.1a 1126+2708	9,830,000 (3,834,000)	1OF	S Q & AI
Profit on disposal Amortisation	1.1b (3240 + 1760)/5*6/12	80,000 (500,000)	10F 3	S Q & AI S Analysis
Inventory:		109,900 W1	3	S Analysis
equipment Inventory: houseplants		12,950 W2	3	S Analysis
Final PBT		5,698,850		

Working 1: equipment

)							
Item number	Quantity	Purchase price	Reduced selling	Costs to sell	NRV	Value per item	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	
658365	50	580	780	80	700	580	29000
546846	40	1680	1450	110	1340	1340	53600
56499	70	390	550	50	500	390	27300
							109900

**Working 2: houseplants** 

Received	Issued	Balance	Value	Unit cost
		50	1250	25.00
250			10000	40.00
		300	11250	37.50
	180		-6750	37.50
		120	4500	37.50
130			8450	65.00
		250	12950	51.80

**Examiner comments** 

Overall this sub-task was well-answered by the majority of students.

Total possible marks	11	11S
Maximum full marks	11	

## Task 1.3

**General comments** 

Overall this sub-task was well-answered.

Task 1.3 (a)	Marks	Nature		
D Fraud by abuse of position	1	S Analysis		
Examiner comments This sub-task was very well-answered.				
Total possible marks Maximum full marks	1 1	18		

Task 1.3 (b)	Mark	Nature
	Max 2 per duty, first 3 duties	
To promote the success of the company for the benefit of members as a whole and in good faith (s172 CA)	1	K Regulation & compliance
Should promote the company's success—shown bad faith, and it caused the company a loss which affects Jardini's retained earnings and therefore the level of possible dividends for members.	1	S Analysis
Being involved in a fraud on the company undermines the business's relationships with stakeholders, and its reputation for high standards, which will also affect its future profitability	1	K Regulation & compliance
To exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence (s174 CA)	1	K Regulation &
Liam failed to exercise any care or diligence when he authorised either the contracts or the houseplant write-offs	1	compliance S Analysis
To avoid conflict of interest (s175 CA)	1	K Regulation &
Liam knowingly allowed a conflict of interest when he took the gifts from the property developers via Isabelle	1	compliance S Analysis
Not to accept benefits from third parties (s176 CA)	1	K Regulation &
Although the gifts were received via Isabelle, Liam knew that they were a benefit from a third party when he accepted them from her	1	compliance S Analysis
To act within powers (s171 CA)	1	K Regulation &
He has abused his power as a director by authorising the write-off for a purpose (his own benefit) that was not in the company's interest.	1	compliance S Analysis
Examiner comments Overall this sub-task was very well-answered.		
Total possible marks Maximum full marks	11 6	6K, 5S

Task 1.3 (c)	Mark	Nature
Sara's breaches of Code of Ethics Max 2 for identifying a fundamental principle or a threat from the Code of Ethics, max 2 for explanation in context.	Max 4	
Sara failed to review the documents in breach of Jardini's code	1	B
and accepted Liam's authorisation on the houseplant write-off when s should have been authorised by Bex, the retail director.	1	Ethics/integrity B Ethics/integrity
both of which are a breach of <b>professional competence and due care</b> since they were required procedures.	1	K Ethics/standards
She appears to have succumbed to a <b>familiarity threat</b> arising from her family relationship to Liam.	1	K Ethics/standards
which probably affected her <b>objectivity</b>	1	K Ethics/standards

Sara may also have faced a self-interest threat	1	K Ethics/standards		
since Liam received the bribes in the end and she did not review/query what he was doing.	1	B Ethics/integrity		
this breaches her fundamental principle of <b>integrity</b>	1	K Ethics/standards		
In relation to ICAEW's Code of Ethics, Sara also failed to demonstrate <b>professional scepticism</b> throughout the process.	1	K Ethics/standards		
Actions that you should have taken in March 2023	Max 3			
You should <b>not have recorded the details</b> without further investigation	1	B Ethics/integrity		
You should have demonstrated <b>professional scepticism</b> about the events in Wanstead and Sara's explanations.	1	B Ethics/integrity		
You should have <b>queried Sara's failure to review the write-off email</b> in accordance with the review and authorisation procedures in the accounting handbook, which is in accordance with the finance function code of conduct (refer matters to line manager).	1	B Ethics/integrity		
You should have raised your concern with a manager at a higher level, ie Tommy Sheldon.	1	B Ethics/integrity		
As you were reluctant to accept Sara's explanation, according to the code of conduct you should have raised the matter with Tommy				
You should have documented your concerns at the time	1	B Ethics/integrity		
Examiner comments				
Overall this sub-task was well-answered by most candidates.				
Total possible marks Maximum full marks	14 7	6K, 8B		

# Task 1.4

General comments
Overall this sub-task was well-answered.

Task 1.4 (a)	Marks	Nature
EMAIL From: You To: Emilia Wright Subject: Fraud  Dear Emilia,  Here are some explanatory notes about fraud and error in the context of respective responsibilities of management and Grove.	1	S Communication
Explanations of responsibilities  Max 2 for management, 2 for auditors	Max 4	
Jardini's management is responsible for preventing and detecting fraud.	1	K Systems & processes
We do this by putting in place a system of internal control over the company's transactions and exercising oversight of this system, and by creating a culture of honesty and ethical behaviour.	1	S Using systems and processes

Grove is not responsible for preventing fraud nor does it warrant that it will detect any fraud that has occurred.	1	K Systems & processes	
However Grove is responsible for obtaining reasonable assurance that Jardini's financial statements are free from material misstatement, including when that misstatement is caused by fraud.	1	K Systems & processes	
And for reporting on whether the financial statements show a true and fair view	1	K Systems & processes	
They do this by planning and performing the audit in such a way as to respond appropriately to the risk identified.	1	S Using systems and	
For example, if the written off houseplants or undervalued contracts at Wanstead had resulted in a material misstatement then the auditor should detect that.	1	processes S Using systems and processes	
Grove may also have a responsibility to report a fraud to an external, relevant authority.	1	K Systems & processes	
The fraud amounted to £25,000 which is not material in amount.	1	S Using systems and	
but may be considered material by nature due to director's involvement.	1	processes B Adding value	
Best wishes,			
Me			
Examiner comments Overall this sub-task was well-answered.			
Total possible marks	11	5K, 5S, 1B	
Maximum full marks	5		

Task 1.4 (b)	Marks	Nature		
2% total assets: 2% x 81,400,000 = £1,628,000	1	S Analysis		
1% revenue: 1% x 63,194,000 = £631,940 Lower figure, rounded = £632,000 (OF)	1 1 OF	S Analysis S Quality & accurate info		
Examiner comments				
Overall this sub-task was very well-answered, with all candidates scoring to	full marks.			
Total possible marks Maximum full marks	3 3	3S		

Task 1.4 (c)	Marks	Nature
The fraud resulted in a total loss to Jardini of £25,000 so is not a material misstatement as such, given audit materiality is £632,000 OF	1	S Using systems & processes
However, the existence of fraud will affect the auditor's assessment of risks of fraud due to misappropriation of assets when identifying significant audit areas – it is material by nature.	1	S Using systems & processes
This is particularly so when it gives rise to concerns about the integrity of management responsible for the entity's internal controls (ie Liam is a director)	1	S Using systems & processes

And will be viewed as an indication of increased significant risk of material misstatement due to fraud at assertion level eg of the valuation of inventory or the completeness of revenue	1	S Using systems & processes
Examiner comments Overall this sub-task was well-answered.		
Total possible marks	4	<b>4</b> S
Maximum full marks	2	1

Maximum rum marks		
Task 1.4(d)	Marks	Nature
Assertions Three of: Existence, valuation, rights/obligations, completeness	Max 3	
that inventory included in the financial statements exists (existence) and has not been destroyed.	1	K Systems & processes
that all existing inventory is included in the financial statements (completeness) at the appropriate valuation (valuation)	1	K Systems & processes
that the inventory belonging to the customer is not included in the financial statements (rights/obligations)	1	K Systems & processes
that the destroyed inventory is not included at full cost in the financial statements (valuation)	1	K Systems & processes
Substantive procedures Two different assertions to be tested.  Trace a sample of items on the final inventory summary back to the inventory count sheets – objective is to ensure all inventory	Max 4 1 for explanation 1 for linked assertion	D. Adoptobility
included in the financial statements <b>exists</b> . Ensure the summary does not include the destroyed items.	2	B Adaptability S Using systems &
<ul> <li>Trace a sample of items from the inventory count sheets to the final inventory summary— objective is to ensure inventory included in the financial statements is complete and does not include the destroyed items.</li> </ul>	2	processes B Adaptability S Using systems & processes
Select a sample of goods received documentation before the year- end and ensure the goods received are included in year-end inventory – objective is to ensure <b>rights/obligations</b> are correct.	2	B Adaptability S Using systems & processes
Select a sample of goods received documentation after the year- end and ensure the goods received are not included in year-end inventory – objective is to ensure <b>rights/obligations</b> are correct.	2	B Adaptability S Using systems & processes
Check that the calculations of <b>valuation</b> on the final inventory sheets have been made correctly, on a sample basis ie lower of cost and NRV using AVCO for plants and FIFO for gardening equipment)	2	B Adaptability S Using systems & processes B Adaptability
Trace the cost of a sample of plants and gardening equipment to purchase invoices to ensure cost has been recorded correctly and on the right basis – valuation.	2	S Using systems & processes B Adaptability
Trace <b>valuation</b> by items to post year-end sales invoices to ensure the items achieved at least cost – if not they should be valued at NRV	2	S Using systems & processes

Examiner comments				
Overall this sub-task was well-answered although candidates failed to take account of the fact that the				
inventory count had taken place some time ago so there was no longer scope for physical tests.				
Total possible marks	18	4K, 7S, 7B		
Maximum full marks	7			

Task 2.1	
General comments	
Overall this sub-task was well-answered	

Task 2.1(a)			Marks	Nature
Contribution Breakeven volume Market demand Margin of safety MOS % Gross profit Fixed costs Total profit	35.00 -16.50 17,300/18.50 1,050-935 115/1050 18.50 * 1,050	18.50 935 units 1,050 115 11% 19,425.00 17,300.00 2,125.00	1 1 1 1 1	S Analysis S Analysis S Analysis S Analysis S Analysis S Q & Al
Examiner comments This sub-task was extremely well-answered, with all candidates scoring full marks.				
Total possible marks Maximum full marks	,		6 6	6S

Task 2.1(b)			Marks	Nature
Sales price Target variable costs Target contribution Volume Gross profit Fixed costs Total profit	55% 45% 1,050 * 1.5 1,575 * 13.05 OF 17,300*1.05	29.00 15.95 13.05 1,575 20,553.75 18,165.00 2,388.75	1 1 1 1	S Analysis S Analysis S Analysis S Analysis
Examiner comments This sub-task was extrem  Total possible marks Maximum full marks	mely well-answered.		4 4	48

Task 2.1 (c)	Marks	Nature
Three factors to be considered  How are estimates of demand and price arrived at?  - Are all competitor prices taken into account or just local ones?  - Does the price reflect the quality that J is aiming for?	1 for a relevant factor, 1 for further explanation	S Analysis B Professional scepticism
Achievability of volumes in timescale using website  - Is it feasible for the website to generate a sufficient volume of demand to result in over 1,000 letterbox plants to be delivered within three months?	2	S Analysis B Professional scepticism

The directors	nbers of people	ofor the trial? sh whether Morpeth covers who may wish to buy this		2	S Analysis B Planning & prioritisation
in order to ac	Is it possible to reduce the cost of the plants/packaging/delivery by 55p in order to achieve the increased profit at the lower selling price? This will depend to some extent on the price elasticity of demand.		2	S Analysis B Professional scepticism	
Attitude to risk – is the margin of safety on either plan sufficient? The margin of safety based on Sara's figures is only 11%, which suggests there is a stronger risk that breakeven will not be achieved. For Bex's estimates, the MOS is not much higher, at 1,575 – (£18,165/£13.05) = 183 units or 183/1575 = 11.6%			2	S Analysis B Professional scepticism	
How reliable are the fixed costs estimates? Because the MOS is quite low, any underestimate of fixed costs will lead to a loss quite quickly			2	S Analysis B Professional scepticism	
Could delivery be outsourced? It may be worth investigating the outsourcing of delivery to a third party, to reduce both variable and possibly fixed costs of operating the product from Morpeth.			2	S Analysis B Planning & prioritisation	
Pricing factors: Competitors. Costs. Customers The prices that Sara and Bex have identified should be tested against information about what customers are prepared to pay and what competitors are charging, as well as against the costs of operating the product.			2	S Analysis B Professional scepticism	
Quality factors of plants/packaging/delivery The trial could go very badly if the quality of all the elements of the product do not match customer demands, so care should be taken in making sure there is enough quality that the product does not generate complaints, demand for refunds or bad publicity.			2	S Analysis B Planning & prioritisation	
Examiner co	mments				
	average mark nd ensuring qua	on this sub-task was compeality.	etent, candidates se	emed to struggle	e to identify
Total possib				18 6	12S, 6B
Maximum fu					1
Task 2.1 (d)				Marks	Nature
	Probability 25% 45% 30%	Total revenue 12,000,000 15,700,000 17,600,000  Jardini variable 7.5%*15,345,000  Jardini fixed 100*£2,500  Jardini total	Expected value 3,000,000 7,065,000 5,280,000 15,345,000 1,150,875 250,000 1,400,875	Marks  2 1	Nature  S Q & AI S Q & AI S Q & AI
Task 2.1 (d)  Worst case Most likely Best case  Examiner co	Probability 25% 45% 30%	12,000,000 15,700,000 17,600,000 Jardini variable 7.5%*15,345,000 Jardini fixed 100*£2,500	3,000,000 7,065,000 5,280,000 15,345,000 1,150,875 250,000 1,400,875	2 1 1	S Q & AI S Q & AI S Q & AI

Total possible marks Maximum full marks **4S** 

4 4

## Task 2.2

## **General comments**

Overall this sub-task was well-answered

Task 2.2 (a)	Marks	Nature
	Max 4 Max 3 if drivers	
	are generic	
Two cost drivers: any activity that affects the cost of a product or service	are generic	
Procurement of plants and other inventory;	1	SQ&AI
acquiring human resources (employees and contractors) to complete	1	SQ&AI
activities, especially operations and logistics;		
acquiring and maintaining properties, vehicles and machinery;	1	SQ&AI
providing administration and other infrastructure such as the website and	1	SQ&AI
information systems		
Two value drivers: elements of products and services which increase the amount of value that consumers and corporate clients place on them.		
Offering specialist plants and safe/efficient garden services;	1	SQ&AI
setting up concessions;	1	SQ&AI
branding and advertising; user-friendly and efficient website sales;	1	SQ&AI SQ&AI
elements of service activity	1	SQ&AI
ciomonio di sorvice delivity	•	0 4 4 7 11
Four concerns and linkages	Max 8	
Per concern: 1 for an explanation of improvement and 1 for correctly		
stating two linked activities		
Delay in local advertising of new concessions:	Max 2	
Delay suggests there are weak linkages between the primary activities	1	S Analysis
of operations v marketing/sales Ensuring that agreeing a new concession is communicated immediately	1	B Proactivity
and in detail to managers responsible for local and national advertising		Diriodolivity
will remove the delay		
This adds value by bring sales in quicker to concessions, from which	1	B Added value
Jardini derives commission income		
Poor quality team members:	Max 2	
There are poor linkages between outbound logistics v procurement/HR	1	S Analysis
Whether they are self-employed contractors (sourced by procurement) or employees (sourced by HR), workers supplied by Jardini should be		B Proactivity
properly trained and equipped to meet the minimum standard set by		
Jardini and required by clients		
Improving quality will add value by ensuring a more efficient service for	1	B Added value
clients and help to retain more corporate clients		
Supplies of rare and expensive plants:	Max 2	0.0
There are poor linkages between inbound logistics, service and	1	S Analysis
procurement When ordering these plants, procurement should specify exact times for	1	B Proactivity
delivery and ensure that inbound logistics are aware of the time-critical		Diriodolivity
nature of the deliveries.		
The service activity should consider whether the policy on return of	1	B Proactivity
these plants by customers is too generous	_	
Improving linkages will ensure more successful sales of more rare	1	B Added value
plants, which will improve profits	Max 2	
Plant knowledge: There are poor linkages between operations, procurement and IT	ıvıax ∠ 1	S Analysis
development	'	J / ilialyolo
There should be a central database in which all up-to-date information	1	B Proactivity
about regulations and other issues affecting particular plants is logged		

This will add value by limiting write-offs and ensuring that the right orders are placed in the first place.	1	B Added value
·		
Examiner comments		
This sub-task was well-answered by most candidates.		
Total possible marks	22	13S, 9B
Maximum full marks	12	

Task 2.2 (b)	Marks	Nature	
Individual is a supplier and loses basic rights in contract on termination of the agreement with Jardini eg cannot claim unfair or wrongful dismissal.	1	B Added value	
Individual loses employment rights related to holiday, sick pay, maternity/paternity/adoption pay or leave.	1	B Added value	
Individual must start to deal with HMRC direct ie Jardini does not account for NI or tax through PAYE.	1	B Added value	
Examiner comments			
This sub-task was well-answered by most candidates.			
Total possible marks Maximum full marks	3 2	3B	

Task 2.2 (c)	Marks	Nature
RFID tags		
can be attached to items of inventory, such as plants and gardening equipment, or to vehicles and machinery, and IoT means the location and condition of the items can be tracked by Jardini's management information system using the internet in real time.	2	K Business awareness B Proactivity
should be attached to higher value inventories and non-current assets as a priority in order to manage where they are kept and for how long, so they are secure and do not deteriorate.	2	K Business awareness B Proactivity
allow closer monitoring and control of inventories and non-current assets so they can be swapped between garden centres and or gardening services teams to meet demand from customers and the needs of the garden services teams.	2	K Business awareness B Proactivity
A smartphone with a location-enabled app		
means the team leader can log into the app and identify which people and what machinery are being deployed at the client's premises, so the correct hours can be billed to the client.	2	K Business awareness S Teamwork
automatically cross-checks that the location ties in with what the team leader has entered, so Jardini's management can be assured that people are where they say they are.	2	K Business awareness B Proactivity
the increased accuracy of Jardini's management of the team will ensure the client receives a better service and can be sure they are being billed fairly and promptly.	2	K Business awareness B Proactivity

allows Jardini to keep team leaders up to date with the availability of	2	K Business	
workers, vehicles and machinery so they can call on additional		awareness	
resources as required.		B Proactivity	
allows tooms to find client locations mars easily as loca time is enent	0	K Duoinaga	
allows teams to find client locations more easily so less time is spent	2	K Business	
finding the client's premises		awareness	
		B Proactivity	
Examiner comments			
This sub-task was well-answered by most candidates.			
Total possible marks	16	8K, 1S, 7B	
Maximum full marks	6		