



Unit: Principles of Business Operations

Sample Assignment

Important notes

- Please refer to the *Assignment Presentation Requirements* for advice on how to set out your assignment. These can be found on the NCC Education website. Click on 'Policies & Advice' on the main menu and then click on 'Student Support'.
- You must read the NCC Education documents *What is Academic Misconduct? Guidance for Candidates* and *Avoiding Plagiarism and Collusion: Guidance for Candidates* and ensure that you acknowledge all the sources that you use in your work. These documents are available on the NCC Education website. Click on 'Policies & Advice' on the main menu and then click on 'Student Support'.
- You **must** complete the *Statement and Confirmation of Own Work*. The form is available on the NCC Education website. Click on 'Policies & Advice' on the main menu and then click on 'Student Support'.
- Please make a note of the recommended word count. You could lose marks if you write 10% more or less than this.
- You must submit a paper copy and digital copy. Media containing viruses, or media that cannot be run directly, will result in a fail grade being awarded for this assessment.
- All electronic media will be checked for plagiarism.

Introduction

This assignment requires you to demonstrate knowledge and skills you have acquired throughout the course of this module, by producing a 4,000 word, fully referenced, academic report that addresses the tasks given below.

In order to complete the assignment, you will need to choose an appropriate international manufacturing organisation to research, and on which to base your responses to the given tasks. The organisation can be selected from any industrial sector, such as aerospace, automotive, clothing, food, beverage, computing, electronics, etc.

You can use web resources to enable you to understand your selected organisation, although do not limit yourself solely to web-based sources of information. You should also use academic, industry and other reliable sources.

Example Scenario (not to be used by the student)

Esquel Group

In March 2019, Esquel opened its latest clothing production facility at Guilin, Guanxi, China. The facility not only embraced the latest cutting-edge technology in garment manufacturing, but also demonstrated the organisation's commitment to sustainability by having no fabric dyeing or chemical washing at the site. It is this balance of quality of product combined with establishing sustainable operations practices that distinguishes Esquel in the apparel manufacturing sector.

Since Esquel was founded in 1978, it has sought to not only produce high quality clothing, supplying global brands such as Nike, Ralph Lauren, Lacoste, and Calvin Klein, but also be mindful of sustainable and ethical practices. This dual focus is evident in the number of awards and accolades Esquel has received for quality and sustainability. Among its certifications, it has achieved compliance with ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.

In order to control the quality of not only the finished products, but also the input materials at each stage of operation, Esquel has a vertical supply chain. This supply chain spans from cotton farming through to retail and distribution, with spinning, weaving, dyeing, knitting and accessories production in-between. Esquel has, in particular, worked extensively with farmers, helping to improve yields and cotton quality, while at the same time using sustainable techniques.

Despite the clothing industry in general receiving adverse media scrutiny in recent years for its lack of green credentials, Esquel has actively sought to minimise its impact on the environment in all its operations either by reducing energy consumption, utilising non-polluting dyes, investing in wastewater treatment processes or seeking to increase material usage. There has been a continuous upgrading of equipment to embrace more energy-efficient technologies.

While automation of production is increasingly important, especially to drive down production costs, some processes remain labour-oriented, such as draping. Consequently, Esquel places emphasis on effective employment practices, first-class working conditions and providing opportunities for personal growth and development for its 57,000 worldwide employees. The commitment to training and education in order to drive operational

improvements is encouraged through the development, sharing and dissemination of knowledge in the company.

Nonetheless, automated production will become more commonplace in the clothing industry as businesses seek to not only reduce production times and therefore costs, but also to establish manufacturing bases closer to major markets rather than in low-cost labour locations. Already, Esquel has an automated spinning mill in Changji, Xinjiang, with 30,000 spindles controlled by only 45 staff, which is significantly lower than traditional plants. In addition, machine visual recognition facilitates the auto-inspection of finished products and helps to maintain quality standards by highlighting and eliminating defects.

<https://www.esquel.com/news/esquel-unveils-integral%E2%80%99s-garment-operation>
accessed 4/2/20

<https://www.esquel.com/from-seed-to-shirt> accessed 4/2/20

https://www.just-style.com/analysis/esquel-elevates-green-credentials-with-new-chinese-facility_id133646.aspx accessed 4/2/20

https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Esquel_Group accessed 4/2/20

<https://www.scmp.com/business/banking-finance/article/2165582/hong-kong-shirtmaker-esquel-turns-robots-beat-us-tariffs> accessed 4/2/20

Do **NOT** use Esquel as the basis of your assignment. This is just an example. You must choose the organisation yourself.

Please note, this assignment must be your own work as it is designed to test your abilities.

Submitted assignments will be checked for plagiarism. For more information, please refer to NCC Education's Academic Misconduct Policy, which can be found on the website.

Aim

You are required to answer the FIVE (5) tasks below, in relation to your chosen organisation. For each task, you must fully justify your answer using evidence from your research.

Task 1 – 20 Marks

Examine the relationship between the organisation's corporate strategy and its operations strategy.

Task 2 – 20 Marks

Analyse the importance of technology in supporting operations within the organisation.

Task 3 – 20 Marks

Discuss the rationale for the process types used in the organisation to manufacture the type of goods being created.

Questions continue on the next page

Task 4 – 20 Marks

Examine the role of performance measures in the organisation for driving improvements in operations.

Task 5 – 20 Marks

Discuss the importance of agile and lean operations in continuing to meet the organisation's customers' needs.

Guidance

Consult with your tutor if you are uncertain about any aspect of this assignment.

Submission requirements

You must submit a word-processed report.

Your report should answer Tasks 1 to 5. The word count for your report is **4000 words**.

Candidate checklist

Please use the following checklist to ensure that your work is ready for submission.

Have you read the NCC Education documents *What is Academic Misconduct? Guidance for Candidates* and *Avoiding Plagiarism and Collusion: Guidance for Candidates* and ensured that you have acknowledged all the sources that you have used in your work?

Have you completed the *Statement and Confirmation of Own Work* form and attached it to your assignment? **You must do this.**

Have you ensured that your work has not gone over or under the recommended word count by more than 10%?

Have you ensured that your work does not contain viruses and can be run directly?