# IQM4001

**LEVEL 4 · SAMPLE ASSESSMENT**

## Global Business, Sustainability and Society

# Individual Policy Briefing Report

## Candidate assessment pack

**Assessment**
**IQM4001 A1**

**Sample set**
**2026-S**

**Status**
**SAMPLE ASSESSMENT**

**Release timing**
**at coursework release**

**Duration**
**Not time-limited; centre submission deadline applies**

**Response length**
**2,000 words indicative; sample uses 1,800-2,200 words, excluding references and appendices**

**Total marks**
**100**

**Weighting**
**60% of module**

**AI condition**
**Level 2 – AI Planning: planning, ideation and source orientation only; assessed analysis, evaluation, recommendations and the final report must be independently produced. Any source suggested or located with AI must be independently read, verified and cited. Follow institutional acknowledgement rules.**

## About this sample assessment

SAMPLE ASSESSMENT / 2026-S — You are an independent analyst advising the board sustainability committee of fictional multinational apparel company Northwind Threads plc. The company designs garments in the UK, sources cotton and cut-and-sew services from several countries, and sells through online and high-street channels. The board must decide how to respond to increasing scrutiny of water use, supplier wages and sustainability claims.

Supplied synthetic case evidence: reported Scope 1-2 emissions fell 62% over five years after renewable-electricity contracts, while absolute Scope 3 emissions rose 18% as sales and air-freighted orders expanded. In the last year, 78% of tier-1 factories were audited, but only 41% of corrective actions were closed within six months. A supplier grievance hotline received 230 reports; 64% were marked closed, with no public information on worker confirmation. Cotton comes from two high-water-stress regions. Take-back covers 9% of units sold; most returned garments are downcycled.

These figures and the company are fictional and supplied for this sample; do not describe them as real-world evidence. This is a sample-specific fictional case, not the guide's approved real-organisation live task. A live assessment would require its own academic approval and evidence decision.

## Instructions for candidates

- Write a board-facing policy briefing that explains two material globalisation, policy or sustainability trends shaping the case and links them to Northwind's operating choices.
- Use a focused PESTLE analysis and apply at least two further suitable frameworks selected from stakeholder mapping, SDGs, ESG materiality, CSR, circular economy or ethical due diligence.
- Analyse evidence on climate, water, labour and claims. Distinguish reported activity from demonstrated outcomes; explain at least one stakeholder conflict and one evidence limitation.
- Evaluate the credibility and adequacy of the current response and provide three ranked recommendations. For each, state owner, first action, a measurable indicator and a material trade-off or implementation risk.
- Use an executive summary, concise headings, in-text citations and reference list. A one-page stakeholder/materiality table may be included.

## Requirement 1

Write a board-facing policy briefing that explains two material globalisation, policy or sustainability trends shaping the case and links them to Northwind's operating choices.

**Response guidance:** Address this requirement in the relevant section of your policy briefing.

## Requirement 2

Use a focused PESTLE analysis and apply at least two further suitable frameworks selected from stakeholder mapping, SDGs, ESG materiality, CSR, circular economy or ethical due diligence.

**Response guidance:** Address this requirement in the relevant section of your policy briefing.

## Requirement 3

Analyse evidence on climate, water, labour and claims. Distinguish reported activity from demonstrated outcomes; explain at least one stakeholder conflict and one evidence limitation.

**Response guidance:** Address this requirement in the relevant section of your policy briefing.

## Requirement 4

Evaluate the credibility and adequacy of the current response and provide three ranked recommendations. For each, state owner, first action, a measurable indicator and a material trade-off or implementation risk.

**Response guidance:** Address this requirement in the relevant section of your policy briefing.

## Requirement 5

Use an executive summary, concise headings, in-text citations and reference list. A one-page stakeholder/materiality table may be included.

**Response guidance:** Address this requirement in the relevant section of your policy briefing.

## Prepare and submit your work

- Executive summary (about 150 words)
- Context and material global drivers (about 250)
- Focused PESTLE and framework application (about 450)
- Evidence-led issue and stakeholder analysis (about 550)
- Evaluation and three ranked recommendations (about 450)
- Conclusion (about 100)
- References and optional appendix
- Use the synthetic case facts above plus at least six independently located credible sources, including at least two academic sources, one relevant policy/standards source and company/sector evidence. Retain your planning, source-selection notes, relevant working files and source-verification record. Your centre will complete at least one supervised progress checkpoint; be ready to show development evidence and respond to questions about your work.
- Permitted materials: Open-resource coursework. You may use credible academic, policy, organisational, sustainability and ESG sources and normal research notes and planning materials. Independently select, access and verify every source. Calculator: not applicable to this assessment.

Sample controls: retain planning, source-selection and relevant working-file evidence until the centre confirms the retention period. Complete the supervised progress checkpoint arranged by the centre. The fictional Northwind Threads case is used here only as a sample-specific teaching illustration; it is not an approved real organisation or approved live-task substitution.