IQM4004

LEVEL 4 · SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

INTO QUALIFICATIONS

Statistics and Data Analysis

Independent Research Project and Data Analysis Report

STAFF ONLY · Staff marking and administration guide

Assessment
IQM4004 A2

Sample set
2026-S

Status
SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

Release timing
at coursework release

Duration
Not time-limited; centre submission deadline applies

Response length
1,500 words ±10%

Total marks
100

Weighting
40% of module

AI condition
Level 2 planning only as stated in the candidate brief

Purpose: This guide supports administration and marking of the A2 Independent Research Project and Data Analysis Report. It aligns with the candidate assessment pack.

Assessment identity and evidence

Field	Requirement
Assessment	A2 Independent Research Project and Data Analysis Report
Weighting	40% of module mark
Report length	1,500 words ±10%
Analytical areas	Introduction and business research question; dataset and research method; data presentation and descriptive statistics; statistical analysis and interpretation; discussion and business implications; ethical considerations; conclusion
Evidence required	Final report, source file, working calculations/data file, software output where relevant, source citation and tutor approval record
AI condition	Level 2 planning-only use as stated in the candidate brief; no generated assessed prose or analysis unless the current controlled guide expressly permits it

Dataset and approval controls

Each candidate must choose a dataset that is suitable for the question and obtain tutor approval before analysis. The marker should verify the submitted approval record, the dataset actually analysed, the source or collection method, the variables and units, and the link between the dataset and the report. A report cannot receive full credit for a dataset that is unexplained, unverifiable or materially different from the approved version.

The Parkside dataset is a practice-only example. It is not mandatory, it is not an approved assessed dataset by default, and it must not be presented as evidence of a candidate checkpoint or tutor approval. A candidate may use another dataset when the tutor has approved it and the evidence is retained. The internal mock response in this pack uses a different fictional dataset and is labelled synthetic throughout.

Checkpoint and authorship evidence

The candidate brief requires a supervised checkpoint. Staff should retain the dated checkpoint record and identify what was reviewed. Do not infer attendance, authorship, approval or checkpoint completion from a polished report, a file timestamp or the mock response. Where evidence is absent, record the gap and apply the controlled assessment rules.

Retain the candidate-specific approval and checkpoint evidence separately when the assessment is used in practice.

Marking grid

Area	Marks	Marker focus
Introduction and business research question	10	Clear business context, focused question and feasible aim.
Dataset and research method	15	Source/collection, population or sample, variables, units, method and approval evidence.
Data presentation and descriptive statistics	30	Accurate tables, chart, summaries, calculations and transparent presentation.
Statistical analysis and interpretation	20	Appropriate analysis, correct calculations, patterns and interpretation tied to the question.
Discussion and business implications	15	Meaning for the business, cautious implications and evidence-based discussion.
Ethical considerations	5	Relevant privacy, fairness, consent and data-governance considerations.
Conclusion	5	Concise answer to the question and justified next steps.

Marker decision rules

Award marks for evidence demonstrated in the submitted report and supporting files. Use the descriptors as a guide and record criterion-specific reasons. A claimed chart without the actual labelled figure is not evidence for area 3, Data presentation and descriptive statistics. A generic statement that calculations were completed is not evidence for area 3 or area 4. A synthetic practice response may illustrate the standard but does not prove real tutor approval, checkpoint completion or candidate authorship.