IQM4010

LEVEL 4 · SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

Financial Accounting and Reporting

Sample financial performance analysis report ·

Candidate assessment pack

Assessment
IQM4010 A2

Sample set
2026-S

Status
SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

Response length
1,500 words (±10%)

Total marks
100

Release timing
at coursework release

About this sample assessment

This individual open-resource report assesses a company's published financial statements and related reporting evidence over two accounting periods. You will prepare a 1,500-word report (±10%). The word count excludes tables, graphs, charts, calculations, references and appendices. The assessment is worth 100 marks and carries 40% weighting, supported by digital workings and a source record.

The specified real-report exemplar selected for this sample is Greggs plc Annual Report and Accounts 2024. This selection is made for the sample pack; formal centre approval and inclusion in the live set must be confirmed before delivery.

Assessment context and task

Act as a financial analyst preparing a report for a potential long-term lender. Analyse Greggs plc using the 2024 annual report and the comparative 2023 figures in that report. Reach a reasoned lending view supported by calculations, source anchors, limitations and recommendations for further due diligence. Distinguish reported facts, your calculations, interpretations and assumptions.

Required report sections

- Company and industry overview
- Financial statement analysis
- Ratio analysis
- Trend and performance evaluation
- Governance and ethical reporting
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Reflection

Minimum analytical coverage

Begin with an overview of Greggs plc and the relevant food-to-go industry context, using the annual report and clearly referenced external sources where needed. Use at least two accounting periods and calculate and interpret a suitable set of measures, including profitability, efficiency, liquidity, solvency and cash-flow measures. Explain relationships between measures and avoid treating any single ratio as a decision rule. Discuss governance and ethical reporting using the report's governance and assurance evidence. Evaluate future prospects from the report's strategy, risks, investment and outlook disclosures, while labelling forward-looking statements as management assertions.

Selected source and page anchors

Primary source: Greggs plc, Annual Report and Accounts 2024, official publisher PDF: https://assets.greggs.com/f/162306/x/85edb88f68/greggs-annual-report-and-accounts-2024.pdf. Use the report's printed page numbers. Useful anchors include: 2024 highlights and performance pages 1–9; Chief Executive's Report pages 17–23; strategy pages 26–37; key performance indicators page 38; financial review pages 59–63; governance report pages 75–80; audit committee report pages 88–94; consolidated income statement and comprehensive income page 128; balance sheets page 129; changes in equity pages 130–131; cash flows page 132; notes pages 134–171. Record the exact page for every input used.

Source record and digital workings

Submit a source record naming the report, publisher, URL, access date, report period, printed page anchors and any extraction or transcription decisions. Submit a clearly labelled spreadsheet or equivalent digital workbook containing inputs, formulas, unrounded workings, units (£m unless the report states otherwise), checks and an output summary. Preserve formulas and working schedules so a reviewer can trace each reported ratio to a source input. A digital tool is required; do not submit hard-coded outputs without formula evidence.

Submission and evidence requirements

- Submit a cover sheet, report, source record and digital workings.
- Attend the centre's supervised progress checkpoint and retain the required planning, source-selection and working-file evidence.
- Planning uses of generative AI may be permitted at Level 2 only where the centre authorises them and you record the tool, prompt purpose and output checks. Do not use generative AI to write, rewrite, calculate, fabricate sources, fabricate evidence or make the final submission.
- Use Harvard referencing and identify any external definitions or context. Do not invent industry benchmarks or missing opening balances.
- Your report is individual work. Do not share files or obtain external assistance during production beyond authorised support.

Task focus

Your conclusion should state what the evidence supports, what remains uncertain, and what a lender should verify before committing exposure. Critical reflection should address data quality, closing-balance limitations, ratio definitions, source reliability, ethical risks and how your method could be improved with management accounts or monthly data.

Candidate declaration: I confirm that this is my individual work and that my source record and digital workings are complete and traceable.