No. 636   **5 June 2009**

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA)

In accordance with Regulation 24(c) of the National Standards Bodies Regulations of 28 March 1998, the Standards Generating Body (SGB) for

Business Systems

registered by Organising Field 10 – Physical, Mathematical, Computer and Life Sciences, publishes the following Qualification for public comment.

This notice contains the titles, fields, sub-fields, NQF levels, credits, and purpose of the Qualification. The full Qualification can be accessed via the SAQA web-site at **www.saqa.org.za**. Copies may also be obtained from the Directorate of Standards Setting and Development at the SAQA offices, SAQA House, 1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria.

Comment on the Qualification should reach SAQA at the address below and *no later than 06 July 2009.* All correspondence should be marked **Standards Setting – Task Team for Business Systems** and addressed to

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> SAQA
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D. MPHUTHING
ACTING DIRECTOR: STANDARDS SETTING AND DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

SAQA

QUALIFICATION:
Master: Business Systems

SAQA QUAL ID	QUALIFICATION TITLE		
71529	Master: Business Systems		
ORIGINATOR		PROVIDER	
Task Team - Business Systems			
QUALIFICATION TYPE	FIELD	SUBFIELD	
Masters Degree	10 - Physical, Mathematical, Computer and Life Sciences	Information Technology and Computer Sciences	
ABET BAND	MINIMUM CREDITS	NQF LEVEL	QUAL CLASS
Undefined	240	Level 8 and above	Regular-ELOAC

This qualification does not replace any other qualification and is not replaced by another qualification.

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION
Purpose:

Business analysis is an internal consultancy function that is responsible for investigating business systems, identifying options for improving business systems and bridging the needs of the business with the use of Information Technology. A business analyst works as a liaison among stakeholders in order to elicit, analyse, communicate and validate requirements for changes to business processes, policies and information systems. The business analyst understands business problems and opportunities in the context of the requirements and recommends solutions that enable the organisation to achieve its goals.

This qualification will contribute to the development of learners in that they will gain knowledge and a deep understanding of research and will become specialists in the design, development and applications of computer systems for business operations. Business operations learning will include learning in strategic management, planning, scheduling, forecasting, manufacturing, production management, project management, financial management, marketing, business modelling, multimedia communications, electronic data interchange and other functional areas of business, industry and government.

Recipients of this qualification will be able to:

• Analyse the strategic business dealings of an organisation.
• Analyse strategic information technology for application in the business dealings of an organisation.
• Analyse the quality management system of a business system.
• Conduct independent research in a selected area of business analysis.

Rationale:

This Qualification meets the needs of the sector by providing a standard against which business systems learners can be educated. This Qualification meets the needs of society by providing competent learners who are able to conduct strategical business analyses and therefore contribute to the overall improvement of the business strategy and economic viability and sustainability of an organisation.

This Qualification will enable the qualifying learner to contribute to the success of an organisation by implementing effective Information Technology based solutions. The learner completing this Qualification will have successfully completed a Professional Qualification or Honours Degree in Business Administration, Information Technology or equivalent prior to attempting this Qualification. The typical learner will occupy a management position in an organisation or act as a consultant where the gained knowledge and researched practices from this Qualification will enable the implementation of new or improved business systems.

This Qualification will allow the learner access to a Doctoral Degree in Business Analysis or an equivalent Doctoral Degree.

RECOGNIZE PREVIOUS LEARNING?
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LEARNING ASSUMED IN PLACE
Learners registering for this qualification should be able to:

• Engage in contextualised sustained oral communication.
• Evaluate written and spoken texts.
• Read, analyse and respond to a variety of texts in a wide range of contexts.
• Communicate what they have learned coherently, accurately and comprehensively in the required medium of instruction.
• Take responsibility for their own learning progress.
• Evaluate their own performance against given criteria.
• Search for, access, organise and interpret available information.
• Plan, design and execute a research project independently.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

This Qualification makes the Recognition of Prior Learning possible, if the learner is able to demonstrate competence in the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes implicit in this Business Analysis Qualification. Recognition of Prior Learning will be done by means of an Integrated Assessment as mentioned in the previous paragraph.

All recognition of Prior Learning is subject to quality assurance by the relevant accredited Education, Training, Quality, and Assurance Body and is conducted by a registered workplace assessor. Because the standards are only core and fundamental, these standards may have been acquired in a range of economic sectors and these will be recognizes as appropriate.

Recognition of Prior Learning can be allocated against course work components but a research project must still be completed.

Access to the Qualification:

Learners wishing access to this qualification must have successfully completed an Honours Degree in Business Administration, Business Analysis or Information Technology, or equivalent.

QUALIFICATION RULES
All Exit Level Outcome are compulsory. Research forms a compulsory part of this qualification either by completing:

• A single advanced research project, culminating in the production and acceptance of a dissertation.
• A coursework programme requiring a high level of theoretical engagement and intellectual independence and a research project comprising of a minimum of 50% of the programme.

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES

1. Analyse the strategic business dealings of an organisation.

2. Analyse strategic information technology for application in the business dealings of an organisation.

3. Analyse the quality management system of a business system.

4. Conduct independent research in a selected area of business analysis.

Critical Cross-Field Outcomes:

This qualification promotes, in particular, the following Critical Cross-Field Outcomes:

1. Identifying and solving problems in which responses display that responsible decisions using critical and creative thinking have been made when:

- Analysing the strategic business dealings of an organisation.
- Analysing strategic information technology for application in the business dealings of an organisation.
- Analysing the quality management system of a business system.
- Conducting independent research in a selected area of business analysis.

2. Working effectively with others as a member of a team, group, organisation, and community during:

- The analysis of the strategic business dealings of an organisation.
- The analysis of strategic information technology for application in the business dealings of an organisation.
- The analysis of the quality management system of a business system.
- The conducting of independent research in a selected area of business analysis.

3. Organising and managing oneself and one's activities responsibly and effectively when:

- Analysing the strategic business dealings of an organisation.
- Analysing strategic information technology for application in the business dealings of an organisation.
- Analysing the quality management system of a business system.
- Conducting independent research in a selected area of business analysis.

4. Communicate effectively using visual, mathematical and/or language in the modes of oral and/or written persuasion when:

- Analysing the strategic business dealings of an organisation.
- Analysing strategic information technology for application in the business dealings of an organisation.
- Analysing the quality management system of a business system.
- Conducting independent research in a selected area of business analysis.

5. Collecting, analysing, organising and critically evaluating information to better understand and explain:

- The strategic business dealings of an organisation.
- The application of strategic information technology in the business dealings of an organisation.

- The quality management system of a business system.

6. Using science and technology effectively and critically, showing responsibility towards the environment and health of others when:

- Analysing the strategic business dealings of an organisation.
- Analysing strategic information technology for application in the business dealings of an organisation.
. Analysing the quality management system of a business system.
- Conducting independent research in a selected area of business analysis.

7. Demonstrating an understanding of the world as a set of related systems by recognising that problem-solving contexts do not exist in isolation when:

- Analysing the strategic business dealings of an organisation.
- Analysing strategic information technology for application in the business dealings of an organisation.
- Analysing the quality management system of a business system.
- Conducting independent research in a selected area of business analysis.

ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 1:

1.1 Strategic business operation and design are analysed for consideration in the business strategy.
- Range: Operation includes but is not limited to strategic and operational business processes and procedures.
1.2 The application of strategic business management is analysed in the organisation.
- Range: Strategic business management includes but is not limited to the integrated planning, organising, leading and controlling of resources.
1.3 A business strategy is developed which is based on project management practices.
- Range: The business strategy includes but is not limited to the vision, mission, strategic objectives and operational plans.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 2:

2.1 The role of information technology is analysed in order to understand how information technology can be integrated with the business strategy.
2.2 Past, contemporary and future information technology trends and directions are analysed for application within the business strategy.
2.3 Information technology applications and solutions are evaluated for application within the business.
2.4 Issues are analysed which affect the implementation of an information technology strategy.
- Range: Issues includes but is not limited to legal, economic, social and ethical issues.
2.5 An information and knowledge management strategy is developed for the business.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 3:

3.1 The security of a business system is evaluated in order to determine shortcomings.
3.2 A reliability study of a business system is conducted so as to ensure the integrity of the system.
3.3 A quality management system is developed for the business system.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 4: