

CISI Marking Commentary:

Are Hedge Funds and Proprietary traders, the use of derivatives and the prevalence of increasingly complex investments ruining the market for traditional investors?

Overall grade awarded: B (Pass)

Learning Outcome	Teacher-Assessor comments	Marks	Mark Band
LO1 (6 marks) <i>Plan and manage an investigation</i>	The Project Title form, and the report Introduction itself, offer a clear and thoughtful rationale for the candidate's choice of subject. The mark was dropped because the candidate provided insufficient detail in the allocation of time for each of the main tasks to be completed. With that exception, a high level of organisational ability was demonstrated, and the Activity Log provides satisfactory evidence that the research was undertaken by the candidate and problems were overcome.	5	3
LO2 (14 marks) <i>Undertake research, collect evidence and select information using appropriate methodologies</i>	The Learner uses a variety of relevant and up-to-date sources – however, not all of them are referenced. Good use is made of diagrams to summarise information and key terms are generally well defined. The Learner has not been able to resist including some extraneous information and some illustrations fail to convey any information at all, but overall, most of the content is pertinent. Good connections are made between ideas and topics and the Learner demonstrates a reasonable understanding of the complexities of the subject. The bibliography is well laid-out but does not include several of the sources referenced in the text.	8	2
LO3 (25 marks) <i>Analyse and interpret evidence, draw conclusions and write up results in the form of a report</i>	The report is generally well organised, but the Learner puts the "Case for Regulation" before any analysis of the causes of the Financial Crisis is attempted. Page numbers and clear sector headings are used but some diagrams are not captioned. There are a few language errors and these do not obscure the meaning of the text. The report ends with a clear conclusion, but not one that answers the question posed by the project title.	15	2
LO4 (9 marks) <i>Present an evaluation of the project</i>	The Learner's project evaluation shows a high level of insight and self-awareness, identifying the weaknesses of the research methodology and the areas for improvement. The Learner highlights the difficulties of separating fact from fiction in an emotive area of study, and considers the longer-term benefits of having undertaken this project.	7	3
Total marks / final grade		35 / 54	