**GROUP PROJECTS**

**General Areas to Cover**

**PART 1**

Students should demonstrate the role that management accountants play within organizations and how this has changed over time. The use of technology, especially the use of spreadsheets and the ability to change data in a ‘what if’ scenario, has allowed management accountants to use data in previously unavailable ways.

Students should also demonstrate understanding on how management accountants should be involved in non-financial considerations – possibly references to aspects such as balanced scorecards.

**PART 2**

Students should demonstrate understanding of the core differences between marginal costing and absorption costing. By considering the different profit figures using each system, students should be able to discuss the impact of using one system over the other and when each system is useful in decision-making.

**PART 3**

Students should demonstrate understanding of the core differences between traditional costing and activity-based costing. By considering the different profit figures using each system, students should be able to discuss the impact of using one system over the other and the impact of changing from one system to another.

**PART 4**

Whilst students may focus on the numbers, it is important that they demonstrate knowledge and understanding on how the budgetary process is complete on a theoretical basis. Students should demonstrate understanding of how different budgets correlate and impact other budgets. Therefore, they should produce at least two, if not three, budgets that correlate so that they can show understanding of the impacts a change in one budget has on another.

**PART 5**

Choosing the right company to use may be critical here, so tutors may want to help students with this before they start working on this project. Students should consider the sustainability reports for their chosen company over at least five years, if not ten. This will enable students to understand how this information has evolved over time and how it has taken on more importance to many stakeholders.

Integrated reporting is quite new, so students may not be able to go back five or ten years. Consideration of what integrated reporting is done by their chosen company in the current year may be enough for students to demonstrate their understanding of this topic area.

**PART 6**

Students should demonstrate understanding of the importance of EOQ to companies and the potential financial impact(s) should the quantity be incorrect. Whilst the provided answer in MS Excel uses the tabulation method, students should be encouraged to also adapt their answer to include the graphical and formula methods.