



CAREER CLUSTER

Marketing

CAREER PATHWAY

Merchandising

INSTRUCTIONAL AREA

Market Planning

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES MARKETING EVENT

PARTICIPANT INSTRUCTIONS

- The event will be presented to you through your reading of the 21st Century Skills, Performance Indicators and Event Situation. You will have up to 10 minutes to review this information and prepare your presentation. You may make notes to use during your presentation.
- You will have up to 10 minutes to make your presentation to the judge (you may have more than one judge).
- You will be evaluated on how well you demonstrate the 21st Century Skills and meet the performance indicators of this event.
- Turn in all of your notes and event materials when you have completed the event.

21st CENTURY SKILLS

- Critical Thinking – Reason effectively and use systems thinking.
- Problem Solving – Make judgments and decisions and solve problems.
- Communication – Communicate clearly.
- Creativity and Innovation – Show evidence of creativity.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Explain the nature of marketing plans.
- Explain the concept of marketing strategies.
- Explain the role of situation analysis in the marketing planning process.
- Plan reductions.
- Identify communications channels used in sales promotion.

EVENT SITUATION

You are to assume the role of the marketing manager for BLUE FIN, a mid-priced apparel retailer. The director of marketing (judge) wants you to develop a marketing plan that will reduce the amount of seasonal clearance at distribution centers and in stores.

BLUE FIN sells good quality, trendy apparel for everyone. The primary market is middle to upper-middle class professionals looking for stylish apparel for work or leisure.

At the end of each season, BLUE FIN stores and website put all excess inventory on clearance. This incentive helps sell as much as possible in order to make room for new seasonal merchandise in stores and distribution centers. At the end of last season, BLUE FIN had a final 50% off already reduced clearance price sale that brought in significant crowds of shoppers to the 800 BLUE FIN physical store locations.

BLUE FIN was happy with its overall sales, and store managers were happy to have cleared up space in stores. However, online sales were down, and the distribution centers had to deal with an excess of out of season inventory.

The director of marketing (judge) wants you to develop a marketing plan for the end of this season that will reduce the amount of out of season inventory primarily in distribution centers, but also store locations.

You will present your ideas to the director of marketing (judge) in a role-play to take place in the director of marketing's (judge's) office. The director of marketing (judge) will begin the role-play by greeting you and asking to hear your ideas. After you have presented ideas and have answered the director of marketing's (judge's) questions, the director of marketing (judge) will conclude the role-play by thanking you for your work.

JUDGE INSTRUCTIONS

DIRECTIONS, PROCEDURES AND JUDGE ROLE

In preparation for this event, you should review the following information with your event manager and other judges:

1. Participant Instructions, 21st Century Skills and Performance Indicators
2. Event Situation
3. Judge Role-Play Characterization
Allow the participants to present their ideas without interruption, unless you are asked to respond. Participants may conduct a slightly different type of meeting and/or discussion with you each time; however, it is important that the information you provide and the questions you ask be uniform for every participant.
4. Judge Evaluation Instructions and Judge Evaluation Form
Please use a critical and consistent eye in rating each participant.

JUDGE ROLE-PLAY CHARACTERIZATION

You are to assume the role of the director of marketing for BLUE FIN, a mid-priced apparel retailer. You want the marketing manager (participant) to develop a marketing plan that will reduce the amount of seasonal clearance at distribution centers and in stores.

BLUE FIN sells good quality, trendy apparel for everyone. The primary market is middle to upper-middle class professionals looking for stylish apparel for work or leisure.

At the end of each season, BLUE FIN stores and website puts all excess inventory on clearance. This incentive helps sell as much as possible in order to make room for new seasonal merchandise in stores and distribution centers. At the end of last season, BLUE FIN had a final 50% off already reduced clearance price sale that brought in significant crowds of shoppers to the 800 BLUE FIN physical store locations.

BLUE FIN was happy with its overall sales, and store managers were happy to have cleared up space in stores. However, online sales were down, and the distribution centers had to deal with an excess of out of season inventory.

You want the marketing manager (participant) to develop a marketing plan for the end of this season that will reduce the amount of out of season inventory primarily in distribution centers, but also store locations.

The participant will present information to you in a role-play to take place in your office. You will begin the role-play by greeting the participant and asking to hear about his/her ideas.

During the course of the role-play, you are to ask the following questions of each participant:

1. Why do most retailers have different return policies for clearance items than regular items?
2. What information do we need to communicate to our store managers?

Once the marketing manager (participant) has presented information and has answered your questions, you will conclude the role-play by thanking the marketing manager (participant) for the work.

You are not to make any comments after the event is over except to thank the participant.

EVALUATION INSTRUCTIONS

The participants are to be evaluated on their ability to perform the specific performance indicators stated on the cover sheet of this event and restated on the Judge's Evaluation Form. Although you may see other performance indicators demonstrated by the participants, those listed in the Performance Indicators section are the critical ones you are measuring for this particular event.

Evaluation Form Interpretation

The evaluation levels listed below and the evaluation rating procedures should be discussed thoroughly with your event director and the other judges to ensure complete and common understanding for judging consistency.

Level of Evaluation	Interpretation Level
Exceeds Expectations	Participant demonstrated the performance indicator in an extremely professional manner; greatly exceeds business standards; would rank in the top 10% of business personnel performing this performance indicator.
Meets Expectations	Participant demonstrated the performance indicator in an acceptable and effective manner; meets at least minimal business standards; there would be no need for additional formalized training at this time; would rank in the 70-89 th percentile of business personnel performing this performance indicator.
Below Expectations	Participant demonstrated the performance indicator with limited effectiveness; performance generally fell below minimal business standards; additional training would be required to improve knowledge, attitude and/or skills; would rank in the 50-69 th percentile of business personnel performing this performance indicator.
Little/No Value	Participant demonstrated the performance indicator with little or no effectiveness; a great deal of formal training would be needed immediately; perhaps this person should seek other employment; would rank in the 0-49 th percentile of business personnel performing this performance indicator.



**APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES MARKETING SERIES
2025**

JUDGE'S EVALUATION FORM
DISTRICT EVENT 1

Participant: _____

INSTRUCTIONAL AREA:
Market Planning

ID Number: _____

Did the participant:		Little/No Value	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Judged Score
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS						
1.	Explain the nature of marketing plans?	0-1-2-3-4	5-6-7-8	9-10-11	12-13-14	
2.	Explain the concept of marketing strategies?	0-1-2-3-4	5-6-7-8	9-10-11	12-13-14	
3.	Explain the role of situation analysis in the marketing planning process?	0-1-2-3-4	5-6-7-8	9-10-11	12-13-14	
4.	Plan reductions?	0-1-2-3-4	5-6-7-8	9-10-11	12-13-14	
5.	Identify communications channels used in sales promotion?	0-1-2-3-4	5-6-7-8	9-10-11	12-13-14	
21st CENTURY SKILLS						
6.	Reason effectively and use systems thinking?	0-1	2-3	4	5-6	
7.	Make judgments and decisions, and solve problems?	0-1	2-3	4	5-6	
8.	Communicate clearly?	0-1	2-3	4	5-6	
9.	Show evidence of creativity?	0-1	2-3	4	5-6	
10.	Overall impression and responses to the judge's questions	0-1	2-3	4	5-6	
TOTAL SCORE						