

Nurturing Potential since 1611

Course Profile

Business is a dynamic and relevant subject which aims to enable students to develop an understanding of how a business functions and makes decisions. The subject provides a good foundation for further studies in this area and is very useful for students who intend to pursue a career in a business organisation.

The AQA specification is followed and helps students:

- develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value
- be aware that business behaviour can be studied from the perspectives of a range of stakeholders
- acquire a range of skills including decision-making and problem-solving
- be aware of the current structure of business and business practice

This four-unit specification requires students to develop their ability to acquire a range of important and transferable skills including data skills, presenting arguments, making judgments and conducting research. This course has no coursework or controlled assessment.

Although not an entry requirement, this course is particularly suitable for students who have studied GCSE Business Studies as this specification builds on the concepts and skills they have already learned.

AS level

Assessments

The areas of content covered in the AS qualification are as follows:

1. What is business?
2. Managers, leadership and decision making
3. Decision making to improve marketing performance
4. Decision making to improve operational performance
5. Decision making to improve financial performance
6. Decision making to improve human resource performance

The following papers are examined in Year 12:

Paper 1

The exam

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes; 80 marks in total; 50% of AS

All the areas (1-6 above are covered and examined)

Questions

Three compulsory sections:

- Section A has 10 multiple choice questions (MCQs) worth 10 marks.
- Section B has short answer questions worth approximately 20 marks.
- Section C has two data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 25 marks.

Paper 2

The exam

written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes; 80 marks in total; 50% of AS

Questions

One compulsory case study consisting of approximately seven questions.

Before the qualification can be awarded, students must undertake **both** the assessments.

A level
Assessments
Business 1

What's assessed

Each unit assesses all of the content below:

The areas of content covered in the AS qualification are as follows:

1. What is business?
2. Managers, leadership and decision making
3. Decision making to improve marketing performance
4. Decision making to improve operational performance
5. Decision making to improve financial performance
6. Decision making to improve human resource performance
7. *Analysing the strategic position of a business (A-level only)*
8. *Choosing strategic direction (A-level only)*
9. *Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies (A-level only)*
10. *Managing strategic change (A-level only)*

Paper 1

Written exam: 2 hour; 100 marks in total; 33.3% of A-level

Questions

Three compulsory sections:

- *Section A has 15 multiple choice questions (MCQs) worth 15 marks.*
- *Section B has short answer questions worth 35 marks.*
- *Sections C and D have two essay questions (choice of one from two and one from two) worth 25 marks each.*

Business 2

Paper 2

Written exam: 2 hour; 100 marks in total; 33.3% of A-level

Questions

Three data response compulsory questions worth approximately 33 marks each and made up of three or four part questions.

Business 3

Paper 3

Written exam: 2 hour; 100 marks in total; 33.3% of A-level

Questions

One compulsory case study followed by approximately six questions

Each class is taught by two members of the department who split up the course evenly. Results in the subject are strong. In the past most students who take AS in Business Studies continue to full A level and a high proportion of those go on to further education to study a business related subject. As a subject Business would combine well with any subject combination. However those who might study the subject beyond A level should think seriously about taking Economics to AS level. Any student looking for a fourth AS to complement their other choices would find that Business at AS would provide an insight into how organisations work, which they might find useful in their future careers.