

A Level Business Studies

Do you plan on joining the world of work and industry during your lifetime? Whether you are setting up your own small business or working for a global multinational, many key areas of understanding and useful skills are introduced within the A Level Business Studies course. You will be provided with a valuable insight into the world of industry, looking at why businesses make the decisions that they do and how this impacts upon markets and individuals.

Why choose this course?

The course will help you develop numerical and literacy skills in an applied setting through class work and assessments. Perhaps most importantly, the course will require you to react upon the commercial world around you and how it impacts your daily life and future.

You will begin by exploring how a variety of different businesses interact with their consumers and competitors, and how they make many of their everyday decisions. You will then go on to look at people within the workplace and how a business can get the best out of its employees. Within the second half of your first year you will consider many of the more operational and financial decisions facing businesses. This will help build on your understanding of what it takes to manage a business, the importance of the everyday decisions facing a business and how it is critical to consider a business' finances.

Within the second year you will begin to adopt a more holistic approach to business decisions and consider all internal elements of the business together and how a business will develop a strategy from these. You will gain a greater appreciation of the choices businesses face every day and how having a future focus is critical. During the final stages of your course you will consider the global environment that businesses now operate within and how a business' strategy must consider technological, social, environmental and ethical consequences.

What will I learn?

Theme 1 – Marketing and People

In this theme you are introduced to the market, explore the marketing and people functions and investigate entrepreneurs and business start-ups. You will gain an understanding of how businesses identify opportunities and explore how businesses develop competitive advantages and interact with customers. You will gain an understanding of how businesses need to adapt their marketing to operate in a dynamic business environment. This theme also considers people, exploring how businesses recruit, train, organise and motivate employees, as well as the role of enterprising individuals and leaders. Finally you will investigate different types and sizes of organisation in various business sectors and environments, and in local, national and global contexts.

Theme 2 – Managing Business Activities

In this theme you explore the finance and operations functions, and investigate external influences on the business. You will gain an understanding of raising and managing finance, and measuring the performance of a business. The theme outlines the importance of using resources efficiently within a business to ensure that goods or services can be delivered effectively and efficiently, and to a high quality. You will consider the external influences that have an impact on businesses, including economic and legal factors. Once again you will investigate different types and sizes of organisation in various business sectors and environments, and in local, national and global contexts.

Year 2 Study:

Theme 3 – Business Decisions and Strategy

In this theme you will build on your understanding of many of the concepts introduced within Theme 2 and explore how these influence business strategy and decision making. This theme bridges the gap between the role of functions and the strategy of the business. You will analyse corporate objectives and strategy against financial and non-financial

performance measures and how businesses grow and develop an understanding of the impact of external influences. The theme covers the causes and effects of change and how businesses mitigate risk and uncertainty.

Theme 4 – Global Business

In this theme you will develop upon your understanding of the concepts introduced in Theme 1 and explore business activity in a global context. You will investigate businesses that trade on a global scale and explore their reasons for doing so. You will develop an understanding of the globally competitive environment and consider the ethical and moral dimensions of global business activities.

Assessment Arrangements

Linear Qualification: 3 examinations of 2 hours. Paper 1 - Marketing, People and Global Business worth 35% of qualification, Paper 2 – Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy worth 35% of qualification and Paper 3 – Investigating Businesses in a Competitive Environment worth 30% of qualification.

Your achievement in this subject is dependent upon excellent attendance, punctuality, effort and further research/reflection.

You will be assessed regularly on written work conducted in class and as homework. You will be provided with feedback on your understanding, structure and use of key terminology.

You will be assessed with regular formal classroom assessments to develop examination technique as well as understanding. These will also include feedback on your understanding, structure and use of key terminology.

You will review your own performance in 1:1 sessions with your lecturer.

You will undertake formal mock examinations in advance of your final exams.

Where will it take me?

A qualification in Business Studies is equally versatile within academic or vocational progression. Many universities highly value the qualification and it works well as a stepping stone to higher education courses in related topics such as Business Administration, Economics, Marketing and Accountancy. It is also a very complementary course to study on a combined honours programme with a language or Media for example. The course also provides an initial grounding into many of the initial business concepts which will assist you within the world of industry whether running your own business or as an employee within a larger organisation.

Information and Support

You are encouraged to take a wider interest in current affairs and industry and to reflect upon what you hear in the media pertaining to industry and external factors. It is also recommended that you undertake part time work or work experience, as many of the industrial concepts can be understood to a greater extent when experienced first-hand. There is a wide range of information available to students within core textbooks and online resources as well as making use of the mass media.

What do I need?

Five GCSEs at grade 4 or above including grade 6 or above in English Language or Literature and mathematics at grade 4 or above.

Additional Information

Awarding Body:

Edexcel