

A LEVEL BUSINESS (Edexcel Board specification)



This two-year course is suitable for students who:

- Are interested in learning about the core business concepts and how businesses work
- Want to learn how to analyse financial information to assess how well a business is performing
- Want to gain current knowledge of businesses within the UK and across the globe
- Are interested in marketing, finance, human resources, operations management, current business issues and entrepreneurs

Throughout the course students will investigate different types and sizes of organisation in various business sectors and environments, and in local, national and global contexts. They will also learn how to analyse and interpret financial indicators, as well as calculate, use and understand a variety of accounting ratios.

YEAR 1

During year 1 the student will cover:

- **Theme 1 - Marketing and people:** Students explore marketing and people functions and investigate entrepreneurs and business start-ups.
- **Theme 2 - Managing business activities:** Students explore the finance and operations functions, and investigate external influences on business.

Assessment

At the end of year 1, the student will sit two internally assessed mock exams:

- **Paper 1** (50%) assesses theme 1 – Marketing and people
- **Paper 2** (50%) assesses theme 2 – Managing business activities

Both papers follow the same format. Section A and B each comprise one data response question and section C has an open-response question based on the stimulus material provided. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes.

YEAR 2

The A level course encompasses the two themes covered in year 1 but they are assessed in conjunction with the two additional themes:

- **Theme 3 – Business decisions and strategy:** In this theme students analyse corporate objectives and strategy against financial and non-financial performance measures. They consider how businesses grow, and develop an understanding of the impact of external influences.
- **Theme 4 – Global business:** Students investigate businesses that trade on a global scale and develop an understanding of the globally competitive environment, considering the ethical and moral dimensions of global business activities.

Assessment

There are three externally assessed written exam papers:

- **Paper 1** (35%) assesses marketing, people and global businesses, themes 1 and 4.
- **Paper 2** (35%) assesses business activities, decisions and strategy, themes 2 and 3.

Both papers 1 and 2 follow the same format. Section A comprises one data response question and sections B and C each comprise one extended open-response question based on the stimulus material provided. Each paper is 2 hours.

- **Paper 3** (30%) is based on pre-released case study material and assesses knowledge and understanding from all four themes. Additional unseen stimulus materials are also used in this paper.

Both sections in this paper include data response questions and one extended open-response question. This paper is 2 hours.

This A Level qualification provides a solid foundation for higher education courses such as business management, business administration, accountancy and finance, human resource management, marketing, retail management, tourism management and international business, and apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships. Students can also progress to a wide range of careers ranging from banking, sales, product management and general management to working in public sector organisations or charities.

GCSE requirements:

*English Language – grade 4, Mathematics – grade 4; At least **one** grade 5 in a literate subject
No previous knowledge of Business is required*