

---

# BUSINESS STUDIES

---

The Business Studies course encourages students to develop a critical understanding of organisations, the circumstances they operate in and the markets which they serve and how they actually add value. The course takes a problem-solving approach through the study of a variety of case studies where students act as consultants, providing advice to the business.

*Examining Board*  
AQA

*Specification*  
A Level Business 7132

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO THE A LEVEL COURSE

Please see the Sixth Form Admissions Policy for the entry requirements to this course.

### A LEVEL COURSE Year 1

The A Level course covers six topic areas listed below:

- What is a business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making.
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve Human Resource performance.

### A LEVEL COURSE Year 2

The A level course will cover the Year 1 content but will also introduce the following topic areas:

- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change.

The content of Year 1 and Year 2 will be examined in the assessments shown in the table below:

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
What's assessed: All content	What's assessed: All content	What's assessed: All content
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• written exam: 2 hours</li><li>• 100 marks in total</li><li>• 33.3% of A-level</li></ul>	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• written exam: 2 hours</li><li>• 100 marks in total</li><li>• 33.3% of A-level</li></ul>	Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• written exam: 2 hours</li><li>• 100 marks in total</li><li>• 33.3% of A-level</li></ul>

<p>Three compulsory sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section A has 15 multiple choice questions (MCQs) worth 15 marks.</li> <li>• Section B has short answer questions worth 35 marks.</li> <li>• Sections C and D have two essay questions</li> </ul>	<p>Three data response compulsory questions worth approximately 33 marks each and made up of three or four part questions</p>	<p>One compulsory case study followed by approximately six questions.</p>
--	---	---

The topics lend themselves to studying and engaging with the business world. The specification and assessment should encourage you to follow business developments and think critically about contemporary business issues. Most of the assessment material is based on real business situations. By examining and thinking critically about real business situations as you study the subject, you will gain an insight into different contexts which will help you to understand the key issues in any situation and to be able to compare and contrast with other circumstances and apply your understanding.

### **STUDENT VIEWPOINT**

Students generally find the subject interesting as we are all affected by the actions of businesses in some shape or form. There are many opportunities to witness businesses in action and appreciate the theory behind it. There are areas of the course that are challenging and students will need to be prepared to work to develop their understanding. Students do tend to enjoy aspects such as marketing and the study of human resources.

### **COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS**

Business Studies fits well with almost all other A Level subjects and there are some areas of cross-over where topics are covered in other A Level subjects e.g. motivation in P.E. and Psychology, and Business location in Geography.

### **CAREER AND UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES**

Students who study Business at A Level and beyond will have a huge range of occupations to choose from. In previous years we have had students go on to take courses in Business Management, Marketing, Human Resources, Languages, Event Management and Public Relations to name just a few. There are a wide range of degree courses that include some element of Business Studies. Taking an A Level in Business Studies does not force a student down a specific career pathway but allows choice from a broad range of courses. For further advice about your suitability for this course please speak to the department.