



A Level and AS Level Business

Preparing students for the world of work

The Business Department invite you to sign up for an exciting new A level course or AS level course.

These specifications are designed to:

- enable candidates to gain an understanding of the world of business from a range of perspectives
- provide opportunities to explore real business situations, to gain problem solving and decision making skills and to challenge assumptions and apply critical analysis.

There are 10 main areas of content for A Level: (AS includes the first 6)

Structure of the course

In the first year of the course, students will learn about Enterprise, Business Plans, Markets, Market Research, Business structure, Business location, Business finance, Business revenue and costs, Marketing, Finance, People in organisations and Operations Management.

In the second year, students will build on Year 1. Areas of learning include: data analysis, market analysis, sales forecasting, analysing financial performance, analysing non-financial performance, aims and objectives, strategy and implementation, decision-making models, investment appraisal and special orders.

From September 2015, the A Level is changing to a 2 year course for first examination in 2017. The course continues to be assessed entirely through examination and the proposed scheme of assessment includes 3 end of course papers. There will be an AS course for first examination in 2016 which involves 2 end of course papers.

Assessment for A Level is all at the end of the second year of study.

All content will be examined in each of the 3 papers which include different forms of assessment.

Component 1 Business Opportunities and Functions.

Written Paper – 2 hours and 15 minutes 33% of total A Level marks

Section A – compulsory short-answer questions AND Section B – compulsory data-response question

Component 2 Business Analysis and Strategy

Written Paper – 2 hours and 15 minutes 33% of total A Level marks

Compulsory data response and structured questions.

Component 3 Business in a Changing World

Written Paper – 2 hours and 15 minutes 33% of total A Level marks

Section A - compulsory questions based on a case study AND Section B – one synoptic essay from a choice of three. To assess all the A Level subject content.

Assessment for AS Level - All content assessed in 2 papers – (taught alongside A Level)

Component 1 Business Opportunities

Written paper – 1 hour 40% of total AS Level marks

Structured questions

Component 2 Business Functions.

Written Paper – 2 hours 60% of total AS Level mark

Two sections covering all the AS content.

Section A – compulsory data response questions AND Section B – one essay from a choice of three.

Support

Students are taught in large and small groups. They are given time to practise examination style, interpreting and deconstructing questions. Students are also encouraged to use the library and ICT resources during their study time in order to interpret and enhance their work. Students will take part in an intensive revision course run by experienced examiners.

Progression

The GCE in Business qualifies for UCAS points. It gives students a wide choice of progression options into further study, training or relevant employment in the business sector. Progression onto A Level Business will require at least 5 GCSEs, or equivalent, at grade C or above, including Maths and English. Please talk to the Head of Department if you are interested in this subject.

