

GCSE Business Studies (Edexcel)

Why Study Business Studies?

Everything in life involves Business. Think about that new top you bought last week and then think of what businesses made it possible for you to be wearing it right now?

The obvious ones are the Shop and the Manufacturing plant but what about the Cotton growers? The Label makers? The Delivery Company? Health & Safety? Even the companies that manage the finances of all those businesses. Thinking about all those processes and people allows you begin to understand about what Business Studies is all about.

Business is a major part of everyone's life and anybody who has a good idea about how businesses work are at an immediate advantage in the future.

The Business GCSE is delivered over three years and covers two major themes; 'Investigating small businesses and 'Building a business'. Both themes are assessed at the end of Year 11, with a 90 minute exam each.

Business Studies is a useful, practical and fascinating subject that many students enjoy and benefit from. It is a worthwhile qualification for a variety of careers and will open many doors to you and help you develop, amongst others, the following transferable skills:

- You will gain a great understanding of how organisations operate
- Good decision-making skills
- Numeracy skills in Business Studies as you study investment, funding and how to use and interpret financial data
- Studying how organisations adjust to a changing market will teach you how to be an adaptable, flexible person
- Business Studies also forces you to be organised and to plan ahead, learning how to generate marketable ideas, access resources and develop business plans all require a great deal of organisation
- Problem solving is a significant part of Business Studies, aspects of the course such as coming up with a business plan that works, adapting to changes in the market and deciding whether or not it would benefit a company to employ people all require problem solving
- Presentation skills are really important so a subject that allows you to develop them is a definite advantage

Unit 1 – Investigating small business (examined in June year 11)

50% of the total GCSE level marks (1 hour and 30 minutes)

This unit contains five topics:

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea in to practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business

Unit 2 – Building a business (examined in June year 11)

50% of the total GCSE marks (1 hour and 30 minutes)

This unit contains five topics:

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions

Both papers consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.