



Overview:

A Level Business Studies is an enjoyable and rewarding course. It is suitable for students who have a lively and enquiring mind and a willingness to explore new ideas. The course aims to provide knowledge and understanding of business activity and also to develop useful skills for higher education or employment. The course focuses on the dynamic nature of contemporary business, provides the opportunity to research into topical business issues, explores real business situations and the practical application of business concepts, and looks at the role of entrepreneurs in society.

Students will learn about the nature and purpose of business, the different types of ownership, and the external environment that businesses operate in. Assessment for the A level is over three components:

For the full A Level students are examined over three papers. Each paper covers all the content above:

Component 1: Business Opportunities and Functions - 2 hours, 15 mins. 80 marks, 1/3rd of A Level. Compulsory short answer and data response questions.

Component 2: Business Analysis and Strategy - 2 hours, 15 mins. 80 marks. 1/3rd of A Level. Compulsory data response and structured answer questions.

Component 3: Business in a Changing World - 2 hours 15 mins. 80 marks. 1/3rd of A Level. Compulsory case study questions, and one synoptic essay out of a choice of three.

Expectations:

In order to prepare appropriately for classroom learning, it is expected that all students will familiarise themselves with the business world, read newspapers and business publications, and complete the summer homework tasks. Students will need to purchase core texts that cover the A level topics. Moreover, and so as to better consolidate classroom learning independently, students will also be expected carry out prior reading of the topics before the lessons and to add to class notes, building on arguments and developing more in depth knowledge of key theories.

Extra-Curricular Activities/Independent Learning Opportunities:

There are various opportunities for students to explore aspects of the business environment from attending conferences and visiting organisations within the UK, and potentially in other countries inside and outside of the EU. Previous visits have included ones to Jaguar Land Rover to look at production and manufacturing, Coca Cola to look at their production, and Alton Towers to have an insight into their marketing. Previous residential visits have included New York and Rome.

Career Pathways:

Studying Business at A Level can provide you with the skills to apply to many university courses in business and non-business related areas. Careers can be just as widespread and include, but are not restricted to, the fields of Marketing, Management, Finance, HR, Accounting and Law.

Good combinations of other subjects to study with Business Studies are:

ICT, Psychology, Mathematics and a Language.

Student Testimonials:

"I've studied Business Studies since GCSE. I have enjoyed learning about the different techniques businesses use in all aspects. I have found that it links very strongly to the outside world of business and has been very useful when getting a job. I have also enjoyed putting what I have learnt into context of different businesses and evaluating different techniques that they could use. I have learnt essay writing skills and developed my analytical writing skills which have also helped me in my other subjects."

"I hadn't previously taken Business studies at GCSE, but following other people's positive feedback from the subject; I wanted to take it at A Level. I was thrilled at the opportunity and have enjoyed studying business. My favourite aspect of it is being able to understand how a real business operates, and presenting it to my class. Business studies have given me many opportunities to educational visits which make Business studies even more enjoyable. I like being able to learn about the marketing mix, which also ties in with my other subjects."