



BUSINESS

QUALIFICATION: AS/A Level

Examination Board: AQA

What do I need to know, or be able to do before taking this course?

It is not a requirement that you should have studied Business at Key Stage 4 in order to take an AS or A level course in this subject. What is more important is that you have a strong interest in business and want to learn how a business is organised, operates, plans and makes its decisions. A minimum grade of a 5 or above in English and Maths at GCSE is also required to start this course.

What will I learn on this A Level course?

- How to develop a critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value;
- The internal workings and management of organisations;
- The process of decision-making in a dynamic external environment;
- How business behaviour can be influenced by a range of people and organisations including customers, managers, creditors, owner/shareholders and employees;
- What outside factors influence the operations of a business, such as the state of the economy, the environment, ethical considerations, the government, the law, social and technological issues associated with business activity;
- Techniques to analyse and solve business problems;
- The importance in a business of setting objectives;
- How a business markets its products or services, what production is all about, financial control of businesses and how human resources are planned.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The course will appeal to students who:

- have an interest in how a business operates;
- enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences;
- would like to do a subject that offers opportunities for a career in business;
- would like to learn how to make business decisions and solve business problems;
- want to keep their options open – Business can be a useful choice for a wide range of careers and can be combined with a wide range of subjects.

What is covered on the A level course?

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision-making
- Decision-making to improve performance in marketing, operations, finance and human resource management
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students with AS or A Level Business have access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include the important business skills of decision making and planning. You can start a career in business armed with an excellent knowledge of how businesses operate. In particular you will have a head start in careers within accountancy, marketing and human resources.

Additional Information

Business combines well with a range of social science, humanities and mathematics subjects to lead to University subjects in such areas as business, economics, law and accountancy. You will gain valuable insight into the business world which will add value to your vocational studies.