



KS4 Business Studies

Year 10 IGCSE Curriculum Outline

Assessment Information

The assessment of this qualification is through a two-hour examination paper, set and marked by Edexcel.

The total number of marks available is 100.

Other Information

- 100% examination – single assessment route allowing all students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of business.
- Appropriate for students of various ages and from diverse backgrounds in terms of general education and life long learning.
- Provides a solid basis for Edexcel AS GCE and Advanced GCE in Business Studies.

Introduction and Aims

Business Studies is taught from key stage 4 onwards at Kings College. In each year the Business syllabus balances Enterprise, Business Operations and the Economic environment, so that pupils gain an excellent breadth and depth of knowledge about the business environment around them and the economy within which live. Case studies and real life examples play a major role in Business Studies taught at Kings College with many key concepts centred on current world events. Pupils learn how Business theories help us understand both governmental and management decision making in the 21st century.

Business plays a major role in pupils understanding many of the 21st century's key global economic and local business issues and concerns, therefore topics such as entrepreneurship, ethics and the economic climate are embedded in the curriculum at IGCSE. The Business topics at Kings College are introduced in the Enterprise strands of PSHE, which provides some insight before the IGCSE course is offered as an option in Year 10. Lessons are planned to be active and engaging across all year groups.

This Edexcel International GCSE in Business Studies requires students to relate their learning to real business examples:

- Be aware of current issues which affect businesses, their operation and success, and how they adapt to change.
- Focus on current business practice
- Understand the importance of seeing business issues and situations through different perspectives
- Be aware that information communication technology is essential to business decision making processes and success, and affects all functional areas of business.



What will pupils study?

Below you will find a term by term description of the topics/skills normally taught each term. The exact timings may of course vary and the order in which the topics are covered may change.

Term 1:

Business Activity and the Changing Environment

This section examines the objectives of businesses, the changing environment and the criteria for judging success. The focus is on the importance of having clear business objectives and how the business environment provides opportunities for, and imposes constraints on, the pursuit of those objectives.

Term 2

Marketing

This section focuses on identifying and satisfying customer needs in a changing and competitive international environment.

Term 3:

Human Resources (HR)

This section looks at people in organisations focusing on their roles, relationships and management in business.

Year 11 IGCSE Curriculum Outline

Term 4:

Accounting and Finance

This section explores the use of accounting and financial information as an aid to decision making.

Term 5:

Production

This section examines the way organisations use and manage resources to produce goods and services

Assessment Overview

The assessment of this qualification is through a two-hour examination paper, set and marked by Edexcel.

The total number of marks available is 100.

The examination paper is divided into two sections – A and B. Students will be given compulsory short-answer, structured, data response and open-ended questions on a business-related context. Questions in both sections will be drawn from all areas of the subject content.



KS5 Business Studies

Year 12 AS Curriculum Outline

AS: Business Studies

The qualification is built around a core unit with an enterprise theme, to enable students to think of a new business idea and how they might research and develop it. Students will think about how their learning applies to their own business idea.

The AS level will introduce students to international business, equipping them either to work in or to manage a business in an international context.

The GCEs enable progression from IGCSEs in Business Studies.

A variety of assessment techniques will be used – supported multiple-choice questions, data-response questions, case studies and a decision-making report.

Introduction and Aims

The Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Business Studies specification aims to encourage students to:

- Develop an interest in and enthusiasm for the study of business
- Gain a holistic understanding of business
- Develop a critical understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants
- Understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives
- Generate enterprising and creative solutions to business problems and issues
- Be aware of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals
- Acquire a range of relevant business and generic skills, including decision making, problem solving, the challenging of assumptions and the quantification and management of information.

What will pupils study?

Below you will find a term by term description of the topics/skills normally taught each term. The exact timings may of course vary and the order in which the topics are covered may change.

Term 1:

AS Unit 1: Developing New Business Ideas (examination)

This unit covers the characteristics students would need to develop to be successful in business and how new or existing businesses generate their product or service ideas and test them through market research. Students should also consider the competition in the market; the economic climate; how the business might be financed; and how much revenue the idea might generate.

Assessment:

Examination of 1 hour 15 minutes in two sections.

- Section A: supported multiple-choice questions.



- Section B: questions based on data.

Term 2:

AS Unit 2: Managing the Business (examination)

This unit covers key activities which students may be involved in if they were to set up and/or manage a business whether small, medium-sized or large. It also introduces students to some basic management tools and models which will be developed in the A2 qualifications.

Assessment:

Examination of 1 hour 15 minutes in two sections.

- Section A: supported multiple-choice questions.
- Section B: questions based on data.

Term 3:

Revisions and past papers in preparation for the examination in May.

Year 13 A2 Curriculum Outline

Term 1:

A2 Unit 3: International Business (examination)

The aim of this unit is to introduce the student to the world of international business and issues which a company trading internationally would have to consider.

Assessment:

Examination of 1 hour 30 minutes in two sections.

- Section A: questions based on data.
- Section B: case study and questions.

Term 2:

A2 Unit 4: Making Business Decisions (examination)

In this unit, students will be able to assess the current competitiveness of a business through performance and non performance indicators. They will analyse corporate objectives and strategy on the basis of these indicators and on external influences to the business. Students will be required to assess the causes and effects of change on a business and examine how the company could manage risk effectively.

Assessment:

Examination of 1 hour 30 minutes in two sections.

- Section A: questions based on data.
- Section B: decision-making report and questions. (Context of decision-making report pre-released on www.edexcel.com in June of the previous year.)