

Business

Businesses operate in an environment which is dynamic, competitive, uncertain and frequently hostile. They need to constantly adapt to changes in their internal and external environments in order to be successful. These changes may include anticipating the actions of competitors, reacting to economic or political changes or making use of new technologies. Whether you aspire to be a business professional, manager, charity worker or entrepreneur, understanding the business environment is key to ensuring that the business in which you work reaches its full potential.

Entry requirements

- Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

Course breakdown

In Year 12 you will study the following units:

- Unit 1 – The Business Environment
- Unit 2 – Working in Business

In Year 13 you will study:

- Unit 4 – Customers and Communications and two of the following:
- Unit 5 – Marketing and Market Research
- Unit 8 – Introduction to Human Resources
- Unit 11 – Accounting Concepts

How will the course be assessed?

At the end of Year 12 you will be entered for the Level 3 Certificate in Business.

- Unit 1 is assessed by an examination – 2 hours – 50%
 - Unit 2 is assessed by an examination – 1.5 hours – 50%
- Overall, the Certificate is 100% examination. However, there will be the opportunity to re-sit the exams once more, should this be necessary.

At the end of Year 13 you will be entered for the Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business.

- Units 1 and 2 assessed in Year 12 each count for 25%
- Unit 4 is examined by an internally assessed piece of coursework that is submitted earlier in the year – this is worth approximately 17%
- Two of Units 5, 8 and 11 are examined by internally assessed pieces of coursework that are submitted earlier in the year – each is worth approximately 17%

Overall, the Extended Certificate is roughly 50% examination and 50% coursework.

Where can the course lead?

Students will gain knowledge and understanding in a wide range of areas including legal, financial and ethical factors and know how businesses respond to changes in their economic, social and technological environment. The business world places a high value on the ability to research, analyse and evaluate information in order to make considered decisions. This course gives students the foundation to build upon by further education at university as well as equipping them with the skills required for the world of work and apprenticeships.

