

Subject: Business

Business Lead: Steve Lea

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification type: GCSE

Intent

Principles of the Business Curriculum

The United Curriculum for Business is built upon the core United Curriculum principles available [here](#) .

GCSE Business Studies introduces students to the world of enterprise and equips them with the knowledge and skills needed to understand how businesses operate in local, national and global contexts. Students explore how businesses are set up, how they grow, and how decisions are made in response to internal and external challenges. The course develops analytical thinking, commercial awareness and decision-making skills that are valuable in both further education and the workplace.

Implementation

Students complete two written examinations at the end of the course. There is no coursework.

Paper 1: Investigating Small Business

- Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Weighting: 50% of the GCSE

Topics Covered:

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business, such as technology, legislation and the economy

This paper focuses on small businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs. Students are required to apply their knowledge to realistic business contexts and analyse how smaller firms operate and respond to challenges.

Paper 2: Building a Business

- Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Weighting: 50% of the GCSE

Topics Covered:

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

This paper focuses on medium and large businesses, including how they grow, compete and operate in national and global markets. Students evaluate business strategies and consider the impact of key decisions on different stakeholders.

Impact

The careful sequencing of the curriculum – and how concepts are gradually built over time – is the progression model. If pupils keep up with the curriculum, they are making progress. Formative assessment is prioritised and is focused on whether pupils are keeping up with the curriculum.

In general, this is done through:

- Questioning in lessons. Teachers check understanding so they can fill gaps and address misconceptions as required.
- Pupil conferencing with books. Subject leads and SLT talk to pupils about what they have learnt – both substantive and disciplinary knowledge – and how this connects to the vertical concepts that they have been developing in previous years and other subjects.

- Post-learning quizzes at the end of each unit. These give teachers an understanding of the knowledge that pupils can recall at the end of the unit and can be used to identify any remaining gaps to be filled.
- Pre-learning quizzes at the start of each unit. These assess pupils' understanding of the prior knowledge that is required to access the new content in the unit. These are used to identify gaps to be filled prior to teaching the new unit.