

BUSINESS GCSE

CASE STUDY

Dylan, Year 11

I chose to study Business at GCSE because I was curious about what went on in the world of business and felt that what I learnt from the course would be very useful in the future.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the more mathematical side of the course; calculating profit, margins, break-even and cash-flow forecasts.

I have also enjoyed learning about the different types of market research.

This subject and the skills that you learn from it can easily be transferred to a whole range of different careers.

In taking this course I now know how to start up a business and how to grow it.

If you're interested in how businesses make money or current affairs in the world, this would be a great subject for you.



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

It is unlikely that you will have studied business before taking this course, but that does not matter. You might have an interest in business, and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur.

Is this the right subject for me?

This course is both active and enjoyable. You need to be good at communicating and explaining your ideas, not afraid of learning new things and working with numbers to solve business problems. You will learn how to be a creative thinker and how to make decisions. What's more, you will also learn about the world of business through research and investigation, as well as through practical tasks.

What will I learn?

While studying the first two units of this course you are likely to learn a lot of new things. You will be introduced to the world of small businesses and will look at what makes someone a successful business person. You will find out how to develop an idea and spot an opportunity, and turn that into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective and manage money well.

You will also see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved. You will learn more about how small businesses are developed and discover how businesses promote themselves and keep their customers happy. You will learn how businesses manage both their finances and the people who work for them.

Paper 1- Theme 1: Investigating small business

- Written exam: 90 minutes, 90 marks.
- 50% of the total GCSE.
- Multiple choice, calculation, short-answered and extended-writing questions.
- There are three sections in the paper.
- Each section is ramped, starting with multiple choice questions, moving to short answer questions and ending with extended writing.
- Sections B and C are based on real life, relevant business contexts and examples.

Paper 2- Theme 2: Building a business

- Written exam: 90 minutes, 90 marks
- 50% of the total GCSE.
- Multiple choice, calculation, short-answered and extended-writing questions.
- There are three sections in the paper.
- Each section is ramped, starting with multiple choice questions, moving to short answer questions and ending with extended writing.
- Sections B and C are based on real life, relevant business contexts and examples.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

This business course can help you prepare for further and higher education. It prepares you for A levels as well as BTEC and NVQ courses in many different subjects. You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of a team.

Even if you do not want to go on to study business further, you will have benefited from studying a GCSE Business course because many jobs you do will involve working for a business. However, a GCSE Business course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

Next steps!

If you want to find out more about the skills you might learn or should develop when studying the course, watch BBC programmes like The Apprentice, Dragon's Den and Working Lunch. You could also look at the following websites to discover the types of things you might learn;

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/business

www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk

www.thetimes100.co.uk

EXAMINATION BOARD: Edexcel

CASE STUDY

Shauna Year 10

I chose to study Business as I wanted to pick a course that was interesting and one that would be beneficial for my future.

My favourite part of the course has been learning about how to properly manage money and the life lessons we are taught in the process which help you avoid financial problems like debt.

Other topics I have enjoyed are how to start a business and the risks associated with it and also entrepreneurship. I found this particularly interesting as we learnt the characteristics an entrepreneur should have.

In the future I would like to be a corporate lawyer. Business would certainly help me to achieve this as it is focused on giving business legal advice.

Year 9 should keep in mind that when studying Business you have to take two papers consisting of written and number work.



For further information contact: Mr Woodbridge