

GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

The AQA Business Studies GCSE is made up of three units. Units 1 and 2 are assessed by exam and Unit 3 is through controlled assessment coursework.

Unit 1: Setting up a Business

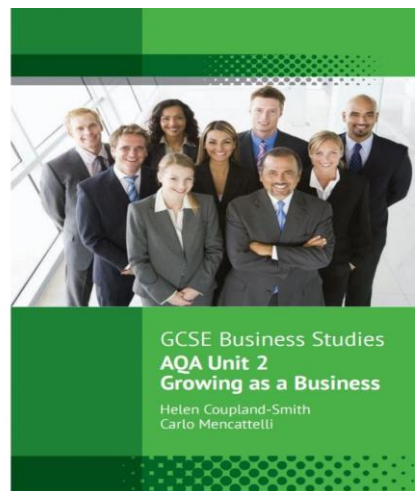
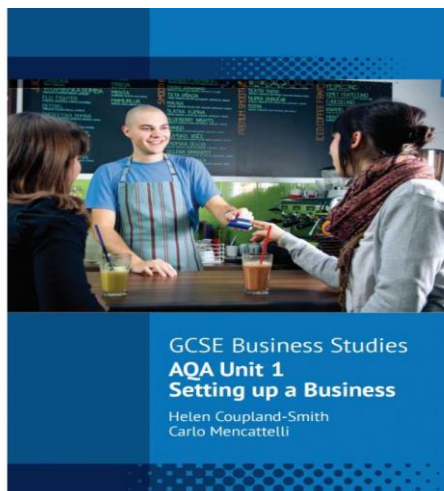
- 1 hour exam in May 2018 on issues for a new or small business:
 - Why people start new businesses
 - Where the finance comes from to start a new business
 - How prices and methods of advertising are decided
 - The ways in which new and small businesses produce their goods and services
 - How plans are used to help or start new businesses

Unit 2: Growing as a Business

- 1 hour exam in June 2018 on issues businesses face as they grow and expand:
 - Choice of location
 - The legal structure of the business (Ltd or Plc)
 - The range of products made
 - The number and types of employees hired
 - The production methods used

Unit 3: Investigating Business

- Controlled assessment coursework on the use of E-commerce within a small local business. All pupils started this in May 2017 and final grades will be submitted to the exam board by 31st March 2018. Pupils are given guidance by the teacher on what they need to do to improve their marks.



A PARENTS' GUIDE TO AQA GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

We understand that getting your child through GCSEs can be difficult at the best of times, let alone when the exam requirements are constantly changing. As such, the information below aims to give you some **simple, practical** ways that you can help your child to prepare and pass their Business Studies GCSE. You are of course always welcome to discuss matters further with your child's Business Studies teacher or Student Support Officer.

1. GETTING ORGANISED

- Pupils must complete the Unit 3 coursework by 31st March 2018.
- In the summer, pupils will be sitting two exams for Business Studies.
- Check that they have at least one exercise book for year 10 and at least one exercise book for year 11 completed with class notes and worked exam practice questions.
- Check that they have the AQA Business Studies exam board revision guides (as shown on the previous page) for Unit 1 (blue copy) and Unit 2 (green copy) provided free by the teacher. These are an excellent resource that provide a basic summary of the topics. They should not though, be used as your child's only revision tool but in conjunction with class notes, revision notes, memory cards and mind maps taken from exercise books, past exam papers, mark schemes and examiners reports.



2. READING AND WRITING

- Marks are awarded throughout the exam papers for the quality of pupil's written communication (QWC). It is therefore important that pupil's practise writing all their answers in full structured sentences with attention paid to spelling grammar and punctuation.
- Pupils are expected to know the meaning of key business specialist terms and be able to write definitions.
- Pupils are expected to apply their knowledge of business theory and relate this to the scenarios given in the exam with appropriate examples and solutions for the size and nature of business.



3. CALCULATIONS AND FORMULAE

- Pupils **MUST** use a calculator during the exam to reduce mathematical errors when answering financial questions or when interpreting data.
- Pupils are expected to use the information and data given in the scenarios to help them show their understanding.
- Pupils are expected to learn the basic formulae for calculating total revenue, total costs, net profit, gross profit and breakeven point.
- You can easily check that they are doing this by getting them to sit down and write as many down as they can remember. You can then check these using the revision guides.

When there is a profit:

$$\text{Revenues} > \text{Variable cost} + \text{fixed cost}$$

At break-even point (BEP):

$$\text{Revenues} = \text{Variable cost} + \text{fixed cost}$$

When there is a loss:

$$\text{Revenues} < \text{Variable cost} + \text{fixed cost}$$

4. PRACTISE WRITING TO TIME

- In the GCSE, it is important that pupils can write a lot in a short space of time.
- Therefore, one of the most important parts of Business Studies revision is sitting down and practicing exam questions under timed conditions.
- There are past Business Studies exam papers available on the AQA website www.aqa.org.uk. Each paper is 60 minutes long and equates to one mark per minute.
- Pupils are expected to take the full amount of time to answer the paper and any time left at the end to check through their written answers.
- Pupils should always try and write something for every answer even if they are not sure it is correct. Every mark counts to the final grade!



5. CHECKING THE WORK

- Perhaps the most difficult part of the process is checking your child's work. However, there are simple ways for you to check your child's preparation for Business Studies and that they are trying to do the right things.
- After they have timed themselves writing, ask them to highlight the following:
 - Where they have used business specialist terms and language they used – they should have used these in every answer.
 - Where they have used appropriate business examples linked to the scenario in the exam – e.g. the staff the business employs or the product or service they provide and the resources or materials they will need.
 - Where they have used the data or figures given in the scenario to help explain and analyse or justify how their solutions or recommendations will benefit the business in terms. This could be in terms of cost, quantity or efficiency. Pupils could take the figures complete the required calculation and write 'this shows that...' which is a simple way to show their understanding and use of the data.



6. BUSINESS CLUB AND SATURDAY SCHOOL

- Every Wednesday 3-4pm the Business Studies teacher runs an after school club for all Business Studies pupils. These sessions provide additional help and support for the coursework as well as exam content, technique, past papers and mark schemes. Please encourage your son or daughter to regularly attend.
- You will also have received a letter providing the dates of Saturday school for all pupils to complete their controlled assessment guided hours.



NOTES