

Year 11 BUSINESS GCSE

The AQA exam board Business GCSE is made up of two papers, both are assessed by exam only and contain three separate sections:

- **Section A** has multiple choice questions and short answer questions worth 20 marks
- **Section B** has one case study/data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 34 marks
- **Section C** has one case study/data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 36 marks

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity

- 1 hour 45-minute exam on **18th May 2023** worth 50% of final mark:
 - Business in the real world
 - Influences on business
 - Business operations
 - Human resource management (HRM)

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity

- 1 hour 45-minute exam on **12th June 2023** worth 50% of final mark:
 - Business in the real world
 - Influences on business
 - Marketing
 - Finance



In December 2022 all Year 11 GCSE Business Pupils were given a free copy of this AQA GCSE Business Revision Guide which the Business Department buys at a cost of £9.99 per copy.

Any replacement copies will be charged at the cost price.

A PARENTS' GUIDE TO AQA GCSE BUSINESS

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 GCSE. You are of course always welcome to discuss matters further with your child's Business teacher or Head of Year.

1. GETTING ORGANISED

- In the summer, pupils will be sitting two exams for GCSE Business.
- 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 exam board Business GCSE Revision Guides (as shown on the front page) provided by the teacher. This is an excellent resource that provides a basic summary of all 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

- The quality of pupils' written communication is important (QWC). Pupils should practice 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 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 Business 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 revision is sitting down and practicing exam questions under timed conditions.
- There are past Business GCSE exam papers available on the AQA website www.aqa.org.uk. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes long.
- 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 towards 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 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 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. 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 AFTERSCHOOL INTERVENTION

- Targeted Business intervention sessions are offered for identified pupils. These sessions provide additional help and support for the exam content, technique, past papers and mark schemes. If your son or daughter has been invited, please do encourage them so they are able to make the most of these additional sessions.

