

GCSE Subject Criteria for Business Subjects

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The criteria

Introduction

GCSE subject criteria set out the knowledge, understanding, skills and assessment objectives common to all GCSE specifications in a given subject.

They provide the framework within which the awarding organisation creates the detail of the specification.

Aims and learning outcomes

1. GCSE specifications in business subjects must enable learners to:
 - actively engage in the study of business and economics to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds;
 - use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts and opinions, to build arguments and make informed judgements;
 - develop and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts;
 - appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities;
 - consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable.

Subject content

2. GCSE specifications in Business Studies and business-related subjects must require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
 - business activity – why and how businesses start, succeed and fail;
 - the differing interests of stakeholders;
 - competition – reaction and recognition, actual and potential;
 - uncertainty – risk, reward and change;
 - customers – their power, importance and needs;

- business within society – ethics and sustainability;
 - decision making – use of data and problem solving;
 - changing use of ICT – in business and economic activities;
 - use of relevant terms, concepts and methods – to understand business and economic behaviour.
3. GCSE specifications in Business Studies must require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
- the dynamic nature of business, including motivations for social enterprise;
 - local, national and international contexts;
 - the integrated nature of business problems and solutions.
4. GCSE specifications in Business Studies must require learners to develop the ability to:
- apply a critical perspective to the theory and current practice of business;
 - evaluate quantitative and qualitative evidence to make reasoned judgements;
 - develop a conceptual framework of business within society.
5. GCSE specifications in Applied Business must require learners to:
- develop their knowledge and understanding through the investigation of a range of local and/or national business organisations;
 - investigate how employers and employees operate in enterprising ways, develop their working relationships, and meet their various rights and responsibilities;
 - develop and apply the following skills within business contexts:
 - practical skills – time management, personal organisation and action planning;
 - presentational skills – addressing audiences using a variety of media and forms;

- personal skills – showing evidence of progression;
- interpersonal skills – communication and group work;
- cognitive skills – reflection and review of own and others' performances.

Assessment objectives

6. All specifications in Business Studies and business-related subjects must require learners to demonstrate their ability to:

	Assessment objectives	Weighting
AO1	Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of concepts, issues and terminology.	25–35%
AO2	Apply skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts and in planning and carrying out investigations and tasks.	35–45%
AO3	Analyse and evaluate evidence, make reasoned judgements and present appropriate conclusions.	25–35%

Scheme of assessment

7. GCSE specifications in Applied Business must allocate a weighting of 40 per cent to external assessment and a weighting of 60 per cent to controlled assessment in the overall scheme of assessment.
8. GCSE specifications in Business Studies and business-related subjects must allocate a weighting of 75 per cent to external assessment and a weighting of 25 per cent to controlled assessment in the overall scheme of assessment.
9. Each scheme of assessment must allow learners to demonstrate their attainment in a variety of ways using appropriate media. It must require learners to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to real and/or realistic problems, relevant to the modern world, involving data from case studies where appropriate.
10. Question papers must be targeted at the full range of GCSE grades.

Grade Descriptions

11. Grade descriptions are provided to give a general indication of the standards of achievement likely to have been shown by candidates awarded particular grades. The descriptions must be interpreted in relation to the content in the specification; they are not designed to define that content.

The grade awarded will depend in practice upon the extent to which the candidate has met the assessment objectives overall. Shortcomings in some aspects of candidates' performance in the assessment may be balanced by better performances in others.

Grade	Description
A	<p>Candidates recall, select and communicate detailed knowledge and thorough understanding of concepts, theories, issues and current practice in business. They understand and use business terminology accurately and appropriately.</p> <p>They plan and carry out effectively a range of investigations and tasks using a wide range of skills competently. They apply their knowledge and critical understanding effectively to</p>

	<p>select and organise information from a wide range of sources, and to investigate business organisations in a variety of contexts.</p> <p>They use and evaluate quantitative and qualitative evidence effectively with a high degree of accuracy to analyse problems and issues, and make informed and reasoned judgements to present reasoned and substantiated conclusions.</p>
C	<p>Candidates recall, select and communicate sound knowledge and understanding of concepts, theories, issues and current practice in business. They use business terminology appropriately.</p> <p>They plan and carry out investigations and tasks using a range of skills appropriately. They apply their knowledge and understanding to select and organise relevant information from a variety of sources to investigate business organisations in different contexts.</p> <p>They use and evaluate evidence to analyse problems and issues with some accuracy, make reasoned judgements and present conclusions that are supported by evidence.</p>
F	<p>Candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of some basic aspects of concepts, theories, issues and current practice in business. They communicate their ideas using everyday language. They use some basic business terminology.</p> <p>They carry out straightforward investigations and tasks using a limited range of skills. They apply some knowledge and understanding to select and organise basic information from a limited range of sources to investigate business organisations.</p> <p>They identify some evidence to analyse problems and issues and make judgements. They present simple conclusions that are sometimes supported by evidence.</p>

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