

Key Stage 4 – GCSE Business

GCSE qualifications in Applied Business are designed to actively engage students in the study of business and to develop them as effective and independent learners, and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds, allow students to develop and apply their business knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts, enable students to appreciate the range of perspectives of different business stakeholders, enable students to consider the extent to which business activity can be ethical and sustainable.

GCSE students are required to complete two units and Double Award students are required to complete four units.

GCSE in Applied Business: Unit 1 and Unit 2

Overview of content:

Unit 1 – How Businesses Work:

The unit contains three topics:

- What is a business and what do businesses do?
- How are businesses organised?
- Why are stakeholders so important?

Overview of Overview of assessment:

This unit is internally assessed under controlled conditions. Students are required to complete an Edexcel-set task with a total of 100 marks. Students select two businesses – one local and one national/international – to research. They then answer a number of set questions based on the content of the unit in relation to these selected businesses, using their research materials, under controlled conditions of a set duration. The task is internally marked by teachers and moderated by Edexcel

Unit 2 – Finance for Business:

Overview of content:

The unit contains four topics:

- Investigating the flow of financial documents used in business trading
- Investigating business payment methods and costs
- Investigating the nature of financial statements in business
- Investigating the importance of financial statements to business

Overview of assessment:

A one-hour untiered examination marked out of 60 and suitable for all levels of students. Six structured questions, comprising a mixture of multiple-choice, short- and extended.

Statements to business

Overview of assessment:

A one-hour untiered examination marked out of 60 and suitable for all levels of students. Six structured questions, comprising a mixture of multiple-choice, short- and extended.

Btec First Award

BTEC First qualifications were originally designed for use in colleges, schools and the workplace as an introductory level 2 course for learners wanting to study in the context of a vocational sector.

The skills students will learn and practice whilst studying a BTEC First will aid progression to further study and prepare learners to enter the workplace in due course. In the business sector, learners would be aiming to move into entry-level roles, such as assistants in business administration, marketing, finance, human resources, sales and customer service.

BTECs are vocationally related qualifications, where learners develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context. Additionally, they are popular and effective because they engage learners to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace. These skills include: team-working; working from a prescribed brief; working to deadlines; presenting information effectively; and accurately completing administrative tasks and processes.

Types of units within the qualification

The BTEC First qualifications have core and optional units. See *Section 4* for more detailed information.

Core units

The qualification has core units totalling 60 guided learning hours.

These compulsory core units cover the body of content that employers and educators within the sector consider essential for 14–19-year-old learners.

There are usually two contrasting types of core unit. One type focuses on essential knowledge and the other type focuses on applying essential vocational skills.

One of the core units is externally assessed.

KS4 Students will study the following units;

Unit 1: Enterprise in the Business World – Core Unit

Unit 2: Finance for Business – Core Unit (Externally assessed)

Unit 4: Principles of Customer Service

Unit 5: Sales and Personal Selling

Lessons per week - 3