

Business

Examination Board: OCR

A-Level Code: H431

What will I learn?	The course encourages you to develop a critical understanding of business organisations, the context in which they operate and the markets which they serve. This is achieved by taking a problem-solving approach to the subject, so crucial in today's business world, which involves studying the internal workings and management of organisations, together with the process of decision-making in a dynamic external environment. The different perspectives of customers, owners, managers, employees and suppliers will be considered, as will the economic, environmental, ethical and international issues which constantly arise. You will acquire a range of skills including the ability to interpret and evaluate the significance of all these issues and to make your own decisions based on the information given.
Highlights	Alongside the more rigorous academic nature of the subject (compared to previous incarnations), the subject benefits from a wide range of 'practical' lessons, developing knowledge and pertinent skills through game and scenario-based learning. In Year 12 you will be encouraged to use skills learnt through the subject in the school's Young Enterprise programme. The course will involve a number of trips to a wide range of businesses, both in the local area and beyond, making network connections that could well be useful in later life.
What are the recommended entry requirements?	No previous study of Business at GCSE level is required. However, due to the increased quantitative element, we do prefer that you have achieved a minimum of a grade B in GCSE Mathematics. You will obviously need to be interested in, and keep well informed about current business-related events and news items as they occur.
How will I be assessed?	The A-Level qualification will involve three exams at the end of Year 13. All exams will focus on a case study from the world of business relevant to that exam's particular focus. The exams will combine a mixture of multiple choice, data interpretation and essay-type questions to fully assess the student's abilities. There is no coursework for this course.
What are the costs?	You are expected to provide your own writing materials and a course-specific textbook is available to purchase if the student wishes to do so. You will also be asked to pay for any course trips you participate in and you will have the option of subscribing to subject relevant magazines.
Future Opportunities	Business is a popular A-level subject, relevant if you wish to follow a wide range of careers, not least in the business field itself. It therefore works well with the sciences, arts, languages and humanities, and each year students successfully combine Business with subjects from all these areas. Many students have continued with Business-based degrees at university, either as a single or joint course, with many exciting options available both in studies and career opportunities. This course is invaluable as it prepares you to interact with the business world in some way, either professionally or personally.