



CLAIRES COURT
SIXTH FORM

Curriculum Statement

Year 13 - Business Studies
2025 – 2026

Your place to *aim high*

Business Studies

Business Studies at A level is offered as a two year full A level course. The examination board used is AQA. The aim of the course is two-fold. Firstly to ensure the best possible academic results for individual students, and secondly, to give the students a good practical foundation and knowledge of the business world for their business lives ahead.

The A level course consists of six topics in Year 12 and an additional four topics in Year 13, taught through four periods per week leading to three exam papers at the end of Year 13 each worth 33% of the full A level.

Where can it lead?

A Level Business is a course which helps you to develop a wide range of transferable skills. You will not only gain an insight into business theory, but you will investigate real business situations and develop the ability to evaluate using both quantitative and qualitative data. You will have the opportunity to regularly work in teams and present ideas/arguments in various formats (i.e. presentations, video, report). Thus enabling you to develop crucial work related skills such as problem solving and team working.

The programme acts as a stepping stone to any business related degree programme and compliments a wide range of subjects. Students regularly move on to business related higher education courses including accountancy, management science, leisure management and marketing.

The A level exams to be taken in Year 13 are:

Paper 1

Two hours – 100 marks

- Section A – 15 multiple choice questions (15 marks)
- Section B – short answer questions (35 marks)
- Section C – essay question, choice of one from two (25 marks)
- Section D – essay question, choice of one from two (25 marks).

Paper 2

Two hours - 100 marks

- Three data response questions made up of three or four part questions.

Paper 3

Two hours – 100 marks

- A case study followed by six questions.

What will I study?

In Year 12 the following AS topics were studied:

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance.
- Decision making to improve human resource performance

These will be briefly revisited at the beginning of Year 13 before moving on to the four additional A level topics as follows:

- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change.

The topics lend themselves to studying and engaging with the business world and encourage students to follow business developments and think critically about contemporary business issues. Most of the assessment material is based on real business situations. By examining and thinking critically about real business situations as they study the subject, students gain an insight into different contexts which helps them to understand the key issues in any situation and compare and contrast this with other situations and apply their understanding.

Full use is made of a variety of relevant business websites and case studies which help to emphasise the business application of many of the concepts being studied. Students are encouraged to watch business-oriented TV programmes such as 'Dragons Den' and the 'Apprentice', and to read business related news stories in print or online to broaden their knowledge.

Mastery

Throughout year 13 students will continue to be taught a range of key skills to consolidate their understanding of the business world. These include an understanding of how to analyse and interpret both quantitative and qualitative data. Recall exercises are employed throughout the course to help secure their mastery of knowledge. This will aid them in their understanding and ability to evaluate the key influences on businesses and the world around them. Worked examples, teacher modelling and exemplar

answers will be utilised to enable students to develop confidence in writing analytically and being able to evaluate the impact of a given situation.

Assessment

Students are given homework on a weekly basis which is designed to improve research and writing skills as well as ensuring plenty of practice in the more analytical sections of the course. Students' performance in this aspect of the course is carefully monitored. Students are required to sit an end of topic test designed to assess their subject knowledge, exam technique and assess their progress. In addition there is a practice internal exam in September, December and February. Term attainment grades are based on the results of these tests. Effort grades are based on general performance over the term in class and homework.

Additional activities

- **Support Sessions:** We offer weekly drop-in sessions for students to gain additional support where needed.

Textbook

The textbooks used for this course are:

- AQA Business Studies for A Level by Wolinski & Coates (Philip Allan Updates)

For further information please contact:

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