

GCSE Business

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Which exam board do you use?

A: Cambourne Village College pupils follow the GCSE Business course from AQA. The course specification can be viewed here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business/gcse/business-8132/specification-at-a-glance>

Q: What will I learn on this course?

A: There are six topics. Each topic will take approximately one school term of teaching.

In Year 10, pupils will complete the *Business in the real world*, *influences on business*, and *Human Resources* topics.

In Year 11, pupils will complete the *business operations* topic, in preparation for their mock exam, then complete the course learning about *marketing*, and *finance* topics.

In addition to developing knowledge and understanding of the business world, pupils will also develop their analytical and reasoning skills. Many pupils particularly enjoy the practical application of their new knowledge to real life business examples and brands that they are already familiar with. The knowledge and skills gained from this course will provide a firm foundation for further study at Sixth Form or beyond, or for pupils who aspire to be entrepreneurs in the future.

Q: How is the course assessed?

A: This is a 100% final examination-based (or linear) course. There are two written papers, each worth 50% and of equal length (1 hour 45 minute) which are taken end of the course (May/June in Year 11).

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity. This assesses content learnt in the *Business in the real world*, *influences on business*, *business operations* and *Human Resources* topics.

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity. This assesses content learnt in the *Business in the real world*, *influences on business*, *marketing* and *finance* topics.

Each paper has a mixture of multiple choice, short answer questions, longer essay questions and calculation questions. As well as testing **recall of knowledge**, a large proportion of the

marks available are based around **analysis of data** and **application of knowledge** to given business case studies, and explanations/developing a clear chain of **reasoning**.

Sample papers can be viewed here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business/gcse/business-8132/assessment-resources?f.Sub-category%7CF=Sample+papers+and+mark+schemes>

Q: How many mock exams would there be?

A: Formal assessments are used throughout the course to assess each pupil's progress and to provide feedback to pupils on areas of strength or areas for improvement prior to the final exam.

At the end of each topic, there will be an end-of-topic test.

At the end of Year 10, there will be an exam, taken under formal exam conditions, assessing all content learned so far from the course.

In December of Year 11, there will be a mock exam, based around a full exam paper. This assesses content learnt in the *Business in the real world, influences on business, business operations* and *Human Resources* topics.

Results from all these assessments are used, in conjunction with the teacher assessment from classwork and homework, to inform a projected grade to be included in Sixth Form applications.

Q: Which textbooks/revision guides are used?

A: We are currently using *AQA GCSE (9-1) Business* textbook, written by Malcolm Surridge and Andrew Gillespie, published by Hodder Education.

Pupils are able to purchase the *CGP GCSE AQA Business For the Grade 9-1 Exams* revision guides through the school at a discounted price.

We also recommend using BBC Bitesize for revision

Q: What equipment do I need to bring to each lesson?

A: It is recommended that you bring a calculator, ruler and a few different coloured highlighters to each lesson, in addition to your exercise book, iPad and other usual stationary items.

Q: How big are the classes?

A: GCSE Business is a popular option choice, so we run several large classes with 26 to 30 pupils in each. It is therefore highly recommended that pupils opting for the Business course are self-motivated, take ownership of their learning and can work independently.

Q: How do I catch up if I miss a lesson?

A: All lesson and revision resources for GCSE Business can be downloaded from the CATalogue. Microsoft Teams is also used to set tasks and share resources for each lesson.

Q: How can I extend my learning?

A: A general knowledge of current affairs and real world business examples is beneficial, as it can help pupils to apply context and make links with the business theory they will be learning. It is therefore recommended that GCSE Business pupils extend their learning by reading articles from the Business section of the BBC News website, or similar.