



Thomas Mills
High School & Sixth Form

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: Business and Economics

As a department, we hope to create an environment where students feel safe to explore and learn new concepts and ideas. In this space, creativity can flourish and a solid understanding of how a business works can be explored. We use case studies and concepts linked within the various functional areas to help students apply and learn what a business is and how it operates.

Our intent for Year 10 is to build on the Business Activity and Marketing content which was taught in Year 9, while incorporating new ideas and concepts from other functional areas. At the start of Year 10, we look at the second most important functional area, People. As Henry Ford said, "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself". The people within a business are a key part to its success and we look at how a business manages and interacts with its "people". We then investigate the Operations function and how key strategic decisions are made based on the products and services a business provides.

Year 10 Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	Functional Area 2 – People function.	Knowledge: People In the "People" section of GCSE Business, learners explore the role and impact of human resources (HR) on business operations and decision-making. It covers the purpose of HR in identifying and meeting staffing needs, and examines various organisational structures, including tall and flat hierarchies, and key terms like span of control and delegation. The section also looks at different working arrangements such as full-time, part-time, and flexible work. Communication is another focus, highlighting methods like emails, meetings, and digital tools, and their importance in business. Recruitment and selection processes are explored, including reasons for hiring, internal and external recruitment methods, and selection tools like CVs and interviews. Motivation and retention are addressed	GCSE Business - OCR - BBC Bitesize OCR GCSE Business 2017 Revision Seneca GCSE Revision Past papers materials finder - OCR



		<p>through financial (e.g., pay, bonuses) and non-financial (e.g., praise, work environment) incentives, emphasizing their role in performance and staff retention. Training and development are discussed in terms of methods, benefits, and qualifications, while employment law is covered with a focus on legal rights related to discrimination, contracts, and working conditions.</p> <p>Skills: As we progress into Year 10 and students are starting to understand the different assessment objectives, we will develop the skills highlighted by the OCR exam board. These include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using business terminology to identify and explain business activity • applying business concepts to familiar and unfamiliar contexts • developing problem-solving and decision-making skills relevant to business • investigating, analysing and evaluating business opportunities and issues 	
<p>Assessments</p>		<p>Standardised Assessed Task 1: Multiple choice questions - knowledge assessment Standardised Assessed Task 2: Mid-term assessment – People Standardised Assessed Task 3: People end of unit assessment</p>	
<p>2</p>	<p>Functional Area 3 – Operations function</p>	<p>Knowledge: Operations In the "Operations" section of GCSE Business, learners examine how businesses produce goods and deliver services, and how these operations affect overall business activity. It covers different production processes—job, batch, and flow—and the impact of technology like automation and robotics. The concept of quality is explored through methods such as quality</p>	<p>GCSE Business - OCR - BBC Bitesize OCR GCSE Business 2017 Revision Seneca GCSE Revision Past papers materials finder - OCR</p>



		<p>control and assurance, emphasizing its importance for customer satisfaction and business reputation. The section also looks at the sales process and customer service, including the role of e-commerce, after-sales support, and the value of product knowledge. Consumer law is discussed in terms of its effect on product safety and business reputation. Additionally, learners study factors influencing business location, such as costs and proximity to resources, and the role of procurement and logistics in managing suppliers, focusing on reliability, cost, and customer service</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using business terminology to identify and explain business activity • applying business concepts to familiar and unfamiliar contexts • developing problem-solving and decision-making skills relevant to business • investigating, analysing and evaluating business opportunities and issues 	<p>BBC One - Inside the Factory</p>
Assessments		<p>Standardised Assessed Task 1: Multiple choice questions - knowledge assessment Standardised Assessed Task 2: Mid-term assessment – Operations Standardised Assessed Task 3: Operations end of unit assessment</p>	
3	Interdependent Nature of Business	<p>Knowledge: Interdependent Nature of Business In the "Interdependent Nature of Business" section of GCSE Business, learners explore how the core functions of a business—operations, marketing, and human resources—are interconnected and work together to support effective decision-making. This section emphasizes the importance of understanding these interdependencies when evaluating business scenarios.</p>	



		<p>It also highlights how businesses assess risk and reward in their activities and strategic decisions. Learners are expected to apply knowledge from across the course to real-world business contexts, demonstrating a holistic understanding of how different business elements influence one another.</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• using business terminology to identify and explain business activity• applying business concepts to familiar and unfamiliar contexts• developing problem-solving and decision-making skills relevant to business• investigating, analysing and evaluating business opportunities and issues	
Assessment		Year 10 Preparatory Examination: Paper 1 (past paper)	