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 aim for Year 11 is to show how business interacts with each functional area. We complete the final functional area, Finance, building on terms taught in Year 9 & 10. We then explore how the external environment impacts the business and explore the interdependent nature of business.

Year 11 Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	**Functional Area 4 – Finance function.**	**Knowledge: Finance** In the "Finance" section of GCSE Business, learners explore the role of the finance function in supporting business planning and decision-making through the provision of financial information. It covers why businesses need finance—such as for starting up, expanding, or covering operational costs—and examines various sources of finance like loans, overdrafts, retained profit, and crowdfunding, considering their suitability for different business types. The section also delves into key financial concepts including revenue, costs, profit and loss, and how to calculate and interpret profitability ratios and average rate of return. Learners study break-even analysis to understand when a business covers its costs, and how this informs planning. Finally, the importance of cash flow is emphasized, highlighting the difference between cash and profit, and the value of cash flow forecasting	GCSE (9-1) Business - A guide to finance calculations The purpose of the finance function - The role of the finance function - OCR - GCSE Business Revision - OCR - BBC Bitesize Purpose of Finance - GCSE Business Revision Notes Seneca | GCSE Revision Past papers materials finder - OCR

		in managing liquidity and anticipating financial challenges. **Skills:** As we progress into Year 11 and students are starting to understand the different assessment objectives, we will develop the skills highlighted by the OCR exam board. These include; • 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	
Assessments		Standardised Assessed Task 1: Multiple choice questions Standardised Assessed Task 2: Mid-term assessment – Finance Standardised Assessed Task 3: Finance end of unit assessment	
2	**External Environment – Influences on Business.**	**Knowledge: Influences on Business** In the "Influences on Business" section of GCSE Business, learners examine how external factors affect business decisions and operations. This includes ethical considerations, such as fair treatment of workers, responsible sourcing, and ethical marketing, as well as environmental concerns like sustainability, waste management, pollution, and climate change. The section also explores the economic climate, focusing on how changes in consumer income and unemployment levels impact businesses. Additionally, learners study globalisation, understanding its effects through the rise of multinational companies, shifts in	Ethical considerations and impact on businesses - Ethical and environmental considerations - OCR - GCSE Business Revision - OCR - BBC Bitesize 6. Influences on Business | OCR GCSE Business Seneca | GCSE Revision Past papers materials finder - OCR BBC Three - Stacey Dooley, Blood, Sweat and T-Shirts, Episode 1

		business location, international branding, and the ways businesses compete on a global scale. **Skills:** As we progress into Year 11 and students are starting to understand the different assessment objectives, we will develop the skills highlighted by the OCR exam board. These include; • 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	
Assessments		Standardised Assessed Task 1: MCQ knowledge assessment Standardised Assessed Task 2: Mid-term assessment – Influences on business Standardised Assessed Task 3: Influences on business end of unit assessment	
3	**Interdependent Nature of Business**	**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, finance, 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. It also highlights how businesses assess risk and reward in their activities and how financial information is used to measure performance and guide strategic decisions. Learners are expected to apply knowledge from across the course to real-world	Seneca | GCSE Revision Past papers materials finder - OCR OCR GCSE Business 2017 Revision

		business contexts, demonstrating a holistic understanding of how different business elements influence one another. **Skills:** As we progress into Year 11 and students are starting to understand the different assessment objectives, we will develop the skills highlighted by the OCR exam board. These include; • 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		Past papers in preparation for final exams.	