The Island VI Form

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Post-16 Curriculum - Business Studies

Subject Curriculum Overview

Subject	Business Studies
Qualification / Specification	Edexcel A Level Business (9BS0)
Awarding Body	Pearson Edexcel
Level	3
Curriculum Lead	Nick Binfield
Teaching Staff	Dawn Garey
Guided Learning Hours	360 hours
Year(s) Delivered	12 & 13
Last Review Date	June 2026
Next Review Date	June 2027

1. Curriculum Intent

The purpose of Business Studies is to develop an enthusiasm for the subject while gaining a holistic understanding of business in various contexts. It aims to foster a critical understanding of organisations, exploring business behaviour from diverse perspectives and encouraging enterprising, creative approaches to opportunities and issues. Students become aware of ethical dilemmas and responsibilities while acquiring generic skills in decision-making, problem-solving, and critical analysis, alongside the application of numerical skills.

The curriculum supports progression to undergraduate study at UK higher education institutions in fields such as Business Management, Accountancy and Finance, Marketing, and Human Resource Management. It further serves as a robust benchmark of academic ability for employers. It meets university and industry needs by fostering critical thinking, strategic decision-making, commercial awareness, and the ability to challenge assumptions within the business environment. Success is defined by learners who can confidently apply analytical and evaluative skills to complex business scenarios, use quantitative and numerical data effectively, and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of both local and global business environments.

2. Foundational Knowledge

Area	Essential Knowledge / Skills	Why It Matters
Theme 1 (Marketing & People)	Market segmentation, branding, and motivation theories.	Essential for understanding how businesses start, operate, and grow.
Theme 2 (Managing Business Activities)	Finance (break-even, ratios), production methods, and quality management.	Essential for managing and improving internal business performance.
Theme 3 (Business Decisions & Strategy)	Strategic planning tools (Ansoff, Porter) and investment appraisal.	Essential for senior-level decision making and long-term planning.
Theme 4 (Global Business)	Globalisation, international trade, and multinational corporations.	Essential for operating and competing in a globalised economy.

3. Powerful Knowledge

Powerful Knowledge Area	Why It Matters	Evidence of Understanding
Strategic Analysis (Ansoff/Porter/SWOT)	Provides the framework for evaluating complex strategic directions.	Enables students to evaluate the feasibility of complex business decisions.
Financial Analysis (Profitability/Liquidity/Investment Appraisal)	Crucial for objective assessment of business health and viability.	Allows for the accurate assessment of financial health and performance.
Ethical/CSR Decision Making	Reflects the modern need for sustainable and responsible business.	Enables evaluation of business impacts on society and sustainability.
Synoptic Integration	Connects knowledge across Themes 1-4 for total business insight.	Connecting knowledge across all themes provides a holistic business insight.

4. Curriculum Implementation

Term / Unit	Key Content	Foundational Knowledge	Powerful Knowledge	Assessment Opportunities
Yr 12 - Autumn	Theme 1 &	Marketing mix and people functions.	Finance basics and internal activities.	Baseline assessments and topic tests.
Yr 12 - Spring	Theme 1 &amp and theme 4 introduction ;	Operations and resource management.	External influences and legislation.	Data response practice.

Yr 12 - Summer	Theme 4 (Global Business)	Globalisation, international trade, and multinational corporations.	Essential for operating and competing in a globalised economy.	Theme 4 (Global Business)
Yr 13 - Autumn	Theme 2 (Managing Business Activities)	Finance (break-even, ratios), production methods, and quality management.	Essential for managing and improving internal business performance.	Theme 2 (Managing Business Activities)
Yr 13 - Spring	Theme 3 (Business Decisions & Strategy)	Strategic planning tools (Ansoff, Porter) and investment appraisal.	Essential for senior-level decision making and long-term planning.	Theme 3 (Business Decisions & Strategy)

5. Assessment Strategy

Assessment Type	Purpose	Frequency
Diagnostic	Initial knowledge check and baseline assessments.	Start of Year 12.
Formative	Weekly topic tests, data response practice, and essay drafting.	Weekly / Ongoing.
Summative	Full mock papers using previous exam series.	End of Year / Termly.
Synoptic	Pre-release context investigations and synoptic essay practice.	Prior to Paper 3 exam.