

Get ready for Business

About the subject

A Level Business provides an exciting insight into the dynamic world of business. It examines business through topical news stories and case studies and develops skills in data analysis, calculations, group work, critical thinking and problem solving.

Businesses of all sizes and types are studied from sole traders to multi-national conglomerates. The first year focuses on the key functional areas of business – finance, marketing, operations and human resource management as well as looking at business forms, leadership and decision making. The second year builds on first year content and looks at strategy and how businesses have to respond to the external environment to decide on their strategic direction. Other topics include international trade, organisational culture and managing change.

Your tasks

Please complete the following tasks which form part of Unit 1:

Task One

Please access and complete the Initial Numeracy Assessment.

[<https://www.barnsleysixthformcollege.co.uk/app/uploads/2020/04/Numeracy-Assessment-New-Students.docx>] You can either print off the document and write in your answers or write out your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Always show your workings. Please bring a paper copy to the first lesson.

Task Two

Read the case study on 'Slow Fashion' [<https://www.barnsleysixthformcollege.co.uk/wp/index.php?gf-download=2021%2F06%2FSlow-Fashion-Case-Study.pdf&form-id=3&field-id=10&hash=744bd25eec872f54b2b603cb21e6f9ad9f1f2d28ba7c7d4db8c83fcd43922e1b>] and answer the following questions:

1. Write out definitions for the following terms used in the case study:

- a) Private Limited Company
- b) Profit
- c) Shares
- d) Ethical objectives
- e) Cash flow (12 marks)

2. Using Figure 1 calculate the percentage change of UK clothing sales from 2015 to 2016. (3 marks)
3. Explain one advantage to Rana Fashion of trading ethically. (4 marks)
4. To what extent do you think it is a good idea for Rana Fashion to sell their clothing online only. (16 marks)

To answer this question use the following structure:

- A paragraph with arguments for Rana Fashion selling online only – use the case study to support your arguments.
- A paragraph with arguments against Rana Fashion selling online only – use the case study to support your arguments.
- A concluding paragraph – make a judgement which answers the question and weigh up previous arguments to support the judgement.

You may wish to watch this video which gives advice on how to structure and answer 16 mark questions in A Level Business:

A Level Business Revision – Answering 16-20 Mark Questions

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRfTzeczyOfY>]

Essential reading

The recommended course textbook is the CGP A Level Business Revision Guide. If you are able to, please purchase it prior to starting your course.

Title: A Level Business Complete Revision & Practice for Exam Board AQA

Publisher : CGP

ISBN: 978 1 78294 351 8

Follow the business news on a regular basis. This really helps to bring the subject to life and you can apply theory you have learned to real life businesses. Perhaps select 2/3 businesses that interest you and follow them in the news. Here is a link to BBC Business News:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business> [<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business>]

Useful websites and other resources

- Tutor 2U [<https://www.tutor2u.net/business/topics>]
- TakingTheBiz – YouTube
- BizEd.com [<http://www.bized.com/>]
- BBC business news [<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business>]

There are some really interesting and relevant programmes on TV related to Business. Watching these really helps to give insights into the real world of business and to apply business theory learned in the classroom. They may be available on iPlayer or YouTube:

- Inside the Factory
- What Britain Buys and Sells in a Day
- Dragons' Den

Channel 5 also often shows programmes on companies. Recent ones have focused on Aldi, Sainsburys, Waitrose, Marks & Spencer, Tesco

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Any questions?

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