



BUSINESS STUDIES

Entry Requirements: Grade 4 in Maths and English Language

Exam board: OCR

Full Subject Specification website: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-a-level-gce-business-h031-h431-from-2015/>

Why study Business:

No matter what you do in life you will be impacted by the business world. Brexit is looming and businesses throughout the country are worried about how it will affect them; this is uncharted territory. Is it going to get easier to import their goods into the country or harder to export what they sell?

Will they have to put their prices up? Who knows! This is the future that businesses are going to have to face. The effect of Brexit happening is already impacting on UK businesses so what better time to study the subject of Business Studies at Stratford? After all, you will be working in a business when you either leave school or graduate from university. With a Business Studies qualification you will have the advantage of understanding how Brexit has affected not just UK businesses but businesses worldwide who trade with us.

Subject Specification Outline:

This specification consists of three main sections:

1. Operating in the local environment: have you ever thought how your local convenience store started out? How come they are still in business when there is a Tesco just down the road? Local businesses are facing difficult times, especially with competition for customers from so many larger businesses, not to mention online trading. So how come new businesses are still starting up and why do so many small businesses survive these difficult times and still manage to grow? This module will provide you with the foundation business knowledge to build upon, as well as answer many of your business questions.

2. The UK business environment: businesses do not only operate locally, they gradually grow and change how they trade (e.g. going online). The companies they compete against get bigger, so what hurdles do they face and how do they overcome them? Larger companies have to produce different financial accounts, they market their businesses differently etc. This module is going to expand your business knowledge even further to how UK businesses work.

3. The global environment: we live in a global business environment, companies that are not even British based dominate our daily lives. How did this happen and how do they affect our every day. Most likely everything that you are wearing or use will have come from overseas; why is it not made in the

UK? Why won't Apple and Facebook etc. pay their tax like other businesses in this country? Well this module is going to teach you why this happens and how businesses function in a global environment.

There are 3 external exams for this course.

Progress Assessment:

Structured essay responses set and returned on 2 week rotation.

Ongoing ½ termly assessment.

Real life case studies after each main topic.

Regular question and answer sessions in each lesson.

Final Exam Format:

H431/01 – Written paper; 120 mins, multiple choice, short and long responses linked to case study linked to local businesses

H431/02 – Written paper; 120 mins, multiple choice, short and long responses linked to case study linked to national businesses

H431/03 – Written paper; 120 mins, multiple choice, short and long responses linked to case study on global businesses

Self Study Requirements:

Pupils need to spend at least 9-11 hours per week using the text book to write up notes and do the case studies within it

Progression Pathways:

In Business Studies at Stratford you will develop your presentation and communication skills, after all employers want confident employees who can communicate with others. It will teach you how to analyse a set of financial statements and evaluate what direction or path a business should take. As the business environment is constantly changing, you will be engaged from the start researching what has happened and why, what is the outcome and impact etc.

Past students have progressed onto scholarships with large companies, to university to study a range of business related courses: Marketing; HR; Business Management; International Business & Finance, and also into apprenticeships and the work place.