

Next steps!

If you are interested in studying the GCSE in Applied Business you should start to find out more about the subject by:

- talking to the Head of Business at your school who will be able to describe the course in detail and advise you of what you need to do next when it comes to your options
- looking on the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com/gcse2009) where there is a lot of useful information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.

Applied Business Question:

Which of the following is not a self made entrepreneur?

Applied Business Answer:

(c) Beverley Charman

Edexcel

190 High Holborn, London WC1V 7BH

Online enquiries: www.edexcel.com/gcse2009-ask

Tel: 0844 576 0027

Fax: 020 7190 5700

www.edexcel.com

About Edexcel

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Edexcel GCSE Applied Business



Is this the right subject for me?

If you are interested in the world of business then our GCSE in Applied Business is the subject for you. During the course you will investigate actual businesses and gain an understanding of business finance. It is 'applied' because you use what you learn to understand the businesses you investigate. You will:

- learn about and understand the world of business
- develop skills in the financial aspects of business
- carry out research, both within and away from the classroom
- learn how to work in a team with other members of the class
- learn through investigation in addition to listening and reading.

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

There are no formal requirements. An interest in 'business' and what businesses do, together with a reasonable standard of English and mathematics, would be helpful but the course is open to everyone.

What will I learn?

The business world is constantly changing. The new course has been updated to give you the chance to learn about these changes as well as covering conventional material. There are four units.

Unit 1

This unit is an investigation into what business enterprise is all about, including how businesses are organised and how people are involved. It also looks at new issues such as 'ethical' and 'green' business. You will focus on one local and one national or international business.

Unit 2

This unit focuses on how businesses record financial transactions, make payments and keep records of how they are doing. You will learn about balance sheets, profit and loss accounts and how to use these to understand business performance in a practical context.

Unit 3

This unit builds on the 'people' aspect of Unit 1 and looks at customer service, recruitment (including CVs and applying for jobs) as well as legal aspects affecting businesses, for example consumer protection. It also examines how businesses are affected by factors outside their control, such as economic trends. Again, you will choose two businesses to investigate.

Unit 4

This builds on Unit 2 and examines how businesses plan their finances, looking at topics such as cash flow and break-even forecasts together with how businesses budget and finance themselves. These aspects are looked at in relation to particular examples.

Applied Business Question:

Which of the following is **not** a self made entrepreneur?

- (a) Deborah Meaden
- (b) Sir Alan Sugar
- (c) Beverley Charman
- (d) James Caan

How will I be assessed?

The course is modular and flexible so you can complete either a Single or Double Award (worth one or two GCSE passes). Most students take two years to complete either award but you can take units in both years. Units 1 and 2 make up the single Award and Units 3 and 4 make up the Double Award.

| Unit 1 & 3 Course work based | Unit 2 & 4 Examination (60 mins) |
|---|---|
| You will carry out an investigation into your two chosen businesses and will use the information gathered to respond to tasks set by the examining board. These tasks will be published in advance so that you will know what to expect. The completed tasks will be submitted to the exam board once they have been marked by your teachers. | You will apply what you have learned to the questions asked in an externally assessed test. |

What can I do after I've completed the course?

Applied Business has strong links with lots of other subjects and develops skills such as IT, as well as enhancing your communication and mathematical skills

After completing the GCSE Applied Business course you can progress into many different areas of study and work, for example:

- GCE Applied Business
- BTEC Nationals in Business
- other courses in information and communication technology
- traineeships or apprenticeships in finance, administration and clerical occupations.

