

Business Studies



Business Studies is a well-established and popular subject which is studied at GCSE, AS and A Levels. The subject is certainly one of the most relevant that a student can study and this means that it attracts a wide range of ability levels.

Business Studies will give a valuable insight into why and how businesses behave and the subject covers a diverse but related range of topics from Marketing to People, Accounting to Objectives and Production to Government Policy. It is not an easy option, largely because it is not studied until GCSE level, and in some cases not before AS Level, but the fact that it is 'new', interesting and relevant makes the subject very popular.

Group sizes will vary from year to year, but on average both GCSE and A Level groups are approximately 15 pupils in size.

The Department aims to foster and develop an interest in, and an understanding of, the various components in the subject as well as how they link together. Current affairs provide a great deal of useful information so keeping abreast of the news is an important aspect of the work, as is the need to carry out research and present findings. Students are encouraged to voice their experiences and substantiate their opinions in discussion, and to develop the reasoning skills needed for the examinations.

A willingness to learn, an inquiring and considered mind, a reasonable level of basic mathematical ability as well as a genuine interest in the subject will all be useful.

Business Studies at Rishworth

The subject is not studied below Year 10.

In Years 10 and 11 students can choose Business Studies as a GCSE option. During Year 10, students will study topics relating to starting a new business including Entrepreneurs, Objectives and Stakeholders, Business Planning, Market Research, Recruitment, Sources of Finance, Cash Flow and Customer Service. This section will be externally assessed by a one hour examination paper towards the end of Year 11. Year 11 students will study topics relating to the growth and expansion of businesses including Mergers and Takeovers, Private and Public

Limited Companies, The Marketing Mix, Profit and Loss Accounts, Balance Sheets, Motivation, Economies of Scale and Productivity. At the end of Year 11 this topic will be externally assessed by a one hour examination. In addition 25% of the GCSE mark will be for a Controlled Assessment involving a business investigation; this will take place in Year 11.

In the Lower Sixth, students can choose to study Business at A Level. A GCSE in Business Studies will provide a useful foundation but is by no means essential. The new A Level course has just started, in September 2015; it is organised into ten sections - What is Business?, Managers and Decision Making, Decision Making to Improve Marketing, Operations, Financial and Human Resource Performance, Analysing the Strategic Position of the Business, Choosing the Strategic Direction, Strategic Methods and Managing Change.

The A Level is assessed by three two hour examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth. It is possible to study Business to AS Level only, should you wish. This will involve studying the first six sections of the A Level course and will be assessed at the end of the Lower Sixth by two one and a half hour exam papers.

Outside the Classroom

Research exercises are used to reinforce understanding of topics such as objectives, marketing, people and the impact of external factors. Keeping up with relevant business news and watching television programmes such as Dragons' Den help to relate theory to real world examples.

There is a Business Studies 'Drop in' which runs one lunchtime a week and it is likely that trips and visits from outside speakers will be added to the experience over the next few years.

