

# **GCSE Subject Criteria for Business Subjects**



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# Contents

The criteria .....	3
Introduction .....	3
Aims and learning outcomes .....	3
Subject content.....	3
Assessment objectives .....	5
Scheme of assessment .....	6

## The criteria

### Introduction

GCSE subject criteria set out the knowledge, understanding, skills and assessment objectives common to all GCSE specifications in a given subject.

They provide the framework within which the awarding organisation creates the detail of the specification.

### Aims and learning outcomes

1. GCSE specifications in business subjects must enable learners to:
  - actively engage in the study of business and economics to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds;
  - use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts and opinions, to build arguments and make informed judgements;
  - develop and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts;
  - appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities;
  - consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable.

### Subject content

2. GCSE specifications in Business Studies and business-related subjects must require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
  - business activity – why and how businesses start, succeed and fail;
  - the differing interests of stakeholders;
  - competition – reaction and recognition, actual and potential;
  - uncertainty – risk, reward and change;
  - customers – their power, importance and needs;

- business within society – ethics and sustainability;
  - decision making – use of data and problem solving;
  - changing use of ICT – in business and economic activities;
  - use of relevant terms, concepts and methods – to understand business and economic behaviour.
3. GCSE specifications in Business Studies must require learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
- the dynamic nature of business, including motivations for social enterprise;
  - local, national and international contexts;
  - the integrated nature of business problems and solutions.
4. GCSE specifications in Business Studies must require learners to develop the ability to:
- apply a critical perspective to the theory and current practice of business;
  - evaluate quantitative and qualitative evidence to make reasoned judgements;
  - develop a conceptual framework of business within society.
5. GCSE specifications in Applied Business must require learners to:
- develop their knowledge and understanding through the investigation of a range of local and/or national business organisations;
  - investigate how employers and employees operate in enterprising ways, develop their working relationships, and meet their various rights and responsibilities;
  - develop and apply the following skills within business contexts:
    - practical skills – time management, personal organisation and action planning;
    - presentational skills – addressing audiences using a variety of media and forms;

- personal skills – showing evidence of progression;
- interpersonal skills – communication and group work;
- cognitive skills – reflection and review of own and others' performances.

### Assessment objectives

6. All specifications in Business Studies and business-related subjects must require learners to demonstrate their ability to:

	<b>Assessment objectives</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>AO1</b>	Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of concepts, issues and terminology.	25–35%
<b>AO2</b>	Apply skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts and in planning and carrying out investigations and tasks.	35–45%
<b>AO3</b>	Analyse and evaluate evidence, make reasoned judgements and present appropriate conclusions.	25–35%

## **Scheme of assessment**

7. GCSE specifications in Applied Business must allocate a weighting of 40 per cent to external assessment and a weighting of 60 per cent to controlled assessment in the overall scheme of assessment.
8. GCSE specifications in Business Studies and business-related subjects must allocate a weighting of 75 per cent to external assessment and a weighting of 25 per cent to controlled assessment in the overall scheme of assessment.
9. Each scheme of assessment must allow learners to demonstrate their attainment in a variety of ways using appropriate media. It must require learners to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to real and/or realistic problems, relevant to the modern world, involving data from case studies where appropriate.
10. Question papers must be targeted at the full range of GCSE grades.

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