BARNSLEY SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

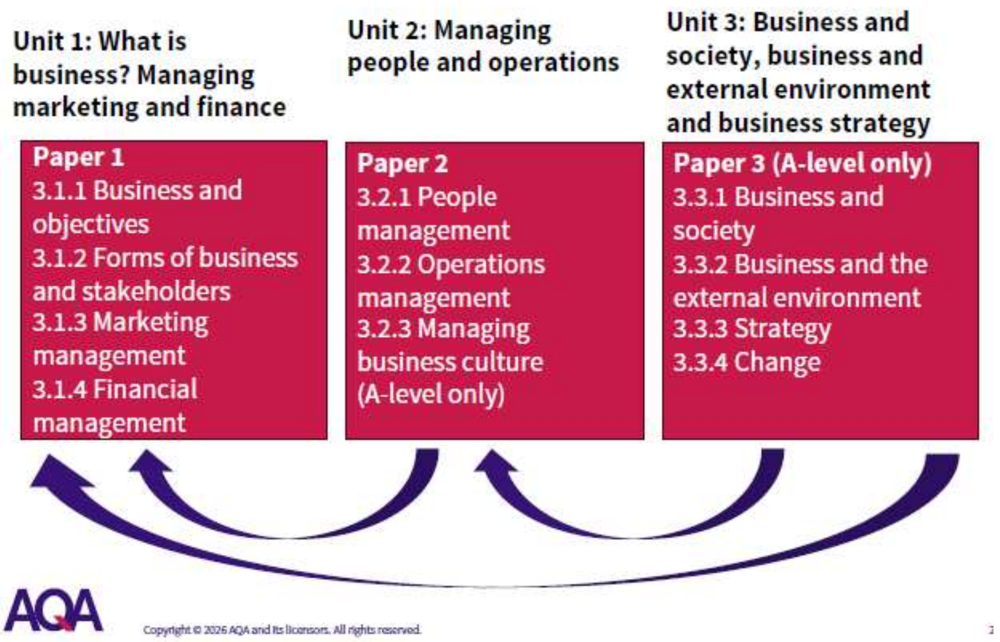
GET READY TO STUDY BUSINESS

If you are planning to study A Level Business with us in September, please review this document and complete the required activities. Please bring the completed activities with you at induction.

FAQ

What specification will I study?

You will be studying the new AQA A Level Business 7138 specification which is assessed in year 13 through three 2-hour exams. The topics are as follows:



Who can I contact if I have a question about this subject?

Gemma Mahoney, A Level Business Teacher g.mahoney@barnsley.ac.uk

What subjects go well with Business?

Maths, Law, Sociology, English, History, Geography, Politics, Sociology and Economics (some universities may not like this combination though – please check first).

What grades should I have?

In addition to the general sixth form entry requirements, learners must have grade 5 in Maths because of the numerical aspects of the course. Learners should also enjoy essay writing and making recommendations in a given context.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

In Year 1, you will study the following topics:

- Business objectives
- Forms of business
- Marketing
- Finance
- People
- Operations

In Year 2, you will study the following topics:

- External environment
- Society and business
- Business culture
- Strategy
- Change

WHAT WILL I NEED?

To study the course you will need the following equipment:

Folders and dividers

Lined paper

Pens

Calculator

Ruler

Students also find it useful to have:

• Blank flashcards

• A whiteboard and whiteboard pens

New textbooks will be released soon for the course. Once this happens, we will recommend one for students that they may purchase if they wish to. Financial support is available for some students in receipt of learner support fund payments.

FIND OUT MORE

These activities are to help broaden your understanding of the subject in preparation for studying this subject at an advanced level.

Careers	https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/business-consulting-and-management/
YouTube channels	https://www.youtube.com/@tutor2u-official https://www.youtube.com/TakingTheBiz https://www.youtube.com/@Bizconsesh
Useful websites	https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/business-studies-level-revision https://www.tutor2u.net/students/a-level/aqa-a-level-business
Documentaries	There are some interesting and relevant programmes on TV related to Business as well as the news. 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. They include: Inside the Factory, What Britain Buys and Sells in a Day, Dragons' Den, Panorama.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

It is important that all the required activities are completed in preparation for starting your course. Please bring these completed activities with you at induction.

Choosing your A Levels can be a challenge for some learners, therefore if you are undecided around which subjects you are planning to study, completing these activities will give yourself greater insight into the course to help ensure you have made the right choice.

INDUCTION TASK

Please read the following case study about Napara plc and then access the questions on the Microsoft Forms document below.

Napara plc

Napara plc is a large mass market manufacturer of cars. Currently it produces four models of cars. Napara plc's reputation had previously been for reliability. This reputation has declined in recent years. Napara plc carried out some market research. This research highlighted that customers want:

- **reliable cars**
- **cars supplied without waiting times**

Table 1: Operational data for 2021

Operational data	**Napara plc**	**Industry average**
Average cars produced per 100 employees in 2021	3150	5500
Percentage of cars requiring recall for faults	2.4%	0.8%
Average time from customer order to delivery	1 month	3 months

The employees in the Napara plc factory are highly skilled but have low motivation. There is high trade union membership amongst the employees.

The union members took industrial action last year when they felt management bought incorrect safety equipment that put employees at risk. The action caused negative news headlines. The employees distrust management as a result. None of Napara plc's management have experience working on the production line. Employees worry their jobs are not being done safely and efficiently. This distrust has led to poor employee performance. In 2023, the business has made the decision to move into the rapidly growing and highly profitable electric car market. Two of the company's current models will be replaced with electric models. The move would require the high-end skills of many of the workers. However, some jobs may be lost.

Customers in the electric car market:

- expect high-quality cars
- are very concerned with the ethics of the brand
- are willing to pay high prices

Napara plc knows the market for these cars is rapidly changing. Napara plc's shareholders want the company to launch its first electric car as quickly as possible. The business is considering involving employees in the planning for the new production line.

Now answer the questions relating to this case study here:
https://forms.office.com/e/0nYdnVb85t

When you have completed the form, you will need to complete this Case Study Research Task:

Company Fact File	Task
1. Select a company	Pick a plc to research (choose a company with plc after its name like Next plc, Tesco plc, Barclays plc, Diageo plc, Whitbred plc)

2. Research some key facts	How large is the company in question? How many countries do they operate in? What do they make/do/sell? How long have they been operating? Where is their UK headquarters? Type in “annual accounts for 2025 for your chosen plc” – there should be a PDF or webpage to explore on their official corporate website. There is usually a breakdown of their profits/losses in the Income Statement, and a statement from the CEO or chairman about the firm’s performance.
3. Evidence of success	What evidence is there from the annual report that the firm has been successful? Eg profits, market share growth, sales revenue etc.
4. Evidence of any struggles	What evidence is there from the annual report that the firm has been struggling? Eg losses, redundancies, restructuring, closure of any sites etc.
5. Conclusion	How is your firm doing? If you were performing a business health check on the company, what strengths would you identify, and what weaknesses or areas for improvement can you identify? How much has the company been affected by external factors in the economy? What does the future hold for the company in your opinion?

Please bring this work to your first Business induction lesson.