Business (GCSE) Revision

What we are doing at school to help our students
If you are on study leave you can still contact staff via e-mail.

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Mr Wheeler – pxw@leventhorpe.net

We do check e-mail daily on school days so can respond to your questions or issues pretty quickly. Please use this to ask questions or get us to look over any work/questions you have completed. Also on study leave come and find us for help when you are in school.

Lunchtime Revision Sessions
We will run lunchtime revision classes/clinics after Easter. This is an opportunity to go over any topics you find tough, or to ask questions you might not get a chance to in class. Details to follow.

Exam day warm ups
We will organise sessions for students to attend just before their exams. These will focus on exam paper structure, key reminders for dealing with different types of questions and getting minds focussed on business topics/issues. Details to follow. If students require any other teacher support or have good ideas that help them in other subjects please discuss these with your teachers.

What Students Should be Doing at Home
In order to do well in business studies you need to master two key issues. Firstly you need to be secure on subject knowledge. Secondly you need to be able to show your knowledge in the way the examiner wants to see it.

Getting the knowledge secure

Key terms – can you explain different business terms? Go through glossaries, the key terms book and read through terms. You could use a traffic light system red, amber and green for terms you don’t know, sort of know and are OK with. See if you can describe the terms to a friend or parent. See if you can write your own definitions to terms. Check answers and update your traffic lights. If there are terms you don’t know use websites or ask teachers to explain.

Learning the maths bits!

You need to know your ratios, how to calculate profit and loss, and a few other formulas. These are all on a sheet available from staff. Learn them and practice doing the calculations with some made up figures. Topic cue cards can be useful to make to help learn the concepts.
Secondly showing your knowledge in the right way.
Examination questions have key words that prompt you to answer in a certain way. In business studies they often ask you to describe or explain issues. This means you need to answer in sentences not in lists! You will be asked to analyse or consider advantages and disadvantages. In these questions you need to explain the good and bad points of an issue. Lastly you will be asked to make decisions and justify these or evaluate an issue. In these questions you need to consider the 'best' idea/alternative based on the advantages and disadvantages that you have presented.

To help practice these skills try the following:
Take an issue e.g. should firm A raise its prices? Identify why it might be a good or bad idea. Then try to identify things that will swing the decision one way or the other e.g. how many competitors are there? How will they react? Will people pay higher prices?

You can also draw mind maps. Put a key topic or question in the middle of a sheet of paper and then try to develop links or other questions in a diagram. Try revising with a friend. This can help, but you need to have a plan of what you are going to do and stick to it! You can discuss issues, test each other, write answers and read each other’s work etc.

Good luck, and please seek help from staff when you need it.

Exam Board Links
The AQA website has detailed information about the specification, past papers, examiners reports. These are accessed by the following web link http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business-studies/gcse/business-subjects-and-economics-4130

If you are unable to access the page from the above link please go to www.aqa.org.uk, then select qualifications on the left hand side. Then select GCSE from the drop down menu then GCSE, Business Studies and Economics 4130.

We will be using past papers in lessons and for homework between now and the summer exams.
Revision Websites
A number of websites have good business studies revision materials
www.businessstudiesonline.com this site has a range of topic notes, activities and diagrams. The materials are very good and easy to follow. Select GCSE business studies and then either theory notes or online activities.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ This link takes you to the Bitesize homepage. Pick Business Studies and access notes and short tests.
www.tutor2u.net. Tutor2u have lots of good notes. If you investigate the site you will find other revision tools.
www.bized.co.uk Bized again have loads of good notes and materials. The resources are more geared up to A level students, but they are a good reference source.

www.revisionguru.co.uk This site has an online text book with definitions and diagrams on key topics.

www.s-cool.co.uk This site has notes on topics, mostly geared up to A level.

The websites listed above are a sample of what is available. Students need to be careful as all sites will cover different issues in different levels of depth. Some of the materials are not on our GCSE syllabus so make sure that you use the Students’ SOW booklet provided as guidance.

How should websites be used?
It depends on your needs. They are good to read through notes on a specific topic e.g. if you want an overview of balance sheets find a set of notes, read them through, make some summary key points.
If you want to test yourself on a topic, you could do an activity on a particular topic.

Don't spend hours on end just skimming through website materials without doing anything else like summary cards, questions or mind maps etc.

Revision Guides
AQA GCSE Business Studies Revision Guide by Neil Denby £8.99
Grade Boundaries A* - G
GCSE Business Studies AQA Revision Guide by CGP Books £5.65