



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Level Examination  
June 2012 and January 2013

## **Business Studies**

## **BUSS4/PM**

**Unit 4 The Business Environment and Managing Change**

### **Preliminary Material (Research Theme)**

**To be issued to candidates no sooner than Tuesday 31 January 2012**

#### **NOTICE TO CANDIDATES**

You will be given **one** copy of this Preliminary Material (Research Theme) for use during your preparation for the examination, which you may annotate as you wish, but which you will **not** be allowed to take into the examination.

The Preliminary Material (Research Theme) will be repeated within the question paper for use in the examination.

You should carry out your own research on the Preliminary Material (Research Theme).

**Your teacher is encouraged to give assistance and advice as required.**

### Research Theme – Takeovers and Mergers

In your research on takeovers and mergers you should consider:

- the motives for takeovers and mergers and how these link with corporate strategy
- the problems of takeovers and mergers including difficulties integrating businesses successfully
- the factors influencing the success of takeovers and mergers
- the impact of takeovers and mergers on the performance of the businesses involved
- the impact on, and reaction of, stakeholders to takeovers and mergers
- the reasons why governments might support or intervene in takeovers and mergers.

You are strongly recommended to compare and contrast a number of different takeovers and mergers.

You should make reference to your research in your responses to **Section A** in the examination.