General Certificate of Education (International) Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level

**BUSINESS STUDIES 9707** 

For examination in June and November 2010

CIE provides syllabuses, past papers, examiner reports, mark schemes and more on the internet. We also offer teacher professional development for many syllabuses. Learn more at <u>www.cie.org.uk</u>

# **BUSINESS STUDIES**

### GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level and GCE Advanced Level 9707

### CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
SYLLABUS AIMS	1
ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES	2
SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT	3
CURRICULUM CONTENT	4
NOTES FOR GUIDANCE	9
RESOURCE LIST	30
TEACHERS' RESOURCES	32

### Exclusions

This syllabus must not be offered in the same session with the following syllabus:

9379 Management of Business (Singapore) 9756 Management of Business (Singapore)

## INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The aim of this syllabus is to enable Centres to develop Business Studies courses that are suitable both for Advanced Level candidates and for those seeking a more limited study of the topic.
- 1.2 Candidates and Centres may choose:
  - to take all Advanced Level components in the same session
  - to follow a *staged* assessment route to the Advanced Level by taking the Advanced Subsidiary qualification in an earlier examination. Subject to satisfactory performance, such candidates are then only required to take the final part of the assessment
  - to take the Advanced Subsidiary qualification only.
- 1.3 No previous study of the subject is assumed by the syllabus.

### SYLLABUS AIMS

The syllabus is intended to lead to courses that will encourage students:

- 2.1 To understand and appreciate the nature and scope of business, and its role in society.
- 2.2 To develop critical understanding of organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value. This should involve consideration of the internal workings and management of organisations and, in particular, the process of decision-making in a dynamic external environment.
- 2.3 To be aware that business behaviour can be studied from a range of stakeholders including customer, manager, creditor, owner/shareholder and employee.
- 2.4 To be aware of the economic, environmental, ethical, governmental, legal, social and technological issues associated with business activity.
- 2.5 To develop skills in:
  - decision-making and problem solving in the light of evaluation;
  - the quantification and management of information, where appropriate;
  - effective communication.

The emphasis should be on the application of concepts and issues to the local context where appropriate.

# **ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES**

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following skills:

- 3.1 Knowledge and critical understanding of the specified content
- 3.2 **Application** of this knowledge and critical understanding to problems and issues which are from both familiar and unfamiliar situations
- 3.3 Analysis of problems, issues and situations by
  - distinguishing between statements of fact, statements of value and hypothetical statements;
  - making valid inferences from material presented;
  - examining the implications of a hypothesis;
  - organising ideas;
  - making valid generalisations.
- 3.4 **Evaluation** of reliability of material, checking that conclusions drawn are consistent with given information and discriminating between alternative explanations and assessing the role of the main concept and models in business analysis.

#### 3.5 Specification Grid

The marks available for each group of skills are as follows:

	Knowledge	Application	Analysis	Evaluation	Total
Paper 1	12 ± 4	12 ± 4	8 ± 4	8 ± 4	40
Paper 2	18 ± 4	18 ± 4	12 ± 4	12 ± 4	60
Paper 3	20 ± 4	20 ± 4	30 ± 4	30 ± 4	100

# SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

### ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY QUALIFICATION (Core syllabus)

Paper	Туре	Duration	Number of questions	Maximum mark	Weight (% of total marks for the syllabus)
1	Short answer	1 h 15 mins	4	20	20
	Essay (Core)		1 from choice of 3	20	20
2	Data Response	1 h 30 mins	2	60	60

#### ADVANCED LEVEL (Core syllabus plus Extension topics)

Paper	Туре	Duration	Number of questions	Maximum mark	Weight (% of total marks for the syllabus)
1	Short answer	1 h 15 mins	4	20	10
	Essay (Core)		1 from choice of 3	20	10
2	Data Response	1 h 30 mins	2	60	30
3	Case Study	3 h	5 + one essay from choice of two	100	50

The Advanced Level syllabus INCLUDES the Core (AS) syllabus as well as the additional Advanced Level material.

# **CURRICULUM CONTENT**

The Advanced Level syllabus will INCLUDE the Core (AS) syllabus as well as the additional Advanced Level material:

Advanced Subsidiary Syllabus = Core

Advanced Level Syllabus

= Core + Extension topics

CORE	EXTENSION TOPICS
1. Business and the Environment	
- The need for and nature of business activity	
Level of activity: primary, secondary, tertiary	
Sector: public; private	
Legal structure: sole trader; partnership; limited companies (private and public)	
- Business and economic structure	- Business and economic structure
Free market enterprise. Other economic systems	Privatisation
Nature and scope of international and multinational businesses	
- Size of business	- Size of business
Measurement Significance of small businesses State intervention to assist and constrain business of different sizes	The integration of businesses through mergers and take- overs
- Business strategy	- Business strategy
Objectives and constraints: political, legal, physical, technological, social, environmental, ethical, economic, constraints. Public and private sector business objectives	Conflict of business objectives Business v State
	Management by objectives
- The Internet	
Business opportunities/threats; e-commerce, e-business	
- Stakeholders	
Owners, employees, customers, suppliers, community, government bodies	
- Corporate culture and strategy	- Corporate culture and strategy
Organisation behaviour, method of operation	Link between culture and business behaviour
2. People in Organisations	
- The need for and nature of organisational structure Approaches to organisational structures: functional, matrix structures	- The need for and nature of organisational structure

Formal organisation – accountability, centralisation,
decentralisation Line and staff
- Motivation, leadership and management
Appropriateness of leadership styles, informal leadership
- Business Communication
Purpose and methods of communication
Barriers to effective communication
Lines of communication – one/two way; vertical/horizontal; formal and informal networks
- Human Resource Management
Labour/management relations: labour legislation, collective bargaining, dispute settlement, promotion of co-operation between management and workforce, need for negotiation, evaluation of the role of trade unions
Health and safety in the workplace
Training
- The nature and definition of the market and the role of marketing
Marketing planning
Market segmentation – appropriateness in different circumstances
Market research information: cost effectiveness (treated descriptively)
Forecasting (graphical and time series analysis)

CORE	EXTENSION TOPICS
Demand concepts: determinants of demand; price elasticity of demand	Demand elasticities of income and promotional spending Evaluation of the elasticity technique
- Product portfolio planning	- Product portfolio planning
	Product development
	Value analysis
Classification of products	Boston Matrix
Product life cycle; implications for market strategy; research and development	
Evaluation of the usefulness of product life cycle	
- The Marketing Mix	- Marketing Strategy
Product, price, distribution channels (place), promotion and packaging	Marketing mix within the organisation and in the wider environment
	The need for strategy to be based on marketing objectives
	The need for a co-ordinated mix
4. Operations Management	
- Nature of production	- Nature of production
Location; regional and international location decisions	The production process
Relation of inputs to outputs subject to cost and other constraints	Capital versus labour intensity
Adding value	
Local labour market	
- Organising production	- Organising production
Work study	Scale of operation
Production methods	Production methods
Capacity utilisation	Ways of increasing capacity utilisation
The use of cost information	Approaches to costing: absorption costing, contribution costing (including the solution of numerate problems)
	Evaluation of costing approaches
Break-even analysis – graphical method and simple calculations	
Evaluation of break-even analysis	
Stock management	

CORE	EXTENSION TOPICS
- Operational efficiency	
Scale – economies and diseconomies of scale	
Lean production – a descriptive treatment only	Lean production – an evaluation, including the appropriateness of JIT in different circumstances
- Quality control and assurance	- Quality control and assurance
Methods of quality control	Continuous improvement, training and development. TQM and QA Standards, benchmarking
	- Production planning
	Network analysis (CPA)
	CPA – calculation and application of activity float times
5. Business Finance	
- The need for business finance	- The need for business finance
Start up capital and expansion of the business	
Capital expenditure and revenue expenditure	Understanding the significance of the distinction between revenue and capital expenditure.
Working capital – meaning and significance	Control of working capital – stock, debtor and creditor control
- Sources of finance	- Sources of finance
Short and long term sources, both internal and external	Selecting the appropriate sources of finance – the sources of finance to meet particular requirements
	The factors influencing the choice of finance – gearing (linking up with ratio analysis), cost, flexibility, need to retain control, use to which finance is to be put
- Money and capital market institutions	- Money and capital market institutions
Banks; specialist institutions	World Bank and the International Monetary fund as sources of finance for governments and certain business
Stock exchange	projects
6. Business Accounting	
- The need for business accounts	- The foundations of accounting (not a core item)
The main users of published company accounts – internal and external and limitations of these accounts	Simple treatment of the main concepts and conventions used when drawing up published accounts – double
The distinction between financial and management accounting	entry, accruals, money measurement, conservatism, realisation. No numerical questions will be set on these
- What the published accounts contain	- What the published accounts contain

CORE	EXTENSION TOPICS
The purpose and structure of balance sheets and profit and loss accounts.	Simple amendments of Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss accounts from given data. Construction of balance sheets and profit and loss accounts
Balance Sheets – main asset and liability categories	Cash Flow Statement – description of contents and purpose
Profit and Loss Accounts – layout and content of simple versions	Depreciation provisions – diminishing balance method. Comparison of the two methods
Depreciation provisions – straight line method only	Goodwill Stock valuation – net realisable value only
- Analysis of published accounts	- Analysis of published accounts
Profitability and liquidity ratios only. Calculation from data. Interpretation of results	Financial efficiency ratios – stock turnover and debtor days Gearing ratio – long term capital divided by capital employed
	Investors ratios – dividend yield, dividend cover
	The limitations of ratio analysis. Trend analysis of ratios and inter firm comparisons
- Investment appraisal	- Investment appraisal
Forecasting cash flows Quantitative appraisal – payback and average rate of return only Qualitative factors influencing the final investment decision	Discounted cash flow and internal rate of return (no calculation of IRR required)
- Managing cash flows	- Managing cash flows
Purpose of and construction of cash flow forecasts Ways of improving a business' cash flow – description only	Ways of improving cash flow including debt factoring, leasing, sale and leaseback and improved control of working capital. Evaluation of these
	- Budgets and budgeting
	The purpose of budgets Interpretation of variances – adverse and favourable but not price/volume analysis
7. Information for Decision-making	
- Sources and reliability of information	
- Collection of information	
- Presentation of information	- Presentation of information
Methods for the visual and graphical presentation of information for business: tables, graphs, piecharts, bar charts, pictograms	Appropriateness of methods of presentation
- Data analysis and evaluation	- Data analysis and evaluation
Measures of central tendency	Decision trees, time series analysis, network analysis, cost benefit analysis, investment appraisal, linear programming – blending technique

### NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

9

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
1. Business and the Environment	Emphasis should be on the strategic importance of clear objectives. There should be an awareness of how the business environment provides opportunities and imposes constraints on the pursuit of short-term and long-term objectives.
- The need for and nature of business activity	A simple understanding of the nature of economic activity and problem of choice
Level of activity: primary, secondary, tertiary	A classification of economic activity, e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary with examples drawn from the candidate's own country
Sector: public; private	Public and private sectors of the economy, with examples drawn from the candidate's own country
Legal structure: sole trader; partnership; limited companies (private and public)	Ability to exemplify each of these from local structures and activity, with examples drawn from the candidate's own country The legal structures which should be studied are: the sole trader partnerships private limited companies public limited companies state owned enterprises Main features should be known and main legal elements (no requirement to refer to particular legislation). Among the principles which should be emphasised are: divorce between ownership and control which develops as structures get larger and more complex
	nature of legal personality and limited liability and why they are necessary
- Business and economic structure	
Free market enterprise. Other economic systems	A simple awareness of free market economies and alternative economic systems

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
Nature and scope of international and multinational businesses	Importance of both international trading links and multinational companies by reference to local businesses and their management Relationship between multinationals and the nation state
- Size of business	
Measurement	Measuring size of a business, different criteria available, e.g. labour force, capitalisation, output, market share and appropriateness of each to different situations
Significance of small businesses	Advantages and disadvantages of small businesses
	Role of the small business both as an independent organisation and as a part of the structure of some industries, e.g. components firms in motor industry, and in engineering generally
State intervention to assist and constrain business of different sizes	How the State intervenes to assist or constrain business of different sizes, with particular reference to local schemes of assistance and methods of control
- Business strategy	
Objectives and constraints: political, legal, physical, technological, social,	Objectives are central to the whole process of decision-making. Candidates will be expected to have a knowledge of the hierarchy of objectives, their nature and the level within the organisation responsible for selecting them
environmental, ethical, economic, constraints. Public and private	Survival and profit
sector business objectives	Growth as the normal objective, but a particular business may have special objectives at particular times, e.g. market penetration with a new product may be more important than immediate profit Businesses <i>do not always seek to maximise profits</i> but may operate on the basis of a reasonable return on capital employed
	<i>The stages of decision-making</i> Different stages of the cycle are most crucial to different types of decision but each stage is important.
	Surrounding every decision, and hence bound to influence both the way in which it is made, how it can be implemented and its effectiveness, are a number of constraints
	<i>Constraints</i> Political
	Objectives of the State, e.g. stability, growth, standard of life, etc. and the way in which these may require the State to constrain decisions of others. This can be illustrated from a few simple situations and referred to as appropriate in other stages of the syllabus, e.g. location,

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
	employment policy, conditions of work, relationships with other businesses, marketing behaviour. This is closely related to:
	Legal The law intervenes both to support and constrain business activity Main legal controls/examples of their local application. Particularly relating to: financial structure; employment; conditions of work; association with other firms; location; marketing. In each of these areas candidates will need to know what is done, but there will be no requirement to quote the actual provisions of the law
	Physical/Technological Problems of change and of adaptation to technologies. Cost of new technology. Resistance to change. Limitations placed upon activity by local and national environment and consequent need for international trading arrangements Constraints arising from reliance upon other business, e.g. sources of raw materials, markets for goods
	Social/Ethical/Environmental Businesses work within an environment where there must be consideration for needs of people in the locality, e.g. pollution by waste material and by noise, and for people in the nation as a whole, e.g. location decisions and decisions about monopoly and mergers. There must also be some products and activities where State control is essential or legal restrictions must be considerable. Candidates will be expected to have an appreciation of the ethical issues involved in business activity
	Economic Macro economic policies of governments and how these may impact on business objectives and strategies including fiscal policy, monetary policy and exchange rates
- The Internet	
Business opportunities/threats; e-commerce, e-business	How the Internet changes the way businesses compete. Opportunities for greater market reach, product/service delivery and cost reduction. Threats such as new market entrants (competition) and disintermediation.
	E-commerce/e-business Websites as a channel to market; trading online; using computerised information systems in business processes

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
<ul> <li>Stakeholders</li> <li>Owners, employees, customers, suppliers, community, government bodies</li> <li>Corporate culture and strategy</li> <li>Organisation behaviour, method of operation</li> </ul>	Groups involved in and affected by business activity e.g. their roles, rights and responsibilities Conflicting and common aims of stakeholders
2. People in Organisations	Students are required to understand the significance of various management and organisation structures for a business and its employees. Students should recognise the opportunities and constraints, in relation to people in organisations, created by the business/legal environment, and to appreciate the contributions of selected management theories.
- The need for and nature of organisational structure	
Approaches to organisational structures: functional, matrix structures	The relationship between the objectives of the business and its organisational structure. The need to develop a structure which will: be flexible meet the needs of the business permit growth and development
Organisational structure: formal and informal organisations	<ul> <li>Approaches to organisation in larger firms: the advantages and disadvantages of hierarchical organisations matrix structure – advantages and disadvantages</li> <li>The way in which organisational structures change with growth. This can be well illustrated by following a one-man business, e.g. a small snack bar, through stages of growth to a large catering business (or any other business line which it is easy to illustrate locally)</li> </ul>
Features of a formal structure: hierarchy, chain of command, span of control, responsibility, authority, delegation	Features of the formal structures should begin with an organisation chart. Candidates should be able to draw such a chart and comment upon some of its main features, including the following: Delegation: its meaning and advantages and disadvantages Levels of hierarchy: superiors and subordinates Chain of Command Centralisation/decentralisation: what each means with some examples of local activities Span of Control: what it means, with some clear examples

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
- Motivation, leadership and management	
The need to motivate. Motivation	Simple understanding of human needs. Maslow's pyramid of needs may be found helpful in teaching this
theory	Which needs do people seek to satisfy in the work situation?
	Consideration of why people work, especially for reasons beyond the need for money
	Motivation in theory: the works of leading theorists which might include Taylor, Mayo and Herzberg. Other relevant references will be credited
	McGregor's Theory X and Theory Y as a basis for later discussion of leadership
Financial and non-financial motivation	Motivation in practice Financial: methods of payment, additional financial rewards Non-financial motivation: training, effective induction; opportunities for promotion, development, status, job re-design; team working; empowerment; job enrichment Participation and team working
Motivation theory and its application to HRM	Discussion of the appropriateness of motivation theory and methods in different circumstances
Leadership: qualities, styles, effectiveness, roles	The purpose of leadership and attitudes to it The qualities of a good leader Leadership styles: autocratic, democratic, laissez-faire Most important leadership roles in business, e.g. supervisors; managers, directors, worker-representatives
- Management	
Definitions. Management functions	The main functions of management
	Managers as leaders: delegation; chairmanship; recruitment; negotiation; discipline; communication
	Development of management theory and practice

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
- Human Resource Management	In considering this section, emphasis should be placed upon local conditions and procedures, and what is sought is an understanding of the main features of the HRM function in a business rather than any detailed knowledge of terminology or specific working practices
Purpose and functions of human resource management	Purpose – definition of the function
	Role – human resource planning; recruitment, selection, training, induction, advisory role, guidance roles
	Organisation – the objectives of human resource management and the organisation it needs to achieve these
	Manpower – determining the demand for personnel; discovering the supply; job descriptions and job advertisement. Employment, contracts of employment, discipline, employee welfare, redundancy and dismissal, morale
Labour/management relations	Description of the role of trade unions. Reasons for joining a trade union
3. Marketing	Study should focus on the processes of finding and satisfying customers with an emphasis on marketing objectives, strategy and tactics.
- The nature and definition of the market and the role of marketing	The nature and definition of the market and of particular markets. Understanding of a market as a process rather than as a place. The role of marketing and the need for most firms in the modern world to be market-orientated
Breadth of marketing activity and its relationship with other business activities	Marketing and its inter-relationship with other business activities e.g. production
Analysing the market: location, size, segmentation, share,	Analysing the market for a product. Whilst this can be taught in general theoretical terms, it is best taught with reference to specific local and national products and the way their markets were discovered and developed
competitors	Location of market and its nature e.g. consumers/producers; national/regional; international
	Size of market The importance of growth decline, technological change, fashion, cultural and demographic factors
	Segments Meaning of market segmentation. How markets can be segmented e.g. by region, by age, by income, by occupation, by ethnic or other characteristics of the customer, etc.
	Share Distinction between market size and market share
	Competitors The significance of competition within markets

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
Niche versus mass marketing	Business benefits and limitations of niche v mass marketing
Market research and primary and secondary research, methods of information gathering, sampling methods	Market research and market information Primary and secondary research to discover the market. Methods of information-gathering including questionnaires, interviews and consumer panels. Methods of sampling and the appropriateness of each to different circumstances (random, stratified and quota sampling only). Sample size
Demand concepts: determinants of demand; price elasticity of demand	Demand Determinants of demand. This should include an ability to produce local examples of products for which certain considerations are more appropriate than others, e.g. the special markets created by young people and by the elderly. Price elasticity of demand. Simple calculations and interpretation of results
- Product portfolio planning	
Classification of products	Consumer goods; producer goods
Product life cycle; implications for market strategy; research and development	Product life cycle: what it is and implications of a known cycle for market strategy. How and why product life cycles vary Candidates should understand this concept, the stages of a typical cycle, why cycles vary from one product to another. They should be able to draw a likely life cycle for a particular product and explain the relative importance of each stage. They should be able to make reasoned judgements of likely action at a given stage of a life cycle
Evaluation of the usefulness of product life cycle - The Marketing Mix	Evaluation of the usefulness of the product life cycle concept to functional managers
Product, price, distribution	Packaging The functions of packaging
channels (place), promotion and packaging	Promotion Above and below the line, including advertising media and agencies. How marketing budgets might be determined
	Pricing decisions The influence of costs, competition, demand, market conditions, business objectives
	Candidates should be aware of alternative pricing strategies and be able to argue a likely strategy in a given situation competitive pricing penetration price strategy skimming price strategy price discrimination

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
	In addition the methods of cost plus and contribution pricing <i>Distribution</i> Channels of distribution available to a business. How the choice is made considering: Products costs involved nature of markets and their location present distribution methods of the firm methods adopted by competitors segments of the market sought
	This study does not include a detailed consideration of retail and wholesale outlets but is primarily concerned with the distribution choice which is open to the business, and the most appropriate channels for given circumstances
	Candidates are expected to gain an understanding of marketing in an integrated context within the organisation and the wider environment. The ability to consider the marketing mix of businesses in given situations and given budgets and to evaluate these in the light of business objectives will also be required
4. Operations Management	Study should focus on the way organisations use inputs and manage business processes efficiently to satisfy customers.
- Nature of production	This section should be closely linked with marketing and is best taught at the same time, since many of the issues overlap
Location; regional and international location decisions	Location – factors which determine (a) location and (b) relocation, and which factors are most important in given circumstances. The influence of the State and other constraining influences upon this decision
Relation of inputs to outputs subject to cost and other constraints, adding value. Local labour market	Conversion of inputs to outputs and the concept of 'added value'. Appreciation that all activity which adds to value of a product, or promotes its availability to the consumer, is production. How the local labour market can influence a firm's ability to convert inputs into outputs.
- Organising production	What shall be produced? Consumer research; consideration of the resources available and what alternative uses they may have; the need for flexibility and innovation in a rapidly changing world         The costs of production         Classification of costs       - the economists' view: Fixed; Variable; Marginal         - the producers' view: Direct and Indirect

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
	Candidates should be able to exemplify and define these, as well as to appreciate some of the problems associated with allocating costs in this way
Work study	An understanding of how work study might be implemented and the usefulness of the results of work study with particular reference to effect on productivity and workforce motivation
Production methods	Job, batch and flow
Capacity utilisation	Capacity utilisation – meaning and measurement
The use of cost information	The need for accurate cost data: Pricing decisions
	Calculating profits Determining resources requirements at different levels of output
	Payment to factors, particularly productivity agreements or bonuses Controlling business activity
Break-even analysis – graphical method and simple calculations	Break-even analysis. Using cost and revenue data to determine the minimum level of production necessary to break even in given circumstances and the probable profit thereafter. Using this knowledge to solve simple problems
Evaluation of break-even analysis	
Stock management	Role and purpose of stock within businesses. Costs and benefits of holding stock and need to control stock levels. Appreciation of the essential problem of minimising the stock holding costs whilst reducing the chance of a 'stock out' decision. Descriptive treatment of the main methods of stock control including JIT and of the factors which a firm will take into account when determining the level of stock to be held
- Operational efficiency	
Scale – economies and diseconomies of scale	Appropriate methods of production and the scale of operations. Economies to be gained/diseconomies suffered as a result of large-scale production; whether or not new technology should be implemented and the best way of effecting this; labour intensity; capital intensity
Lean production	A descriptive treatment only

BUSINESS STUDIES 9707 A/AS LEVEL 2010

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
- Quality control and assurance	
Methods of quality control	What Quality Control is, i.e. determining a level of quality and working to those standards. Methods of Quality Control, e.g. inspection, testing, random sampling, involving the workforce in making their own decisions about this. Quality assurance standards
5. Business Finance	Emphasis should be on the different sources of business finance.
- The need for business finance	
Start up capital and expansion of the business	The different circumstances in which new and existing business require finance
Capital expenditure and revenue expenditure	The distinction between capital and revenue expenditure and the reasons why different sources are likely to be appropriate
Working capital	The meaning and significance of working capital. The management of working capital – treated descriptively
- Sources of finance	
Short and long term sources	The distinction between short and long term sources of finance. Internal sources – retained profits and sale of assets. External – share capital, ordinary and preference (not cumulative); venture capital loan capital-overdrafts, bank loans, debentures
Internal and external sources	
<ul> <li>Money and capital market institutions</li> </ul>	Banks and specialist lending institutions such as Merchant banks and Finance houses. The functions of these and the services they provide. Capital market – the role and significance of the Stock Exchange – examples drawn from candidate's own country are encouraged
6. Business Accounting	Emphasis should be on the use of accounting and financial information as an aid to decision-making and financial control.
- The need for business accounts	
The main users of published company accounts – internal and	Candidates should be aware of the main stakeholder groups with an interest in a business' published accounts. The specific information looked for by each group and the limitations of the usefulness of published accounts: may be out of date by the time they are used, absence of qualitative

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
external and limitations of these accounts	data about company performance such as health and safety and environmental record, possibility of window dressing of accounts, no detailed accounts for each product and division
The distinction between financial and management accounting	A simple recognition of the main distinctions between management and financial accounting
- What the published accounts contain	
The purpose and structure of balance sheets and profit and loss accounts	Candidates will be expected to draw up straightforward accounts from given data and to amend existing accounts based on data given
Balance Sheets – main asset and liability categories	Candidates should be able to understand the main sections of a published balance sheet
Profit and Loss Accounts – layout and content of simple versions	The main features of published profit and loss accounts – turnover, cost of goods sold, overhead expenses, gross profit, net profit, dividends and retained profit. Simple amendments based on data given will be required
Depreciation provisions – straight line method only	Depreciation – simple calculations of depreciation using the straight line method. An understanding of the importance of depreciation to both the profit and loss accounts and the balance sheet
<ul> <li>Analysis of published accounts</li> </ul>	
Profitability and liquidity ratios only. Calculation from data. Interpretation of results	The emphasis should be on the concepts of liquidity and profitability but calculations will be required. Liquidity – Acid test and current ratio. How a business might improve its liquidity Profitability – Return on capital employed, gross and net profit margins. Interpretation of results
- Investment appraisal	
Forecasting cash flows	An awareness of the uncertainty regarding the calculation of future cash flows
Quantitative appraisal – payback and average rate of return only	The calculation and evaluation of the payback and average rate of return techniques
Qualitative factors influencing the final investment decision	An understanding of the qualitative factors which might influence investment decisions in given situations

CORE	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
- Managing cash flows	
Cash flow forecasts	Drawing up simple cash flow forecasts based on given data. Amending forecasts provided in the light of changes in business circumstances
Ways of improving a business' cash flow – description only	Ways of increasing cash inflow from debtors or reducing cash outflow by reducing costs or extending credit periods – description only required
7. Information for Decision- making	The emphasis should be on the main sources of collecting and presenting statistical data frequently used in business. The use of simple decision-making and planning techniques.
- Sources and reliability of information	The main national and international sources of information. Candidates do not need to be able to refer to sources in detail but are expected to make sensible suggestions as to where information may be sought in a given situation, and what its value and reliability may be. The limitations of using purely numerate data when making decisions and of ways in which such data may be misused
- Collection of information	Market research techniques (see section 3)
- Presentation of information	Main methods for the visual presentation of information i.e. tables, graphs, pie charts, bar charts and pictograms. The ability to interpret information presented in different formats will be required, though there will be no requirement for candidates to construct pie charts, bar charts or pictograms
- Data analysis and evaluation	Calculation of the mean, median and mode from ungrouped frequency distributions. Calculation of the mean only from grouped frequency
Measures of central tendency	distributions. The use of these measures in given situations
- Break-even charts	see Operations Management section
- Investment Appraisal	see Business Accounting section

EXTENSION TOPICS (IN ADDITION TO CORE SYLLABUS)	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
1. Business and the Environment	In relation to various business situations, students are required to recognise potential conflict between the objectives of different stakeholder interests and suggest and evaluate resolutions to such conflict. Students should be required to recognise the inter-relationship between objectives and an uncertain business environment and to devise and evaluate strategies which aim to anticipate, respond to and manage change.
- Business and economic structure	
Privatisation	Privatisation – reasons for impact on business objectives and efficiency
- Size of Business	
The integration of businesses through mergers and take-overs	Types of and reasons for integration of businesses: horizontal, vertical (forward and backward), lateral. Why integration often fails to achieve objectives
- Business strategy	
Conflict of business objectives	Business objectives are not always of the same degree of importance and may even conflict from time to time, hence priorities have to be established. The need for realistic objectives and for their communication to the workforce in a manner which they can understand and work towards
	The need to translate objectives into targets and budgets so that they may become effective planning bases
Business v State	Consideration of the objectives of business as compared with those of the State, and conflicts and common interests which might be expected to develop
Management by objectives	Management by objectives as a means of ensuring and developing a more effective management team
- Corporate culture and strategy	
Link between culture and business behaviour	Objectives and culture influence behaviour and decision-making both at individual level and at organisational level Understand that strategy arises from objectives

EXTENSION TOPICS (IN ADDITION TO CORE SYLLABUS)	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
2. People in Organisations	Students are required to understand the inter-relationships between organisational structure, leadership style and motivation in a business, and to evaluate the implications of these for the effective planning and management of human resources.
- The need for and nature of organisational structure	
Formal organisation	Accountability: not just in monetary terms. How superiors check the work of subordinates. How work and progress is assessed
	Centralisation: the advantages and disadvantages of centralisation for management, workers including managers, and customers
Line and staff	Line and staff: what is the distinction between line and staff, with appropriate examples; conflict between line and staff managers
	Delegation: conflicts that might arise between control and trust: impact on motivation. The difference between authority and responsibility
	Chain of command: problems associated with chain of command which is too long/too short
	Span of control: relationship between levels of hierarchy and span of control
- Motivation, leadership and management	
Appropriateness of leadership	The appropriateness of different leadership styles in different circumstances
styles, informal leadership	Informal leadership and its influence on the working of a business
- Business Communication	
Purpose of communication	Purpose of communication, i.e. to ensure the desired response. Simple examples to show this
Barriers to effective communication	Barriers to effective communication, attitudes, perceptions, noise, inappropriate media etc.
Methods of communication	Communication methods; all the standard methods considered: interpersonal, general, and to and within groups
	Methods should be considered from the point of view of the strengths and weaknesses of each one, their relative appropriateness in different circumstances and for different people

EXTENSION TOPICS (IN ADDITION TO CORE SYLLABUS)	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
Lines of communication – one/two	The appropriateness of communication methods and communication nets to different business circumstances
way; vertical/horizontal; formal and informal networks	Communication within a formal organisation. One-and two-way communication. Problems of communicating upwards; vertical and horizontal communication. The development of informal channels of communication and the effect this may have on efficiency and the people involved. Role of management in facilitating communication
- Human Resource Management	
Labour/management relations	Labour legislation, collective bargaining, dispute settlement, promotion of co-operation between management and workforce, need for negotiation. Evaluation of the role of trade unions in labour/management relations. Reasons for joining. Conciliation and arbitration. Single union deals
Job evaluation	The necessity for job evaluation and its link with payments, responsibilities, and recruitment. Work study, treated descriptively as a method of job evaluation
Health and safety in the workplace	Health and Safety: what the law says, and some consideration of the problems of health and safety which must be faced on the shop floor. Role of personnel department with relation to this, particularly training, education, provision of facilities, dealing with problems
Training	Training: an evaluation of different training methods and the importance of training in establishing a flexible workforce
3. Marketing	Students should be able to analyse and evaluate the potential of different marketing strategies, tactics and techniques for enabling business to identify and adapt to changing market opportunities and achieve their objectives.
- The nature and definition of the market and the role of marketing	
Marketing planning	A detailed statement of the company's market strategy. The benefits of having a detailed plan
Market segmentation	A discussion of the appropriateness of market segmentation in different circumstances
Market research information: cost effectiveness (treated descriptively)	Issues of cost, effectiveness and reliability in data collection

EXTENSION TOPICS (IN ADDITION TO CORE SYLLABUS)	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
Forecasting (graphical and time series analysis)	<i>Forecasting</i> Need for forecasts in order to plan. The information upon which forecasting can be based. Graphical and trend analysis methods of forecasting. Simple moving average calculations to establish trends and seasonal variations
Demand elasticities of income and promotional spending	Elasticity of demand (income, cross and promotional spending). Simple calculation and interpretation of results. Significance of demand elasticities to marketing decisions
Evaluation of the elasticity technique	Evaluation of the usefulness of elasticity concept
- Product portfolio planning	
Product development	The development of a product from original concept. Sources of new product ideas. The importance of research and development
Value analysis	Value analysis – an appreciation of its usefulness in product development
Boston Matrix	Product portfolio analysis – evaluation of the usefulness of the Boston Matrix
- Marketing strategy	
Marketing mix within the organisation and in the wider environment	Evaluation of a marketing plan in relation to objectives and the wider environment, e.g. competitors and the economy and the need for a co- ordinated marketing mix
The need for strategy to be based on marketing objectives	Market strategies should be focused towards achieving marketing objectives
The need for a co-ordinated mix	
4. Operations Management	Students should analyse and evaluate the use of different operations management tools to enhance decision-making in order to improve efficiency and quality.
- Nature of production	This section should be closely linked with marketing and is best taught at the same time, since many of the issues overlap
The production process	The processes of production from research and development through to the final product. Link up here with value analysis considered earlier and with work study
Capital versus labour intensity	An understanding of the benefits and limitations of capital and labour intensive production processes. An ability to justify the appropriateness of each method in a given situation

EXTENSION TOPICS (IN ADDITION TO CORE SYLLABUS)	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
- Organising production	
Scale of operation	Discuss and justify how a business might decide to organise its productive function in a given situation; Kaizen – continuous improvement
Production methods	An evaluation of the appropriateness of job, batch and flow methods in different situations
	Methods of allocating overheads
Ways of increasing capacity utilisation	e.g. rationalisation; sub contracting
Approaches to costing: absorption costing, contribution costing	Absorption costing Nature of this technique involving allocation of all costs to units of output. Circumstances in which this method is appropriate
(including the solution of numerate problems) Evaluation of costing approaches	Contribution costing Nature of this technique based only on the variable costs of production. Consideration of situations for which this costing approach is suitable. Understanding of limitations of this approach and situations in which it would not be used. Simple calculations involving accept or reject order decisions
Lean production	An evaluation, including the appropriateness of JIT in different circumstances
- Quality control and assurance	
Continuous improvement, training and development. TQM and QA	Total Quality Management (TQM). Kaizen groups – continuous improvement
Standards, benchmarking	The importance of benchmarking in setting standards
	Whilst candidates should appreciate the need for Quality Control and the general methods which may be employed, the mathematics of the methods will not be required
- Production planning	
Network analysis (CPA)	An understanding of the main elements of a network diagram i.e. activities, dummy activities and nodes. Calculation of minimum project duration and identification and significance of 'critical path'
CPA – calculation and application of activity float times	Calculation of total and free float. The importance of project management and how both total float and free float might be used

EXTENSION TOPICS (IN ADDITION TO CORE SYLLABUS)	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
5. Business Finance	Emphasis should be on the different sources of business finance and the suitability of each in different circumstances.
- The need for business finance	
Capital v revenue expenditure	Understanding the significance of the distinction between revenue and capital expenditure
Control of working capital – stock, debtor and creditor control	An understanding of the methods a business might use to improve the control of its working capital. Links here should be made with stock management and debtor/creditor control
- Sources of finance	
Selecting the appropriate sources of finance	Candidates will be expected to have a sound grasp of all sources of business finances and to evaluate the appropriateness of each of these in different business circumstances
The factors influencing the choice of finance	Candidates will be expected to discuss the factors influencing the final choice of sources of finance to be used in different business circumstances e.g. cost, flexibility, need to retain control, use to which finance is to be put. Importance of gearing
- Money and capital market institutions	
World Bank and the International Monetary fund as sources of finance for governments and certain business projects	
6. Business Accounting	Students should use a range of performance measures critically and evaluate the appropriateness of different financial techniques in shaping decision-making in the context of wider strategic objectives of business.
- The foundations of accounting Simple treatment of the main concepts and conventions used when drawing up published accounts – double entry,	Definitions only will be required. No numerical questions will be set on these

EXTENSION TOPICS (IN ADDITION TO CORE SYLLABUS)	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
accruals, money measurement, conservatism, realisation. No numerical questions will be set on these	
- What the published accounts contain	Candidates will not be expected to have knowledge of complex accounts or partnership accounts
Simple amendments of Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss accounts from given data. Construction of simple balance sheets and profit and loss accounts	Simple amendments will be required on the basis of data provided e.g. adjusting the value of fixed assets in the light of depreciation and/or revaluation
Cash Flow Statement – description of contents and purpose	
Depreciation provisions – diminishing balance method. Comparison of the two methods	An evaluation of the two depreciation methods. Simple calculations will be required but the calculation of the percentage needed for diminishing balance will not be required
Goodwill	The treatment of goodwill on published accounts
Stock valuation – net realisable value only	LIFO and FIFO valuation of stocks will not be examined
<ul> <li>Analysis of published accounts</li> </ul>	
Financial efficiency ratios – stock turnover and debtor days. Gearing ratio – long term capital divided by capital employed. Investors ratios – dividend yield, dividend cover. The limitations of ratio analysis. Trend analysis of ratios and inter firm comparisons	A thorough understanding of the uses and limitations of ratio analysis will be expected. Candidates will be examined on the meaning of ratio results and on how the financial efficiency, gearing and investor ratios might be changed as a consequence of management action e.g. deciding to raise capital from share issue rather than loans or a decision to raise the dividend payment whilst profits are not rising

EXTENSION TOPICS (IN ADDITION TO CORE SYLLABUS)	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
- Investment appraisal	
Discounted cash flow and internal rate of return (no calculation of IRR required)	The calculation of NPV will be examined from simple data. The calculation of IRR will not be examined but a descriptive understanding of the result will be expected. Evaluation of all four approaches to investment appraisal. Recognition of the importance of qualitative factors in the decision e.g. business objectives and the degree of risk acceptable to managers
- Managing cash flows	
Ways of improving cash flow including debt factoring, leasing, sale and leaseback and improved control of working capital. Evaluation of these	An evaluation of these methods of improving cash flow
- Budgets and budgeting	
The purpose of budgets	The purpose of budgetary control. Benefits and drawbacks from the use of budgets. How budgets may be established. Descriptive treatment of flexible budgets and zero budgeting
Interpretation of variances – adverse and favourable but not price/volume analysis	Interpretation of variances – both adverse and favourable. Questions will not be set which require candidates to numerically analyse variances into price, volume etc. variances
7. Information for Decision- making	Emphasis will be placed on the use of models in business situations and an evaluation of their effectiveness.
- Presentation of information	
Appropriateness of methods of presentation	An evaluation of the appropriateness of methods of presentation in given situations
- Data analysis and evaluation	Most of the techniques required are included in other areas of the syllabus, for which guidance has been provided
Decision trees, time series	Decision trees – the construction and use of decision trees, including simple probability
analysis, network analysis, cost benefit analysis, investment appraisal, linear programming –	Time series analysis (see Marketing section) – note construction of index numbers is not required

EXTENSION TOPICS (IN ADDITION TO CORE SYLLABUS)	NOTES FOR GUIDANCE Candidates will be expected to know the following:
blending technique	Network analysis (see Operations Management section) Cost-benefit analysis – descriptive treatment only is required
	Investment appraisal (see Business Accounting section) Linear programming – blending method. Candidates will be expected to solve simple problems using graphical analysis

## **RESOURCE LIST**

Some of these can be used as textbooks for a course, while others are intended for reference and selected readings. The inclusion of books in this list does not imply a recommendation. It is simply a list from which teachers may like to select.

#### **Endorsed Texts**

Peter Stimpson	Business Studies AS and A level, 2004, Cambridge University Press, 0521003679
Introductory Texts	
Peter Stimpson and Karen Borrington	IGCSE Business Studies, 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition, 2006, John Murray, 034092649
Chris Nuttall	IGCSE Business Studies, 2002, Cambridge University Press, 0521750954
General Texts	
M Barratt and A Mottershead	<u>A level Business Studies Students' Book</u> , 2000, Longman, 0582405475
lan Dorton and Alex Smith	Business Studies, 1998, Hodder & Stoughton, 0340674016
David Dyer, Ian Dorton, Peter Stimpson and David Grainger	Business Strategy for AS, 2000, Cambridge University Press, 0521786061
David Dyer and Peter Stimpson	Business Strategy for A2, 2001, Cambridge University Press, 0521003652
Andrew Gillespie	<u>Advanced Business Studies Through Diagrams</u> , 2001, Oxford University Press, 0198328362
Hall, Raffo, Jones	Business Studies, 2004, Causeway Press, 1902796845
B R Jewell	An Integrated Approach to Business Studies: Students' Book, 4 <sup>th</sup> edition, 2000, Longman, 0582405424
B R Jewell	<u>An Integrated Approach to Business Studies: Lecturer's</u> <u>Guide</u> , 4 <sup>th</sup> edition, 2000, Longman, 0582405432
l Marcousé, I Gillespie, B Martin, M Surridge and N Wall	<u>Business Studies</u> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition, 2003, Hodder Arnold, 0340811102 (see also Teachers' Resources section)
Ian Marcousé and David Lines	<u>Business Case Studies</u> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition, 2002, Longman, 0582406366
D Needham and R Dransfield	<u>Business Studies</u> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition, 1994, Nelson Thornes, 0748718761

### General Library/Reference Books

Martin Buckley	<u>The Structure of Business</u> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition, 1994, Pitman, 0273602691	
P F Drucker	Managing for Results, 1999, Butterworth-Heinemann, 0750643919	
G Easton	Learning from Case Studies, 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition, 1992, Prentice-Hall, 0135286883	
E Eyre, R Pettinger	<u>Mastering Basic Management</u> , 1999, Palgrave Macmillan, 0333772407	
D Lines et al	Complete A-Z Business Studies Handbook, 2003, Hodder Arnold, 0340872632	
People in Organisations		
P Beaumont	Human Resource Management, 1993, Sage, 080398815X	
M Foot, C Hook	Introducing Human Resource Management, 2005, FT Prentice Hall, 0273681745	
C B Handy	Understanding Organisations, 2005, Penguin, 0141017740	
D S Pugh and D J Hickson	<u>Writers on Organisations</u> , 5 <sup>th</sup> edition, 1997, Penguin, 0140250239	
Rosemary Stewart	<u>The Reality of Management</u> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition, 1999, Butterworth- Heinemann, 0750642890	
Marketing and Production		
J Frain	Introduction to Marketing, 1999, International Thomson Business Press, 1861521472	
Business Finance and Accounting		
Bull et al	Accounting in Business, 6 <sup>th</sup> edition, 1990, Butterworth, 0406500568	
M Fardon and D Cox	Accounting, 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition, 1998, Osborne Books, 1872962289	
Information for Decision- making		
Jon Curwin and Roger Slater	<u>Quantitative Methods for Business Decisions</u> , 5 <sup>th</sup> edition, 2001, Business Press Thomson Learning, 1861525311	

#### CD ROMS

P Stimpson, K Borrington, P Vasey	IGCSE Business Studies, 2002, John Murray, 0719572673	
AVP Business Studies	A level Business Studies, W02544018	
AVP Business Studies	The Marketing Mix, W02207197	
(further details about AVP products can be found at www.avp.co.uk)		

#### Websites

www.bized.co.uk www.tt100.biz (formerly www.thetimes100.co.uk) www.projectalevel.co.uk/business/index.htm www.topmarks.co.uk

#### Magazines

Business Review, Philip Allan Updates, Market Place, Deddington, Oxfordshire OX15 0SE, tel. 01869 338652, fax. 01869 337590, email sales@philipallan.co.uk, www.philipallan.co.uk

### **TEACHERS' RESOURCES**

Karen Borrington

<u>Teaching and Assessing Skills in Business Studies</u>, 2004, Cambridge University Press, 0521543665

I Marcousé, I Gillespie, B Martin, M Surridge, N Wall, M Brewer, A Hammond, I Swift and N Watson <u>Business Studies – Teachers' Book</u>, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2002, Hodder and Stoughton, 0340811110