A Level Business Bridging Work 2026

Welcome to A Level Business!

Altwood
Church of England School

Congratulations on choosing A Level Business.

A Level Business is very different from GCSE Business. Whilst GCSE focuses on understanding business concepts, A Level Business requires you to think strategically, analyse data, evaluate decisions and make justified recommendations.

This bridging work has been designed to introduce you to these skills and prepare you for a successful start in September.

The work should take approximately **6–8 hours** to complete.

Task 1: Would You Invest £1 Million? (Approx. 3 Hours)

Imagine you are a successful investor with **£1 million** to invest in a business.

Your challenge is to decide which business deserves your investment.

You may choose any business that interests you.

Examples include:

- Apple
- Amazon
- Gymshark
- Netflix
- Tesla
- Nike
- McDonald's
- Starbucks
- Ryanair
- Primark
- IAG Cargo
- Your favourite business

You can present your findings as:

- PowerPoint
- Word document
- Poster
- Video presentation

Part A: Business Snapshot Research

and explain:

What does the business do?

What products or services does it sell?

Who are its customers?

Is it local, national or global?

Part B: Business Performance

Research the latest information you can find.

Revenue (Sales)

Profit

Number of employees

Market share (if available)

Recent growth or developments

Part C: SWOT Analysis https://youtu.be/7JmDXDZYx0s

Complete a SWOT analysis.

Strengths Weaknesses

Opportunities Threats

Part D: Future Opportunities

https://youtu.be/ny29zZmmwkM?si
=mZoiwiXBcdVsU3Kg

How could this business grow further?

Consider:

- New products
- New markets
- International expansion
- Technology
- Social media

- Diversification

Part E: Risks

What are the biggest risks facing this business?

Examples:

- Competition
- Rising costs
- Changing consumer tastes
- Government regulation
- Technology changes

Part F: Final Investment Decision

The most important section! Answer the following question:

Would you invest your £1 million in this business?

You must:

- Make a clear judgement
- Use evidence from your research
- Explain why you would invest
- Explain why you might not invest
- Reach a final conclusion

Aim for approximately 300 words.

Task 2: Business News Snapshot (Approx. 2 Hours)

Successful Business students understand what is happening in the business world.

Over the summer, follow business news and select **TWO recent business stories** that interest you.

Create a one-page summary for each story.

Include:

What happened? Briefly explain the story.

Which business(es) were involved? Identify the companies involved.

What decisions were made? What changes, decisions or actions took place?

Impact

What impact could this have on:

- Customers
- Employees

- Competitors
- Shareholders
- The wider economy

Your Opinion

Do you think it was a good decision?

Why?

Could the business have done something different?

Useful Sources

- BBC Business News
- Sky News Business
- Financial Times
- The Guardian Business
- Business Insider UK

Task 3: Numerical Skills Workbook (Approx. 2–3 Hours)

Numeracy is a key skill in A Level Business.

Complete the following worksheets.

Show all workings clearly.

Worksheet 1: Percentage Change

Formula

Percentage Change

= (New Value – Original Value) ÷ Original Value × 100

Questions

1. Revenue increased from £120,000 to £150,000.

Answer:

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2. Profit fell from £80,000 to £68,000.

Answer:

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3. Market size increased from 500,000 customers to 620,000 customers.

Answer:

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4. Costs rose from £35,000 to £42,000.

Answer:

5. Explain why percentage change is useful to business managers.

Worksheet 2: Market Share

Formula

Market Share (%)

= Business Sales ÷ Total Market Sales × 100

Questions

1. A business sells £5 million worth of products in a market worth £25 million.

Answer:

2. Tesco has sales of £40 billion in a grocery market worth £180 billion.

Answer:

3. A firm's market share rises from 12% to 18%.

What might this suggest?

4. Explain two reasons why a business may gain market share.

Reason 1:

Reason 2:

5. Explain one disadvantage of having a large market share.

Worksheet 3: Market Growth

Formula

Market Growth (%)

= (New Market Size – Old Market Size) ÷ Old Market Size × 100

Questions

1. Market size grows from £50 million to £60 million.

Answer:

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2. Market size falls from £120 million to £108 million.

Answer:

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3. Why might businesses prefer operating in a growing market?

4. Why might businesses still succeed in declining markets?

5. Explain the difference between market growth and market share.

Worksheet 4: Break-Even and Margin of Safety

Formula 1

Break-even Output

= Fixed Costs ÷ Contribution per Unit

Formula 2

Margin of Safety

= Actual Sales – Break-even Sales

Questions

1. Fixed costs are £20,000 and contribution per unit is £5.

Answer:

2. Fixed costs are £12,000 and contribution per unit is £4.

Answer:

3. Actual sales are 8,000 units and break-even sales are 6,500 units.

Answer:

4. Actual sales are 2,500 units and break-even sales are 3,000 units.

Answer:

5. Explain why a high margin of safety is beneficial.

Worksheet 5: Contribution per Unit

Formula

Contribution per Unit

= Selling Price – Variable Cost

Questions

1. Selling price = £15 Variable

cost = £9

Answer:

2. Selling price = £60 Variable

cost = £38

Answer:

3. Selling price = £4 Variable

cost = £2.50

Answer:

4. Explain why contribution is important when making business decisions.

5. Explain how increasing contribution can improve profitability.

Final Challenge: Coffee Shop Case Study

A new coffee shop sells drinks for **£4.50**.

Variable costs are **£1.80 per drink**.

Monthly fixed costs are **£8,100**.

Calculate:

1. Contribution per drink

Answer:

2. Break-even output

Answer:

3. Revenue if 5,000 drinks are sold

Answer:

4. Profit if 5,000 drinks are sold

Answer:

5. Margin of Safety if sales reach 5,000 drinks

Answer:

Submission Instructions

Please bring your completed bridging work to your first A Level Business lesson in September.

We look forward to welcoming you to A Level Business in September.