

Go to [www.ccea.org.uk/therevision](http://www.ccea.org.uk/therevision) to download the most up-to-date version of the **Business Studies Specification**

## Supporting You

As your local awarding body CCEA can provide a wide range of **support** options:

### In person

- Visits to individual centres if requested; and
- Advice from the Specification Support Officer directly by phone or email.

### At teacher-focused events

- Free launch event to introduce Heads of Departments to the new specification; and
- Free workshops/seminars to support teachers with subject specific issues and assessment.

### Online

- We will maintain a subject microsite that includes the latest version of the specification, schemes of work, exemplar papers and mark schemes, exemplification of standards (available after the first examination series), Chief Examiner's Reports, podcasts, video and interactive materials.

### In print

- Classroom materials such as case studies, fact files and power point presentations can be downloaded; and
- List of appropriate textbooks and other relevant printed materials.

## Contact Us

If you have a query or require advice or guidance, please contact:

Subject Officer with overall responsibility for this specification

Jill Armer  
(028) 9026 1200 ext. 2426  
jarmer@ccea.org.uk

Specification Support Officer

Arlene Ashfield  
(028) 9026 1200 ext. 2291  
aashfield@ccea.org.uk

**3** good reasons to choose CCEA for your A level and GCSE provision



### We support Learners

CCEA places the learner at the centre of everything we do across the entire curriculum.



### We are Local

CCEA is Northern Ireland's awarding body – we understand local needs for local learners.



### We are Listening

CCEA listens to its customers to ensure better outcomes for learners through developing relevant, high quality and innovative specifications.



CCEA'S REVISED GCE

# Business Studies

Specification Snapshot



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COUNCIL FOR THE CURRICULUM, EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

29 Clarendon Road, Clarendon Dock, Belfast BT1 3BG

Tel: +44(0)28 9026 1200 Fax: +44(0)28 9026 1234

Email: [info@ccea.org.uk](mailto:info@ccea.org.uk) Web: [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk)



THE REVISION

For first teaching from September 2016

For first award of AS level in summer 2017

For first award of A level in summer 2018

# Business Studies

## Specification Snapshot



### Overview

The CCEA specification is available for first teaching in September 2016. Students can study:

- the AS course as a final qualification; or
- the AS units plus the A2 units for a full GCE A level qualification.

The A2 units have an element of synoptic assessment to assess students' understanding of the subject as a whole and to assess their higher-order thinking skills.

The full A level award consists of marks from AS (40%) and A2 (60%).

Guided learning hours are:

- 180 hours for the AS; and
- 360 hours for the A level.

First AS award 2017 and A2 award 2018



### Specification Summary

Business Studies includes four assessment units, two at AS level and two at A2 level.

**AS units:** students are introduced to the business world. They will develop an understanding of the importance of quality, gain an appreciation of growing a business through marketing activities and E-Business, and the importance of financial information and its use in decision-making.

**A2 units:** students will explore business planning and risk management, develop an appreciation of accounting and financial information in strategic planning, gain an understanding of the macroeconomic and global framework and develop understanding of the impact of ethics and sustainability on decision-making and organisational culture.

Assessment is through written examinations.



### Benefits to Students

The Business Studies specification is designed to:

- provide students with an invaluable insight into how organisations strive to meet the discerning needs of stakeholders in a constantly changing external environment. Furthermore, they can develop a greater awareness of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities that organisations and decision-makers face as they conduct their business activities;
- help students develop a range of relevant business and generic skills including decision-making, critical thinking, problem-solving, the challenging of assumptions and the quantification and interpretation of management information, and
- provide opportunities for progression to study at further and higher education, or to training and employment.

Content	Content Summary	Assessment	Weightings
<b>AS 1:</b>	Introduction to Business	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes  Two compulsory structured data responses (40 marks each)	50% of AS  20% of A level
<b>AS 2:</b>	Growing the Business	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes  Two compulsory structured data responses (40 marks each)	50% of AS  20% of A level
<b>A2 1:</b>	Strategic Decision-Making	External written examination 2 hours  One compulsory structured data response (90 marks)	30% of A level
<b>A2 2:</b>	The Competitive Business Environment	External written examination 2 hours  Six compulsory structured data response (90 marks)	30% of A level