

It's easy to join us

Moving to Cambridge OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business from AQA

Are you currently teaching AQA's A Level in Business?

This short guide will take a look at our redesigned A Level in Business, show you how it compares to the AQA A Level Business and how you can switch.

A Level Business is about preparing students to start, own, manage and develop a business in today's world.

Business is a dynamic and attractive subject for students to choose. The redeveloped Cambridge OCR A Level Business provides an exciting canvas upon which students can learn, develop and use their decision making skills.

We focus on these decision making skills in real world contexts. Candidates do not just remember facts, theories and models of business, but actually have the opportunity to showcase their skills and be rewarded for their decision making abilities.

Developed with the support of teachers and professional bodies our redeveloped A Level Business has a number of key benefits for teachers and students.

Our specification:

- focusses on contemporary content such as sustainability, the customer journey, digital developments in business, including AI, and employee wellbeing, including work life balance
- prepares students to work in a dynamic, modern business environment
- is logically organised with streamlined content
- gives teachers opportunities to use examples and case studies of real-world enterprises to bring your teaching to life in the classroom
- progresses well from our GCSE Business and is also suitable for those who have not studied Business previously.

We have designed our new specification to help students build real and relevant skills for the future:

- developing a business vocabulary that reflects what is used in the real business world
- emphasising the practical nature of business
- putting students into business contexts that allow a range of different responses
- improving decision making by analysing how decisions affect a business and its stakeholders from different angles and perspectives
- rewarding students who are willing to come to a judgement and understand the consequences of their decisions.



About our A Level in Business

We believe in developing specifications that are engaging and contemporary, equipping students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their studies and beyond.

Informed by research and extensive engagement with the teaching community, we've created specifications that aim to enthuse and inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities, helping you to help them achieve their full potential.

We plan to offer a range of support services to help you at every stage, from preparation to delivery:

- expert Subject Advisors who are part of their subject communities and here to support you with advice, updates on resources, and information about training opportunities
- free detailed assessment resources including practice materials and examiners' reports to help you navigate the specification and its content
- free comprehensive curriculum planners and schemes of work to support with planning
- an endorsed textbook by leading publisher, Cambridge University Press and Assessment
- ExamBuilder: our free question-building platform that helps you to build your own tests using Cambridge OCR exam questions as our bank of past live-series grows
- Active Results: our free results analysis service to help you review the performance of individual students or whole school
- an extensive range of both live and on-demand professional development courses, covering everything from 'Starting to Teach' and 'Exploring the Exam', through to 'Enhancing your teaching' and 'Exam Review'.

To find out more about all of our support services, please visit [Teach Cambridge](#).

At a glance specification comparison

	Cambridge OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business	AQA A Level in Business 7132
Structure	There are three components which are all externally assessed via examination. All components have equal weighting. Different content is assessed on each component (paper).	There are three components which are all externally assessed via examination. Any content can be assessed on any component.
Grading	The qualification is graded on the scale: A*, A, B, C, D, E, where A* is the highest. Students who fail to reach the minimum standard for E will be Unclassified.	The qualification is graded on the scale: A*, A, B, C, D, E, where A* is the highest. Students who fail to reach the minimum standard for E will be Unclassified.
Assessment	<p>Paper 1: Business activity, marketing and people (H436/01) 2 hours 90 marks 33.3% of A Level</p> <p>Paper 2: Operations, finance and external influences (H436/02) 2 hours 90 marks 33.3% of A Level</p> <p>Paper 3: Strategy, risk and managing change (H436/03) 2 hours 90 marks 33.3% of A Level</p>	<p>Paper 1: Business 1 2 hours 100 marks 33.3% of A Level</p> <p>Paper 2: Business 2 2 hours 100 marks 33.3% of A Level</p> <p>Paper 3: Business 3 2 hours 100 marks 33.3% of A Level</p>

Comparing assessment models

Cambridge OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business

Paper 1: Business activity, marketing and people

Externally assessed

90 marks

Cambridge OCR set and marked

2 hour written examination paper

Questions

Three compulsory sections:

- Section A - 10 multiple choice questions worth 10 marks.
- Section B - a case study (either from a real business or a fictitious one) with a range from short answer to extended response questions.
- Section C - a case study (either from a real business or a fictitious one) with a range from short answer to extended response questions
- Highest question tariff is 14 marks.

NB questions will draw on content from business activity, marketing and people.

Paper 2: Operations, finance and external influences

Externally assessed

90 marks

Cambridge OCR set and marked

2 hour written examination paper

Questions

Three compulsory sections:

- Section A - 10 multiple choice questions worth 10 marks.
- Section B - a case study (either from a real business or a fictitious one) with a range from short answer to extended response questions.
- Section C - a case study (either from a real business or a fictitious one) with a range from short answer to extended response questions.
- Highest question tariff is 14 marks.

NB questions will draw on content from operations, finance and external influences

AQA A Level in Business 7132

Paper 1: Business 1

Externally assessed

100 marks

AQA set and marked

2 hour written examination paper

Questions

Three compulsory sections:

- Section A - 15 multiple choice questions worth 15 marks.
- Section B has short answer questions worth 35 marks.
- Sections C and D have two essay questions (choice of one from two and one from two) worth 25 marks each.

NB questions will draw on content from the entire A Level.

Paper 2: Business 2

Externally assessed

100 marks

AQA set and marked

2 hour written examination paper

Questions

- Three data response compulsory questions and made up of three- or four-part questions.
- Highest question tariff is 16 marks.

NB questions will draw on content from the entire A Level.

Cambridge OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business

Paper 3: Strategy, risk and managing change

Externally assessed

90 marks

Cambridge OCR set and marked

2 hour written examination paper

Questions

Three compulsory sections:

- Section A - 10 multiple choice questions worth 10 marks.
- Section B - a case study (either from a real business or a fictitious one) with a range from short answer to extended response questions.
- Section C - a case study (either from a real business or a fictitious one) with a range from short answer to extended response questions.
- Highest question tariff is 14 marks.

NB questions will draw on content from strategy, risk and managing change as well as synoptic assessment.

AQA A Level in Business 7132

Paper 3: Business 3

Externally assessed

100 marks

AQA set and marked

2 hour written examination paper

Questions

- One compulsory case study followed by approximately six questions
- Highest question tariff is 24 marks.

NB questions will draw on content from the entire A Level.

It's easy to switch

- If you're a Cambridge OCR-approved centre, all you need to do is download the specification and start teaching.
- [Be kept up-to-date](#) with the latest news including professional development and Teacher Networks.

Detailed comparison of papers

Cambridge OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business

AQA A Level in Business 7132

Component 01: Business activity, marketing and people
Unit code: H436/01
Assessment model: Externally assessed
GLH: 120
Marks: 90
Length of exam: 2 hours

Specification content

Topic Area	Spec code	Content title	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.10	
Business activity	1.1	What is business activity?	X										
	1.2	Business structure	X										
	1.3	Stakeholders		X									
	1.4	Business size and growth									X		
	1.5	Scale of operations									X		
	1.6	Customer journey	n/a										
Marketing	2.1	What is marketing?			X								
	2.2	Identifying and anticipating customer needs			X								
	2.3	Targeting customers			X								
	2.4	The marketing mix			X								
	2.5	Sales forecasting	n/a										
	2.6	Technology in marketing	n/a										
	2.7	Measuring marketing performance	n/a										
People	3.1	What is human resource management (HRM)?						X					
	3.2	Organisational design						X					
	3.3	Motivation						X					
	3.4	Leadership		X									
	3.5	Employer/employee relations						X					
	3.6	Recruitment and selection						X					
	3.7	Training and development						X					
	3.8	Measuring human resource performance						X					

**Component 02: Operations, finance
and external influences**

Unit code: H436/02

Assessment model: Externally assessed

GLH: 120

Marks: 90

Length of exam: 2 hours

Specification content

Topic Area	Spec code	Content title	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.10
Operations	4.1	What is operations?				X						
	4.2	Productivity				X						
	4.3	Quality				X						
	4.4	Managing capacity				X						
	4.5	Inventory				X						
	4.6	Supply chain management and logistics				X						
	4.7	Measuring operational performance				X						
Finance	5.1	What is finance?					X					
	5.2	Costs, revenue, profit and loss					X					
	5.3	Budgeting					X					
	5.4	Cash flow forecasting and liquidity					X					
	5.5	Sources of finance					X					
	5.6	Financial statements							X			
	5.7	Measuring financial performance							X			
External influences	6.1	What is the market?	X									
	6.2	The global market							X			
	6.3	Political, social economic and technological influences							X			

**Component 03: Strategy, risk and
managing change**

Unit code: H436/03

Assessment model: Externally assessed

GLH: 120

Marks: 90

Length of exam: 2 hours

Specification content

Topic Area	Spec code	Content title	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.10	
Strategy, risk and managing change	7.1	Business planning										X	
	7.2	Business strategy							X	X			
	7.3	Strategic decision making and implementation		X					X	X		X	
	7.4	Investment decisions							X				
	7.5	Managing risk		X								X	
	7.6	Change management											X
	7.7	Ethical, legal, environmental and sustainability issues		X					X				

Document Versions

This table outlines updates made in various versions of this resource. For the latest version of our resources, please visit [Teach Cambridge](#).

Date	Version	Change
11/2024	1.0	Original content
08/2025	1.1	A few minor changes in the wording under the Cambridge OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business.
01/2026	2.0	Removed 'draft' and updated version number to 2.0.

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Your feedback plays an important role in how we develop, market, support and resource qualifications now and into the future. We want you and your students to enjoy and get the best out of our qualifications and resources, but to do that we need your honest opinions to tell us whether we're on the right track or not.

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