

Business 2

Operations, finance and influences on business



Essential Student Guide

J204/02

Essential Exam Information

The Exam Business 2 J204/02: Operations, finance, influences on business and the interdependent nature of business

What will the exam be like?

- It will last 1 hour 30 minutes
- The paper is out of 80 marks
- The marks count for 50% of your overall grade
- The paper will be split into 2 sections
- Section A has 15 multiple choice questions
- Section B has 3 case study questions.
- Section B questions need to be answered using short, medium and extended answer responses.
- The context of the questions will come from short unseen case studies in the paper.
- Synoptic assessment is included in Section B
- There will be quantitative skills maths questions, these will make up 10% of the marks awarded

What will the exam test?

- Subject knowledge
- Your ability to apply your knowledge in context to a certain business situation
- Your ability to analyse a business situation in context
- Your reasoned judgement with a suitable justification
- Quantitative math skills
- Your ability to reason how different contexts affect businesses decision
- The use and limitation of quantitative data in decision making

N.B. The questions assume knowledge of business activity, marketing and human resources

What else will be in the exam?

- This paper includes synoptic assessment of the entire course, testing your ability to link all elements of the course
- The interdependent nature of business, influences on business, business operations, finance, marketing and human resources and how these interdependences underpin business decision making

Assessment Objectives

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|---|---|
| AO1 Apply and knowledge – | |
| Your ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of business concepts and issues | <i>Command words</i> |
| You might be asked to define the term 'liquidity' or explain the advantages of using job production | Identify State Explain |
| AO2 Application and analysis | |
| How well you can apply your subject knowledge to explain a business situation. In context | <i>Command words</i> |
| You might be asked to explain how an increase in cost might affect the breakeven point of a business , and the impact this may have | Calculate Complete Explain |
| AO3 Evaluation and recommendation | |
| Using analysis to evaluate business information and issues to show business understanding. To make judgements and draw conclusions with a suitable justification. | <i>Command words</i> |
| You could be asked to recommend whether a business should use Fairtrade suppliers, or analysing and evaluating which source of finance would be better to finance a new factory | Analyse Discuss Evaluate Recommend |

Command Words

Section B questions will be assessed using command words. The command word will tell you which objective is being assessed.

| Command Word | Description |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Identify State | You need to show your subject knowledge |
| Explain | You will need to demonstrate and apply your knowledge and understanding |
| Calculate Complete | You will need to apply your maths skills |
| Analyse | Goes further than just explaining. You need to present the consequences of actions, both positive and negative, in a logical chain of reasoning |
| Discuss Evaluate | Grounded in application and analysis, you will need to weigh up both sides of an argument, compare alternatives and come to a supported judgement |
| Recommend | Your ability to make fully supported and justified judgements in context |

Quantitative Maths Skills

Section B of the paper will require you to show your numerical maths ability by completing calculations and interpreting data in context. You will need to draw upon your knowledge and understanding to apply the data in context to the relevant questions.

Calculations

Calculations in a business context, including;

- Percentages and percentage changes
- Averages
- Revenue, costs and profit
- Gross profit and net profit margin ratios
- Average rate of return
- Cash flow forecasts, including total costs, total revenue and net cash flow

Interpretation

Interpretation and use of quantitative data in business contexts to support, inform and justify business decision, including:

- Information from graphs and charts
- Profitability ratios (gross profit margin and net profit margin)
- Financial data, including profit and loss, average rate of return and cash flow forecasts
- Marketing data, including market research data
- Markets data, including market share, changes in costs and changes in prices

At least 10% of the total marks for the qualification will reward the use of quantitative maths skills at a level expected of key stage 3 learners.

Business Grade Descriptors

As a new GCSE we currently have no mark schemes or examples of work that demonstrate grade boundaries. Ofqual have published grade descriptors of what students need to be able to do to reach the threshold for certain grades. These descriptors are a great starting point. Source: www.gov.uk

| Grade | Candidates will be able to: |
|-------|--|
| 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate relevant and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of a wide range of business concepts and issues• Apply knowledge and critical understanding to select relevant information from a wide range of financial and non-financial sources to investigate business organisations and concepts in familiar and unfamiliar contexts, using a wide range of subject specific terminology• Use a range of relevant quantitative skills• Critically analyse and evaluate available information and evidence to make reasoned, substantiated judgements and conclusions, and, where appropriate, suggest viable recommendations for future activity |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate mostly accurate and appropriate knowledge and understanding of a range of business concepts and issues• Apply knowledge and understanding to select information from a range of sources to investigate business organisations and concepts in familiar and some unfamiliar contexts, using some appropriate subject specific terminology• Use a some relevant quantitative skills• Analyse and provide some evaluation of information and evidence to make plausible judgements and conclusions which may extend to suggesting some viable recommendations for future activity |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of some aspects of business concepts and issues• Apply, in a limited way, knowledge and understanding to investigate business organisations and/or concepts, using everyday language• Use a some obvious, simple quantitative skills• Use and describe some information to draw basic lines of reasoning, making straightforward judgements and, possibly, offer simple suggestions for future activity |

Specification – Business 2 J204/02

| Topic | Content | To include | Happy ☺ |
|---|--|--|---------|
| 4.1 Production processes | Different production processes and their impact on businesses | job, batch, flow | |
| | The influence of technology on production and the impact on business | automation, computers and robotics | |
| 4.2 Quality of goods and services | The concept of quality | | |
| | Methods of ensuring quality | quality control, quality assurance | |
| | The importance of quality in both the production of goods and the provision of service | reputation of business, to gain and retain customers, reduce product returns and recalls | |
| 4.3 The sales process and customer service | Methods of selling | | |
| | The influence of e-commerce | e-commerce, face to face, telesales | |
| | The importance to a business of good customer service including after sales service | to gain and retain customers | |
| | The contribution of product knowledge and customer engagement to good customer service | | |
| 4.4 Consumer law | The impact of consumer law on businesses | reputation of the business, safety and satisfactory quality of goods | |
| 4.5 Business location | Factors influencing business location | costs, the proximity to market, labour and materials | |
| 4.6 Working with suppliers | The role of procurement | identifying goods and services to buy, choosing suppliers, ordering | |

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| | | goods and services, receiving deliveries from suppliers | |
| | The impact of logistical and supply decisions on businesses | time, length of supply chain, reliability of supply, costs, customer service | |
| 5.1 Finance | The purpose of the finance function | provide financial information, support business planning and decision making | |
| | The influence of the finance function on business activity | | |
| 5.2 Sources of finance | The reasons businesses need finance | establishing a new business, funding expansion, to run the business, recruitment, marketing | |
| | Ways of raising finance | loan, overdraft, trade credit, retained profit, sale of assets, owners' capital, new partner, share issue, crowdfunding | |
| | How and why different sources of finance are suitable for new and established businesses | | |
| 5.3 Revenue, costs, profit and loss | The concept of revenue, costs and profit and loss in business and their importance in business decision-making | | |
| | The different costs in operating a business | fixed, variable, total | |
| | Calculation of costs and revenue | | |
| | Calculation of profit/loss | gross profit, net profit | |
| | Calculation and interpretation of profitability ratios | gross profit margin, net profit margin | |

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| | Calculation and interpretation of average rate of return | | |
| 5.4 Break-even | The concept of break-even | total costs = total revenue | |
| | Simple calculation of break-even quantity | | |
| | The usefulness of break-even in business decision-making | informs marketing and planning decisions | |
| 5.5 Cash and cash flow | The importance of cash to a business | providing liquidity, enables business to meet short-term debts/expenses | |
| | providing liquidity, enables business to meet short-term debts/expenses | | |
| | The usefulness of cash flow forecasting to a business | planning tool, anticipates periods of cash shortage, enables remedies to be put in place for shortages, provides targets | |
| | Completion of cash flow forecasts | | |
| 6.1 Ethical and environmental considerations | Ethical considerations and their impact on businesses | treatment of workers/suppliers/customers, sourcing of materials, marketing decisions | |
| | Environmental considerations and their impact on businesses | sustainability, waste disposal, pollution, climate change | |
| 6.2 The economic climate | The economic climate and its impact on businesses | changing levels of consumer income and unemployment | |
| 6.3 Globalisation | The concept of globalisation | | |
| | The impact of globalisation on businesses | the growth of multinational companies, influences on business location, international branding, how businesses compete internationally | |

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| 7. The interdependent nature of business | The interdependent nature of business operations, finance, marketing and human resources within a business context | | |
| | How these interdependencies underpin decision making | | |
| | The impact of risk and reward on business activity | | |
| | The use of financial information in measuring and understanding business performance and decision making | | |

Checklist of subject knowledge - Business 2 J204/02

| Topic | Happy ☺ |
|--|---------|
| 1. Operations | |
| Production processes; job, batch and flow | |
| How technology is used in the production process | |
| The concept of quality | |
| Importance of providing quality in goods and services | |
| Methods of ensuring quality | |
| Methods of selling | |
| Importance of customer service and after sales service | |
| Customer rights | |
| Impact of customer law on business | |
| Importance of location | |
| Factors affecting choice of location | |
| Procurement | |
| Impact of logistical and supply decisions on businesses | |
| 2. Finance | |
| The role and purpose of finance | |
| How finance supports decision making and business planning | |
| How finance influences business activity | |
| Sources of finance | |
| How and why different sources of finance are suitable for new and established businesses | |
| Revenue | |
| Costs | |
| Profit and loss | |
| Profitability ratios | |
| Importance of revenue, costs, profit and loss in business decision making | |
| Break-even | |
| Usefulness of break-even in decision making | |
| Cash | |
| Cash flow forecast | |
| Usefulness of a cash flow forecasting to a business | |
| 3. External influences | |
| Ethical issues | |
| Environmental considerations | |
| Economic climate | |
| Impact of economic factors on business | |
| International economic climate | |
| Responding to changes in the economic climate | |
| Globalisation | |
| Impact of globalisation on business | |
| Advantages and disadvantages of UK businesses locating in another country | |
| International branding | |
| Purpose of business activity | |
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| 4. Interdependent nature of business | |

Themes of Questions

This list is designed to give you an idea of the main question themes that come up on the examination paper. It is *not* a comprehensive list.

All of your lessons are about the subject knowledge you would need to answer the questions on the examination paper. When you have attended all the lessons you should feel confident that you can attempt to answer all of these questions.

- Where should a business locate and why?
- Which method of production should a business use to produce a particular good or service?
- How can a business increase its efficiency?
- What are economies of scale? Why do firms get them? What benefits do they bring?
- What are break-even charts? Why do businesses use them? What are their limitations?
- When will businesses use the different sources of finance?
- What are cash flow forecasts? What are they useful to business? What are their limitations?
- What are profits? Why are they important to business? What determines how much profit you make? How do you calculate profit?
- How can businesses respond to the pressures on the environment? Why should they respond to these pressures? How can the government influence business to protect the environment more?
- Using examples what are ethical and unethical business practices?
- How are businesses affected by changes in government spending and taxation?
- How are businesses affected by the changes in employment and the incomes of consumers?
- What is economic growth and recession?
- How do changes in interest rates affect businesses?
- Why are education and training so important for UK business?
- Is immigration good or bad for UK businesses?

Business 2 J204/02 Keyword List – Language for learning

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| Job production | The process of production where products are made individually. |
| Batch production | The process of production where one type of product is made and then production is switched to make a different product. |
| Flow production | The production of one product that takes place continuously using a production or assembly line. Sometimes called mass production. |
| Automation | A production process involving machinery that is not controlled by a person but usually controlled by a computer. |
| Robotics | The use of robots in the process of production. |
| Product processes | The three methods of processes of production – job, batch and flow. |
| Quality control | A system for inspecting the quality of goods or services produced and that they are of a good standard. |
| Quality assurance | An approach that involves the whole business focusing on quality, thus aiming to prevent quality problems arising. |
| Quality | Concerns a product being fit for purpose. |
| Returns | Goods which customers take back to the shop because there are problems with the quality of the items. |
| Recalls | When faults occur with a product and the business asks for the product to be brought back so it can be repaired or replaced. |
| E-commerce | The bringing together of buying and selling electronically. |
| Customer service | The name given to an area of business that deals with customer enquiries. |
| Customer engagement | The contact between the business and the customer. |
| Click and collect | Ordering online and collecting goods from the store at a later time. |
| Face to face selling | Usually completed in a shop where there is direct contact between a buyer and a seller. |
| Telesales | Sales completed over the telephone. |
| After-sales service | Advice and help given to a customer after they have bought a product or service. |
| Product knowledge | The detailed knowledge of a product or service that staff within a business use to help persuade a customer to buy. |
| Fit for purpose | Means that goods must do what they are meant to do. |
| As described | Means that goods must be as the business describes them. |
| Consumer law | The area of law which protects the customers of a business. This is mainly through the Consumer Rights Act 2015. |

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| Satisfactory quality of goods | Means that how the goods are made will reflect the price. A high-priced product must be of high quality. |
| Reputation | A business is what customers say and feel about a business. Damage to a reputation can seriously affect a business. |
| Transport infrastructure | The provision of roads, railways, ports and airports in an area for transporting goods and services. |
| Proximity | Means 'nearness' to. It can refer to proximity to the market, to raw materials and to labour supplies. |
| Location | Refers to the place where a business is situated. |
| Labour | A factor of production. It is the labour employed by businesses to produce goods and services. |
| Raw materials | The materials that are processed in some way as part of the manufacture of a product. |
| Logistics | The management of the transportation and storage of goods. |
| Procurement | The management of purchasing within a business. |
| Suppliers | The parties who supply goods and/or services to a business. |
| Finance function | Sometimes referred to as the finance department. Usually found in larger businesses. |
| Financial information | Includes details of profit, loss, cash flow, break-even, profit margin and average rate of return. These can be used in helping business decision-making. |
| Interest | The cost of borrowing, the amount of money that has to be paid on borrowed money. |
| Security | Something of value that is offered to a lender as a form of guarantee of payment. |
| Time period | The length of time for which the finance is required. |
| Loans | Sums borrowed for a certain period at an agreed rate of interest. |
| Overdraft | An arrangement with a bank that a business can spend more money than it has in its account. |
| Trade credit | When the business has the goods to sell and agrees to pay the supplier at some later date. Usually a 28-day interest free period to pay the amount. Allows the business to use the materials and earn an income to pay the cost before the interest free period is up. |
| Retained profit | Profit that is not distributed to shareholders as dividend. |
| Sale of assets | Items of value sold by the business to raise capital. |
| Owners' capital | Money from savings put into the business by the owner. |
| Taking on a partner | Adding a new partner who contributes some new capital. |

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| Share issue | Money raised from investors by selling new shares. |
| Crowdfunding | Money raised through an appeal to the public. |
| Revenue | Money from sales. |
| Fixed costs | Costs that stay the same as output changes, for example rent. |
| Variable costs | Costs that change as output changes, for example wages and electricity. |
| Total costs | Fixed costs plus variable costs. |
| Gross profit | Sales minus the cost of sales. |
| Net profit | Gross profit minus the expenses of operating the business. |
| Gross profit margin | Gross profit divided by sales multiplied by 100. |
| Net profit margin | Net profit divided by sales multiplied by 100. |
| Average rate of return (ARR) | A method of measuring and comparing profitability of an investment over the life of the investment. |
| Loss | Occurs in a business when costs are greater than revenue. |
| Profitability ratios | Calculations such as gross profit margin and net profit margin which help to interpret financial data and make decisions interpreting what it tells you. |
| Expenses | The costs of operating a business. |
| Break-even forecast | A prediction about the break-even quantity based on estimates of future sales revenues and costs. |
| Break-even quantity | The amount a business must sell to earn enough revenue to just cover its costs so that it does not make a profit nor a loss. |
| Margin of safety | The amount by which a business' actual output is greater than its break-even output. |
| Cash flow forecast | A statement showing the expected flow of money into and out of a business over a period of time. |
| Net cash flow | Total inflow minus total outflow. |
| Opening balance | The amount of cash available at the beginning of the month that was the closing balance at the end of the previous month. |
| Closing balance | The amount of cash left at the end of the month. This becomes the opening balance at the start of the next month. |
| Total inflow | The total amount of cash flowing in to a business. |
| Total outflow | The total amount of cash flowing out of a business. |
| Negative cash flow | When for one month, more cash is flowing out of the business than is flowing into it. It is sometimes called a cash flow deficit |

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| Positive cash flow | For one month more, cash is flowing into the business than is flowing out of it. It is sometimes called a cash flow surplus. |
| Income | Money that the business receives. |
| Expenditure | Money that the business pays out. |
| Liquidity | The ability of a business to pay its short term debts which must be paid in the near future. |
| Short-term debts/expenses | The bills that a business has to pay in the near future, for example electricity. |
| Cash | Not just simply notes and coins held in the business, but also money in a bank account. |
| Profit | The revenue received by a business minus the costs of running the business. |
| Ethics | What is right and what is wrong. |
| Child labour | The use of young children, below the legal age for employment, in order to achieve low-cost production. |
| Ethical marketing | Marketing activities that seek to give customers information to make good choices for themselves. |
| Fairtrade | A movement that encourages businesses to pay a fair price to suppliers in developing countries and consumers to buy Fairtrade goods. |
| Environmentally friendly | An adjective that describes consumers and businesses that act to make production sustainable. |
| Sustainable production | When production does not lead to the depletion (using up) of natural resources. |
| Renewable resources | Resources that can be used more than once, such as wind or water power, or that can be recreated such as crops. |
| Non-renewable resources | Resources that can only be used once, such as oil. |
| Recycling | When resources are reused to produce something. |
| Global warming | The rise in average temperatures that scientists say is taking place. |
| Ethical businesses | Businesses that behave in a morally correct way. |
| Waste disposal | The process of getting rid of unwanted materials. |
| Pollution | Causing harm to the environment including air, land and water. |
| Climate change | The process is when average temperatures rise or fall and patterns of weather change. |
| Economic climate | Refers to how well the country is doing in terms of the levels of income and employment. |

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| Income | The amount of money that people receive from work and from assets they own, such as shares and property. |
| Customers | Buyers who buy goods and services for the satisfaction or benefit they will get from them. Customers largely buy from retailers. |
| Customer income | The total amount of income that all the customers in the country receive and which they have available to spend. |
| Level of employment | The numbers of people in work in a country. |
| Level of unemployment | The number of people out of work in a country. |
| Gross domestic product (GDP) | A measure of how much a country produces in a year. It influences the level of income and unemployment. |
| Level of income | The average income of people in a country. |
| Economic growth | A period when GDP is rising, causing income and employment to rise. |
| Recession | A period when GDP is falling, causing income and employment to fall. |
| Distribution of income | Refers to how the income is shared out amongst different people in the community. The distribution of income can become more unequal if the incomes of the rich are rising faster than the incomes of lower earners. |
| International economic climate | Refers to what is happening to income and employment in different parts of the world. |
| Globalisation | The process by which business activity around the world has become increasingly interconnected. |
| International branding | Creating an image or values for a product that are communicated in countries around the world. |
| Capital | Money or assets such as machines, buildings or vehicles. |
| Free trade | The absence of restrictions on trade between countries. |
| Trade | The import and export of goods and services. |
| Tariff | A tax on a good or service that is imported. |
| Quota | A limit in terms of weight or value on the amount of a good or service that can be imported. |
| Regulations | Rules about the goods and services that can be sold in a country. |
| Multinational companies | Businesses that operate in different countries around the world. |
| Unit cost | The cost per unit produced. The greater the productivity of workers, the lower the unit cost of production. |
| Productivity | A measure of the output of each worker on average. |
| Interdependent nature of business | Refers to the links between the areas of business that must be considered when business people make decisions, risks and rewards and the use of financial information to aid business decision making. |

Business areas

The main activities involved in running a business and influences outside the business that will affect the business activities.

How to answer the longer response questions – A2E

| <u>APPLY</u> - INTRODUCTION | |
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| Briefly explain the problem – Show your understanding of the terms. | |
| <u>ANALYSE</u> – ADVANTAGES/FOR/PROS Write down the advantages and positive impact of the situation or reasons for doing something. | <u>ANALYSE</u> – DISADVANTAGES/AGAINST/CONS Write down the disadvantages and negative impact of the situation or reasons against doing something. |
| <u>EVALUATION</u> – CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION Make your decision and explain how you have come to that decision. Or you can say what information is needed and what the recommendation will be dependent upon. Make sure you have fully justified why you have chosen that option. | |

Your answer must always be considered and discussed in:

CONTEXT

COMMON SENSE

Developing your answers – Using Trigger Words

To be able to secure the higher marks it is essential that you fully explain the impact of the advantage or disadvantage on the business. Using a trigger word can help you do this.

| Trigger Word | Use |
|--|---|
| Therefore Furthermore | Makes you go in to detail by explaining the consequence |
| However Although | Makes you explain the other side of the argument |
| Because | Helps you to justify your recommendation |
| Nonetheless | Reinforces an important point in your analysis |

