

## ***Subject specific entry requirements: Mathematics 6***

### ***General Content***

This subject is new to most students, and no previous knowledge of the subject is assumed. It is a broad-based subject, covering a range of concepts and skills which provide an introduction to the various aspects of managing a business.

Themes covered include:

- What is business? – Understanding the nature and purpose of business and different forms of business and how they operate in the external and competitive environment
- Managers, leadership and decision making – understanding decision making and the role and importance of stakeholders
- Decision making to improve marketing, operational, financial and human resource performance.
- Analysing the strategic position of the business and choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods and how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

### ***Skills and aptitudes required***

The subject develops a range of skills, both verbal and numerate. All students joining this course will need strong basic skills: the written communication of ideas is extremely important, and all modules, rely upon application of number skills. Students should have analytical but inventive minds: they should be able to identify difficulties in plans or processes, and be able to offer constructive suggestions for solutions. They must also be able to use up-to-date examples from the business world to substantiate their understanding of the theory, **so reading around the subject in the media is essential**. Given the breadth of the subject, diversity of interest and a determination to improve general study skills are essential.

### ***Methods of Assessment***

All students will be expected to work towards the A-level in this subject.

The award consists of 3 x 2 hour exams including multiple choice, data response, case studies and essay questions. These examinations are taken at the end of the second year of study.

### ***Key Features of Study***

One particular approach used involves case studies of various types of business; another feature of study involves a variety of group activities to simulate business processes, so that students learn by practice and through experience. Computer simulation is used to help students understand the practical aptitudes of business. However the method of A-level assessment in Business is entirely written under exam conditions; this relies on effective literacy and numeracy so a considerable amount of time is spent on helping develop these skills through the context of business.

### ***Workload***

It is important that students are aware of this aspect; a considerable importance is placed upon the regular setting of written formal assessment so that students are adequately prepared for examinations. On top of this students will be expected to read around the subject to back up their class work after each lesson.

### ***Career connections***

Business A'level develops a range of skills (analysis, evaluation, communication, numeracy, etc) which should help to prepare students for further study in a wide range of fields (including vocational), not just those related specifically to business or business management.