

Edexcel A Level Business 2019/2020

We are delighted that you have chosen to take Business at Braintree Sixth Form and look forward to working with you at the start of the new academic year, in September.

In order to get you thinking about the subject, we have drawn up a list of resources that might help you prepare for studies in the Sixth Form such as films to watch on a rainy afternoon, useful websites to browse when Facebook gets dull or books to read. There are also some holiday activities that you should do that will get you off to a good start in September.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me on: amanda.mcintosh@notleyhigh.com. In the meantime, have a great summer holiday and good luck in August...

*Mrs McIntosh
Head of Social Science*

Induction Task – Compulsory

To be handed in during the first lesson of term

1. Select a company which has been in the news recently (picking a Public Limited Company [plc] will make it easier to find information).
 - Research some basic facts: What does it do? How large is it? Where is it based? What are its key objectives? (Hint: look in the Chairman's statement in the annual report.)
 - How successful is it? Give evidence. (Think about sales, profit, market share and get facts and figures.)
 - Has it become more, or less, successful over the last few years? (Again, get evidence)
 - What do you think are the key factors that affect its success and why? (Think about competitors, Government regulation, the economy, its financial situation.)
 - Present your information as a report, a PowerPoint presentation or a poster. Be prepared to discuss your findings at the start of term.

For a look at the syllabus:

- Edexcel A Level Business go to:
https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Business%20Studies/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/9781446914694_GCE2015_A_BUS_WEB.PDF

Useful websites:

- Register with <http://www.tutor2u.net>, a Business Studies blog especially written for students. A daily blog will be sent to you with interesting news articles that tie into the syllabus, comments from examiners and (later) tips and support for exam modules.
- For (Business) news stories use the BBC website <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

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Discovery Task – Optional

Holiday activity - “A week in Business”.

- a) Pick a week and follow the news for that week. Select 7 pictures, one for each day (although these do not necessarily have to be consecutive days in the same week – any 7 days will do!) to represent a **business** news story.
- b) For **each** story, write a brief commentary/explanation: a summary of what the story is, what has it got to do with business, why is it important? Copying the story is not enough!
- c) Select the story that you found most interesting. Why was this?
- d) Be prepared to present your news stories and discuss them at the start of term.

Other activities:

- **Films** – Up In The Air with George Clooney (2010); Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room (2005); “Glengarry Glen Ross” (1992). “Working Girl” (1988); Wall Street (1987); Trading Places (1983); Nine to Five (1980) “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” (1967).
- **People to research** – Different entrepreneurs such as Bill Gates, Simon Cowell, Peter Jones, Anita Roddick, Lord Alan Sugar, Sir Richard Branson, James Dyson, etc. What have they done? How did they do it? <http://www.topbusinessentrepreneurs.com> is a good place to start.
- **Recommended reads, off-syllabus** – Quality newspapers such as The Times, The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Independent or journals such as The Economist (NB there are reduced rates for students on some of these, for example, students were able to buy The Economist for 6p per copy instead of the standard £2!)
- **Recommended TV viewing** – BBC News, Panorama, Newsnight, The Apprentice (often a guide of how not to do it!), Dragon’s Den (ditto).
- **Suggested Places to Visit** – London Stock Exchange, a factory, a large office; it’s a good idea to get work experience in an area of interest to you (would also help with UCAS/apprenticeship/job applications later...)