

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION PROGRAMME BUSINESS SPECIFICATION

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR UNIVERSITY SUCCESS

FOR TEACHING FROM 2022



CATS UFP

CATS UFP is a Level 3 course, designed to help international students to move successfully from high school to a UK University. It does this by using a variety of assessment methods that are common in UK Universities, such as portfolios, presentations academic posters, and examinations combined with content specifically designed to build on prior learning from courses around the world. While English for Academic purposes is an essential part of CATS UFP, and all students will take an English course, assessment design within each module focuses on subject knowledge and skills, rather than the ability to cope with English as a second language.

CATS UFP is delivered over nine months (sometimes six, for students on specific visas, used to a rigorous style of study and excellent English), within a pastorally supportive and culturally stimulating context that enables students' learning to prosper. It does this by providing a variety of routes to the qualification, taught by expert staff and with time to develop English and learn about British culture. CATS UFP is only available to Centres with excellent pastoral care. Centres provide a stimulating intellectual and cultural environment with small classes. Thus, enabling the best learning to happen. With CATS UFP, all learning happens with teachers who are expert in creating a positive learning environment for students from a wide range of countries.

CATS UFP has a successful record of accomplishment and is highly respected by UK universities. With this qualification, students with 12 years of schooling from their own country can make the progression that they want, to a wide range of UK universities, including those ranked most highly for both research and

teaching. CATS UFP has strong advocates in its alumni, who display what a CATS UFP qualification can give them. Graduates report that they feel very well prepared for university study; often, better prepared than students from other Level 3 programmes. Universities have confirmed this, through testimonials and through extensive consultation with university based External Examiners it has gained excellent credibility with UK universities.

INTRODUCTION Why Choose Business UFP?

Dynamic and engaging content:

For over 30 years CATS UFP has provided a high quality, successful qualification. Through consistent improvement using teacher and student feedback, classroom experience and by working closely with universities CATS UFP demonstrates the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support analysis of contemporary business issues and situations. The content of Business UFP is designed to engage international students through topics and issues that are relevant across the globe.

Real life skills:

Students will develop the knowledge and skills needed to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all skills that are needed for further study and employment. In addition, the UFP Business specification also gives room for the development of soft skills which are essential in the business world such as collaboration, presentation, research, and written communication skills.

Assessment success:

Business UFP involves a blended learning approach to assessing students that enables them to access content and demonstrate a wide range of skills and abilities. There are 2 methods of assessment- coursework and examination papers:

- Our coursework uses a variety of assessment styles including group presentations, individual reflection, researching and individual essays. Topics are contemporary and engaging to support students in developing key skills required for future University studies.
- Our examination papers use a variety of assessment styles including short answer, multiple choice, essay, data-response, and case studies to engage students and to improve their confidence with assessments. Real life case studies from around the world are used to make the subject more accessible for international students and to enable them to relate to and apply knowledge and skills developed throughout the course.

Sensitivity towards international students:

The Business UFP course has been designed to take into account the challenges that international students will face when studying a British qualification. Coursework and examination assessments are tailor made to ensure students can fulfil their ultimate potential.



AIMS OF THE COURSE* The UFP course encourages students to:

- Develop an enthusiasm for studying business.
- Develop an understanding of Business concepts and theories; and see how these relate to the real world of Business.
- Gain knowledge of the internal functions of contemporary business organisations of all types.
- Study the dynamic external environment within which businesses operate and the effects this can have upon decision-making within a business.
- Establish a critical understanding of major topical issues that can generate change for business organisations, and the ways in which businesses respond to these issues.
- Acquire an awareness of the range of stakeholder perspectives that can be taken on business activities.
- Select and manipulate data in a variety of forms and to interpret their results.
- Generate creative and enterprising approaches to business scenarios, challenges and issues.
- Evaluate and make judgements related to different business situations based on the knowledge learnt and case studies read.

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KEY SKILLS

Students taking this course will be encouraged to develop into independents learners with the ability to think critically, understanding the key importance of research and presentational skills. The course covers these key skills in the following ways:

Reasoning and critical thinking:

Students will:

- Use problem solving skills to solve problems effectively in situations where more than one approach is possible.
- Select, organise and communicate relevant information in a variety of forms;
- Use mathematical techniques in a multitude of situations applicable to the real world
- Use the knowledge learnt and case studies read to make judgements on different business situations.

Independent Learning:

Students will:

- Organise own learning through management of time and material;
- Work on own initiative to prioritise tasks;
- Work independently to support understanding of material;
- Carry out self-directed learning tasks.

Research Skills:

Students will:

- Research an area of interest and find data suitable to analyse statistically
- Ensure all research is referenced and not plagiarised
- Use ICT to develop information literacy skills, to communicate and collaborate with others.

Presentational Skills:

Students will:

- Systematic documentation of finding and analysis;
- Use of word processing and other forms for ICT for communication;
- Organise information clearly and coherently, using specialist vocabulary when appropriate



ASSUMED PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

The UFP Business course is built on the assumption that students do not have prior knowledge in the study of Business. However, students will benefit most if they have competence in quantitative skills to be able to:

- calculate, use and understand ratios, averages and fractions
- calculate, use and understand percentages and percentage changes
- construct and interpret a range of standard graphical forms
- interpret index numbers
- calculate cost, revenue, profit and break-even
- calculate investment appraisal outcomes and interpret results
- interpret values of price elasticity of demand
- use and interpret quantitative and non-quantitative information in order to make decisions
- interpret, apply and analyse information in written, graphical and numerical forms.

Any prior learning in Business would be beneficial to enable students to be able to grasp the concepts quicker and also go into further depth. For example, for those that have joined the UFP route from an international system which uses the IB or IGCSE syllabi, they may have taken Business at a Key Stage 4 level which may cover topics such as understanding business activity, people in business, operations management, financial information and decisions, external influences on business activity.

China	No equivalent subject in national high schools
Malaysia	Students in the Art stream may take Business Studies for Year 10 and 11. Students may also take Business Studies in Year 12 and Year 13.
	Year 10 and 11 modules include business objectives, latest business trends, mission and vision of businesses, business organisation, business resources, entrepreneurship,
UAE	Business management is introduced in high school since 2016
	About 40% of pupils attend private schools which are internationally accredited, using international syllabi including iGCSEs.
Russia	No equivalent subject in national high schools
Kazakhstan	No equivalent subject in national high schools

The table below shows prior learning in Business in a selection of national systems:



Nigeria	A business studies program was introduced in 1982 into the Nigerian secondary school curriculum in order to address the countries economic and technological deficiencies. The objectives were to create an opportunity for students to have a broad understanding of business activities, their functions, interrelationships between business organizations, and to provide students with skills for processing Components: Office practice, Book-keeping, Commerce, Keyboarding,
	Computer studies.
	Topics: Meaning and branches of business studies, types and functions of office, Relationship between producer and consumers, Commerce,
	Trade, Forms of business organization, typing, business documents, cost of production, insurance.
South Africa	Students in Grade 8 to Grade 9 take Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) which has elements of basic accounting, entrepreneurship, business and economics. The subject aims to encourage a sense of entrepreneurship in learners, as well as to give them a very basic understanding of common accounting documents that they are likely to come across in their lives. The subject also touches on overarching economic principles, such as supply and demand and GDP.
	From Grade 10 onwards, Business Studies is offered as an optional subject. This is a natural extension of EMS. Students look at overarching economic concepts and how businesses operate within those constraints. The subject aims to promote entrepreneurship.
Brazil	No equivalent subject in national high schools
Mexico	In high school, some students may opt for the "Accounting, economic and banking sciences or administrative sciences" High schoolers may take a subject called "administration" which has elements of Business Studies (focusing on the Management part) such as Human Resources,

SUBJECT CONTENT Examinable Content:

The topics stated in the table below will be assessed through controlled assessment, a final examination and coursework.

Module 1: Introduction to Business	This module provides a direct focus on the fundamental elements of a business. This module will begin by introducing students to key business objectives and explore how firms can set out to achieve these objectives, through the construction of a mission statement. Students will then develop an understanding of different organisational structures and the reason for selecting a specific structure. Students will analyse the role of shareholders and the differing interests of stakeholders for both public and private organisations. Students will analyse factors from both the internal and external business environment and how they can impact the running and decision making process of a firm. Students will study a range of business theories and their practical application within the decision making process.
Module 2: Marketing	The marketing module will be begin by looking at marketing objectives and the different types of marketing. The process and methods to ensure effective marketing will be studied. The various processes to ensure that their business is marketed effectively will be analysed. Students will then be introduced to the marketing mix.
Module 3: Finance	Financial aspects of the running of a business is the focus in this module. This module will be the most quantitative module and will require students to be able to calculate various concepts effectively. Students will develop an understanding of the practical construction and analysis of a range of financial statements. Students will evaluate the appropriate sources of finance available to a business and their selection.
Module 4: Human Resource	The human resource module will begin by introducing students to common human resource objectives for a business. Students will then develop knowledge of the recruitment, selection and training process for staff in an organisation. Students then study a range of motivational theories, their practical application, and the interpretation of human resource data.
Module 5: Operations	The operations module will begin by looking at the operations objectives. The difference between capital and labour intensive production will be studied. Concepts such as capacity utilisation, efficiency and productivity, quality management, stock control, and network analysis will then be introduced. Students will also learn about the supply chain and how to manage it most effectively.
Module 6: Corporate Strategy	The corporate strategy module will begin by looking at business ethics and then looking at the external factors affecting businesses. The entire course will end by encapsulating everything learnt from previous topics to look into the various decision making models used in Businesses.



DETAILED CONTENT LIST & NUMBER OF HOURS (MATCHED WITH INDEPENDENT LEARNING HOURS):

Торіс	Guidance		
1.1 Business objectives	Business objectives: O Profit		
	 Growth 		
	 Survival 		
	 Cashflow 		
	 Social and ethical objectives 		
	 Internal and external influences on business objectives 		
	Internal and external stakeholders (including conflicts and resolution)		
	Stock markets, share prices and the calculation of market capitalisation		
1.2 Business organisation	Sole traders		
	• Partnerships		
	Private Limited Companies (LTD)		
	Public Limited Companies (PLC)		
	Incorporated and unincorporated businesses		
	Limited and unlimited liability		
	Divorce of ownership and control		
	Private and public sector organisations		
1.3 Business	Role and activities of the following departments:		
functions	 Marketing 		
	 Finance 		
	 Human resources 		
	• Operations		

Module 1: Introduction to business (15 Hours)

Module 2: Marketing (30 Hours)

Торіс	Guidance		
2.1 Marketing objectives	 Marketing objectives: Sales volume Sales value Market share and market size Sales growth Market growth Brand loyalty 		
2.2 Types of marketing	 Relationship marketing Environmental and ethical marketing Digital marketing Business-to-Business (B2B) and Business-to-Consumer (B2C) marketing 		
2.3 Market analysis	 Value of technology in gathering and analysing data Market mapping 		
2.4 Mass and Niche marketing	Mass and Niche Marketing Positioning of Mass and Niche Market Prodcucts		
2.5 Market research	Primary and secondary researchQualitative and quantitative data		

	Local and national markets
	Limitations of market research
2.6 Market segmentation	 Market segmentation according to demographics and psychographics: Age Gender Income Socio-economic grouping Location Tastes Interests and lifestyle Segmentation, targeting and positioning (STP) model
2.7 Marketing mix- product	 Unique selling point (USP) and product differentiation Product life cycle and extension strategies Boston Matrix Product portfolio Influences on and the value of new product development Positioning and repositioning
2.8 Marketing mix- price	 Pricing strategies: Penetration Skimming Cost plus Predatory Psychological Internal and external influences on price Calculation and interpretation of price elasticity of demand (PED)
2.9 Marketing mix- promotion	Promotional mixAbove and below the line promotion
2.10 Marketing mix- place (distribution)	 Role of intermediaries Direct and indirect distribution Multi-channel distribution E-commerce

Module 3: Finance (30 Hours)

Торіс	Guidance
3.1 Financial objectives	 Profit objectives Cash flow objectives Capital structure objectives Internal and external influences on financial objectives
3.2 Calculating costs, revenue and profits	 Calculation of sales turnover Fixed costs and variable costs Calculation of total costs Calculation of gross profit and net profit margins
3.3 Cash flow management	 Positive and negative cash flow Difference between cash flow and profit Cash flow statements and forecasts Payables and receivables Methods of improving cash flow
3.4 Budgeting	Expenditure, income and profit budgetsVariance analysis



3.5 Break-even	Break-even formula
analysis	Break-even charts
	Limitations of break-even analysis
3.6 Sources of	Internal and external sources
finance	Short-term and long-term sources
3.7 Liquidity	Liquidity and solvency
	Liabilities and assets
	Current ratios and acid test ratios
	Debt to equity ratios
	Gearing ratios
	Methods of improving liquidity

Module 4: Human resources (25 Hours)

Торіс	Guidance
4.1 Human resource (HR) objectives	 Human resource objectives: Matching the workforce to business needs Helping employees reach their full potential Supporting employer and employee relations Internal and external influences on HR objectives The role of the HR department
4.2 Management and leadership styles	 Autocratic Democratic Paternalistic Laissez-faire
4.3 Human resource management (HRM) and organisational culture	• Hard and soft HRM
4.4 Employee life cycle	 Human resource plans Steps in the standard recruitment and selection process Internal and external recruitment Training (including on the job and off the job) Redundancy
4.5 Motivation in theory	 Taylor's scientific management theory Maslow's hierarchy of needs Herzberg's two-factor theory
4.6 Motivation in practice	 Financial incentives: Piecework Commission Bonuses Profit sharing Performance-related pay Non-financial incentives: Job design Fringe benefits Job enrichment, enlargement and rotation

	 Delegation
4.7 Calculation and	Labour productivity
interpretation of	Labour costs per unit
HRM data	Employees costs as a percentage of turnover
	Labour turnover and retention rates
	Absenteeism
4.8 Staff resistance	Reasons for staff resistance
to change	Active and passive resistance
-	• Kotter and Schlesinger's model of reasons for resistance to change and
	ways of overcoming it

Topic Operational objectives: 5.1 Operational objectives Quality Costs Speed of response 0 Added value Capital-intensive and labour-intensive production 5.2 Capital and • labour-intensive production Calculation of capacity utilisation 5.3 Capacity • Understanding of operations data including: utilisation . • Unit costs • Under utilisation • Capacity shortages • Rationalisation 5.4 Use of The use of technology in operations: • • Automated stock control systems technology in 0 Automation and robotics operations • Computer-aided design (CAD) 3D printing • 5.5 Lean Methods of improving efficiency: • Kaizen production and • Just in time (JIT) quality Total quality management (TQM) and zero defects policy management 0 Time-based management 0 • Waste minimisation Methods of improving quality: . • Quality assurance Quality control • Quality circles • Changing suppliers Inventory control charts 5.6 Stock control • Links to JIT 5.7 Managing the Influences on the choice of suppliers: • • Reliability supply chain Dependability • Flexibility

Module 5: Operational performance (25 Hours) Topic Guidance

•

Outsourcing



	•	Mass customisation
5.8 Network analysis	•	Critical path analysis

Module 6: Corporate strategy (15 Hours)

Торіс	Guidance
6.1 Business ethics	Carroll's corporate social responsibility (CSR) pyramid
	Fair trade schemes
	Environmental issues
	Ethical treatment of animals
	Ethical consumers and consumer boycotts
	Competitiveness and differentiation
6.2 External factors	PESTLE Analysis
affecting business	Business cycle
-	Incremental and disruptive change
	Interest rates and exchange rates
	Demographics
	Competition
	Globalisation and Multinational Corporations
6.3 Decision	Decision trees
making models	Ansoff matrix
	SWOT analysis

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Assessment Objectives* (AOs) are designed for Level 3 Business specifications. The Business UFP will place a stronger emphasis on business in an international context, compared to other Level three qualifications.

	Objective	Weighting
A01	Demonstrate knowledge of terms, concepts, theories, methods and models to show an understanding of how individuals and organisations are affected by and respond to business issues.	25%
A02	Apply knowledge and understanding to various business contexts to show how individuals and organisations are affected by and respond to issues.	25%
A03	Analyse issues within business, showing an understanding of the impact on individuals and organisations of external and internal influences. Evaluate quantitative and qualitative information to make informed judgements and propose evidence-based solutions to business issues.	35%
AO4	Communicate (verbal and written) explanations and evaluations in a clear and structured manner, making use of a range of relevant evidence, appropriate vocabulary and references.	15%

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ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES WEIGHTING (AGAINST EACH COMPONENT)

	Assessment Values							
Assessment Objectives	Presentation	20%	Exam Paper 1	20%	Exam	10%	Overall Weighting	
	Coursework	30%	Exam Paper 2	20%	Paper 3)	
AO1 Knowledge & Understanding	5%		20%		50%		25%	
AO2 Application	35%		30%		10%		25%	
AO3 Analysis and Evaluation	25%		40%		40%		35%	
AO4 Communication	35%		10%		0		15%	



Synoptic Assessment – Where and How Is This Achieved?

The Finance module is included in all three papers because finance is the fundamental objective of a business i.e. making a profit. Paper 3 will be the final synoptic paper where questions could be asked from all five modules and therefore students will be required to differentiate and also complement the knowledge from all modules to be able to answer the questions effectively

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Business UFP involves three methods of assessment: a presentation, coursework and three examination papers.

Students will be assessed via:

50% coursework (Coursework 1 and Coursework 2)

50% examination (Paper 1, Paper 2, Paper 3)

Coursework 1	20%	 15 Minute Group Presentation, (15%) Individual reflection, 5 marks (5%) Topic will be confirmed before the start of every academic year. Questions asked in the coursework will not be featured in the final exam.
Coursework 2	30%	 1500-2000 words Individual Report following proper academic conventions. Topic will be confirmed before the start of every academic year. Questions asked in the coursework will not be featured in the final exam.
Exam Paper 1	20%	 1 ½ hour exam assessing content from all modules. 50 marks Questions will be based on a pre-seen case study which will be given to students at least 2 months before the exam. Questions will be a mixture of 1, 2 X 2, 4, 6,10 X 2, and 15 mark questions assessing student's numeracy, descriptive, analysis, and evaluation skills.
Exam Paper 2	20%	 1 ½ hour exam assessing content from all modules 50 marks Questions will be based on unseen short case studies Section A will be a mixture of 4 and 6 mark questions assessing student's numeracy, description, and analysis skills worth 25 marks in total. Section B will be a 10 and 15 mark essay question assessing student's description, analysis, and evaluation skills worth 25 marks in total
Exam Paper 3	10%	1 hour exam containing MCQs from all the modules.40 marks



Extended Reading List

- AQA A Level Business, by Neil James, My Revision Notes •
- AQA A Level Business 1 Third Edition, by Wolinski & Coates (for more able students) .
- A-Level Business: AQA Year 1 & 2 Complete Revision & Practice •
- AQA A-level Business Workbook 1: Topics 1.1-1.3 Helen Coupland Smith
- AQA A-level Business Workbook 2: Topics 1.4-1.6 Helen Coupland Smith •
- AQA A-level Business Workbook 3: Topics 1.7-1.8 Helen Coupland Smith .
- AQA A-level Business Workbook 4: Topics 1.9-1.10 Helen Coupland Smith
- Bare Bones Revision Guide Crossacademe
- Anforme Marketing and People Theme 1 for Edexcel Business AS and A Level •
- Anforme Managing Business Activities Theme 2 for Edexcel Business AS and A Level
- Anforme Revision Guide to AS and A Level Business Themes 1 and 2 of Edexcel's Business
- Anforme Business Decisions and Strategy Theme 3 for Edexcel Business A Level Year 2 .



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