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**A-LEVEL BUSINESS TRANSITION WORK**

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The course specification can be found here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/business-2015.html>

**This is the link to the exam board specification. Download it and have a brief look through. It can be a real help in understanding your forthcoming course.**

The exam board is Edexcel

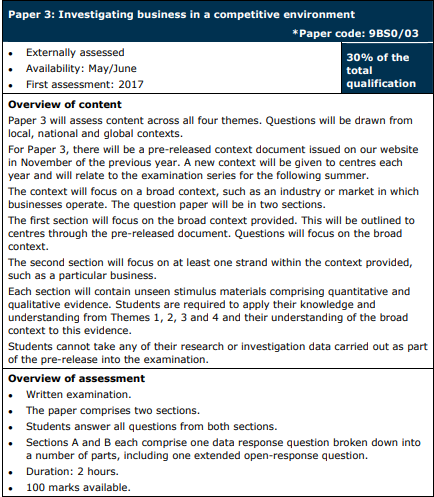
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Description automatically generatedThe business course has four THEMES. They are:

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Description automatically generatedYou are assessed by completing three papers:



**SUMMER TRANSITION WORK**

We are so excited to hear that you are hopefully going to be joining us in September to study A Level Business. This booklet will give you a brief introduction to the course layout and help you to start getting to grips with some of the key terminology and content so that we can hit the ground running in September.

**TASK 1: KEY TERMS**

Here are some key terms that you need to be familiar with when you start this course. Fill in the table below, writing your definition in the box on the right-hand side. This is considered AO1, knowledge.

Use [www.tutor2u.net](http://www.tutor2u.net) to help

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Term** | **Definition** |
| Mass Market |  |
| Niche Market |  |
| Market Size |  |
| Market Share |  |
| Dynamic Market |  |
| Product Orientation |  |
| Market Orientation |  |
| Primary Research |  |
| Secondary Research |  |
| Market Segmentation |  |
| Adding Value |  |

**TASK 2, RESEARCH TASK ON KEY MARKETS:**

It is useful in Business to have a good background knowledge of key markets, and who are the biggest firms in those markets.

Find out the market share data for:

* UK supermarkets
* Mobile phone manufacturers
* Car manufacturers
* High street retailers
* Travel firms

You can use [www.statista.com](http://www.statista.com) to help you with market share data. Use the free data. You can copy some of the graphics across into your transition work.

* For each market, IDENTIFY which is the biggest firm and by how much they lead the market.
* EXPLAIN whether there have been any changes in the last 5-10 years, WHY do you think this has happened and the impact this has had on the behaviour of the other businesses in that market.
* For example, Lidl and Aldi have been gaining market share in recent years in the UK grocery market. They have been offering a strategy of low priced, but good quality goods that consumers see as value for money over the other supermarkets. This has seen quite a few customers moving to these supermarkets, thus eroding the market share of others. This has meant the other main players having to price watch and offer similar prices in order to keep customers.

**TASK 3, EXTENDED READING:**

**1**

Read the articles below and answer the questions based around the text:

# Britishvolt: UK battery start-up collapses into administration

**UK battery start-up Britishvolt has collapsed into administration, with the majority of its 232 staff made redundant with immediate effect.**

Employees were told the news at an all-staff meeting on Tuesday morning. The firm had planned to build a giant factory to make electric car batteries in Blyth, Northumberland. Ministers had hailed it as a "levelling up" opportunity that would boost the region's economy and support the future of UK car making.

But Britishvolt struggled to turn a profit and ran out of money. Its board is believed to have decided on Monday that there were no viable bids to keep the company afloat. Plans for the £3.8bn factory in Blyth were part of a

long-term vision to boost UK manufacturing of electric vehicle batteries and create around 3,000 skilled jobs.

The project was championed by government ministers due to the area being one of the main so-called "red wall" seats to change hands from Labour to the Conservatives in the 2019 General Election. The UK currently only has one Chinese-owned battery plant next to the Nissan factory in Sunderland, while 35 plants are planned or already under construction in the European Union. Industry experts have said the UK will need several battery factories to support the future of UK car making as pure petrol and diesel engines are phased out over the next decade.

EY, who were appointed joint administrators, described the move as "disappointing", and said all impacted staff were being offered support. Dan Hurd, joint administrator and partner at EY, said the firm had offered "a significant opportunity to create jobs and employment, as well as support the development of technology and infrastructure needed to help with the UK's energy transition". Mr Hurd said the administrators would now explore options for a sale of the business and assets.

An existing shareholder added: "It's madness, I have been offering a variety of possible solutions. Falls on deaf ears. It appears, to me, that management wants the company to go into administration. A real shame."

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Britishvolt had also planned to open a new battery development centre.

The ambitious, but financially troubled, start-up only narrowly avoided collapse at the end of last year after an emergency lifeline was extended by one of its investors, the commodity trading giant Glencore.

Last year, Britishvolt asked the government to advance £30m of a promised £100m in support, but was refused as the company had not hit agreed construction milestones to access the funds. But both industry and government sources remain confident that this plant will eventually be built - whoever ends up owning it. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) said the government had "remained hopeful" that Britishvolt would find a suitable investor and was disappointed to hear it had not been possible". It said it would work with the local authority in the area and potential investors to "ensure the best outcome for the site".

However, the Labour chairman of the Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee said the government needed to do more to support the UK's electric vehicle industry. Darren Jones told BBC Radio 4's World At One programme: "There is a case to be made here in the UK for ministers and the government to be much more closely involved in delivering a successful battery manufacturing factory. If we want cars to continue to be made in the UK, we're going to have to build electric vehicle batteries here as well. So ministers needs to roll up their sleeves, not just write cheques."

The founders of Britishvolt were trying to create a £4bn facility, from scratch, without the backing of a major manufacturer. What they did have was a vision which they hoped could surf a wave of political support - and attract the necessary funding. They looked first for a location in Wales, before settling on Cambois, in the Blyth Valley. The site, formerly a power station, was good. It had a deep water port, good transport links and access to plentiful power. It also happened to be in a "red wall" constituency captured by the Conservatives in 2019.

But political support was not enough. Delays to construction meant £100m of public funding never materialised. With costs rising and no firm orders, the money ran out. The question is, what happens next? Speak to pretty much anyone in the motor industry, and they'll tell you that without gigafactories, the long-term future for UK manufacturing looks bleak. So the plant itself could still become a reality. But for that to happen significant investment will be needed. Any potential buyer will know that their chances of success will be much greater if they can get an established manufacturer on board.

Jim Holder, editorial director at What Car?, said that Britishvolt's factory would have taken years to build, "yet the truth is we need at least five such facilities by the turn of the decade to remain a competitive country to build electric cars in".

He warned it was "very bad news for the whole industry", adding: "The only positive will come if it spurs government into action to secure a partnership between itself, the industry and battery manufacturers that can succeed into the long-term." Friends of the Earth described the collapse as "yet another blow to building the clean, modern future we urgently need".

There was also disappointment from people who live and work where Britishvolt's plant was supposed to be built. Michelle Charlton, who runs Cafe One in the village of Cambois, said the news was "really disappointing. There isn't any real industry for the young ones coming through, so they could've done with it yes. It would've been a real benefit to the area," she told the BBC.

**Explain:**

1. Who are Britishvolt and what product were they going to make?
2. Why do we as a country need more battery factories? What effect does this have on the industry?
3. What was the news employees received on Tuesday morning and how many employees did it effect?
4. How many new skilled jobs did the finished factory intend to create in the local area and why was the location of the factory based in Blyth?
5. What was the main reasons for failure of this start-up company?
6. Who are the stakeholders for Britishvolt and what effect does the administration have on them?

**Supermarket raises wages to retain workers amid competition from rivals**

Sainsbury's has announced it will increase minimum pay for its workers outside London to £12.21 per hour and £13.85 per hour for staff in London starting in March.

This pay increase means all Sainsbury's employees will now earn mandatory National Living Wage. Around 120,000 Sainsbury's employees will benefit from the pay rise.

The pay increase comes a year after Sainsbury's last bumped up wages to £11 per hour in response to other supermarkets raising pay. Supermarkets need to keep increasing wages to match the government's National Living Wage, which went up to £12.21 in April 2025.

The National Living Wage will also apply to 21 and 22 year olds for the first time. Sainsbury's pay increase comes a month before the new National Living Wage takes effect, so workers will benefit earlier.

While employees welcome higher wages, some businesses see rising labour costs as hurting profit margins when other expenses remain high. Next's CEO commented that its prices for customers would be lower if not for rising wage bills, though the company still expects strong profits.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** | What is meant by the term ‘wages’? How do wages differ from salaries? |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2** | Why do you think Sainsbury’s has made the decision to increase wages for its employees? What are the benefits of this for the business? |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **3** | What are the potential disadvantages of this decision for both Sainsbury’s and their customers? |

**TASK 4, INDEPENDENT RESEARCH:**

***Awareness of business in the real world via media news sources and knowledge of companies that are constantly in the media***

It is impossible to know what companies will be examined in your assessments. However, some of the big multinationals will provide you with enough evidence to cover all the aspects of business in your course. Become familiar with these companies, they will help you contextualise your answers. Some of the companies you should really know:

* Volkswagen

Choose **TWO** companies from the list provided. Create a fact file on each of the companies. The fact file should not be longer than **two pages** of A4 or 10 slides:

* Who they are and what they do – what products or services do they sell, what are some of their aims, objectives or mission statement
* Recent news articles on the company over the past 12 – 18 months. Find an article, screen shot it into your work and write a summary on what the article is about and how it’s impacting your chosen business
* Their two major competitors and why
* Any other information that you think would be interesting information from their website. Make sure you search for their corporate website so search:

Apple Corporate

Amazon Corporate

Nike Corporate

Unilever Corporate

* Amazon
* Apple
* Nike
* Tesco
* Cadbury
* Nestle
* Unilever
* Starbucks
* Facebook
* Tesla
* Ikea
* Coca-Cola

**CAREER PATHWAYS IN BUSINESS STUDIES**

University Courses in Business:

Loughborough:

[Business and Economics | School and College Liaison | Loughborough University (lboro.ac.uk)](https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/school-college-liaison/post-16/why-it-matters/resources/business-and-economics/)

Bath:

[Business and management courses (bath.ac.uk)](https://www.bath.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate-2023/business-and-management/)

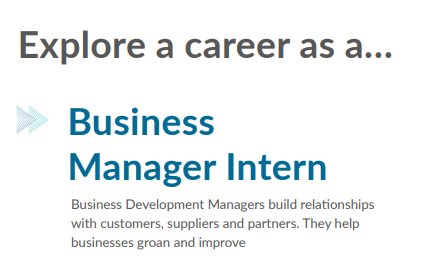
Warwick:

[Undergraduate Courses | Courses | Warwick Business School (wbs.ac.uk)](https://www.wbs.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/)

Southampton Business School

[Southampton Business School | University of Southampton](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/faculties-schools-departments/southampton-business-school)

There are plenty of careers that can be accessed by following a Business / Economics curriculum:



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There are plenty of other jobs that can be explored via BBC Bitesize:

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Description automatically generated[Jobs that use Business - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zd7fqp3/jobs-that-use-business/1)

General options map for Post 16 Education:

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Apprenticeship Opportunities