Business Studies

Stage 6
Syllabus

June 2010
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2 Rationale for Business Studies in the Stage 6 curriculum

Business activity is a feature of everyone’s life. Throughout the world people engage in a web of business activities to design, produce, market, deliver and support a range of goods and services. In addition, investors, consumers and employees depend on the business sector for much of their quality of life.

As a course, Business Studies is distinctive in that it encompasses the theoretical and practical aspects of business in contexts which students will encounter throughout their lives. Conceptually, it offers learning from the planning of a small business to the management of operations, marketing, finance and human resources in large businesses. Through the analysis of contemporary business strategies the course also provides rigour and depth and lays an excellent foundation for students either in tertiary study or in future employment.

Contemporary business issues and case studies are embedded in the course to provide a stimulating and relevant framework for students to apply to problems encountered in the business environment. Students also investigate business planning and use a range of information to assess and evaluate business performance. The role of incentives, personal motivation and entrepreneurship, especially in small business, is recognised as a powerful influence in business success.

By completing this course students will develop general and specific skills, including research, analysis, problem-solving, decision-making, critical thinking and communication. These skills enhance their confidence and ability to participate effectively, not only as members of the business world, but also as citizens dealing with issues emanating from business activity.

Business Studies fosters intellectual, social and moral development by assisting students to think critically about the role of business and its ethical responsibilities to society. In addition, a significant feature of Business Studies is its relevance to the full range of HSC students, as it provides useful knowledge and competencies for life.
3  Continuum of learning for Business Studies Stage 6 students

HSIE K–6

Stages 4–5
Mandatory History

Stages 4–5
HSIE electives
(including Commerce)

Stages 4–5
Mandatory Geography

Knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes related to business in Stages 4–5

Stage 6
Business Studies

Workplace  University  TAFE  Other
4 Aim

Business Studies aims to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and values which enable students to make judgements about the performance of businesses in a dynamic business environment.

5 Objectives

Through Business Studies, students will develop:

knowledge and understanding about:
- the nature, role and structure of business
- internal and external influences on business
- the functions and processes of business activity
- management strategies and their effectiveness

skills to:
- investigate, synthesise and evaluate contemporary business issues and hypothetical and actual business situations
- communicate business information and issues using appropriate formats
- apply mathematical concepts appropriate to business situations

values and attitudes about:
- responsible participation in business activity
- ethical business behaviour
- corporate social responsibility.
# 6 Course structure

The ordering of the topics in the Preliminary and Higher School Certificate courses is not prescriptive and in practice may be influenced by students' needs, interests and access to case studies and other resources.

## Preliminary course structure (120 indicative hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Indicative hours</th>
<th>% of course time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature of business</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business management</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business planning</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## HSC course structure (120 indicative hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Indicative hours</th>
<th>% of course time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>