

A-level Business

A student's perspective

The value of studying our
specification and how it
prepares students

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Will Falk

A-level Business student

Will completed A-levels in Business, Art and Philosophy and Ethics in 2017. He is now at the University of Exeter, studying International Relations.

Will talked to us about being the first cohort to sit the new [AQA A-level Business](#) qualification and how it's helped him.



What Business means to me

I wanted to gain an understanding of how businesses are run. A goal of mine is to run my own international business, so it helped me gain insight into what I might expect to deal with when running a business in the future.

Studying it seems such a long time ago now! But I particularly enjoyed learning all the [models](#) and how they apply to real-life case studies. This was interesting because it allowed me to connect school work to the outside world.

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How this specification suited me

The course was really enjoyable, what made it interesting was that it was current. Our teachers would find present-day examples to use, which makes Business different to a subject like Philosophy or History, where most of what you are learning is in the past.

Yes there was a lot to learn, but this didn't make the workload too much. The fact the course was split into a number of sections made it a lot easier to learn whilst making each couple of weeks' workload seem a lot less intense.

Being in the first cohort

It was nice knowing we were the first students to have the new specification because it meant that what we were studying was as up to date as it could be and had been revised recently.

However it was also daunting as we knew it was the first time the teachers were teaching it as well, but this wasn't an issue at all as our teachers were really dedicated with learning everything about the new specification.

How the papers worked for me

The [multiple-choice questions](#) were a really good way to start a paper and get into the flow of doing an exam.

I remember finding the [short answer questions](#) harder to answer with having to be so precise.

I found the [essay questions](#) easier once I'd had practice in setting them out as I could include the information I wanted without writing too much.

The range of questions over the papers was good as we had one paper with case studies and longer answer questions, then another with multiple-choice questions and a range of other length questions. This really allowed for people of all abilities to answer questions and feel comfortable in the exams.

We did a lot of work on the varieties of questions allowing us to gain a broad understanding of how to answer them. As well as doing questions set for homework we also did questions in class in groups under guidance.

Preparing for the future

The work I did on analysis during the Business course has helped me to analyse texts and write essays. This is especially relevant when keeping to a word count as I have learnt to be more concise. It has also allowed me to write my essays more clearly through understanding how to set out an analysis point clearly.

The particular skill I found most useful to my course was how to write an introduction and conclusion. I have found this helped me write successful essays in all modules during my course.

I've also found myself having conversations with people studying business management, marketing, etc about the models and theories covered as they cover them in their own course.

With my goal to run an international business I think regularly about how I would use some of the models, theories and frameworks in a business plan and how they would apply to running my business.

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