

## **IGCSE Business Studies (0450)**

### **Are there different tiers of entry for IGCSE Business Studies?**

No – all the grades are available and the question papers are not differentiated in terms of tiers.

### **How can I get in touch with other teachers of Business Studies?**

We have an e-mail discussion list which you may find useful. The discussion lists are based on e-mail technology. Sending a message or query to the list will mean that it is viewed by all members of the list. By being a member of the list teachers can share ideas, resources and ask subject related questions which will be seen by the CIE Product Manager and examiners but also by all other teachers who have registered on the list. For example, a teacher could ask how everyone is approaching a particular topic, what books they might recommend or simply find out who else is teaching their subject.

You can join the discussion list by e-mailing us at [international@ucles.org.uk](mailto:international@ucles.org.uk).

### **Are there any textbooks written specifically for the IGCSE Business Studies syllabus?**

For the IGCSE Business Studies syllabus there are 2 textbooks written specifically for the syllabus:

IGCSE Business Studies, by Karen Borrington and Peter Stimpson, 2nd Edition, John Murray, ISBN 0719572681

IGCSE Business Studies, by Chris Nuttall, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0521750954

### **Are there any changes to the syllabus for 2004?**

The syllabus will be changing for 2004 both in terms of the scheme of assessment and in terms of the syllabus content.

From the June 2004 examination, the scheme of assessment will change so that candidates no longer have to take Paper 4, the Alternative to Coursework paper. For centres that don't wish to take the Coursework there will be 2 written examinations, each one worth 50% of the total marks available. If the Coursework option is taken then each written examination will be worth 40% of the marks, with the Coursework being worth 20% of the marks.

The content of the syllabus is similar to that of the 'old' syllabus and we hope that the syllabus is clearer and more specific in terms of what should be taught.

### **Is it acceptable for students to write their answers as bullet points?**

Marking for IGCSE Business Studies is not just a matter of counting the number of points made for a question worth 10 to 12 marks. A range of appropriate points should be identified and the more important points should be developed, with reference to examples. It would not be sufficient on a question worth 10 to 12 marks for a candidate to give a list of points with no explanation or development of ideas. In a 2 or 3 mark question an example would not strictly be required unless specifically asked for, although again students might wish to give an example. Students often find it easier to give an explanation to a question if they can illustrate their answer using an example. The example would be rewarded provided it enhanced the answer.

**Should I enter my students for the Coursework? I think they will do badly on the Coursework and would rather enter them for the alternative to Coursework exam.**

Some Centres choose the Alternative to Coursework paper because the students have longer to prepare for the examination (if a Centre opts for Coursework it is required by CIE by 30 April for the June examination, or 31 October for the November examination).

The other thing to bear in mind is that the teacher marking the Coursework should be accredited by CIE in order for student to take this option. If the teacher is not accredited then and they do wish to take the Coursework option they should write to the Training and Conference Unit outlining their experience of marking Coursework including the level of Coursework that they have marked. Alternatively they can undertake distance training in marking Coursework, also by contacting the Training and Conference Unit.

### **What support materials are available?**

Syllabus

IGCSE Business Studies Standards Booklet (this contains student answers to IGCSE questions along with the mark scheme, marks and comments of a senior examiner)

Question papers for the past two years

Mark schemes from November 2000 onwards

Distance Training Pack for accreditation of teachers to assess

All the above are available from CIE Publications