

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

Business Studies 0450

Syllabus Overview

Examinations 2026

Understanding the whole syllabus

Business decisions connect people, customers, operations and money. A change in one part of an organisation affects other parts, so the syllabus moves beyond definitions to decisions in a particular context. A useful judgement explains both the likely benefits and the limitations of a proposed action.

For Business Studies 0450, the content map below follows the approved subject briefing and the official syllabus. Labels group related areas for orientation; the detailed syllabus remains the authority for individual learning requirements.

Content map

Syllabus area or component	What the area covers
1: Understanding business activity	The syllabus is organised into six areas. You will begin by examining the purpose of business activity, entrepreneurship, business growth, organisational structures, objectives and the interests of different stakeholders.
2-3: People and marketing	People in business covers motivation, management, organisational structure, recruitment, training and communication. Marketing introduces market research, segmentation, niche and mass markets, the marketing mix and strategies for domestic and international markets.
4-5: Operations and financial decisions	Operations management examines production methods, productivity, costs, break-even analysis, quality and business location. Financial topics include sources of finance, cash-flow forecasting, working capital, income statements, statements of financial position and ratio analysis.
6: External influences	The final area explores external influences such as government policy, economic change, environmental and ethical concerns, globalisation, multinational businesses and exchange rates.
Skills across the syllabus	Assessment develops four connected abilities: knowledge and understanding, application to particular businesses, analysis of causes and consequences, and evaluation leading to justified decisions.

These areas should be read as a connected course. Begin with the foundational knowledge identified in the first part of the map, then build towards the applications and explanations that depend on it. Build a compact record of concepts, calculations and examples. Use the same case to understand how marketing, people, operations and

finance interact, while keeping answers focused on the question asked. Where a row describes a choice of topics or components, study the selection required by your agreed route rather than treating all alternatives as compulsory.

Qualification and component choices

All candidates follow the component structure shown in the Assessment Overview. There is no separate Core/Extended route in this syllabus.

This orientation applies to the 2026 Business Studies 0450 syllabus. Business 0264 replaces it from 2027; a learner entering 0264 needs that syllabus and its own assessment guidance.

The assessed skills

Assessment objectives describe the abilities Cambridge looks for across the qualification. The following explanations paraphrase the syllabus objectives; they are not additional topics or separate orientation tasks.

Assessment objective	Meaning for the learner
AO1 Knowledge and understanding	Select accurate subject knowledge, terminology and examples that answer the question, and explain their meaning.
AO2 Application	Apply the relevant knowledge or method to the specific facts, data or situation in the question.
AO3 Analysis	Interpret the information, apply an appropriate method and explain the relationships or reasoning that support the answer.
AO4 Evaluation	Weigh evidence, explanations or methods, explain limitations and reach a justified judgement.

These abilities work together in an answer. Accurate knowledge supports application, while a clear explanation shows how the evidence or method leads to a conclusion. The balance varies by component, so the next lesson connects these abilities with the actual assessment formats.

Key pointers: Follow the stated examination-year syllabus, cover the required areas for your route and develop skills alongside knowledge. **Next:** Open **Assessment Overview**.