

Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

Business Studies

“I had to make my own living and my own opportunity! But I made it! Don’t sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them!”

– C.J. Walker

“Business opportunities are like buses, there’s always another one coming.”

“A business has to be involving, it has to be fun, and it has to exercise your creative instincts.”

– Richard Branson

Business is a feature of everyone’s life. Either we purchase goods and services from a business or we create our own. This course is for students who wish to do further tertiary study in the area of Business, or for those who wish to go out and run their own business after completing the HSC. Whilst there are some mathematical concepts involved, they are of a basic level so that students not studying mathematics in Year 12 can still complete Business Studies successfully.

Students in Business Studies learn about the four main sectors of business:

- operations
- marketing
- human resources
- finance.

Students also study what it is to be an entrepreneur and what the role and skills of management entail. The Year 11 Preliminary course focuses on smaller, local business examples whilst the Year 12 HSC course involves an in-depth study of large companies. Students also investigate business planning and use a range of information to assess and evaluate business performance.

Business Studies has its own language to learn and use in class; a language that is communicated throughout the business world. Business Studies gives students the opportunity to learn this language as well as some of the skills necessary to successfully run a business. Good writing skills are needed in completing assessment work in Business Studies.

Business courses at University remain in high demand and this course helps prepares that path. Business at University is usually a generalist course and thus employers look towards specific skills that help demonstrate a unique set of learning that can be applied specifically in the business environment. To that end it is good to have a set of subjects that help create that niche business talent. Courses that work well with Business Studies includes TAS subjects, anything from an understanding of computers (coding etc.) to practical subjects like Textiles / Timber / Food Tech that do industry studies. CAFS students often find the two work together well as they both explore concepts around management. Other HSIE subjects also make a good combination, for example Geography does 1/3 of the HSC on business / industry, Economics looks at understanding industry as a whole whilst Legal Studies covers the legal aspects of running a business. Subjects of interest to the student can also be combined with Business Studies as well because the course also looks at the practical skills needed to run your own business in a variety of areas.

The Business Studies course has three main topics in Year 11 and four in the HSC year. There are a lot of new concepts and content to learn but the HSC course is built on the learning that occurs in Year 11.

The Preliminary (Year 11) Course:

- The nature of business
- Business management
- Business planning

The HSC (Year 12) Course

- Operations
- Marketing
- Finance
- Human resources

See the NESA Business Studies syllabus on the website below for more information.

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/hsie/business-studies>