



# Theme 1: Marketing and People

## Course Companion for AS and A Level Edexcel Business

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# Teacher's Introduction

This resource has been written to support the learning and teaching of Edexcel AS Level and A Level in Business (Theme 1: Marketing and People). It gives an in-depth view of the new qualification, expanding on every specification point, plus extras along the way for extended learning.

At the beginning of each chapter, you will find a list of contents showing every specification point that is covered. There are also questions and answers at the end of each chapter plus mini case studies, complete with answers, to help students transfer their knowledge into real-life business contexts. Any key terms are explained chapter by chapter and are also revisited as a glossary at the end of the resource.

Students get plenty of chances to practise their quantitative skills in this resource, including:

- **QS 2:** calculate, use and understand percentages and percentage changes (Chapters 1.2.4. and 1.2.5.)
- **QS 3:** construct and interpret a range of standard graphical forms (Chapters 1.2.1. – 1.2.3.)
- **QS 7:** interpret values of price and income elasticity of demand (Chapters 1.2.4. and 1.2.5.)
- **QS 8:** use and interpret quantitative and non-quantitative information in order to make decisions (all chapters)
- **QS 9:** interpret, apply and analyse information in written, graphical and numerical forms (all chapters)

While extremely valuable to a student's revision, this resource should be treated as a companion to the many other textbooks and activity guides available. As with any subject, it is good to read as widely as possible!

The subjects covered in this resource include everything from market research and price elasticity of demand to motivational theory, entrepreneurship and the marketing mix. The notes included in this resource can be given to students before a lesson as preparation for a topic, afterwards in order to help solidify their knowledge, or can be used by teachers as a supplement to in-class exercises and activities.

It is hoped that this resource, as well as offering support for teaching the essential elements of the Edexcel examination, will help students build on their research and dissemination skills. The business world is a constantly changing one full of fascinating stories. This resource attempts to share some of these stories as a basis for teaching in the most interesting way possible, meanwhile encouraging further study from the next generation of business analysts!

Happy teaching!

July 2015

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Endorsed), 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015

- Development of keywords within the text to include further useful explanation per section
- Each section of this course companion now takes its name directly from the specification, making it easier for teachers and students to quickly find the information they need
- Refined questions on price and income elasticity of demand (chapters 1.2.4–1.2.5) and on cost-pricing (chapter 1.3.3) so that they reflect more closely the requirements of a four-mark 'calculate' question
- Developed the number of possible answers available to students. Examples include supply and demand shift, which now considers the effects of inferior goods.
- Further information for students on creating, developing, running and expanding a business (chapter 1.5.1)

### Free Updates!

Register your email address to receive any future free updates\* made to this resource or other Business resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

\* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

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# 1.1 Meeting Customer Needs

## 1.1.1. The Market

### ! Key Points Covered

- Mass Markets and Niche Markets
- Market Size and Market Share
- Brands
- Dynamic Markets
- How Competition Works
- The Difference between Mass and Niche Markets

A market is any place that brings together anyone who wishes to sell a product/service (supplier) with anyone looking to purchase (consumer). The buying and selling of goods can take place anywhere, from a local level (e.g. the corner shop or car boot sale) to a national level (e.g. the purchase of stock or shares on the national or regional stock exchange). Goods and services can be purchased physically, with the buyer and seller meeting face-to-face, or electronically over the Internet.



### Mass Markets and Niche Markets

A mass market involves a wide range of potential consumers, who have varied backgrounds and interests. Businesses that target mass markets generally sell goods/services that have large appeal. Examples range from grocery stores and supermarkets to general clothes shops.

Niche markets have much smaller target audiences and generally focus on products or services that are often ignored by big business. These involve particular markets whose customers have very specific requirements. Examples of businesses in niche markets include boutique jewellery shops and handmade crafts.

### Market Size and Market Share

Every business needs some *market share* in order to survive. Market share shows the proportion of sales a business makes within a market compared to its competitors.

Let's use examples for market size and market share:

If the total number of smartphones sold around the world in 2014 was 900 million and the average price of one smartphone was £80.00, the market size of the smartphone industry was:

Market size in 2014 = Number of units sold x Average selling price

Market size in 2014 = 900 million units x £80.00

Market size in 2014 = £72,000,000,000

If one smartphone producer sold 180 million units during 2014, we can then use this to calculate its market share:

Market share in 2014 =  $\frac{\text{Revenue generated by firm}}{\text{Total revenue within the market}}$

Market share in 2014 =  $\frac{(180 \text{ million} \times £80.00)}{£72,000,000,000} \times 100$

Market share in 2014 =  $\frac{£14,400,000,000}{£72,000,000,000} \times 100$

Market share in 2014 = 20 per cent

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Niche markets are considerably smaller than mass markets. Consider the difference between a major chain supermarket (mass) and an organic health food shop (niche): one caters for all consumers while the other has a very specific audience. Businesses in niche markets, therefore, can potentially claim a large market share. However, there are fewer customers overall and so fewer opportunities to make sales.

## Brands

A business operating within a mass market has a large target audience but often a low market share. Niche businesses, on the other hand, work in smaller markets and so can gain large market share quickly – though it does not normally take long for competitors to notice this and try to join the market, too.

Businesses combat both of these issues with branding techniques. Whether or not quality, a strong brand will make you stand out. Many businesses focus on branding awareness of their products, service and to generate consumer loyalty. When other (or mass), a strong brand will help existing companies survive.

## Dynamic Markets

### How Markets Change

No market is static for very long as there are always changes arising from:

1. *Seasonal factors*
2. *Consumer tastes*
3. *Consumer attitudes*
4. *Government regulations*
5. *The availability of new technologies*
6. *New competitors entering the market*
7. *Changes in business structure and outsourcing*

For these reasons it is very important that businesses *recognise market trends*. A trend is which things *tend to move*. For example, one current trend in marketing is for businesses to focus on the Internet. Firms around the world recognise how important a role the Internet plays in people's lives and use it heavily in their social media presences and online advertising.

It is important for a business to *review and analyse* such trends so that it can:

1. Make *better* decisions
2. Modify forecasts and set *realistic* targets in response to a trend
3. Anticipate and deliver the *right* resources to the *right* places at the *right* time
4. Recognise opportunities for *innovation and improvement* on its products and services
5. Develop a *strategic vision* and formulate *alternative futures* for its products and services

### Online Retail, Innovation, Market Growth and Adapting to Change

The availability of new technology – in particular the Internet – has changed the way we live and work. Consumers can now sit at a desk or on the sofa (or even lie in bed!) and do their shopping using a mouse or using their tablet/phone.

This change has seen a complete overhaul in retail. Businesses no longer need bricks and mortar. Online stores are open 24 hours a day – consumers can even shop at night. Businesses no longer need to employ a team of sales assistants to help customers find what they need. All of this has allowed businesses to cut down costs and pass the savings on to the consumer as lower prices, helping businesses retain future sales.

Changes in technology have led to a change in the market, too. The 'high street' that we know today is much more varied than the physical high street of the past. This is because the cost of opening a shop is lower – plus firms do not need actual shop fronts – and so more businesses can afford to open.

Buyer power has changed, too: price comparison sites are available to us in seconds, and so consumers are more informed than ever. In previous years, consumers had to rely on word of mouth or reviews from friends to make a decision.

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able to pitch a product/service to consumers walking into their store. Now, however, competitors are struggling for the same market. Technology has made it more affordable to produce goods, but the potential for competition is much greater.

The rise of online retail outlets, such as Amazon, has created a more 'cut-throat' business environment where businesses consistently try to outdo one another on price. Due to this, trends do not last long. If a business does not stay ahead of the curve, it will miss out. This is something that HMV and Lewis, have had to adapt to.

Can you think of any ways in which businesses such as HMV had to adapt due to online retail?

## How Competition Affects the Market

An *integrated marketing process*, which is a combination of marketing methods and strategies, aims to reach and target potential customers and gain a better understanding of their needs and wants, while ensuring the business is delivering appropriate goods and services to their customers. An integrated marketing process gives a business a *strong competitive edge* over its rivals.

An integrated marketing approach encourages a business to be *more proactive* and plan ahead for product development, product quality guarantee, product pricing, product promotion and to anticipate competitor threats. Integrated marketing affords a business the *opportunity to be competitive* by using tools to help analyse, understand and satisfy a dynamic market environment, at home and abroad.

In addition, *competitiveness* can be improved when a business reduces its costs, improves the quality of its customer care, improves its after-sales service, and introduces retraining programmes.

Competitiveness reflects the *energy and effectiveness* of all of the business' functions relating to the product or service to make it *more desirable* to buyers. Although an effective integrated marketing policy plays an important role in this, a business must also do the following:

1. *Assess its organisational strengths and weaknesses*, including the skills and experience of all employees. This allows a business to analyse its present and future needs and improve its competitive ability.
2. *Develop strategies for external change* in the local, national and global economic environment, the environment, technology and the political climate. A business must have *control* over external change.
3. *Ensure that adequate finance is available* to implement strategies and plans.
4. *Use new and appropriate technologies* to reduce costs, increase business efficiency and stimulate market growth and gain a competitive advantage over business rivals.
5. *Devise and monitor an integrated human resources policy* to ensure that employees have the knowledge, skills and experience to contribute to the business's current and future success.
6. *Know who its customers are*, what they want and need and when they want it. An integrated marketing mix, coupled with an integrated approach to marketing, will help ensure the marketing objective is achieved.
7. *Outsource work to other businesses when and if appropriate*. This is an externalisation theory, for example, a manufacturing business specialises in the manufacture of goods and may not have the resources to undertake extensive market research and so may employ a specialist market research agency to undertake such research on its behalf.
8. *Ensure that they provide a top quality product or service*. Best practice in quality management ensures the competitiveness of a business on local, national and global bases. This is best practice in *quality management* which guarantees *continuous quality* for a product or service. For example, business excellence awards, ISO 9000 certification, which is the generic name given to a family of quality standards, provide a framework around which a *quality management system* can effectively be implemented.

Market conditions and actions of competitors do have an *impact on the competitive environment*. A *strategic plan* is prepared that takes these factors into account a *negative impact* may be experienced.

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## The Difference between Risk and Uncertainty

Firms run into *risk* and *uncertainty* whenever they make business decisions. These decisions can involve anything from expanding a production line or hiring more staff to moving locations, buying equipment or making capital investment.

All business decisions carry with them a degree of *risk* or *uncertainty* and potential for *reward* (i.e. what a firm expects to get out of its business decision if it is successful). The words 'risk' and 'uncertainty' are often used to mean the same thing; however, a subtle distinction can be made between them.

**Uncertainty:** this is a negative effect that comes from the natural course of business costs and rewards for businesses in ways they cannot reliably predict. As such, business uncertainty – however, they can be prepared for it, firms build themselves portfolio in any way, should one product start to fail due to unforeseen circumstances, the business can sell sales in order to survive (the sales from other products).

**Risk:** like gambling, firms take risks with every decision they make in the hopes that they will get a reward. A new investment, for example, can either succeed or fail. Firms use risk management to assess the potential impact of their business decisions, weighing the potential reward against the risk. The main objective here is to achieve the greatest reward with the least amount of risk. Risk, therefore, is the amount of control a firm has over it.

Let's use capital investment as an example:

Businesses undertake *capital investment* for many reasons, such as to *replace* broken or modern equipment or to help expand their operations. Whatever the reason, capital investment takes up a business's finance for a considerable number of years and so it is important that the decision is made.

If a new piece of machinery costs £25,000, but could potentially double current sales, the firm must weigh up the risk against the reward. Is doubling sales enough to pay for the new machinery? How long will it take to pay off the £25,000? How long will the machinery last before the firm needs to replace it? Will the company need to hire more staff as well?

There is uncertainty, too: the investment could fail, or the business's products could be rejected by the consumer market. Does the business have enough other products in its portfolio to survive the uncertainty?

### 1.1.1. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in your exercise book.

1.
  - a. Explain the difference between mass, mature and niche markets.
  - b. Give three types of changes that can have impact on a dynamic market.
2. Copy out and fill in the gaps with either 'risk' or 'uncertainty':

Businesses often refer to \_\_\_\_\_ as things that cannot be predicted.

\_\_\_\_\_ has a certain probability and, therefore, can be calculated.

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## 1.1.2. Market Research



### Key Points Covered

- Product and Market Orientation
- Primary and Secondary Market Research Data
- Limitations of Market Research, Sample Size and Bias
- Use of ICT to
- Market Segm

### Product and Market Orientation

Consumer markets provide goods and services to the final consumer for their own use. Examples include groceries, household appliances, clothing or hairdressing.

Industrial markets tend to provide goods and services to commercial business concerns. Examples include resold, raw materials to be transformed into services such as transport facilities.

In order to sell their products or services, businesses can adopt different approaches to marketing.

Some take a *product-orientated* approach. This is the old, traditional approach where businesses tend to concentrate on the product itself (quality and performance) without taking potential consumer needs, wants and attitudes into account. In today's marketing environment, not focusing on the customer is a very risky strategy.

#### The Business

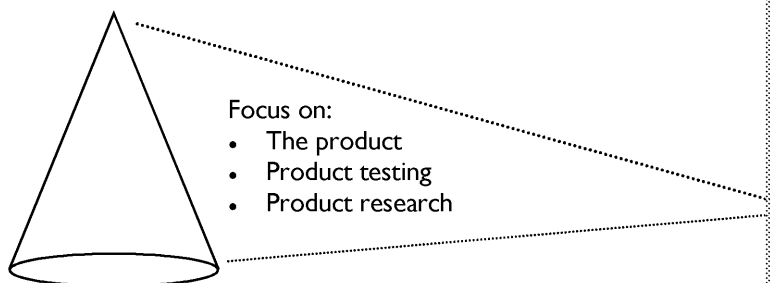


Diagram: Product-orientated business

Businesses that adopt this strategy are *taking the customer for granted*, believing their product is 'good enough' for the customer and will sell no matter what. The technology giant Apple is a classic example of a product-orientated business. The company focuses on the quality and performance of its products rather than what consumers want or need. Apple's brand is strong enough that every product they launch generates worldwide news, generating buzz, interest and high-volume sales.

Product orientation does not work for everyone, though. IBM, 'International Business Machines Corporation', fell into a self-made trap with the launch of their first personal computer in 1981. IBM came late to the personal computer market, but other companies had established a strong presence. IBM, however, believed that their well-established name and excellent reputation in the mainframe computer market would carry through to the personal computer market. The firm then concentrated on the *strength of IBM's name and reputation*, not fully focusing on the customer.

This was not a success and sales of the IBM PC were much lower than expected.

Taking a *customer- or market-orientated* approach is now much more common and puts the customer *at the centre* of the business's decision-making process. It focuses on the customer's needs and then attempts to satisfy that demand. It involves *continuously* monitoring the market and adjusting the product and processes appropriately to meet their needs. This approach. The market-orientated approach needs businesses to adopt a *Kaizen* approach to product manufacture and development. Another example of market-orientated is a chain supermarket, which continuously aims to stock the right products to encourage sales.

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## The Business



Focus on:

- The customer
- Market testing
- Market research

Diagram: Market-orientated business

A market-orientated business will make decisions in a continuous cycle:

1. *Gathering information* about all relevant and potential stakeholders, the market trends so they can provide the customer with what they want at a price they can afford. This involves gathering information from existing customers, potential customers, competitors and market trends.
2. *Understanding SWOT analysis* to evaluate the Strengths and Weaknesses of the business, its competitors and identify Opportunities and Threats that exist in their market.
3. Ensuring that the business *always focuses* on providing customers with exactly what they want at an *affordable price*.

## Primary and Secondary Market Research Data

Have you ever been stopped in the street to answer a few questions or received an email survey? If you answered 'yes', then you have taken part in market research.

Firms conduct market research by *collecting and analysing data* gathered from the market. They can collect this data themselves (through email surveys or competitions, for example) or use the services of *specialist market-research agencies*.

### Primary Research

Primary research is *original research*, which involves gathering information *directly from the target audience* of potential consumers. This can be carried out using face-to-face interviews, telephone interviews, postal surveys, web forms, email, observations, focus groups, consumer panels and test marketing.

Businesses often create *questionnaires* for use in primary research. They must take care, though – the following points should be considered when producing questionnaires:

1. *How will the survey be conducted?* (E.g. by face-to-face interview, by post, by telephone or over the Internet?) This will determine the *structure* of the questionnaire.
2. What is the *objective* of the research?
3. *How many questions* will be asked?
4. Do the questions have any 'loaded' questions?
5. Are any of the questions *ambiguous*?

### ✓ Advantages of using primary research:

1. It finds *new* information about the target market.
2. It reveals *relevant* and *up-to-date* information on the target market.
3. It allows the business to *concentrate time and money* on its target market.

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### ✘ **Disadvantages of using primary research:**

1. It is *time-consuming* and *expensive*.
2. The *accuracy* and *reliability* of the data collected can depend on the *person* researcher and the *structure* of the questions asked.
3. The validity of the answers obtained depends on the *mood of the interviewee* and may not reflect the opinion of the population as a whole.

### **Secondary Research**

Secondary research is the collection of data from information that *already exists*. This can come from business archives, market reports, government departments, the Internet, newspaper and magazines, journals. *Remember: all secondary research was once primary research!*

### ✔ **Advantages of using secondary research:**

1. It is much *cheaper* and *quicker* to carry out than field research.
2. Data and information about the *whole mass market*, rather than just the *sample* gathered.
3. It allows the business to examine *trends* in its market.

### ✘ **Disadvantages of using secondary research:**

1. The *reliability* of historic data must be treated with caution.
2. Secondary data is time-dependent: it may have been collected *with a different purpose* (e.g. the companies in the data may no longer exist), which does not *relate to the current situation*.
3. This historical data may also be *available to competitors*.

### **Quantitative or Qualitative?**

Unlike primary and secondary research data, which differ in the way they are gathered, quantitative and qualitative research differ in the way they are documented.

**Quantitative research** asks *closed questions*, such as 'how many hours do you spend on the internet?' or 'what is your favourite food?'. The questions have very little scope for developing a long sentence answer and are generally presented in numerical form, such as line graphs.

**Qualitative research**, on the other hand, asks *open questions*, such as 'why do you like this food?' or 'what food do you associate with your childhood and why?'. These questions are open-ended and the interviewee can give as long or short an answer as they like. The end result is generally a narrative rather than statistics, allowing the researcher to investigate any themes that stretch across the data.

Primary and secondary research can be both qualitative (e.g. primary high-street interviews, published journal articles) and quantitative (e.g. primary face-to-face questionnaire surveys).

*Effective Market Research* takes both quantitative and qualitative research into consideration to make *more informed* marketing decisions, *reduce risk* and gain potential *competitive advantage*. As we have seen, market research is *costly* and *time-consuming*, but it can help businesses gather valuable information.

- The *size* of the market
- The *growth* of the market (i.e. whether there is demand and if it is growing or declining)
- *Characteristics* of the market (social, legal, economic, political and technological)
- *Competitors* and their business processes
- What the *public think* about all aspects of their product/service
- The *target markets* (i.e. the market *segment* to which they intend to sell)
- The *structure* of the market (i.e. the type, size and number of competitors)
- Consumer behaviour, their *needs*, *wants* and *price* they are willing to pay

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Most market research processes go through the following steps:

1. *Identify* the problem
2. *Decide* on an appropriate method of research
3. *Determine* data type (primary or secondary) and sources
4. *Design* the data capture form
5. *Decide* on where to get the sample and on its size
6. *Collect* the data
7. *Analyse and interpret* the data
8. *Produce* a market research report

## Limitations of Market Research, Sample Size and Bias

While market research has great value, there are sometimes problems with the data.

- **Structure:** Data collected may not be accurate enough to make good market decisions. If the questions asked are too closed, the data may not be really useful.
- **Size:** It can be misleading. Our research says that 65% of the population will buy Kit Kat. This doesn't mean they will – this data has come from a sample and may not reflect what happens on a UK-wide scale. How can you be sure that your representative sample is accurate enough to extrapolate the data to a UK population of potential sales?

In other words, how do you know by asking 50 men aged 25–35 from Bournemouth that all UK men will buy Lynx deodorant?

- **Representation:** Data collected may not take into account regional differences. People may buy Welsh cakes in Sussex, but market researchers get a very positive response. This is potentially expensively misleading. Regional differences can be subtle, but they can be a disaster.

Some companies, such as Coca-Cola, take a global approach to their marketing while others, such as Domino's Pizza, allow each country to handle their own marketing for franchisees.

- **Bias:** When companies collect data, they need to be as fair as possible. If a question is too closed, for instance, it would likely generate a one-sided response from most people being surveyed.

The interviewer needs to be fair, too. If the business is looking for a specific correlation (e.g. the number of people that drink milk in each area), they may not ask what drinks are popular other than milk).

Time affects bias, too. A sample that is questioned one year may feel very different the next. This could be due to any number of factors, including changes in average income, technology, gentrification, and branding. Companies, therefore, need to sample over different periods to get a fair picture of their target market.

Questions to ask when choosing on a method of sampling:

1. What is the *cost*?
2. Will it prevent *sample bias*?
3. How long will the *process* take?
4. How much *finance* is available?
5. Is it the *best method* for the task?
6. Who and where is the *target market*?
7. Can the population be *divided into groups*?
8. What *type* of product or service is being tested?
9. How *closely* will it *represent* the total population group?

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Limitations of the sampling process can be found by asking the following questions

- 1. Have the people sampled *told the truth*?
- 2. Has the 'right' *sample size* been chosen?
- 3. Has the data been collected *without bias*?
- 4. Have the appropriate questions been asked?
- 5. Has the appropriate target audience been selected?
- 6. Has the appropriate sampling technique been used?
- 7. Have the results of the sample been *correctly analysed*?
- 8. Has the sampler actually taken the sample, or were the *results fictitious*?

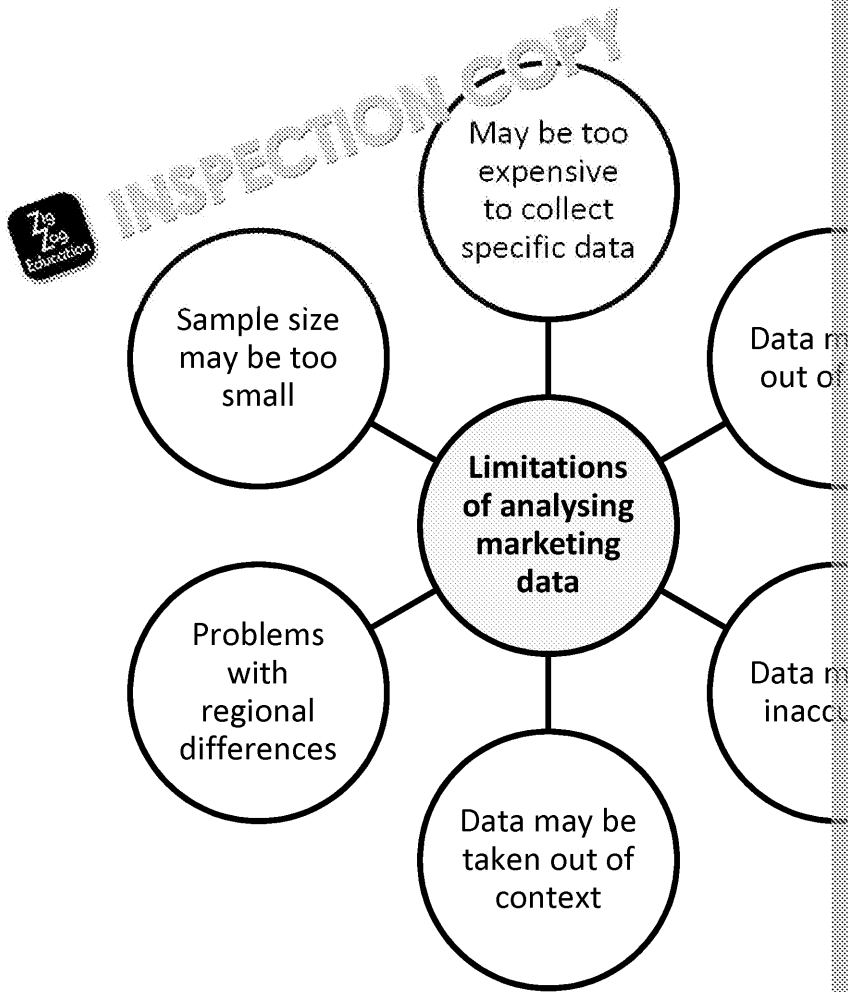


Diagram: The possible problems with data for marketing analysis

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## Use of ICT to Support Market Research

There are many benefits to using ICT to analyse marketing data; here are a selection of examples of how ICT is used in today's dynamic marketplace.

- Businesses often compare public databases with their own private sales records to identify trends in the market. This analysis is particularly useful in industries where there is high demand and where products are consumer-driven, such as the small electronics market (e.g. mobile phones, tablets, etc.). A downfall with this form of analysis is the use of public databases. If you have access to these databases, then businesses need to assume that their competitors also have access to them. They cannot rely on this analysis alone!
- Most supermarkets and department stores use loyalty cards. Customers receive rewards for spending in-store while the company collects data on their buying patterns. The data also includes personal details, such as home address and email. This information is then used to better target customers with products/services that they will actually buy. Companies also use it to specifically target customers with direct mail.

One main downfall with loyalty schemes is that buying habits can be misleading. For example, if you understand that they get a better deal for buying certain products from certain stores, you may offer at Supermarket A, you probably won't buy it from Supermarket B. This is not a true picture of their customers. Electronic loyalty schemes are also expensive to run. If you aren't a large-scale business, you are probably better off using a different method.

- Social networking allows conversations to run on a global scale – and so products/services can potentially be seen by millions. Many businesses use social media to see what consumers are saying about them, their products and their competitors. They can also use social networks to find gaps in the market – what consumers want that they don't currently have. Following conversations or conducting online surveys.

Social networks, however, do not always show a fair picture of what people think. For example, if you are in the market. Not all potential consumers are on social networks for a start. If a product is only available for instance, the majority of its consumers will be elderly and probably not on social media. If someone writes a terrible review of your product on social media, you can't assume it represents the entire market. Likewise, if one person loves your service, don't assume it represents the entire market.

Effective use of ICT to support market research will involve a *mixture of all* these examples, tailored specifically to the business, such as sales forecasting and running hypothetical 'what if' scenarios.

## Market Segmentation

If you peel an orange, you can break it into segments. No two segments are alike – and the same can be said for markets.

Businesses split their markets into segments in order to understand who the average consumer is: what they want and what they are willing to pay. Businesses pick out the segment of people that are most likely to buy their product/service and target them. Each segment that a business wishes to target requires a specific *marketing mix*. This process (called *market segmentation*) is conducted to ensure that any marketing budget is used effectively to produce a high return.

Market segmentation allows firms to conduct *differentiated* marketing, which focuses on different customer groups. *Undifferentiated* (or mass) marketing treats customers as a *homogeneous* group.

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There are four common methods of market segmentation:

1. *Demographic segmentation* is by age, family size, occupation, ethnicity, education, etc. A computer game, for example, may be aimed at male children between the ages of 10 and 15. A teaching textbook for Business would be primarily aimed at Business teachers.
2. *Geographic segmentation* is by town, county, country, climate and population. A sightseeing tour business, for instance, may segment the market by town, county or country. A developer of a new type of child pram, meanwhile, may use population birth rates to identify a target market.
3. *Behavioural segmentation* is based on how customers react to, and behave in, a particular situation. It involves analysing customers' brand loyalty, usage, attitudes, responses and needs. A business offering services on offer.
4. *Psychographic segmentation* involves analysing customers according to their personality, values and attitudes.

✓ **Advantages of market segmentation include:**

- It helps the business to know its customers.
- It focuses the business strategy on a specific target audience.
- It encourages the business to specialise to meet the needs of a particular segment.
- It helps to provide focus for the allocation of business resources.

✗ **Disadvantages of market segmentation include:**

- It is a costly and time-consuming process.
- It could lead to the manufacture of too many different products.
- It could over-narrow the focus of the business.

It is very important that a business targets the right group of customers – those who are most vital to identify these segments correctly. Market segmentation helps businesses to identify their customers, recognise competitors, measure performance and anticipate future market trends. It is impossible for a business to develop an effective marketing strategy (or 'fine tune' its strategy) unless it has correctly identified the market segments.

### 1.1.2. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

3. Is reading through market reports considered primary or secondary research?
4.
  - a. Identify two advantages of primary research.
  - b. Identify three limitations of market research.

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1.1.3. Market Positioning

!	Key Points Covered	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Market Mapping</li><li>Competitive Advantage of a Product or Service</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Purpose of P</li><li>Adding Value to</li></ul>

Market Mapping

Once a business has collected enough data to give a fair picture of its target market it needs to be able to make sense of it (drawing conclusions). One effective way of doing this is to collate the information into a *market map*. A market map takes two features (e.g. price and size, speed and quality), and compares them on two axes. This method is particularly useful for start-up companies or firms looking to introduce a new product as a way to identify any gaps in the market.

Take a look at the example market map below, which shows newspapers in the UK and how they differ by price and content.

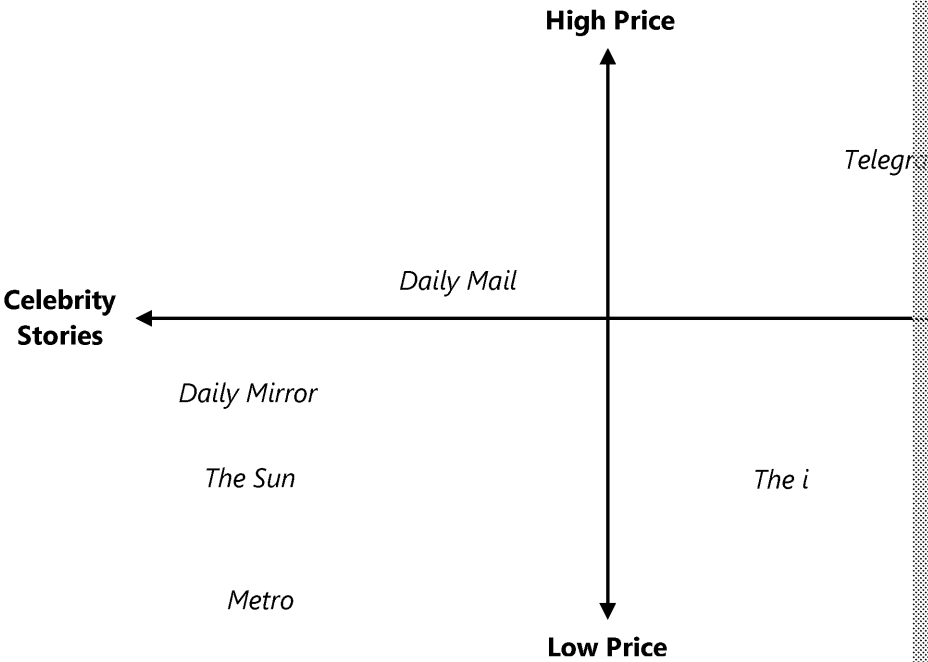


Diagram: Market map of newspapers in the UK

The market map above shows how British newspapers differ by price and content. Newspapers like *The Sun* and *The Mirror* focus more on celebrity stories (left of the map) than *The Guardian*, *Telegraph*, *Independent* or *The i*. *Daily Mirror* and *Metro* are similar in content but differ by price – *Daily Mirror* is the more expensive of the two, while *Metro* is free.

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## Focus: *The i* Paper

### Question:

Discuss the disadvantages that come with market mapping.

### Keeping an Eye on

The publishing company, Independent Newspapers, decided to publish the daily newspaper. They researched the publishing market and found there was a gap. Consumers did not have a newspaper on their hands as they used to. The company paid attention to this and in 2010, created *The i*, a sister paper that is quick to read and to navigate. It has a mix of news, but many still prefer world news rather than celebrity news. Pages of *The i* have story summaries, world news, pop culture, tech, and more. It also has puzzle pages and TV guides.

*The i* has become such a success that it has a larger circulation across the country than the *Independent*.

## Competitive Advantage of a Product or Service

When a company spots a gap in the market, it can use this information to better design its product or service. This helps the company gain *competitive advantage* (or 'an edge') over its rivals. Companies can gain this advantage in many ways, such as:

- Reliability of products/services
- Quality
- Price
- Key product features
- Customer service
- Convenience
- Infrastructures able to cope with demand
- Branding and promotion
- Innovation
- Marketing and advertising

Good examples of companies that manage to gain competitive advantage in their markets include Virgin (using their strong branding to enter new markets), IKEA (providing quality products at low prices) and Microsoft (able to innovate as trends change).

## The Purpose of Product Differentiation

Companies use *product differentiation* as a way to gain advantage over their competitors. They identify unique features (*unique selling points* or *USPs*) and then market the product to stand out from the competition. Sir James Dyson saw a gap in the vacuum market with his invention of the 'bagless' vacuum. Dyson spent years researching and developing the perfect product. Since then, the name Dyson has become synonymous around the world for high quality.

One main benefit of product differentiation for firms is that the producer does not need to compete. If your product is the best quality option on the market and customers choose you! Once consumers are choosing your product over others, they may start to choose others, too!

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## Adding Value to Products/Services

**Added Value** is the difference between the price at which a business sells its product and the cost of producing that product/service. Businesses add value to their products/services in many ways. Some ways are more attractive and desirable to the customer. Firms achieve this by changing the product itself or by changing the way that customers perceive the product (through advertising and branding).

You can calculate the added value of a product/service using the following formula:

$$\text{Added value} = \text{Selling price of product/service} - \text{Total cost of producing product/service}$$

Making a product/service more desirable helps to keep customers happy, attract more customers and increase purchases – some customers might even refer their friends to the business. This can help to reduce the business's advertising and marketing costs and improve and consolidate its position in the market share and market growth.

Value can be added *functionally* or *aesthetically*. Some ways to *functionally* add value to a product or service are:

1. Offer customers several *alternative methods* of payment, e.g. credit card, debit card, cheque or cash.
2. Offer customers the facility of purchasing a *gift voucher* for the product/service for themselves, their family and friends on special occasions.
3. Issue customers with a *loyalty card* so that they can *get something back* on their next purchase of a product or use a service.
4. Offer customers *cash discounts* on purchases or introduce *special promotions* (e.g. buy one and get the second for half price).
5. Offer customers *warranties* and extended warranties on the product purchased.
6. Provide customers with a reliable *after-sales service* for the product.
7. Give customers the option of purchasing '*add-ons*' or '*upgrades*' for the product or service.
8. Price the product or service appropriately. *Higher-priced* products create a perception of quality and have a certain '*snob*' value.

Some ways to *aesthetically* add value to a product or service are:

1. Associate the product or service with *well-known* personalities or businesses.
2. Package and present the product in a way that creates the *perception* of quality.
3. Present the product as a *uniquely designed* '*must-have*' item.

### 1.1.3. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

5. Choose a product type (such as sweets or magazines) and draw a market map using axes include price, age group and location. Are there any gaps? What could the business do to fill them?
6.
  - a. What equation is used to calculate added value?
  - b. Identify two ways in which a firm can add value to products/services
    - i. Functionally
    - ii. Aesthetically

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## 1.1. Keywords

<b>Stock exchange:</b>	A place where public limited companies (plc) trade shares. Individuals and other companies are able to buy shares in a firm.
<b>Dynamic markets:</b>	These are markets that change with a variety of factors, government regulations and the emergence of new companies.
<b>Stable markets:</b>	These markets stay the same regardless of changing factors and standard bread markets.
<b>Trend:</b>	The direction in which most things appear to be moving. New technology firms to attract young consumers.
<b>Competition:</b>	When two or more firms offer their products/services to the market in competition with one another.
<b>External factors:</b>	Influences from outside the company which affect the company. Changes in consumer tastes.
<b>Risk vs uncertainty:</b>	Risk is generally something that can be planned for. Uncertainty involves the factors, normally external, that are beyond the company's control. They are generally unable to plan for them.
<b>Product orientation:</b>	When a business focuses more on its product and product quality than what consumers are looking for.
<b>Market orientation:</b>	When a business creates a product/service by first finding out what consumers want.
<b>Primary research:</b>	Research data that has been gathered first-hand. Businesses gather data through questionnaires and surveys.
<b>Secondary research:</b>	Research data that has been gathered second-hand, such as statistics of a survey published by another company.
<b>Market segmentation:</b>	When a market is split into groups, such as location, age, gender, etc. in order to understand on which section of the market to concentrate.
<b>Market mapping:</b>	Visual representation of a consumer market, which usually shows price vs quality).
<b>Competitive advantage:</b>	Firms that positively distinguish themselves from the competition, competitive advantage, or <i>the edge</i> , over their rivals.
<b>Differentiation:</b>	This covers the ways in which a company gains competitive advantage through product branding, price, marketing and customer service.
<b>Add value:</b>	When a business adds the sum of raw materials into a product. The value added is calculated as: Selling price of product minus cost of product/service.

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## 1.1. Answers

1.
  - a. Students should explain that mass markets are directed at large-scale markets focus on specific areas. An example of a mass market could be with handcrafted pottery, which caters to a specific (niche) market.
  - b. Changes include government legislation, consumer attitudes, new technology entering the market.
2. Businesses refer to **uncertainty** as things that cannot be predicted while risk, therefore, can be calculated.
3. Reading through market reports is considered secondary market research, secondary information. Primary research is conducted by gathering first-hand information (e.g. as questionnaires or interviews).
4.
  - a. Advantages of primary research include: reveals new information; keeps the business up to date; and allows the business time to concentrate on its target market.
  - b. Limitations could include: size (i.e. too small a sample); bias (i.e. interviewers influences other correlations); representation (e.g. regions can differ); overconsumption; and structure (e.g. closed questions).
5. Students should create a market map with two opposing axes, such as price group (young to old), and add in any products to compare. Gaps in the map are needed. Alternatively, there might be a reason for not filling some gaps, such as extremely low quality!
6.
  - a. The calculation used to define value added is:  
$$\text{Selling price of product/service} - \text{Total cost of producing the product/service}$$
  - b. Students should identify two ways for each form:
    - i. Functional ways of adding value include: cash discounts; increasing alternative methods of payment.
    - ii. Aesthetic ways of adding value include: celebrity endorsement; increasing

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## 1.2 Market

### 1.2.1. Demand



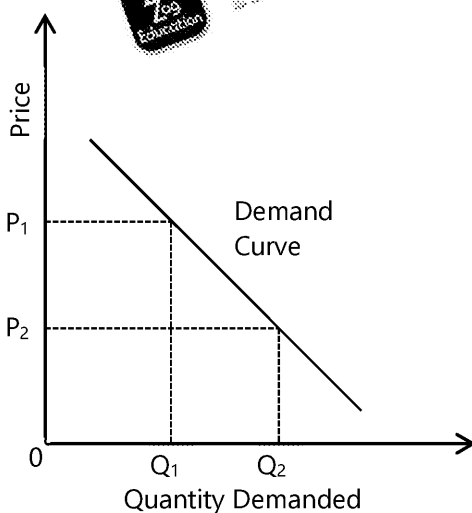
#### Key Points Covered

- Demand
- Factors Leading to

Where there is demand, there is supply.

Demand for a product/service creates a way for suppliers to make a profit. If there is no profit to gain, there is not much reason to start (or continue) a business venture.

*Effective demand* is the point at which a quantity of goods/services is desired at a certain price. A demand curve shows how demand increases or decreases with price.



The graph shows the *basic law of demand*: as the price of goods falls, the demand for goods rises. When price is high ( $P_1$ ), the quantity demanded is low ( $Q_1$ ). When price is low ( $P_2$ ), the quantity demanded is high ( $Q_2$ ). Each rise in price leads to a reduction in quantity demanded. The basic law of demand shows the relationship between price and quantity demanded from the perspective of *ceteris paribus*.

Change in price can only create a movement along the demand curve. It does not cause an *actual shift* in demand. A shift in demand moves the entire curve to the left or right – more on this later.

#### Ceteris What?

*Ceteris Paribus* is a Latin phrase meaning 'all other things being equal'. This phrase makes the assumption that nothing else is going to change.

For example, if it is snowing and someone is outside, you can assume they are feeling cold. However, you are not accounting for the possibility that the person has a coat on or is inside a heated flask of tea.

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## Factors Leading to a Change in Demand

When using the basic law of demand, *ceteris paribus*, any change in price causes movement along the demand curve – so a higher price equals a lower quantity demanded. There are other factors that can cause an actual shift to the demand curve.

Factor	Description
Disposable income	<p>If the average disposable income of a consumer increases, people will have more money available to buy goods and services. This is not a movement along the demand curve but a shift, because the overall level of demand has increased. The supply curve stays the same, with suppliers moving along their curve in order to meet the new level of demand. Prices then rise accordingly.</p> <p>It is worth noting, however, that the opposite can occur with inferior goods; as average disposable income increases, consumers change their buying habits, moving away from inferior goods, and so demand for these products will decline.</p>
Changes in price of substitute goods	<p>Goods can lose demand to substitute products. Take fresh ground coffee and instant coffee for example: if the price of fresh-ground coffee decreases so much that consumers eventually change their buying habits, demand for instant coffee will decline.</p>
Changes in price of complementary goods	<p>This is when demand for a product increases because of another related product. If lamb decreases in price, for example, its demand should rise. This, in turn, could increase demand for mint sauce, which <i>complements</i> the lamb.</p>
Fashions, tastes and preferences	<p>Fashions come and go, creating sudden demand for particular products/services. Flares were popular in the 1960s, for example – and they will have their time again! Today's consumers are more concerned with health and wellness than in previous years and so the demand for healthy products/services has increased.</p>
Successful advertising and branding	<p>Companies use advertising as a way to generate awareness of their products/services and use branding to encourage loyalty from their customers.</p>
Demographics (e.g. when areas become wealthier)	<p>The structure of a population can affect demand. If a community changes over time, so can the average consumer. For example, gentrification occurs when there is an increase of wealthier people/businesses moving in to an area.</p>
Adverse events/shocks	<p>These can include anything from war and terrorism to disease outbreaks and natural disasters. In the mid-1990s, <i>Bovine spongiform encephalopathy</i> (BSE, commonly known as mad cow disease) was found in cattle all around the UK. The disease eventually spread to humans, too, causing deaths and worldwide panic. Countries stopped importing British beef and farmers were forced to kill their cattle.</p>
Seasonality (i.e. when things are in season)	<p>Consumers buy some things only at certain times of the year. Cadbury's Crème Eggs, for instance, are popular most of the year, but sales increase around Easter. Other products/services don't make any sales until they are in season. Santa's grotto wouldn't get many visitors in summer.</p>

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1.2.1. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

1. Copy out and fill in the gaps with either 'low' or 'high':

The basic law of demand says that when price is high, demand for goods is \_\_\_\_\_  
when price is low, demand for goods is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Complete the following table, stating whether each factor shifts the demand curve

Factor	Shift Curve Left or Right
Goods are in season	
Increase in price of complementary goods	
Goods become unfashionable	
Increase in disposable income	
Increase in price of substitute goods	
Goods become fashionable	
Successful advertising and branding	
Adverse external shocks	
Goods are out of season	

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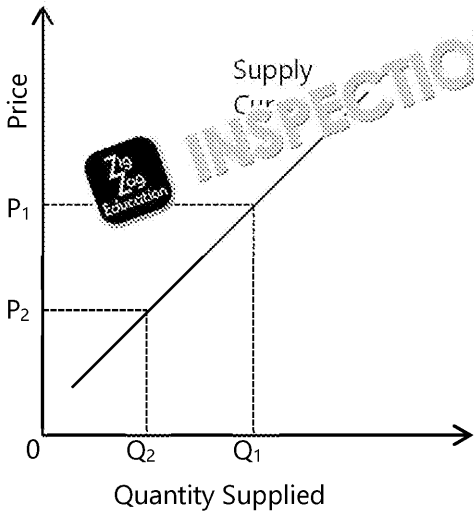
1.2.2. Supply

! Key Points Covered

- Supply
- Factors Leading to a Change in Supply

Businesses (producers that supply goods/services) see things differently to consumers.

Supply shows the quantity of products/services that a business is prepared to provide at a given price. Demand, which decreases with price, the basic law of supply states that quantity supplied increases with price, *ceteris paribus*.



The graph shows how the quantity supplied changes according to price. A higher price gives suppliers more incentive to sell their products, so the quantity supplied is high ( $Q_1$ ). Once market price falls, the quantity supplied does quantity supplied ( $Q_2$ ). Every time the price changes, the quantity supplied changes, *ceteris paribus*.

Change in price can only create a movement along the supply curve. It does not cause an *actual shift* in the supply curve to the left or right.

Factors Leading to a Change in Supply

The basic law of supply shows how price creates movement up and down the supply curve. There are other factors at play, however, which can shift the supply curve entirely.

Factor	Description
Increasing cost of production	If the cost of producing a particular good increases, businesses in general will be less inclined to supply the product.
New technological improvements	The introduction of new technologies often helps bring down the cost of production. Businesses can then produce the same (or more) goods/services with fewer (or similar) resources – so they are able and willing to supply more at a given price.
Indirect tax	The rate of value-added tax (VAT), for instance, increased on 1 January 2011 from 17.5% to 20%. This affected the price of products, although suppliers did not necessarily change quantity supplied.
Government subsidies	Some agriculture businesses are given funding from the government if they grow foods that are of national importance. Cereal and dairy farmers, for instance, can apply for subsidies to help their growing businesses, which would allow them to supply more goods.
Adverse external shocks	These include adverse weather conditions, disease, war and health scares. Some countries have refused to trade with one another (imposed a trade embargo) over the years, which restricts the quantity of goods producers can supply. One of the most famous trade embargoes is that between the USA and Cuba, which began in the 1960s.

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1.2.2. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

- 3. Identify and explain two factors that can lead to a shift in the supply curve.
- 4. Complete the following table, stating whether each factor shifts the demand curve

Factor	Shift Curve Left
Increased indirect tax	
Increasing cost of production	
Increase in government subsidies	
Adverse externalities	
New technological improvements	



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1.2.3. Markets

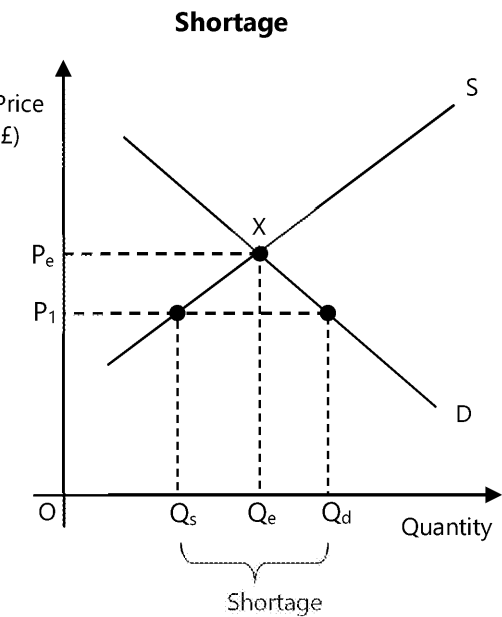
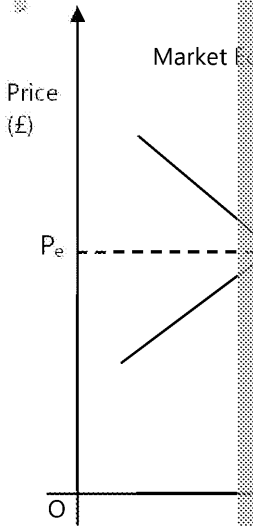
! Key Points Covered

- The Interaction of Supply and Demand
- Interpretation of

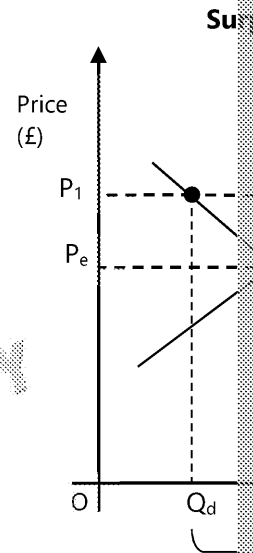
The price consumers are looking to pay does not normally match the price suppliers want. Consumer demand for goods is generally higher when prices are low, while suppliers are willing to supply more when the price is too low.

The Interaction of Supply and Demand

In a free market, producers and consumers can reach an equilibrium point where price and quantity meet. Suppliers are willing to sell their goods at the right price for the consumer ( $P_e$ ) and produce enough quantity to satisfy demand ( $Q_e$ ). This is known as market equilibrium (X), or the market clearing price.



A lower price than the market equilibrium ( $P_1$ ) may turn suppliers away, who then supply a lower quantity of goods ( $Q_s$ ). Suppliers then find they have a shortage as demand is high ( $Q_d$ ), but they cannot fulfil it.



A higher price allows suppliers to produce more products they can sell. Fewer people are

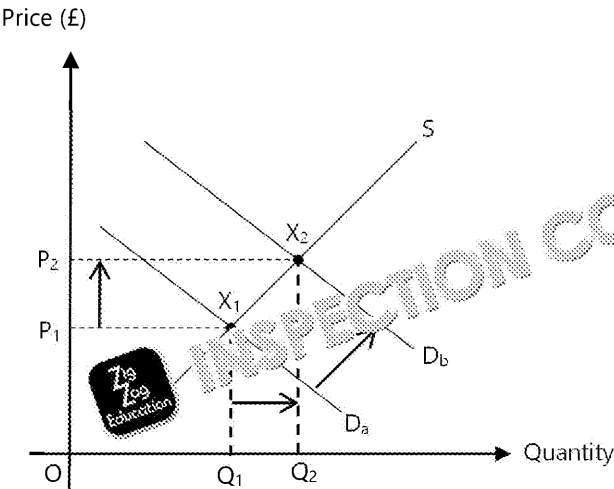
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Interpretation of Supply and Demand Diagrams

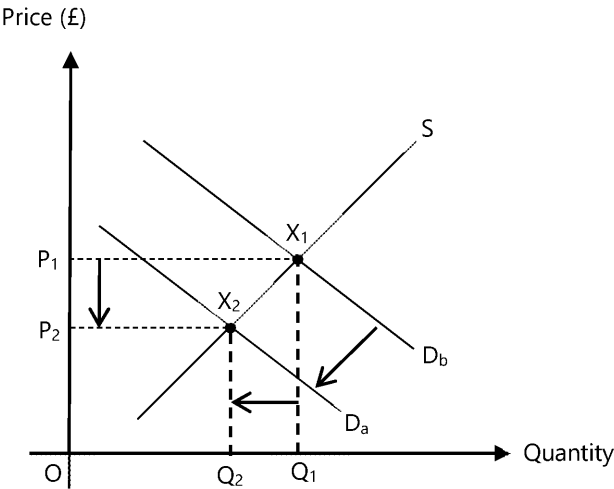
Changes in price cause movement along the demand and supply curves. If a factor however, such as a technological breakthrough, demand can suddenly increase or curve. This is represented on the graphs below.



Increase in Demand

When there is a spike in demand, suppliers will often raise the price. Following a rise in price, suppliers will produce more goods.

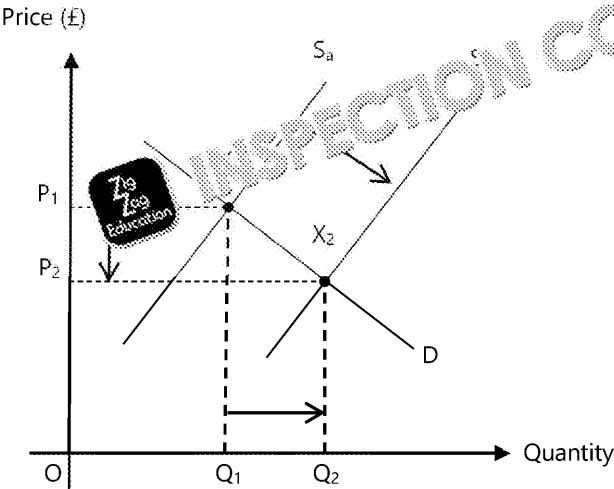
An increase in demand can be caused by a change in fashion. For example, if consumers want the latest television set, the demand curve for that television set will shift to the right, moving the market equilibrium from  $X_1$  to  $X_2$ .



Decrease in Demand

When demand falls, the price falls. Suppliers will produce fewer goods (from  $P_1$  to  $P_2$ ) and the quantity supplied. Goods prepared to produce at  $P_1$  will find no market. There will be a surplus of goods than demanded.

A decrease in demand can be caused by seasonality, such as a decrease in demand for ice cream in winter, or from an outbreak of disease. The demand curve shifts to the left, moving the equilibrium from  $X_1$  to  $X_2$ .



Increase in Supply

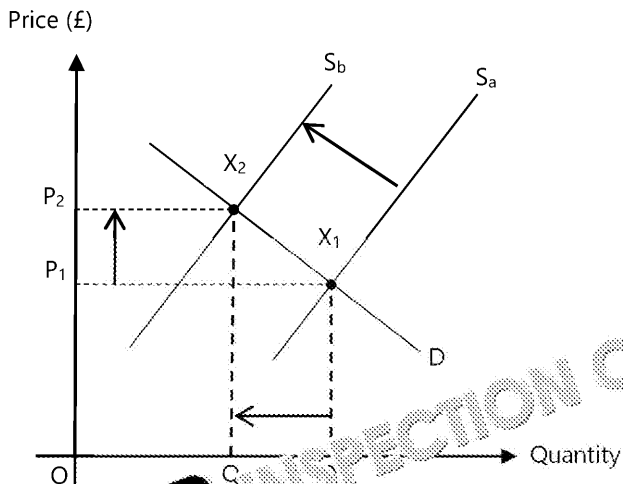
When supply changes from  $P_1$  to  $P_2$ . This means the quantity of goods produced falls. This increase shifts the supply curve to the right.

An increase in supply can be caused by technological developments, which reduce the cost of production, or from government subsidies. These factors shift the supply curve to the right, moving the market equilibrium from  $X_1$  to  $X_2$ .

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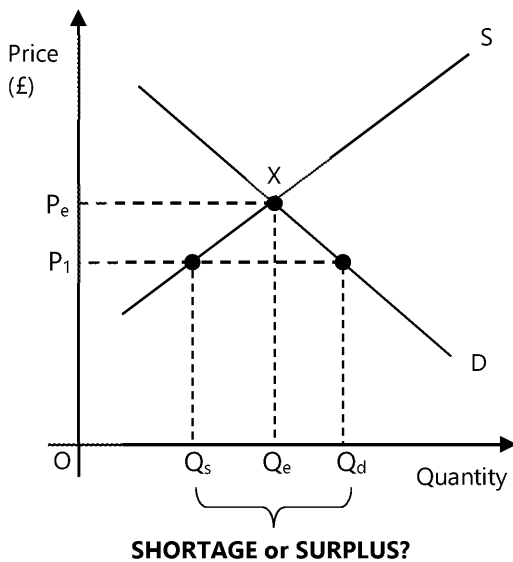




### Decrease in Supply

When supply changes from  $S_a$  to  $S_b$ , the price rises from  $P_1$  to  $P_2$ . This then leads to a decrease in quantity demanded. Goods producers are worse off as the supply curve has moved to the left.

A decrease in supply may be caused by factors such as disease, or from a change in technology. Decreases in supply shift the supply curve to the left, which moves the market to a new equilibrium.



### 1.2.3. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper.

5. Identify where the graph shows surplus.
6. a. Give the definition of demand.  
b. Identify where the graph shows shortage.

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## 1.2.4. Price Elasticity of Demand (PED)



### Key Points Covered

- Calculation of Price Elasticity of Demand (PED)
- The Factors Influencing PED
- Interpretation of their Relationship

This shows how responsive, or sensitive, the demand for a product/service is to price going to rise or fall depending on the price of the product/service.

The formula below is used to calculate this:

$$\frac{\% \text{ change in quantity demanded}}{\% \text{ change in price}}$$

If the answer is equal to 0, then there is *complete price inelasticity* of demand. This means there will be no change in demand for the product.

If the answer is *less than 1*, then demand for the product is *price inelastic*. This means very sensitive to changes in price – so, a business selling a product whose demand is *price inelastic* can increase its product's price without damaging its total revenue income.

If the answer is equal to 1, then there is *unitary price inelasticity* of demand. This means demand is *exactly the same* as the percentage change in price.

If the answer is *greater than 1*, then demand for the product is *price elastic*. This means quite sensitive to changes in price. If a business sells a product whose demand is *price elastic*, it can decrease its product's selling price and hope to increase its total revenue income.

### Example

Consider the following data:

Unit price	Quantity demanded
£18	3,000 units
£14	4,000 units
£10	5,000 units

Calculate the price elasticity of demand if the price rises from £10 to £14.

Answer:

### Change in quantity demanded:

$$\begin{aligned} &= 4,000 \text{ units minus } 5,000 \text{ units} \\ &= -1,000 \text{ units} \end{aligned}$$

### Percentage change in quantity demanded:

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{-1,000}{5,000} \times 100 \\ &= -20\% \text{ change in demand} \end{aligned}$$

### Change in price:

$$\begin{aligned} &= £14 - £10 \\ &= £4 \end{aligned}$$

### Percentage change in price:

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{£4.00}{£10.00} \times 100 \\ &= 40\% \text{ rise in price} \end{aligned}$$

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### Price Elasticity of Demand:

$$\frac{\% \text{ change in quantity demanded}}{\% \text{ change in price}}$$

$$= \frac{-20\%}{40\%}$$

$$= 0.5$$

The PED in this example is *less than 1*, which shows that demand for the product is *inelastic*. This means that if the selling price of a product might increase by £1.50, the change in demand would be *less than* £1.50. Can you think of any products/services that are price inelastic?

### Responsiveness is Key

The reaction of total revenue to a price change depends on *responsiveness*. Let's use two examples.

If the price of petrol increases, petrol prices will likely go up. People all around the world need petrol to get to work, school, the shops, taxis, and so on. Petrol is considered an essential commodity. Demand for the good is *inelastic*. People will continue to buy petrol even if the price goes up. Sales revenue, therefore, is not very responsive to price changes. Demand is price inelastic.

Parsley is different. If there was a nationwide blight on the crop, meaning most of the suppliers would be selling parsley. As such, the price of parsley might increase. Demand for parsley is price elastic; it is not considered an essential item (i.e. if the price goes up, consumers may just buy something else). Sales revenue, therefore, is very responsive to price changes. Demand is price elastic.

### The Factors Influencing Price Elasticity of Demand

Businesses calculate PED using data from contrasting levels of demand and how the price changes. Some of the factors that can influence PED include:

- The *brand loyalty* of the consumer
- The percentage of *disposable income* spent on the products
- The availability of *substitute* products
- The *frequency of purchase* for the product
- The *degree of necessity* (how much consumers really need the product)
- *Time*: Goods are normally more elastic over a *long period*, because consumers have more time to change their buying habits

### 1.2.4. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in your exercise book.

- What calculation do businesses use to determine price elasticity of demand?
  - Imagine that you are a magazine publisher. You sell your flagship (main) magazine for £3. You notice that demand for the magazine is inelastic. You decide to increase the price to £3.50. You notice that demand for the magazine decreases from 3,000 units to 1,200 units. Calculate the price elasticity of demand for the magazine.
  - Using the answer from 7b, identify and explain whether your magazine is price elastic, price unitarily elastic, or price inelastic.
- If a product is particularly price inelastic, would you advise the supplier to reduce the price to increase market share? Explain your answer.

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## 1.2.5. Income Elasticity of Demand (YED)



### Key Points Covered

- Calculation of Income Elasticity of Demand (YED)
- The Factors Influencing YED
- Interpretation of YED
- The Significance of YED

Income Elasticity of Demand (YED) shows how sensitive demand is to an increase in income. The formula below is used to calculate this:

$$\frac{\% \text{ change in quantity demanded}}{\% \text{ change in income}}$$

If the answer is *greater than 1*, this shows that demand is *income elastic*. That is, a *greater than 1% change* in the quantity demanded. This usually applies to *luxury goods* such as televisions and holidays – if you had.

Income *inelastic* demand occurs when income elasticity is *between 0 and 1*. That is, *less than 1% change* in the quantity demanded. This usually applies to *necessary goods* that we buy every day.

If the answer is *less than 1*, this shows *negative income elasticity* – if income goes up, demand goes down, vice versa. This usually applies to *inferior goods*, such as cheap bread, potatoes, rent, and hand clothing. When consumer *income increases*, people tend to buy *better quality* goods. For example, Richard Branson to eat Pot Noodles for lunch unless he really liked them!

### Example

Consider the following data:

Income	Quantity demanded
£10,000	5,000 units
£12,000	7,500 units
£15,000	10,000 units

What is the income elasticity of demand if income rises from £10,000 to £12,000?

Answer:

**Change in quantity demanded:**

$$= 7,500 - 5,000$$

$$= 2,500 \text{ units}$$

**Percentage change:**

$$= \frac{2,500}{5,000} \times 100$$

$$= 50\%$$

**Change in income:**

$$= £12,000 - £10,000 = £2,000$$

**Percentage change:**

$$= \frac{2,000}{10,000} \times 100$$

$$= 20\%$$

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## Income Elasticity of Demand:

$$\frac{\% \text{ change in quantity demanded}}{\% \text{ change in income}}$$
$$= \frac{50\%}{20\%}$$
$$= 2.5$$

The YED is *greater than one*, which shows demand is *income elastic*. A 20% rise in income leads to a 50% increase in quantity demanded. Can you think of any products/services that are income elastic?

## The Factors Influencing Income Elasticity of Demand

There are other factors at play that can influence YED. The main ones being:

- Luxury, necessity or inferior goods
- Expectations of income, such as promotion, job loss and recession

Simply put, consumers buy more inferior goods when times are tough and more luxury goods when times are good.

## The Significance of PED and YED to Businesses

Businesses take both price and income elasticity of demand very seriously. The calculations have significant effects on a firm's marketing strategies and on the overall decision-making process.

- Businesses use *price elasticity of demand* to determine the *effect* that *changes in price* have on their revenue income. Lower pricing policies work when demand is price elastic, while higher pricing works when demand is price inelastic. This helps a business decide whether any such changes in costs could be funded by the consumer through raising prices.
- PED can also help a business if it decides to operate a policy of *price discrimination* (see Chapter 1.3). So, if demand for a product is particularly *price elastic*, it would not be a good idea to raise the price of that product!
- A business that is trying to increase its market share might look to PED for advice. If demand is very *price inelastic*, for example, reducing the price of that product in order to increase sales would not be a realistic option!
- *Income elasticity of demand* helps a business decide how to organise its production in response to *changes in consumers' disposable income*. Businesses can adjust their product mix to include more everyday necessary goods and inferior goods depending on changes to the state of the economy.

## Focus: Poundland

### Question:

Analyse the possible strategic changes Poundland may make in response to a recession in the economy in order to achieve a more positive position.

### Recession Means

When the UK fell into a recession, many of the inferior goods sold at Poundland have since become luxury goods. The company has had to close many of its high streets with more than 500 stores.

The company are reaping the benefits of this. However, if consumer income falls, consumers are likely to buy fewer inferior goods. Poundland will need a strategy to ensure that consumers have enough money to buy their goods.

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### 1.2.5. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

9. Identify one example of a product/service that:
- a. has income elastic demand
  - b. has income inelastic demand
  - c. has negative income elasticity of demand
10. Explain one way in which businesses are affected by a product's/service's income

### 1.2. Keywords

	<b>Demand/Supply shift:</b> More than movement along a demand/supply curve, the shift of a demand/supply curve. A shift can occur from many factors, including changes in consumer tastes, fashions and external shocks. A shift is predominantly from a change in the costs of production.
<b>Market equilibrium:</b>	The point at which consumer demand and producer supply curves intersect.
<b>Shortage:</b>	If the market price of a product is low, firms may not want to produce their while. However, consumers will be more interested in the product and demand will rise. This leaves suppliers with more demand than they can supply, creating a market shortage.
<b>Surplus:</b>	If the market price of a product is high, suppliers are motivated to produce more goods. However, consumers may not want to pay the high price for the products. This leaves suppliers with a surplus.

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## 1.2. Answers

1. The basic law of demand says that when price is high, demand for goods and services is **low**. When price is low, demand is **high**.

2.

Factor	Shift Curve Left or Right?
Goods are in season	Right
Increase in the price of complementary goods	Right
Goods become unfashionable	Left
Increase in disposable income	Right (or left if it is an inferior good)
Increase in the price of substitute goods	Left
Goods become fashionable	Right
Successful advertising and branding	Right
Adverse external shocks	Left
Goods are out of season	Left

3. Factors that can lead to a shift in the supply curve include: new technology (if this allows goods to be produced more easily and more efficiently); cost of production (if this increases, producers will produce fewer goods); external shocks; and government subsidies (if these increase, producers may start producing the crop).

4.

Factor	Shift Curve Left or Right?
Increased indirect tax	Left
Increasing cost of production	Left
Increase in government subsidies	Right
Adverse external shocks	Left
New technological improvements	Right

5. Answer shown as 'Shortage' on graph to the right. Demand grows for a product, but suppliers are unwilling to supply as much as people want to buy at a low price.

6. a. Students should show that demand can come from many factors, including:
- Fashion trends, which create spikes in certain individual products
  - Celebrity endorsement, which increase brand awareness
  - Introduction of a new product/service, which shoots up in popularity
  - Price skimming on the part of one business, or the part of a market
  - Changes in price and demand of complementary goods
  - Changes in price and demand of substitute goods
- b. Students should identify that a decrease in demand shifts the demand curve to the left.

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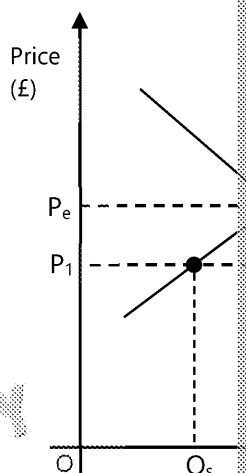


7. a. 
$$\frac{\% \text{ change in quantity demanded}}{\% \text{ change in price}}$$

- b. **Change in quantity demanded:**  
 $1,200 - 3,000 = -1,800$  units  
 $(-1,800 / 3,000) \times 100 = -60\%$  fall in demand

**Change in price:**  
 $3 - 2$   
 $= 1$   
 $(1 / 2) \times 100 = 50\%$  change in price

**PED:**  
 $60\% / 50\%$   
 $= 1.2$



SHO

- c. Demand for the magazine is price elastic, which means that consumer demand is quite sensitive to any price change.

8. Students should show understanding of terms, explaining that if a product is price inelastic, the seller is able to increase the price without fear of losing demand. This is because goods that are price inelastic are normally leaders in their markets.

Consumers are often swayed by price (higher is better) and so a lower-price product is perceived as a lower value/quality. A reduction in price on an inelastic good, therefore, attracts more consumers, but the producer runs the risk of losing what made it desirable – the perceived perception of quality.

9. a. Examples include luxury goods, such as home entertainment systems.  
b. Examples include necessary goods, such as bread, milk and cheese (or their alternatives).  
c. Examples include inferior goods, such as instant coffee, second-hand cars.
10. Students should explain one way that businesses are affected by YED, including:
- Businesses can better plan out their production output in response to changes in disposable income
  - Businesses can also make better decisions as to which type of good to produce – high-value or low-value goods
  - Furthermore, businesses can expand their portfolio of goods offered to match the changing disposable incomes of their customers

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## 1.3 Marketing Mix and Strategy

The *Marketing Mix* is the combination of elements a company uses to best offer a product to a target market, or to test the marketing strategy it is currently using. Companies employ extensive market research how, why, when and where a product will succeed, and what needs to be done to achieve this.

The marketing mix can be broken down into four Ps:

### PRODUCT

Firms will consider everything from the features of a product to its packaging and branding. They will consider the characteristics in order to understand why consumers buy one product over another. If the product were changed somehow, would it still sell? For example, redesigning the packaging of a product or service.

### PROMOTION

Marketers will often look at why a product is not selling. What can be done to sell more? Do consumers react positively to promotional activities? Will they harm a brand's image? This may depend on the market.

### PRICE

What are consumers willing to pay for a product? Does the demand for the product increase or decrease if the price was increased? Would consumers assume the product is of lower quality if the price was reduced?

### PLACE

What channels do producers use to distribute their goods? What are the expectations on how a product/service is delivered to the customer? What link in the distribution chain? What would happen if a link was removed?

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1.3.1 Product/Service Design

!	Key Points Covered
• Design Mix	• Changes in the Environment Reflect Social Trends

Design Mix

Markets are always changing and so is consumer expectation. What was acceptable is considered out of date today. Businesses often react to consumer trends by creating innovative products. For example, Dyson understood that the vacuum cleaner was a pain for many people, so he invented the 'bagless' vacuum.

Another method is to introduce an existing product to a new market (e.g. repackaging for a different audience or repackaging for different countries). Once only found in colder climates, hot water bottles are a thriving market in many African countries.

Whichever method it chooses, a company will ensure it has a complete design mix.

The *design mix* splits into three main areas: Function, Aesthetics and Cost. Some firms focus on function first and address the other elements later. Other companies may concentrate on aesthetics first. Airlines, for instance, were once seen as a luxury and so aesthetics were very important (e.g. luxurious comfort). Nowadays, economy airlines have changed the way we think about air travel (e.g. people can afford and so the design mix has had to change, too).

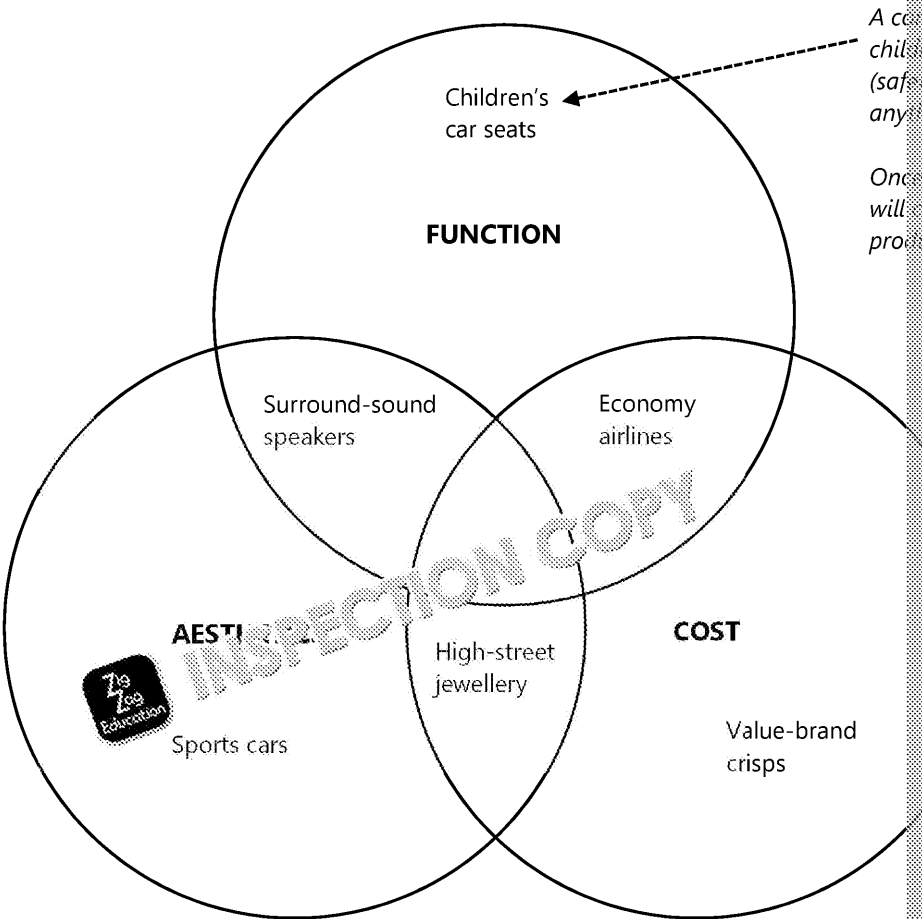


Figure: Example products and services in the design mix

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### Some Things Never Change

Businesses have to understand their markets and be aware of what competitors are doing. A business should be ready to introduce a new product when the current product is coming to the end of its life cycle, for instance, a business should be ready to introduce a new product when the current product is coming to the end of its life cycle.

Some things, however, never seem to go out of fashion. Coca-Cola and Cadbury's Dairy Milk have impressively long life cycles. Even when consumer tastes change, these products are able to survive through an effective design mix.

**Activity:** Can you think of a brand name that fits in each section of the design mix? Can you think of a brand name that involves all three?

### How the Design Mix Can Change

Firms decide how to manage their design mix by taking a variety of factors, including cost, environmental issues and the market, etc. They also need to take into account their own goals. A firm is looking to maximise profit, so it has to consider whether the best way to achieve this is by making the product better, offering a unique selling point that no other firm has, or by making the product cheaper.

### Changes in the Elements of the Design Mix to Reflect Social Changes

The design mix of a firm can change depending on a variety of internal and external factors. The design mix may change in a few years. A business must be able to react to this and fulfil customer needs. Someone else will!

**Sustainability:** Resource depletion has become an essential concern for businesses. Governments have introduced government regulations, but because this is what consumers expect. As such, many businesses have started to focus on *waste reduction, reuse and recycling* by starting or joining schemes that give back. For example, some businesses have reduced the amount of packaging required to ship a product or planting trees for every three products sold.

**Ethics:** General business practices have had to change, too. In today's digital world, it is easier for a consumer to research an organisation and learn whether their processes are ethical. Businesses are now more likely to promote the fact that they use suppliers that pay fair wages to factory workers, while the fashion industries have worked to stamp out animal cruelty from their business practices.

**Health:** The modern consumer is no longer willing to just buy something without thinking about its health. Fast-food chains, such as McDonald's, have had to change their product ranges in response to this demand for healthier options. This rise in demand has also brought organic food into the spotlight. In certain independent shops, consumers can now buy organic produce in most major supermarkets.

**Technology:** Technological advancement has the power to influence how firms do business. Online shopping is now the norm – and home delivery, too. You can go to an electronics shop, find a TV you like and look up prices on your phone while you're there. The shop will then change their models to match this – and you can now buy anything you like online. This is true for books, like, too, with films and series available directly to us via television, laptop, mobile, tablet, etc. There are surely more to come!

**Government:** Legislation, such as that in reaction to climate change, has created a need for businesses to behave more responsibly. This can be seen in equal employment policies, but also in the types of products now being produced. Have you noticed an increase in wind turbines or solar panels?

**Business Objective:** Whether a business is looking to survive, enter a new market, challenge a market leader, it will need to formulate a working design mix. For survival, the business needs to increase sales. However, if it wants to become market leader, it may need to focus on developing a unique selling point.

A unique selling point (USP) is any feature that makes a product appear different from its competitors. It is created through intense research and development while others come out of external factors.

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Focus: Patagonia

**Question:**  
Identify who you believe is the target audience for Patagonia and discuss what other measures the company could take in order to appeal more to this customer base.

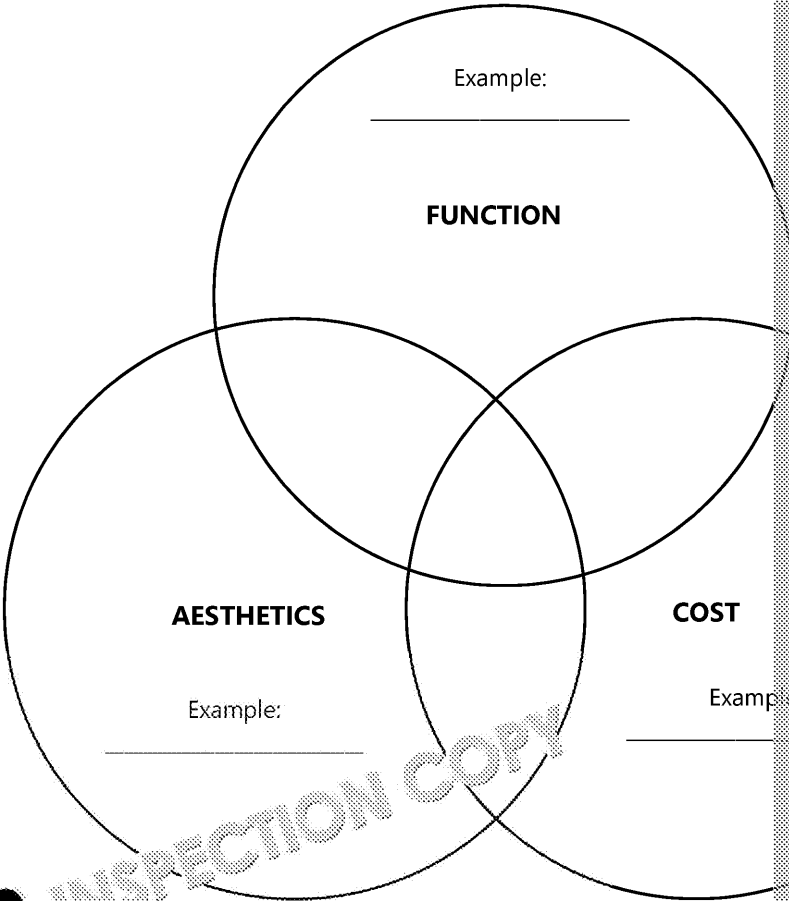
**Minimising Impact**

Since 1985, outdoor clothing companies have given one per cent of their profits to environmental charities. Patagonia and other companies are concerned about the impact of the outdoor clothing industry on the planet and are looking for ways to help preserve and protect the environment.

1.3.1. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

1. Copy out the following design mix and identify one example product/service for each.



2. Explain one way in which the following can change a product's design mix.

- a. Sustainability
- b. Health

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## 1.3.2 Branding and Promotion



### Key Points Covered

- Types of Promotion
- What Influences a Business's Choice of Promotional Mix?
- Changes in Branding to Reflect Social Trends
- Types of Promotion
- The Benefits of Promotion
- Ways to Promote a Business

### Types of Promotion

The promotional mix, also known as the *Marketing Communications Mix* or *Marketing Mix*, consists of all the communications that a company uses to promote its products or services. From public relations and sponsorship to advertising, promotion is a vital part of any business.

#### Public Relations

Companies use public relations as a way to *increase selling potential* of their products and services. They achieve this in many ways, such as sponsoring events, creating positive media coverage (in the news), encouraging employees to have a respectful attitude towards anyone in contact with the business and understanding how to handle negative publicity.

#### ✓ Advantages of Public Relations:

- Businesses promote themselves through storytelling, which can incite interest and loyalty.
- Through this promotion businesses create a name for themselves, which can be beneficial in the long run.

#### ✗ Disadvantages of Public Relations:

- It is difficult to measure success with this method.
- Once a business story is released to the press, it can become skewed or misinterpreted.

#### Direct Marketing

This involves contacting carefully-selected target audiences on an individual basis, either by telephone, in person or through 'personalised' letters. Direct selling initiatives aim to get an immediate response so that businesses can create long-lasting relationships and build on their customer database.

#### ✓ Advantages of Direct Marketing:

- Businesses can track the success of their work.
- Companies can test the usefulness of a method before opening it to a full-scale marketing campaign.

#### ✗ Disadvantages of Direct Marketing:

- Many consumers do not want to be contacted, especially in an unsolicited manner.
- This form of promotion can lead to poor-quality leads.

#### Personal Selling

Businesses use personal selling to send a sales representative to meet with potential customers and promote the human side of the business, injecting personality into the marketing process.

#### ✓ Advantages of Personal Selling:

- Person-to-person means the method can be adjusted to whoever the customer is.
- This is a good way to build strong personal relationships.

#### ✗ Disadvantages of Personal Selling:

- Personal selling has a high cost per action (CPA), i.e. the price of finding a new customer.
- Employees require training in order to practise personal selling.

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## Advertising

This consists of any paid form of communication that is not personal. Companies use advertising to inform consumers and persuade them to buy their product or service without having any direct contact with them. Advertising include newspapers, television, radio, buses and bus shelters, hoardings and cinema.

### ✓ Advantages of Advertising:

- The potential for consumer reach is great
- Some types of advertising can be easily tracked

### ✗ Disadvantages of Advertising:

- If an advertising campaign becomes too ubiquitous (i.e. you see/hear it everywhere) there could be a backlash from consumers who dislike the company – is it too much?
- Potential for reach is great, but targeting can be impersonal and so conversion is lower

## Sales Promotion

This is a short-term promotional technique designed to encourage and persuade the purchase of a product or service. Examples of this include in-store samples and demonstrations, competition, time/inventory discounts and buy-now bonuses.

### ✓ Advantages of Sales Promotion:

- Promotions can help encourage repeat purchases
- They can also entice customers who previously may have been reluctant to buy

### ✗ Disadvantages of Sales Promotion:

- The sales from promotions can often be one-time purchases and then customers stop buying
- They are also expensive to manage (i.e. if the promotion does not work you have incurred a loss)

## Sponsorship

Companies use sponsorship to promote their products or services to consumers through association. Examples of this technique include sponsoring live events, organising product placement and celebrity endorsement.

### ✓ Advantages of Sponsorship:

- If people like the sponsored event, the business's brand can receive a positive association
- Since people are already watching the event, the firm can easily disseminate its message

### ✗ Disadvantages of Sponsorship:

- If people dislike the event, the brand receives a negative knock-on effect
- Some events, such as the Olympic Games, are so big that numerous brands are competing for attention, creating advertising clutter and so limited genuine brand exposure

## Digital Communications

Information technologies allow businesses to reach out to more potential customers. Examples of this include scope for online advertising, product-focused apps, mobile adverts, user-generated content and social media marketing.

### ✓ Advantages of Digital Communications:

- Businesses can target the consumers they want through paid search results
- Digital is much cheaper than physical communications, such as newspaper advertising

### ✗ Disadvantages of Digital Communications:

- Since most brands are looking to advertise, there is great potential for advertising clutter
- As consumers become more Internet-savvy, they are learning to ignore advertising

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## What Influences a Business's Choice of Promotional Mix?

Choosing the right promotional mix depends on the business and its objectives. So

- **Budget:** How much money has been allocated to the company's promotion and how long has it lasted?
- **Competition:** Who are the competition, what is their potential threat and what can you do to help to combat them?
- **Promotion Objectives:** Are the promotion objectives to create product awareness, build brand identity or generate sales or enquiries?
- **Product:** What mix would best suit the product?
- **Product Life Cycle:** What stage is the product at in the life cycle?
- **Target Market:** Who are they? What do they need or want? When do they need it and why?

### Changes in Traditional Advertising

In the past, if you advertised on a TV channel such as ITV, most viewers around the country would have seen your product. Nowadays, however, there are so many channels, and so many different ways of watching TV, that advertising on TV is no longer the most cost-effective option. Commercial breaks are not the only way to grab attention any more. Advertisers now use mass media in a variety of ways, including product placement and live-event sponsorship.

## Types of Branding

While promotional activities can be used to generate an immediate reaction, so that consumers buy a product or service (e.g. a clothes shop advertising a limited end-of-season sale), companies use branding as a way to increase *consumer recognition* of their product, service or name.

Businesses invest in branding as a way to promote the way they wish to be seen. A strong brand means less reliance on direct selling, sales promotions or price cuts, and the customers will hopefully come to you! Branding also helps create a personality for a product, service or business.

Types of branding include:

- Manufacturer/corporate
- Product
- Own brand product

**Manufacturer/corporate:** This branding focuses on the business itself by getting the company along with an idea of who they are and why their products or services stand out. For example, are considered high quality by consumers due, in part, to the products that carry the brand that the company have managed to create.

**Product:** Companies that invest in this type of branding want to ensure their products stand out. They think of when they have a specific product. Many companies promote a select few products which are the most successful ones they sell. Microsoft Corporation's flagship products are Windows and Office.

**Own-brand product:** This branding started as a way for some supermarkets to offer products to consumers (Tesco Value, for example). Nowadays, most supermarkets offer their own brand products. Their own 'Essential' product range. How do you think Waitrose's own-brand products compare?

Rebranding is a marketing strategy in which a company changes a brand to give it a new identity. Companies rebrand by creating a new name, term, symbol or design (or a combination of these). Consumers, stakeholders or suppliers will see the brand differently. Some rebranding is successful while others fail miserably.

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## Focus: New Coke

### Question:

Discuss where you think Coca-Cola went wrong in the promotion of New Coke. Could the company reintroduce the product to today's market? Explain how Coca-Cola could succeed this time.

### Rebranding

In 1985, as a way to increase sales against competitor Pepsi, Coca-Cola changed its formula and released New Coke. The product performed well in initial tests, but consumers reacted badly when it was on shelves. Coca-Cola received so many complaints that they recalled New Coke and replaced them with the original formula. Cans of New Coke are now collectors' items.

## The Benefits of Strong Branding

Strong branding can significantly *add value* to a product, compared with generic, unbranded products. This allows the producer to command large areas of a market. If consumers see a brand as particularly high quality, they might be willing to pay a premium for it and even seek it out directly. This can lead to a reduction in *price elasticity of demand (PED)* for the product, meaning the producer can charge a higher rate without affecting the number of sales.

Having a strong brand can also help create *barriers to entry*, which keep potential competitors from joining the market.

Creating a brand is still a risk, though: just because a brand is well known doesn't mean it will be successful. If a brand has a history of providing low-quality products, for instance, the producer can have major difficulty when they finally try to turn the business around. Consumer opinion is difficult to shift!

Another pitfall in branding is to make your product so famous that every similar, generic product is sold by the same name. These products are called *brandnomers* or *generic trademarks*. Examples include Velcro, Sellotape, Pritt Stick and Tannoy.



Once the business has established a strong brand, it can be difficult to change.

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## Ways to Build a Brand

### ***Differentiation and Unique Selling Points***

Differentiation is how different a product appears compared to its competitors'. Most businesses choose to focus on differentiation rather than cutting prices for several reasons:

- Price cutting can create a negative image for a product or service, because quality with price
- If a product appears different enough from its competitors (in a positive way) customers will remain loyal
- A brand image of high quality allows the producer to charge a premium without losing sales

One way that a business can achieve differentiation is through its *unique selling points (USPs)*. Examples of types of USP include:

- Design
- After-sales service
- Unique features
- Distribution
- Quality
- Durability

Dyson is a world leader in vacuum technology. The company believes in engineering high-quality, low-cost vacuum cleaners for all countries. Dyson says it will keep its focus on innovation.

A business looking to differentiate itself from competitors must first understand what its target markets want. For instance, quality is the most important factor while, in other markets, a convenient form of distribution (e.g. online, home delivery).

Whenever a business considers a promotion or branding strategy, it must also take into account its competitors – what are other companies doing and where is there a gap? The business must consider its strategy as part of its marketing mix, alongside the other three Ps: *Price, Place* and *Promotion*.

### ***Advertising***

Businesses advertise their products and services in many ways, including print (newspapers, magazines, hoardings (or billboards), television and radio (commercial breaks), public spaces (billboards, metro/tube tunnels) and online via web-page banners, search engine results, video.

Advertising generally comes at a high price. This strategy works well for businesses that can afford to reduce their profit margins, but smaller businesses will struggle to compete. For example, volume of advertising, such as cereals, this can also prevent new firms from entering the market.

In the 1990s, Budweiser beer were looking for ways to reinvigorate their brand for younger audiences (ages 21 and 30). The company decided on a TV advertising campaign in which they used the slogan 'Bud...weis...er'. The advert played during the Super Bowl and was an instant success, reaching the 21–30 market. The campaign won numerous advertising awards and is celebrated for its time.

### ***Sponsorship***

The use of product placement in television, sports and film is becoming more regular. Do you think this is happening?

Some brands use sponsorship over advertising. This involves giving support (usually money) to a team or event in exchange for an increase in brand awareness.

Examples of sponsorship include:

- Sponsored events
- Product placement (film and television)
- Social media sponsorship
- Celebrity endorsement

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## Focus: Oreo Cookies

### Question:

Analyse the possible benefits and costs of a business such as Oreo having an online social media presence.



### Biscuits Win Big

During the 2013 Super Bowl, the Oreo brand caused the host stadium to go dark. The biscuit brand Oreo, who were at the event, leapt into action, put out a tweet with the strap line, 'We had to go dark'. The tweet went viral and was retweeted more than 15,000 times.

Such quick thinking from Oreo's presence on social media shows how companies could benefit from advertising on Twitter.

Live tweeting during events is a good practice for brands.

### Emotional Branding

This form of branding plays on the emotional states of consumers; their needs, wants and desires. Companies use advertising to promote its product to consumers and associate it with an emotion. For example, Disney Company, for instance, advertise the theme park Disneyland Paris with a focus on family fun. Travel agents often run advertisements showing consumers their 'perfect getaway' with friends and family coming together.

## Focus: Coca-Cola

### Question:

Look up one of Coca-Cola's Christmas advertisements online (YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/-gMjPezr8TY>) and analyse why the company's campaigns are so successful.

### Seasonal Selling

The Coca-Cola Company have run many successful TV marketing campaigns over the years, but none more successful perhaps than their Christmas advertisements.

### 1.3.2. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

3. Rebranding can significantly boost public awareness of a product, service or company. What are the possible positive and negative effects that come with this?
4. A beverage company wants to introduce a new fizzy drink to the market, but with a limited budget for advertising (newspapers, TV, radio, etc.). How else could the company promote the drink? Give any examples.
5. Why are so many companies using social media as a way to advertise their brand? What are the risks involved?

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1.3.3. Pricing Strategies

**Key Points Covered**

- Types of Pricing Strategy
- Changes in Pricing to Reflect Social Trends
- Factors that Determine Pricing Strategy

Types of Pricing Strategy

Companies use pricing strategies to evaluate business decisions based on the market consequences that may arise. A company looking to sell a product or service can use pricing to determine how much it is worth and what people would be willing to pay.

Strategies for New Products or Services

Price Skimming

This involves charging a higher price on release of a product or when it is in the early stage of the product life cycle. Companies use this technique as a way to make back a significant portion of the funds that lead up to a product's launch, such as research and development and production costs. This strategy is often used by games console manufacturers. There is a risk, though: if one games company releases its new console at a high price at the same time that another new console enters the market at a similar price or lower, this could result in a significant loss of potential sales.



Microsoft

Price Penetration

At the other end of the spectrum is price penetration: this is when a company charges a low price for their product or service. This is sometimes used on the launch of a new product as a way to quickly gain market share. A publisher, for instance, may use this technique to launch a new magazine. The drawback to this technique comes if other businesses decide to start a price war on your hands, which is not good for anyone (except perhaps the consumer).

Price Skimming	Price Penetration
When demand for a product is price inelastic	When demand for a product is elastic in the short term
Quickly recoup costs of R&D	Recoup costs of R&D over a long period
Product life cycle is relatively short	Product life cycle is long
Barriers to entry are high	Barriers to entry are low
If PED is unknown, it is better to be safe with a high price on introduction	If a business is able to sell large volumes, it can save money

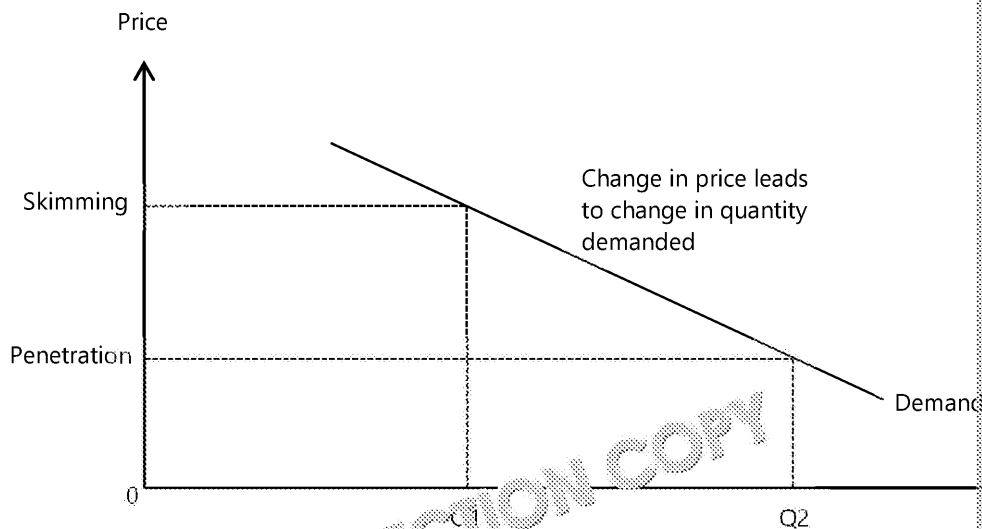
Table 1.1: Why businesses choose price skimming or price penetration

The graph below shows the relationship between demand and price when a business uses price penetration or price-skimming strategy. When a business enters the market with a high price (price skimming), demand will probably be low. On the other hand, if a business enters the market at a ludicrously low price, undercutting all competition, demand should go up.

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Price Penetration vs Price Skimming – adapted from Baines

## Strategies for Existing Products or Services

### Competitive Pricing

Price leadership is common in oligopolistic markets, such as the airline industry. One company sets the price for a product or service and then all other businesses will follow. The company is usually the established company that controls the largest market share due to selling high-quality products. By setting the going rate, price leaders demonstrate their dominance and premium status, which helps them retain brand loyalty, as customers perceive them as the high standard. It also means the company has a lower price elasticity of demand (PED) since customers will be more willing to pay a higher price to believe the product is of the highest quality.

A market that has clear price leadership will have a number of *price takers*. These are businesses that accept the market price set by its price leader/leaders. Price takers cannot compete on price as the market price is high – if a price taker decided to increase the price of its product, consumers would switch to a competitor that offers it at the market price.

Price discrimination, or *yield management* involves a business charging different prices for the same product in the same market. An example of this is the cinema, where businesses will manage their prices according to the day of the week or target audience, e.g. matinee performances on a Monday are priced lower than evening performances.

### Perception is Everything

Price leadership can turn into *collusion* if the market price of a product/service increases and businesses are needing to rise.

Nowadays, it is illegal for businesses to get together and decide on the price of a product or service. That collusion to fix the price of a product or service is called a *cartel*.

### Cost-Plus Pricing

One common method that businesses use to determine how much to charge for their products is *cost-plus pricing*. This method involves calculating the average cost of producing an individual unit and then adding a *markup*, which considers how much consumers would actually be willing to pay.

$$\frac{\text{Total budgeted cost} + \text{markup}}{\text{Budgeted sales in units}}$$

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The following data shows figures for Larry Wellington’s shoe shop. Larry plans to charge a markup of 25% on each pair of shoes. Larry has budgeted for £20,000

Total budgeted costs	£20,000
Markup percentage	25%
Budgeted sales in units	5,000

**Markup:**  
= £20,000 x 0.25  
= £5,000

**Total cost + Markup:**  
= £20,000 + £5,000  
= £25,000

**Budgeted selling price per unit:**  
= £25,000 ÷ 5,000  
= £5.00



The final price per unit is £5.00. This includes the cost of the item plus markup to ensure a profit.

**Price Tactics**

These are the short-term price manipulations that companies use on a day-to-day basis to gain an advantage over their rivals.

*Discounts:* Companies offer discounts for a short time as a way to stimulate demand. Examples include two-for-one offers and buy-now-pay-less schemes.

*Special Promotions:* A company may choose this tactic if sales decline for one of its products. A company sometimes uses this tactic, for example, by offering eight cans in a pack instead of six.

*Loss Leaders:* This tactic involves selling one product at an artificially low price in order to attract customers to see what else is on offer. Supermarkets often stock loss leaders, a DVD player for £1.00, to draw the attention of customers and bring them through the door.

*Psychological Pricing:* A company might want to get £10 for its product, but decide to sell it for £9.99 as an emotional tactic that plays on the fact that £10 is not as much of a bargain as £9.99.

*Predatory Pricing:* When a business sets a price so low that it threatens to destroy a rival company's market's barriers to entry. This sort of pricing should only be used in the short term and only if the business can afford to make such losses. Businesses must be careful not to go against the rules of Fair Trading.



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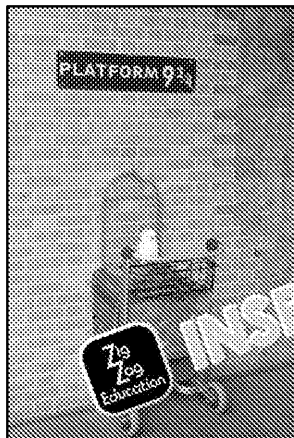
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## Focus: Harry Potter

### Question:

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for retailers that sell loss leaders.



Platform 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  is now a popular tourist destination

### Marketing

When the seventh and final instalment of the best-selling Harry Potter series was released, children worldwide prepared to ensure they got a copy. Supermarkets were threatened by the possible competition from the price of the book from the £10 by publisher Bloomsbury.

ASDA sold Harry Potter and the Temple of the Sea, but only if customers bought a £4.99 while Sainsbury's priced it at £4.99 while Sainsbury's priced it at £4.99. Regular booksellers, unable to match the price, charged £10 for the book.

Each supermarket priced the book at the price it originally paid for it, using it as a loss leader. It worked, as it encouraged consumers to buy other products in and buy the new book – people bought other products, too!

## Factors that Determine the Most Appropriate Pricing Strategy Situation

Businesses make pricing decisions based on a mix of factors. Some of these factors are internal while others are external.

**Level of Competition:** Are there other similar products or services available on the market? Do consumers react to a product differently depending on its price.

**Amount of Differentiation:** The unique selling points (USPs) of a good can have significant value for consumers and so businesses can use this to decide on appropriate pricing. If a business makes their products/services too different from the crowd and they might just lose sales.

**Costs and the Need to Make a Profit:** Can the product be manufactured at a cheap price? Businesses must understand how much it costs them to introduce a product to the market and the profit they need to make.

**Price Elasticity of Demand:** Businesses must understand the price elasticity of demand for a good. If demand for a good is very *price elastic*, any increases to its price could *significantly reduce* demand (e.g. mangoes: people can live without these goods and may choose to buy something else if the price is expensive). Conversely, if demand for a good is quite *price inelastic*, any changes to price will have a small *difference* to quantity demanded (e.g. petrol or bread: these goods are essential to life and people probably continue to purchase them even when prices go up).

**Pricing Objective:** What is the business objective? Is it looking to expand? Increase sales? Profit? These factors have bearing on which pricing strategy a business chooses.

**Target Audience:** Does the business want to sell to the general public or to a specific group? Does the product or service have a particular age range? A business will need to consider its audience before setting a price.

**Stage in the Product Life Cycle:** Does the product have a long or short life cycle? If the life cycle is long, the business can afford to charge less because it will make sales over a longer period. However, this also depends on the stage of the product life cycle. If the product has already reached the saturation stage, it may not be long until quantity demanded begins to drop.

**Strength of the Brand:** How different is the product/service from its competitors? Does the brand have a strong presence within the market? A business must also consider its competitors. If the business is a leader with a strong brand, its product will be less price elastic.

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## Changes in Pricing to Reflect Social Trends

The rise of the Internet has given way to more innovations in communication than predicted – and the world continues to change, as does business.

**Online Sales:** Pioneered by Amazon, online selling is a firm fixture in today's market. If you find something you like, there's no point putting any money down until you've sold online can be much cheaper since producers do not need a physical location, so

**Price Comparison Sites:** No one likes buying car insurance, and before price comparison sites, you had to call around. Now, you can go online, choose your price range and instantly find a list of packages.

Both online sales and price comparison sites have created a climate of competitive pricing in a price-transparent environment, where demand has become more price elastic – they will go somewhere else to find the same product. In response to this, marketers need to develop new strategies. Some businesses will cut down on some of the production process (such as packaging) and pass the saving on to the consumer. Another method is to use *loss leaders* as a strategy, though this is easier for big businesses, such as supermarkets, that offer a variety of products.

### Focus: Radiohead

#### Question:

Analyse the reasons why Radiohead did not try the honesty policy to sell their 2011 record, *The King of Limbs*. Consider the differences between the music market in 2007 and the same market in 2011.



#### Radiohead's Honesty

In 2007, British band Radiohead released their eighth studio album, *In Rainbows*, using an honesty pricing scheme. With the scheme, fans could choose to pay what they considered to be a fair price (including zero) to download the album straight away, or they could wait for the album on CD and vinyl, though they could also download these and wait a few months after release.

The pay-what-you-want release method was a first for the world, as Radiohead was the first major band to try this pricing strategy. Many critics saw it as the beginning of the end for music as we know it, as consumers downloaded the record for free. However, numerous fans chose to pay more than the price of a CD, and the band had made more than 300,000 CDs and special £40 'discboxes' in the first few months. It was heralded as a success: Radiohead made more money with *In Rainbows* than with all previous albums. Nevertheless, the band did not use the same release of their 2011 studio record, *The King of Limbs*.

### 1.3.3. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

6. a. Bill Oddity plans to open a rare seed shop. He has projected that he will sell 25,000 units of his favourite seed (which he would like to charge a markup of 20%). Use the table below to calculate the budgeted sales (of seed) that Bill should charge his customers.

Total budgeted costs	£7,750
Markup percentage	20%
Budgeted sales in units	25,000

- b. What would happen to the price per unit if Bill increased the markup percentage? Do you think consumers would pay this price? Explain your answer.
7. Identify and explain two factors that can influence a business's pricing strategy.

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## 1.3.4 Distribution



### Key Points Covered

- Distribution Channels
- Changes in Distribution

Another P in the marketing mix is Place, or distribution. Any business that wants to ensure its product or service is available in the right place, at the right time and with enough stock in order to achieve this, a business must establish, maintain and develop the appropriate distribution for its product or service.

If a business has not considered these factors, it may fail to draw attention or satisfy demand for the newest technology in the right place or at the right time, if there aren't enough products available.

### Focus: Buzz Lightyear

#### Question:

Could the toy manufacturer have been better prepared? Identify two actions the company could have taken in order to be ready for the toy craze.

#### It's War at the Toy Store

Buzz Lightyear was one of the most popular characters from Disney's 1995 film *Toy Story*. The film was a massive office smash, grossing more than \$1 billion worldwide. Toy manufacturers quickly got into the action figures to go along with the film. In December 1996, toy shops were so busy that parents were desperate to get their children. However, manufacturers who had not made enough Buzz Lightyear figures suffered a huge loss in sales.

Many children woke up on Christmas morning to find floods of tears and manufacturers who had significantly misjudged the demand for Buzz Lightyear figures suffered a huge loss in sales.

A distribution network shows the journey that a product/service takes to get from the producer to the consumer. The right distribution method is essential. Distribution networks should:

- Encourage repeat purchases from consumers
- Enable safe delivery of a product/service
- Maximise the number of potential customers for a product/service
- Ensure quick delivery of a product/service
- Provide market information to producers and retailers
- Create a positive relationship between producer and consumer

### Distribution Channels

A distribution channel is the flow of organisations that connect a product from producer to consumer. Each member of the channel plays its part. If a small-scale producer was to handle distribution, business expenses would be high, making the product cost more for the consumer. Therefore, a business must use some form of distribution channel.

There are three main flows in distribution and these can be separated into two groups: short-channel distribution and long-channel distribution.

*Short-channel distribution*, or direct marketing, involves just two organisations in the distribution chain: the producer and the consumer.

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### Two-stage distribution

This method is commonly used by businesses that sell large machinery or equipment. A company, for instance, will manufacture a new product and then use direct selling to reach consumers.



Long-channel distribution, or indirect marketing, involves the producer, consumer and intermediaries in the way. These intermediaries can be anyone from wholesalers and distributors to resellers.

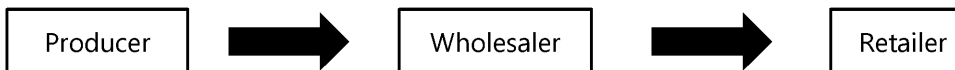
### Three-stage distribution

This is the distribution method of choice for perishable goods manufacturers. When a manufacturer creates a new product, it will then sell it to retailers, who then set a price for the product.



### Four-stage distribution

Wholesalers act as *middlemen* between the retailer and producer by buying up large quantities of goods in bulk. In four-stage distribution, the producer could be a cheese farmer, who provides the cheese in bulk. The wholesaler then breaks the cheese into smaller quantities and sells it to retailers in the country, such as supermarkets, newsagents and corner shops. Retailers then sell the cheese to consumers.



## Changes in Distribution to Reflect Social Trends

The aim of a distribution network is to deliver a product/service on time and in good condition. Companies must make sure to choose the right one. In order to choose the most relevant network, they must consider the following:

### The Product

If the product is *new to the market*, it may need to be introduced to the customer through detailed *explanations*. Consequently, it would be inappropriate to sell it through general retailers. For example, types of machinery, equipment and tools may best be sold at trade shows, or through specialist retailers. The sale of such products should be backed by an extensive advertising and marketing campaign.

### The Market

Products that are extremely *specialist or particular* or *expensive*, e.g. ships, earth-movers, have a relatively small *customer base* and, therefore, need to be made available to buyers through *specialist retailers*. This is different for *general household groceries*, which have a very large *customer base* and, therefore, can be bought from a large number of outlets.

### Legal Restrictions

The law of the country will determine *where* certain goods can be sold. For example, alcohol can only be purchased from a chemist's shop.

### Customer Expectation

Customers *expect to buy certain goods in traditional establishments*. For example, books from bookshops, vegetables from supermarkets and glasses from opticians.

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### Internet Distribution

Those four are not the only factors that drive a company's choice of distribution network. The internet is a global one, with communication instant, and so businesses need to stay informed of changes that affect them. This includes methods of distribution.

Consumers expect businesses (especially large ones) to offer their products and services in a way that allows customers to buy their products/services in all sorts of ways, from website click (e.g. PayPal) to mobile phone apps and online stores (e.g. Amazon and eBay).

These outlets, while all digital, are still costs for a business. Amazon, for instance, provides a 'right 'place' in order for the consumer to see it and make a purchase. Google, meanwhile, sponsors their links so that consumers find certain products more easily than others. These outlets are like shops and trade shows, but they are still places in a business's distribution network and, therefore, still have costs.

### Focus: PANDORA

#### Question:

Analyse how PANDORA's distribution network, and position in the distribution channel, has changed over time.

#### Family-run Jewellery Shop

PANDORA began life in 1982 as a small jewellery shop in Copenhagen, Denmark. The shop moved to Thailand in order to import jewellery directly to consumers. The shop was closed by 1987, the family stopped importing and concentrated on creating their own brand. PANDORA unveiled their trademark 'P' logo in the Danish market. Demand quickly grew and the brand entered the US, German and Australian markets.

Today, PANDORA primarily sell through their own branded franchise shops and their branded franchise shops have expanded since their humble beginnings. They now serve markets in more than 70 countries.

### 1.3.4. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

8. Copy out and fill in the blanks of this four-stage distribution flow diagram:



9. Name an example for each stage of the flow diagram, e.g. producer = apple farmer.

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1.3.5 Marketing Strategy

**Key Points Covered**

- The Product Life Cycle
- Extension Strategies
- How Businesses Develop Customer Loyalty

- Boston Matrix and
- Marketing Strategies
- Types of Market

The Product Life Cycle

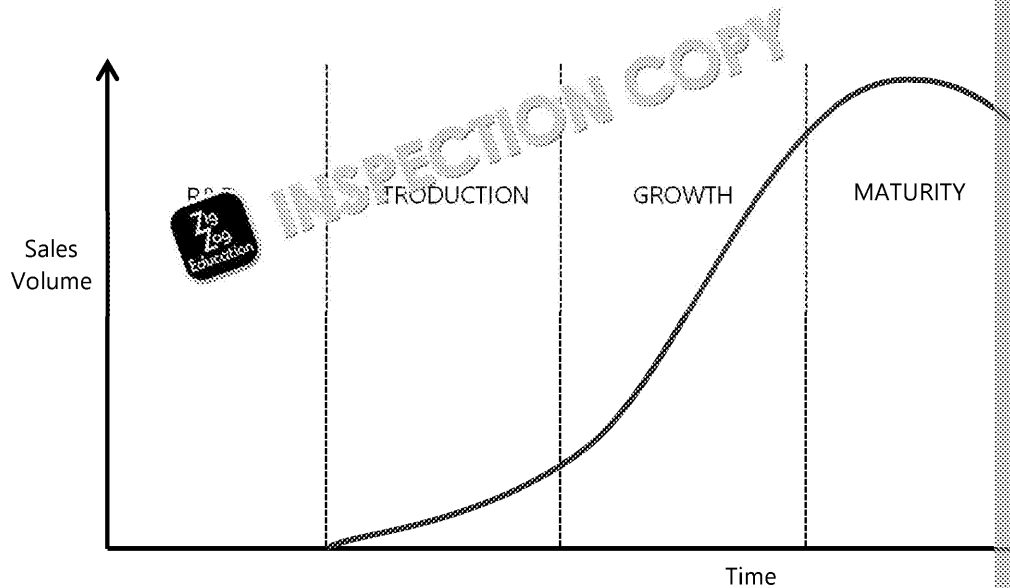


Diagram: The Product Life Cycle

The product life cycle is the basic life story of a product/service. Much like the life cycle has a beginning, middle and eventual end. Some life cycles are incredibly long (toilet paper) while others have much shorter expectancies (such as mobile phones).

Stage	Description	Cash flow
Research and Development	The point before any sales can be made	Only costs at this point
Introduction	The product/service is now launched	It is in the beginning stages and so makes few sales, low profitability and has little market share
Growth	The product/service becomes established	Sales and profitability are growing, as is the potential for greater market share/growth
Maturity	The product/service comes towards its peak and sales have begun to level out	The brand has strong market share and so the company still receives profit at this point
Decline	Sales are falling due to decrease in market share and growth	The company may be making a slight profit or even a loss at this point

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## Problems with the Product Life Cycle

- It is difficult to understand which section of the life cycle a product/service is in at the end of its life (product death). This is because markets can change and so a product that is not a must-have item one moment may become the ultimate must-have item the next.
- The life cycle works most effectively when markets are stable, without any significant changes between trends.
- The classic bell curve ignores the idea that a product/service can continue to grow and have been saved from the decline phase thanks to life *extension strategies* that target a younger audience.
- Some products/services die directly after the Introduction stage, because there has not been enough research on their market – the market might not even exist! Other products die in their lives in Decline, because companies stop advertising.
- The product life cycle cannot show a product's future sales (i.e. businesses cannot see if a product is in the cycle) and so marketers cannot see whether there are more sales for a product/service in a year or if it is starting declining.
- If a marketer is looking at a life cycle with up-to-the-minute data, there might be a spike in sales today. This could look like a genuine problem for the company, which is in decline. However, if the same marketer looks at the life cycle next month, this spike might be more than a blip.
- If decline is long and drawn out, a business might not realise and confuse the product/service is on its last legs!

Many of today's marketers choose 'benchmarking' over using the product life cycle, comparing a business's achievements with those of the industry standard. A yo-yo company selling thousands of cases of yo-yos this year, but how does that compare with the industry? The life cycle shows a product/service's life from start to finish and so needs all the parts to tell the whole story.

## Extension Strategies

When a product or service is nearing the end of its life, a company will sometimes try to breathe new life into it. These strategies can prolong the life of a product/service for a long time, sometimes indefinitely. Not every strategy works, though.

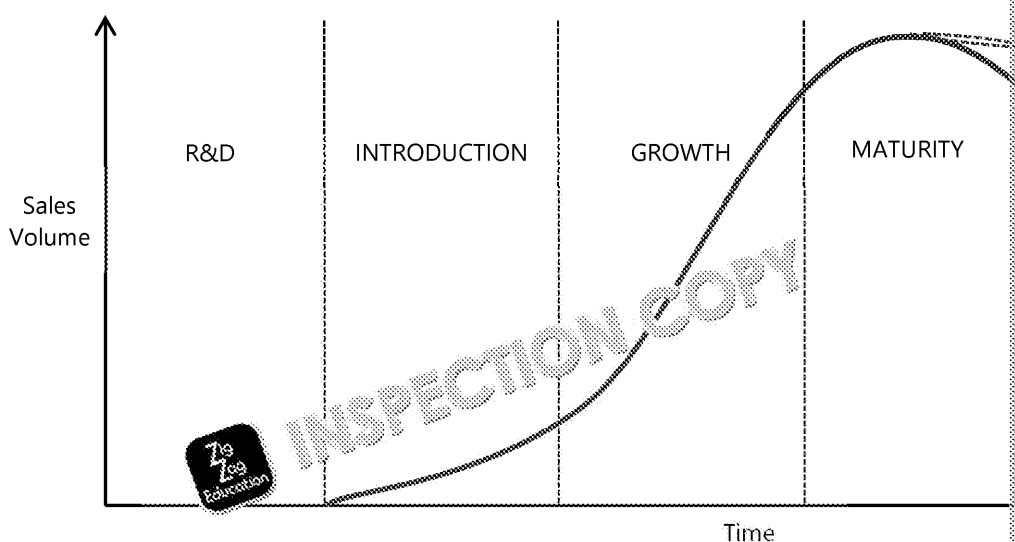


Diagram: The Product Life Cycle with potential extension strategies

*Product extension strategies* involve techniques such as developing new features for a product/service. Apple, for instance, have managed to extend the lives of their most popular products, such as the iPhone app store, which gives consumers the chance to buy and download new applications and experiences.

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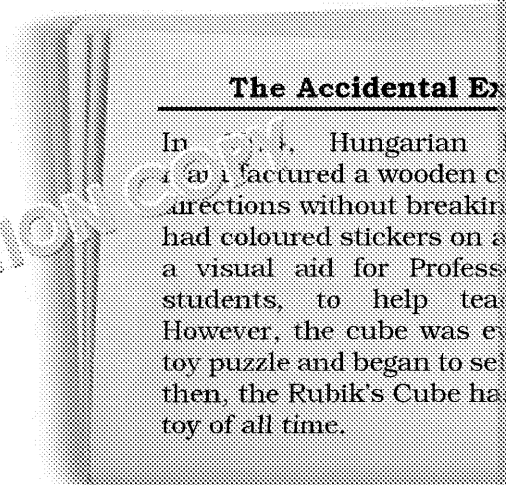


*Promotion* extension strategies involve anything from finding new users for a product of an item to redesigning its packaging. Some products experience a new lease of life through an advertising campaign (see 1.3.2 Branding and Promotion) while others just get word of mouth increasing or decreasing the price of a product/service and suddenly get hit with hype because many consumers still associate high price with quality.

## Focus: Rubik's Cube

### Question:

Professor Rubik's cube was never meant to become a toy, let alone the best-selling toy of all time. Identify and explain two strategies that companies can use in order to extend the lives of their products/services.



## Boston Matrix and the Product Portfolio

Companies that have a selection of products under their control, a *product portfolio*, can use a variety of ways of analysing where there are opportunities for growth.

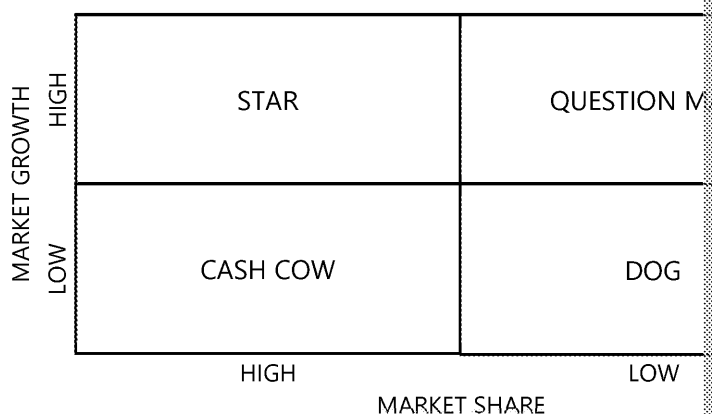


Diagram: The Boston Matrix

The matrix displays each product/service in relation to the market: how much market share it has and how well the market is performing in general.

By organising its portfolio of products and services into the Boston Matrix, a company can identify where the cash flow is high and where the potential for investment lies. The matrix shows how a company can use its resources to manage growth and performance over time.

**Stars:** These are the market leaders, or the ones with a large portion of a market. Stars experience intense growth. However, they cannot support themselves alone and so require large investments to keep the market share.

**Question Marks:** Also known as *problem children*, these sit in a growing market, but are unprofitable, with a negative cash flow. An example of this could be a product that the company is not yet sure whether it is going to succeed.

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**Cash Cows:** In low-growth markets, such as mature markets, cash cows have a high market share. This brings in positive cash flows and high profitability, which means they do not need ongoing investment. The cash flow from cows can then be used as investment in stars and question marks, which are unable to support themselves. Good examples of cash cows are Coca-Cola and iPhones.

**Dogs:** Experience low market share in low-growth markets. Dogs may create negative cash flow as they often operate in declining markets that have no real future. Firms should keep dogs in their product portfolio as long as they continue to create cash. Once a dog begins to restrict assets from other products, such as stars and question marks, the firm should consider selling off (divesting) the product or rebranding.

### Problems with the Boston Matrix

Much like the Product Life Cycle, the Boston Matrix is limited to how much it can represent many instances when this model does not quite fit real business life:

- What defines a market? Some are more difficult to define than others. Why is it not always in one market?
- Industry data on a market is not always freely available.
- Most businesses active today are looking for profit. High market share does not always mean profit. What if the product needs lots of investment from the company, as well as cash?
- Cash cows might be a firm's main source of profit. Coca-Cola is still going strong after it has been mature for years.
- Dogs are able to return a profit. It is not until the products need further investment that they become a problem for the company.

### Marketing Strategies Appropriate for Different Types of Markets

Each market has its own core customer base. This is the group of consumers that the business targets. In order to gain market share, and also satisfy any business objectives it may have, a business needs a marketing strategy.

#### Mass Marketing

Businesses use this type of marketing to target a wide range of potential customers. Mass marketing uses radio and TV advertisements, direct selling, and search engine and webpage banners. Mass marketing is generally only used by large organisations, but can result in high sales and so the costs are less significant.

Mass marketing is used for:

- General consumer goods (such as Unilever's PG Tips and Persil brands)
- Consumer durables (such as Dyson vacuum cleaners)
- Entertainment outlets (such as Amazon and Netflix)
- Video-game consoles
- Mobile phones

#### ✓ Advantages of Mass Marketing

- Large target market allows for high number of potential sales
- Mass marketing allows economies of scale for the company
- Essential to create huge brand with worldwide recognition

#### ✗ Disadvantages of Mass Marketing

- Expensive form of marketing
- Time-consuming to both implement and analyse
- Requires constant investment for brand to stay relevant
- Risk of irritating the consumer

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### Niche Marketing

This strategy targets small sections of a market (or small markets) as a way of filling a gap not being served by big business. Examples of this include providing excellent customer service schemes (such as coffee shops offering one free drink with every nine you buy) and

Niche marketing is used for:

- Local-area TV stations
- High-end sports cars
- Luxury chocolate
- Boutique clothing

#### ✓ Advantages of Niche Marketing:

- This strategy targets a specific customer type
- Less expensive than mass marketing

#### ✗ Disadvantages of Niche Marketing:

- Companies must attract many competing firms
- Price for sales is much lower than that of mass marketing

### Business-to-Business vs Business-to-Consumer

Business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) marketing share many similarities, but the markets are very different. Marketers, therefore, have to work differently depending on the market.

Business-to-business marketing is aimed at very few buyers (other businesses) who buy on behalf of almost anyone. We have all been consumers at some point in our lives, from buying a book to researching the costs of holidays or new cars. Consumers will generally make a purchase for their own needs (unless buying for friends or family). Businesses, on the other hand, will make purchases with corporate objectives in mind.

Whether business-to-business or business-to-consumer, marketers need to be customer-focused, looking to get what they need at the right price and businesses want to build/maintain relationships with their consumers. And so, all marketers need to gather information on their market, their customers and the competition out there.

### Consumer Behaviour: How Businesses Develop Customer Loyalty

Since the 1990s, there has been a growth of club cards, saver schemes and contracts to encourage loyal consumers. All of these methods work towards one goal: increase customer loyalty.

Customer loyalty is incredibly important to businesses, as it represents *repeat business*. If customers come to you, they are more likely to shop with you the next time. Some of the ways that businesses develop loyalty are:

- Loyalty/points cards: Now commonplace in most supermarkets, loyalty cards allow customers to earn points every time they shop and then receive discounts on their next purchase. In-store offers are often for members only, too, which can encourage more people to join.
- Saver schemes: Coffee shops use this technique by offering customers a free drink with every nine they buy. Online marketplaces use this, too, by giving away free shipping when customers spend more than £20 for a purchase.
- Excellent customer service: More than just price, customers are looking for a great experience. Businesses recognise this and work hard to provide a level of customer service that encourages repeat business. Emphasis on service and community spirit is something independent businesses excel at.

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Problems with Developing Loyalty

While a customer is giving a firm repeat business, the firm cannot always assume it has their loyalty.

*Convenience:* A customer sometimes gives a firm repeat business simply because it is convenient. If a new business opened closer by, the customer might instantly change loyalties.

*Price:* Alternatively, it could be the price. If a customer is buying from the business because it is the cheapest, the same customer remain loyal once a different business offers an even lower price?

*Indifference:* Some customers stay with the same mobile phone, Internet or electricity provider because they are out of loyalty, though it is not likely. When a person first moves into a home, they choose the best supplier that suits their needs. Once they have a supplier, however, there is nothing special happening in life that they may not consider switching suppliers for many years. This is true for mobile phone and Internet providers.

1.3.5. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

- 10. The Rubik’s cube is the best-selling toy of all time; an estimated 350 million cubes have been sold worldwide. How does the Rubik’s cube differentiate itself from other toys on the market?
- 11. A small, local food market is looking to bring in more repeat customers. The business has limited marketing investments; however, it does not have much cash readily available. Advise the business on how they should invest in a loyalty card scheme or training of their staff in better customer service.

1.3. Keywords

<b>Unique Selling Point (USP):</b>	This is a feature that makes a product/service appear different from other products/services.
<b>Sustainable:</b>	Businesses that fulfil their own strategic objectives and the needs of the community or society in which they operate.
<b>Objective:</b>	A business’s objectives are those goals/targets required for the business to succeed.
<b>Branding:</b>	This is the image that businesses create for a product or service to distinguish themselves.
<b>Promotion:</b>	This is how businesses let the public be aware of a product or service, such as direct selling and online advertising.
<b>Sponsorship:</b>	When a business supports another person/business or event, such as the sponsorship of sporting events.
<b>Loyalty:</b>	Brand loyalty (for a product, service or company) is when a customer stays with a business and make repeat purchases.

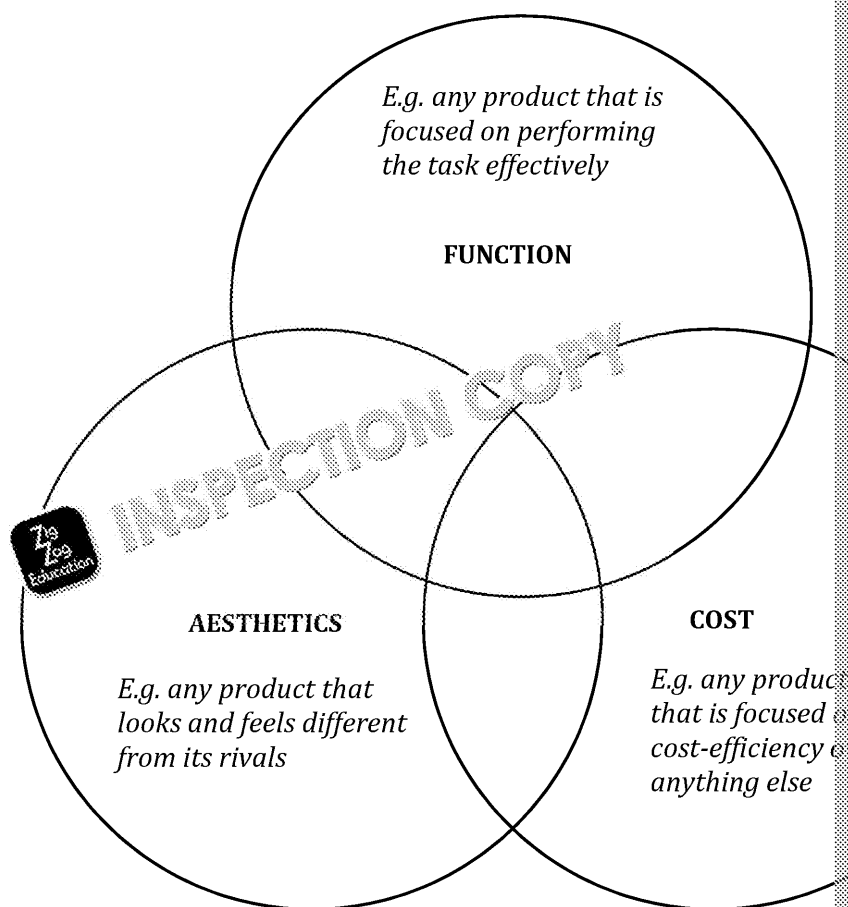
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## 1.3. Answers

1.



2. a. Sustainability: Students should explain at least one of the following.
- Many firms focus on waste, which can help bring down costs
  - There are other sustainability objectives to meet (i.e. government represent larger costs to production)
  - As consumers become more interested in sustainable practices, firms use aesthetic ways to sell the sustainable nature of their products
  - Following on from waste management is the amount of packaging, which influence the expenditure on each product and also the aesthetics
- b. Health: Students should explain at least one of the following.
- The function of a product must meet the healthy lifestyle of the target market
  - Companies now focus on selling the health benefits of their products
  - Making something healthy can be expensive, especially if consumers want organic produce
  - On the other hand, by giving the public what they want (organic), firms can achieve economies of scale in the long run, as there is more potential for growth
3. **Positive effects:** When a consumer learns the name of your product, service or business, they will come to you when they have a requirement. Business does not have to focus their efforts on price cutting in order to get sales. Strong brand leads to lower price elasticity of demand.

**Negative effects:** Rebranding can lead to a backlash from consumers who love the old brand. If enough people speak up, it could change public opinion on the new brand. If a brand or company previously had a bad reputation, it can be difficult to change through rebranding.

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4. Alternative forms of promotion for the drink include public relations, sales and digital communications. Learners should name possible activities that promote the drink (e.g. sales promotions: offering free in-store samples).
5. Possible answers might include changes in communication and the popular contact with consumers, taking advantage of key events and generating buzz to boost your brand. Possible risks include instant communication: consumers can spread the word about your brand and it might snowball in minutes. Social media communications also like any other medium to prevent inappropriate brand messages.

6. a.

Total budgeted costs	£7,750
Markup percentage	20%
Budgeted sales in units	25,000

**Markup:**

$$= \text{Total cost} \times \text{Markup percentage}$$

$$= £7,750 \times 0.20$$

$$= £1,550$$

**Total cost + Markup:**

$$= £7,750 + £1,550$$

$$= £9,300$$

**Budgeted selling price per unit**

$$= (\text{Total cost} + \text{Markup}) \div \text{Budgeted sales in units}$$

$$= £9,300 \div 25,000$$

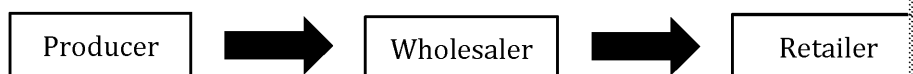
$$= £0.37 \text{ (0.372 to 2 d.p.)}$$

- b. If Bill increased the markup to 30%, the budgeted selling price would be £0.40. This is only a £0.03 increase from the previous figure and so consumers might not notice. Since birdseed is a cheap product in general, it is likely to be price elastic. Bill should do enough market research to ensure he is not seriously overcharging compared to other retailers. If he does overcharge, consumers are likely to switch to other retailers as bird seed is price elastic.
7. Students can explain any of the following factors:
  - Competitor businesses can affect the way consumers see a product/service.
  - The pricing objective of the business, i.e. looking to increase profits, increase market share, etc.
  - Costs, i.e. how cheaply can a product be made?
  - There may be a price war, meaning new businesses are unable to enter the market.
  - Who the business is selling to.
  - Where the business sits in the marketing mix, e.g. are they price leaders?
  - The price and income elasticity of demand can influence how much a business can command for its product.
  - Where the product is in its life cycle can significantly affect a business's pricing strategy.

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8. Fill in the blanks of this four-stage distribution flow diagram:



9. Name an example for each stage of the flow diagram, e.g. producer = apple farmer.  
Example answers:

Producer = electronics manufacturer or dairy farm

Wholesaler = supplier to supermarkets or book warehouse

Retailer = high street shop or online store

Consumer = family buying produce or business needing machinery

10. Learners should show that USPs play an important role in the success of price initiatives. Specific USPs include design of the cube, its unique features.

11. Students should choose either a loyalty card system or customer service decision. Points not given for the other.

**Loyalty system:**

- In-store offers encourage people to buy more while shopping
- Loyal shoppers may also tell their friends and family, potentially building the business
- The scheme can track the buying habits of customers, letting the business offer targeted offers and, potentially, securing more purchases
- A problem could be the fact that loyalty card systems cost a lot to implement and the business has very little cash to spend
- Another problem might come from customers rejecting the system as they don't want to be tracked

**Customer service training:**

- Customers that feel they have had a positive experience in the shop are more likely to make repeat purchases
- Community spirit can be pushed in this way, too, making the business a valued member of the local economy
- A drawback might be the fact that if the business has been trading for a long time, consumers may be accustomed to their regular practices and become complacent about friendliness
- Another drawback might be that training could be a waste of time as the shop has already been in business for a number of years (supposedly having received a lot of training in that case)

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## 1.4 Managing People

### 1.4.1. Approaches to Staffing



#### Key Points Covered

- Staff as an Asset or Cost
- Flexible Workforces
- Distinction between Employer/Employee

Businesses hire employees for a variety of reasons: to complete a project; to help gain new knowledge, to improve a production process, to fill a temporary vacancy. When hiring someone, a business will look at its staff as either an asset or a cost – sometimes both.

#### Staff as an Asset

Businesses that consider their staff as an asset are likely using 'soft' HR methods. Their employees are seen as the most valuable assets within the company. Firms that follow 'soft' HR methods view their staff in terms of their potential to boost their value to the business – this development comes from market changes.

The 'soft' approach to HR views employees as useful assets that contribute to the company through bringing added value, supporting manufacturing processes or offering high-quality services. HR processes take the view that staff are likely to perform better if a firm invests in their development.

#### Staff as a Cost

Firms that treat their staff as a cost focus on the amount of money they are spending on their employees. An employee might develop and become a greater asset for the company. There are many costs to employees, too: recruitment, training, payment, welfare and severance being the most common.

Businesses that view staff as a cost are likely using 'hard' HR methods, which consist of treating staff just like any material or piece of equipment the company uses. 'Hard' HR processes focus on getting the most possible and to utilise them efficiently in order to meet corporate targets. Once their usefulness ends, contractual work, they may be discarded.

#### Flexible workforces

Flexibility is needed because of dynamic changing markets where consumers are difficult to predict, through organisations that need to have more flexible operations to respond to a competitive environment.

'Flexible working' is a phrase that describes any working pattern adapted to suit your needs. Examples of flexible working are:

- Part-time: working less than the normal hours, perhaps by working fewer days a week
- Flexitime: choosing when to work (there is usually a core period during which all employees must work)
- Temporary: employed by a company on a short-term contract that has a fixed end date. Workers are often used when a company knows there is not enough work to fulfil permanent contracts
- Annualised hours: hours are worked out over a year (often set shifts with overtime to make up for other hours)
- Multi-skilling: employees train to become experts in more than one task / skill so that they can adapt more quickly to changes in a company
- Compressed hours: working contracted hours over fewer days
- Staggered hours: different starting, break and finishing times for employees
- Job sharing: sharing a job designed for one person with someone else
- Teleworking/telecommuting: working from home

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Flexible workforces are attractive to companies for many reasons, including:

- Businesses can avoid the costs of having to pay for full-time employment
- They can benefit from access to skilled individuals without having to train them
- Cover shifts can be filled when demand spikes

There are drawbacks to this form of employment, however, such as:

- Staff may have low job security, which could lead to low morale/motivation
- Communications can be difficult, especially if some employees work from home
- The low motivation can lead not only to poor productivity but a high turnover

## Outsourcing

This is another example of flexible working, where a business will find a person / or company to carry out certain business processes. Businesses, especially large ones, often choose this method of working.

- Firms do not have to pay for holiday or national insurance since this is the responsibility of the company
- It can be a cheap way of working if the outsource company is based in a low-cost country
- The service can be well for firms if they need highly skilled individuals but do not want to employ full-time employment

Outsourcing comes with certain problems too, though, including:

- Since businesses are contracting out to an external person/firm, they are less in control of the work produced
- Due to this, the quality may not match that of the business
- It can be tricky for businesses to communicate with outsourced workers; they are not the outsourcing firm after all, not the business

## Distinction between Dismissal and Redundancy

Dismissal is the act of terminating an employee's contract. There are many reasons for dismissal, including:

- Employee is unable to perform key tasks due to lack of skills or qualifications
- Gross misconduct, such as violence or theft in the workplace
- Long-term illness that is not related to disability
- Exceptional cases, such as refusing reasonable contract changes or a prison sentence

An employee can become redundant once his/her job no longer exists. Redundancy can occur in several ways:

- A company has to close down
- Technology replaces tasks normally performed by human workers
- A firm moves its production line overseas

If a company needs to make at least 20 people redundant, it is required to consult an employee representative at least 30 days before any redundancy is made. The company must also consult each employee, too. Any employee who has been given at least two years of continuous employment is entitled to paid redundancy.

Many companies that are faced with having to make redundancies will offer their employees a *redundancy package*, giving an employee the choice of whether to resign from the company or accept the offer of a *redundancy package* (often a financial incentive, such as several months' pay). If an employee enters into lengthy legal disputes.

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## Employer/Employee Relationships

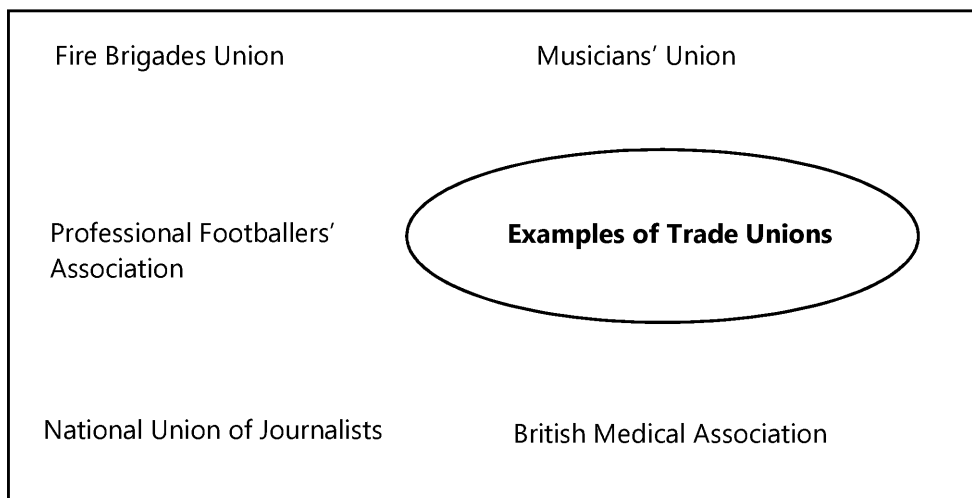
Relations between employer and employee are concerned with preventing and resolving issues which arise out of work situations. Information is provided to employees to ensure understanding of management goals and policies, to advise employees about applicable regulations. Keeping employees fully informed about policies, procedures and practices helps to avoid unnecessary industrial action such as strikes, sit-ins, work-to-rules and pickets.

### Some benefits of good employee/employer communication:

- Good exchange of ideas between workforce and management (such as Kaizen) means more motivated staff and improvement in productivity.
- Better morale, as workers have a voice. This means possible reductions in absenteeism and plus cost savings for the company.
- Better decisions made by management are more likely to be adopted by staff through the consultation process – less resistance to change.
- Improved relations between management and workers means reduction of industrial action.

### Approaches to Improving Employer Relations

**Individual approaches** involve single workers negotiating with their employers on their own behalf. **Collective bargaining** occurs when a trade union or employee representative negotiates on behalf of many workers.



Resolving issues at work can be all about getting management and employee representatives to agree on things over. Essentially, conflict is caused because two sides – the employees and the management – have different views. Conflict resolution, therefore, will involve some method of two-way communication. In the case of collective bargaining, representative talks on behalf of many union members, this is called *collective bargaining*. It is impossible for the management of Toyota to talk to their thousands of staff and so they use union representatives who have their workforce's interests at heart.

Unions take action in an organisation when either communication has broken down or when management and employee communication have closed down. Lack of communication or poor communication are the most common causes of industrial action.

When employees' representatives, such as trade unions, present demands and grievances, these matters are discussed and agreed upon. If they reach deadlock, then a third party is called in to break the deadlock. It is then no longer a negotiation and instead becomes a mediation, where an agreement is to be reached. If this still does not work, the business may seek to go to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

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## Methods of Employee Representation

Method of employee representation	Advantages	
<b>Trade unions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examples are NUT (National Union of Teachers) and MU (Musicians' Union)</li> <li>Lobby for satisfactory rates of pay</li> <li>Can secure appropriate working conditions</li> <li>Negotiate on target bonuses</li> <li>Negotiate on grievance procedures</li> <li>Collective bargaining in an attempt to get the best possible pay and conditions for its workers and to communicate their members' wishes to the employers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If they only represent workers in an industry, they have less influence; 63% of workers are unionised compared to 10% in the service sector</li> <li>If they negotiate on behalf of all workers, it can lead to resentment</li> <li>Trade unions can be slow in changing working conditions and machinery of production</li> <li>Unofficial workers' representatives can put a strain on employees and management</li> </ul>
<b>Staff associations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examples are Society of Radiographers and Chartered Society of Physiotherapy; represent workers but carry out only some of the functions of a union</li> <li>Provide a common voice for workers</li> <li>Increase participation and involvement of staff</li> <li>Sit on management policy groups and help to make decisions</li> <li>Help to coordinate training by giving employee input on what is needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require a large amount of time and effort on the part of management</li> <li>Some employees may not want to join or will not stay</li> <li>Managers may not want to join</li> <li>Lack of clarity over who to keep numbers low</li> <li>May be over-represented</li> </ul>
<b>Professional associations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examples are the Police Federation and Professional Football Association</li> <li>Perform many similar tasks as unions</li> <li>Responsible for setting and maintaining standards in their industry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May insist on high standards for members and the industry</li> </ul>
<b>Works councils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal requirement if the business is part of a multinational company (MNC) that operates in at least two European countries with at least 1,000 employees (at least 150 employees in two member states)</li> <li>Right to representation by a works council has been an EU directive since 1999</li> <li>Employees in different member states have the right to be informed and be consulted about transnational issues via a works council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complex to set up</li> <li>Language barriers</li> <li>Communication problems between different cultures and time zones</li> </ul>
<b>Employee groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forums made up of employee representatives from selected areas of the business and representatives of the employers</li> <li>Also known as staff representation committees</li> <li>Are joint committees made up of management, HR and employee representatives from selected parts of the business</li> <li>Management can discuss and raise issues that affect, or are likely to affect, employees</li> <li>Bridges the gap between management and workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May lack the authority to negotiate</li> <li>Management may not want to join and block decisions</li> <li>Can lead to conflict between the organisation and employees</li> <li>Employees may not want to join</li> <li>Possibility for employees and management to reach an agreement</li> </ul>

### 1.4.1. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

- Would a business using 'hard' HR methods be likely to view its employees as a resource?
  - How else does 'hard' HR differ to 'soft' HR?
- Identify and explain two types of 'flexible working'.

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## 1.4.2. Recruitment, Selection and Training



### Key Points Covered

- The Recruitment and Selection Process
- Costs and Benefits of Recruitment, Selection and Training
- Types of Training

1. **A vacancy arises.** This may be due to the creation of a new job or because an existing post has to be filled due to an employee being promoted or leaving the organisation. Termination of employment is also known as *severance*.

2. **A job description and person specification are drawn up.** The *job description* sets out the *duties and responsibilities* of the actual job while the *person specification* details the *experience, skills and abilities* the employee will need to possess in order to carry out the job effectively.

3. **The post is then advertised in the appropriate media** which, depending on the job, could be local or national newspapers, television, radio or magazines and media.

4. **Application forms** along with the job description and the person specification are forwarded to those who respond to the advertisement.

5. **Short-listing** takes place based on the contents of the application form and the criteria specified in the job description and person specification. If a large number of *Suitably Qualified* candidates apply, then an *enhanced criterion* may be used. This process *reduces* the number of candidates to be interviewed to a manageable number.

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## The Recruitment and Selection Process

The outcome of the recruitment process has a significant impact on a business. While a negative impact will depend on the quality of the employee selected. Finding the right person is a drawn-out process, but it will benefit the business in the long run. However, employing the wrong person has a serious detrimental impact on the business.

Given these considerations, a business must choose an employee *very* carefully, with care for their attitude or skills (or, many times, both). The business can consider filling a vacant post from within their existing workforce, or they can recruit *externally*. Both methods have their drawbacks.

### Internal vs External Recruitment

*Internal recruitment* involves filling a job vacancy through a *promotion* of the existing workforce. The vacancy is advertised *within* the organisation using an internal noticeboard, staff magazine or meeting.

#### ✓ Advantages of internal recruitment

1. Existing employees require *less training* and they know the business's *ethos*.
2. It can help to *motivate and retain* employees as they can see that loyalty and hard work can lead to a successful career path.
3. The business *already knows* the skills, qualities and personality of the employee.
4. Internal recruitment is *relatively cheap* to undertake and usually *quicker* to undertake than external recruitment.

#### ✗ Disadvantages of internal recruitment

1. The business may *need* to employ *new blood with fresh ideas* in order to change. This *will cost* the business both money and time.
2. An internal appointment may cause *friction* within the business and demotivate those who were *unsuccessful* with their application.
3. Recruiting an existing employee to a vacant post will require that *their post* be filled by another recruitment process posing the *same dilemmas*.

*External recruitment* involves filling a job vacancy by recruiting from sources *outside* the business. The vacancy, depending on the job, can be advertised in local or national newspapers, magazines and journals, recruitment agencies, job centres, headhunting from other sources or, that is, direct recruitment from schools, colleges and universities.

#### ✓ Advantages of external recruitment

1. It brings *new blood with new ideas* into the business.
2. The business has a *bigger pool* from which to choose its employee.
3. It is unlikely that the employee would have already *bonded* with any group within the business and therefore, be *less likely to be unduly influenced* by others.

#### ✗ Disadvantages of external recruitment

1. It can be a *slow and costly* process.
2. It requires a *rigorous selection procedure* as the business does not already know the attitude and personality of the potential employee.
3. It can demotivate existing employees as they may feel *undervalued* and be *less likely to stay*. This may cause them to look for alternative employment.

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## Costs and Benefits of Recruitment and Selection

People are the *most important asset a business has*. This *special asset* can be used to *create* labour or to *replace* labour. People must be employed to *tactically and strategically* work in the *functional areas* of production, marketing, finance, sales, etc. The question is *under what circumstances* should additional staff be employed?

People are the *human face* of any business. Take, for example, the service sector: *customer service* insurance companies prefer to *talk directly to people* rather than automated answer machines. In *healthcare* businesses, it is the *attitude* of the doctors, nurses, waiters, retailers or hairdressers that affects the *perception* of the *quality of service* provided by that business.

A business with good industrial relations and a stable, well-motivated workforce will have more *productive* objectives than one that does not. For all these reasons, businesses find it necessary to recruit and select staff.

There are drawbacks to recruiting new staff, however, which include:

1. People *cost money* to *recruit, employ, train and retain*.
2. People *make mistakes and misjudgments* which are costly in terms of money and *scarce* business resources. Mistakes and misjudgments damage the *business's reputation* and *productivity*.
3. People take *unofficial* time off, breaks, holidays and *are protected* by UK *employment law* which can be *crippling expenses* for a small-to-medium-sized business.
4. People *need to be trained*, even retrained, and this costs the business both money and time. If the business has a *high turnover of staff*, this cost will increase even further.
5. People are *individuals* and, therefore, it can be *difficult* for a business to find the right person. It may also *encourage* their employees to be more productive.
6. People can be *very selfish* and are often *reluctant to share ideas* with colleagues. *Ideas can be stolen*, causing them to miss out on promotion. This may lead to a *culture of jealousy* in the workforce and *lack of teamwork*, both of which would reduce the productivity of the business.

## Types of Training

Every *new employee* should receive some training, irrespective of the type of job they are doing. Training can *improve* an employee's loyalty, skills, motivation and efficiency as well as *reduce* labour turnover, wastage and absenteeism. Types of training include *on-the-job* training and *induction training*. Each of these has its own merits and disadvantages.

### On-the-job Training

This is sometimes referred to as *in-house training*, because it involves the employee being trained by someone within the business.

#### ✓ Advantages of on-the-job training

1. The employee is still working within the business and is *contributing to the business*.
2. It is *less expensive* for the business as they do not have to pay for the *time and money* of a *trainer*.
3. Employers will find it *easier to assess the progress* of the employee's training.
4. The employee will *learn the job* from *experienced workers* who he/she can *build good working relationships* with.

#### ✗ Disadvantages of on-the-job training

1. During *on-the-job* training, the employee may pick up *bad habits* from existing employees. They may *cut corners* and not strictly abide by the rules.
2. This type of training *does not* easily lend itself to bringing *new ideas* into the business as the trainee is *grounded with existing ideas and practices*.
3. During the training period, *the trainer is distracted from their own work*, which may *reduce their productivity* which would not be good for the business.

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## Off-the-job Training

This is sometimes referred to as *formal training* and involves the employee training colleges of further and higher education, universities or undertaking self-study courses.

### ✓ Advantages of off-the-job training

1. It gives the employee the chance to *experience new business ideas and methods* applied for the benefit of the business.
2. The trainee does *not accidentally damage the business's own equipment*.
3. Training is given by *specialist, qualified instructors*.

### ✗ Disadvantages of off-the-job training

1. The business usually *has to pay* for the employee's training.
2. Skills taught to the trainee *may not be easily transferred* to the workplace.
3. The trainee is away from the business during the training period and, therefore, *productivity during this time is lost*.

## Induction Training

This is specifically designed at *new employees* to familiarise them with the business, its policies and safety procedures and fellow workers. A *structured* induction programme may be organised by management, the human resources department or trade unions and can last for several days.

## The Benefits and Costs of Training

Any business should consider the training of employees as *an investment in the future*.

1. Reducing *wastage* in time and materials
2. Increasing the *flexibility* of the workforce
3. Motivating employees by making them feel *more valued* and so help reduce staff turnover
4. Reducing *staff turnover* as less people will leave if they see that their careers are being developed by undertaking training schemes offered by the business
5. Improving productive *efficiency and competitiveness* by having a highly skilled workforce

However, there are *costs* involved in training some of which are:

1. The *loss in productivity* of the on-the-job trainer
2. The cost of external *training resources* such as books and materials
3. The *administrative costs* involved for both in-house and formal training
4. The cost of the *actual tuition* for placement with an external training institution
5. The *transport, insurance and subsistence costs* involved in off-the-job training
6. The cost of *facilities, materials and personnel* necessary for on-the-job training
7. The *hidden costs* that might be incurred if a fully trained employee is poached by another business

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### 1.4.2. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

3. Give one advantage and one disadvantage of the following:

- a. Internal recruitment
  - i. Advantage
  - ii. Disadvantage
- b. External recruitment
  - i. Advantage
  - ii. Disadvantage

4. Copy out and fill in the following recruitment flow chart using the phrases below.

References

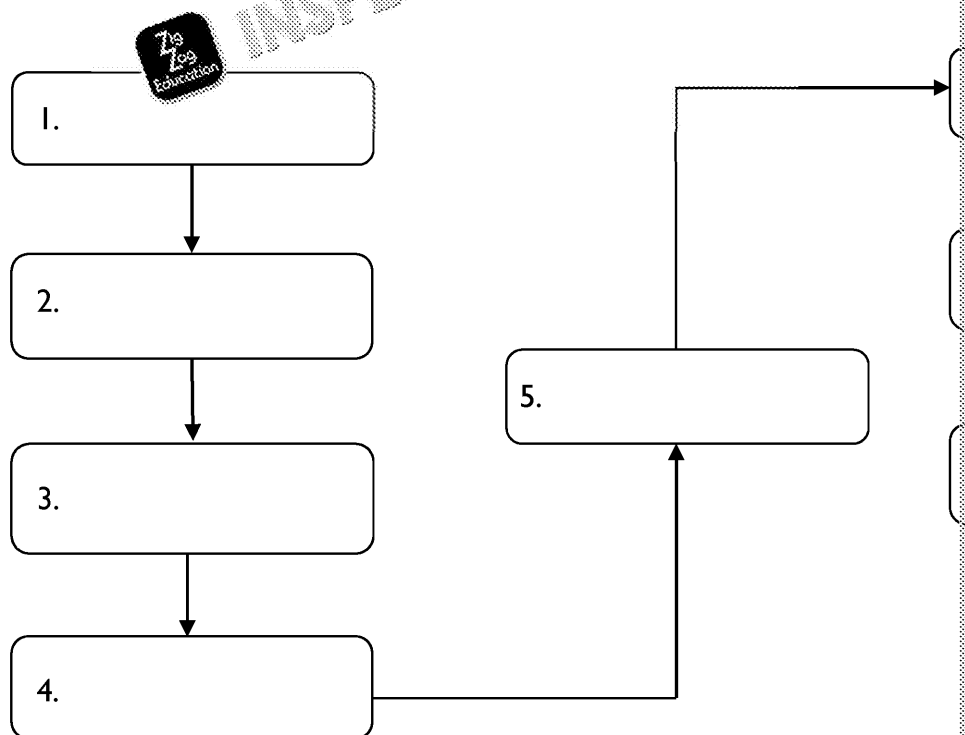
Shortlisting

Advertise post in appropriate media

Vacancy arises

Applications received

Interviewing



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### 1.4.3. Organisational Design



#### Key Points Covered

- Organisational Structure
- Types of Structure
- Impact of Different Structures on Business Efficiency

The design structure of an organisation *must meet its needs*. Some organisations are *global*, operating in the *global* marketplace, while others are relatively *small*, working in a *local* or *national* marketplace. Whatever the organisation's size or structure it must be *fit for purpose*, that is, meet the needs of the organisation and be capable of *responding quickly* to change in a dynamic business environment (i.e. able to *change its structure* if it needs to). Business structures are demonstrated using organisational charts.

Businesses can be structured or organised using several criteria, the most common being:

1. **Area** – where the business operates geographically
2. **Customer** – the markets where the products are sold
3. **Function** – departments or functional areas within the business
4. **Product** – the type of goods they produce or the service they provide
5. **Process** – the stages involved in making the product or providing the service

#### Centralised and Decentralised Business

Businesses are generally structured in either a *centralised* or *decentralised* manner.

**Centralised:** This business has a few *top-level managers* that make decisions and direct the company. Business decisions, therefore, are centralised to a *main office*, which controls the objectives for the rest of the company to follow.

**Decentralised:** This business *delegates responsibilities and decision-making powers* to its branches. Decentralised companies allow their various branches to make decisions independent of the central head office.

Being either centralised or decentralised relates to the three main hierarchical structures:

#### Tall

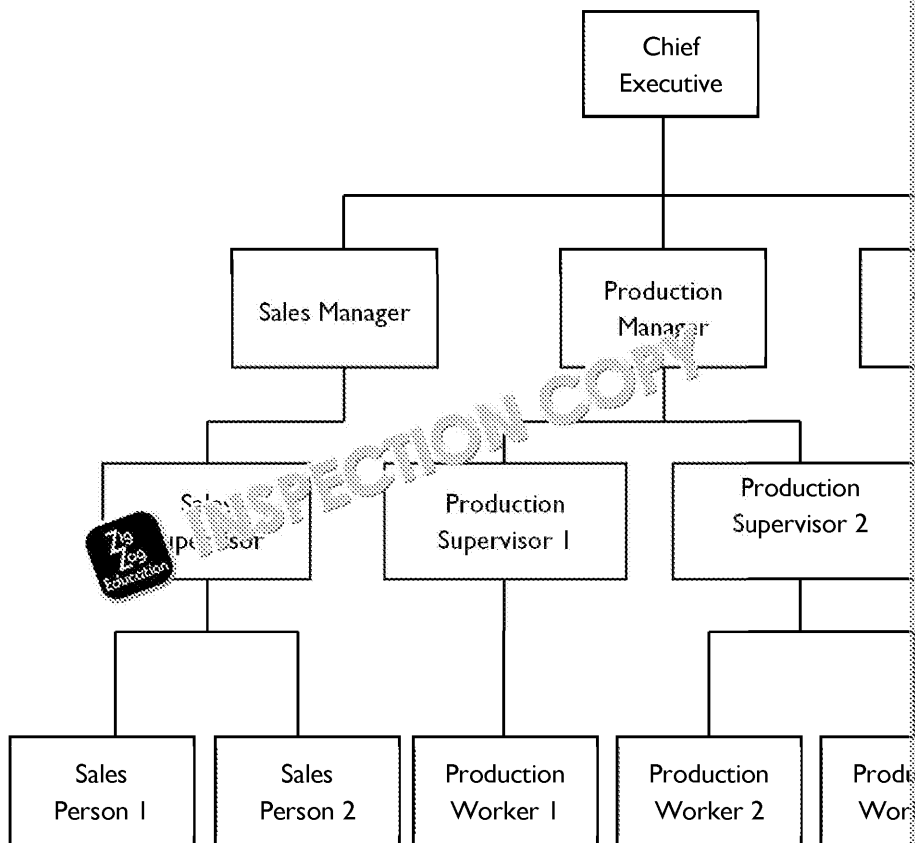
*Tall or hierarchical structures* are layered, *pyramid-like structures* that depict the interrelationships between the *functional areas*, or departments, of a business. There is a *chain of command*, or authority, in the pyramid, with the number of employees and span of control increasing. The span of control is the number of employees that are directly responsible to a manager or supervisor. Such structures are used by organisations such as public limited companies and multinationals.

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A typical organisational chart for a hierarchical structure:



In the example of a hierarchical structure, there are four levels, or layers, with each having a different workload, job allocation and degree of authority. At the top (*level 1*) is the *chief executive*, which is delegated downwards to *level 4*, the 'chalk face' workers, with the least authority. The flow of information within an organisation should be a two-way process, cascading downwards and upwards.

Spans of control also vary. In the diagram, the sales manager has a *span of control of two*, being sales supervisors 1 and 2. The production manager has a *span of control of two*, being production supervisors 1 and 2. However, production supervisor 1 has a *span of control of two*, being production workers 1 and 2. Production supervisor 2 has a span of control of two, being production workers 3 and 4.

#### ✓ Advantages of hierarchical (tall) structures:

1. There is an *effective system of command and control*, with every person in the organisation having a defined role, duty, authority and responsibility. Employees know *exactly what to do* and, equally important, how to get to *where they want* (i.e. there is a clearly defined path).
2. The structure *encourages specialisation*: everyone works in the area, and at the level, that suits their skills. There are specialist sales, production, finance and marketing employees, supervisors and managers in the organisation.

#### ✗ Disadvantages of hierarchical (tall) structures:

1. The structure can be *very bureaucratic* with every task being accurately recorded and controlled. As a result, hierarchical structures *respond slowly* to market change. Ideas and information of efficiency also tend to be slowly communicated and reacted upon. *Horizontal communication* between levels are particularly slow!
2. The *slow response time to market change*, coupled with the problems of inter-departmental communication, encouraged many hierarchical organisations to *downsize, delay and replace* outdated technologies. Such insecurity, along with the large size and impersonal nature of the organisation, cause employees to become *demotivated* and eventually *less productive*.

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### How a Tall Structure Affects the Business

*Communication* is a two-way process in tall-structured businesses. This sharing of business's workforce, increasing **motivation** and, as a result, efficiency.

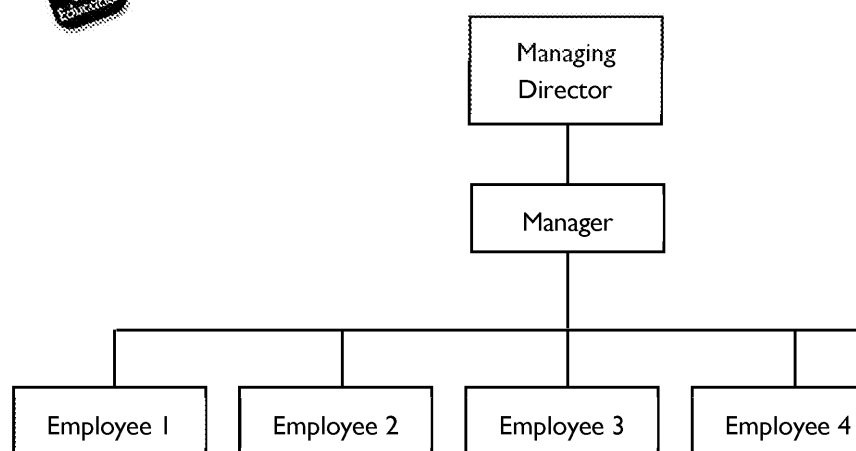
The *operations* of a business are also affected since every department is responsible again, empowers the workforce as the business values them more highly, leading to and **efficiency**.

Nevertheless, the bureaucracy involved in tall-structured businesses means that, the workforce may be, business decisions still take a long time to implement.

### Flat

*Flat structures*, unlike the hierarchical organisation structure, will have *relatively few* management. Consequently, they have a *short chain of command* but a *wider span* usually adopted by *small organisations*, such as sole traders, partnerships and private

A typical organisation chart for a flat structure:



### ✓ Advantages of flat structures:

1. There are *fewer levels* or layers of management in a flat-structured organisation. This makes the decision-making process much *quicker and easier* as there are fewer layers. This may assist a business's competitiveness by allowing it to react quickly to changes in the environment.
2. Internal communications, internal democracy and innovative potential are all *valued* as an integral part of the organisation. This in turn encourages employees to *feel more valued* as an integral part of the organisation. This in turn encourages

### ✗ Disadvantages of flat structures:

1. The *span of control* for a manager increases their job complexity and workload, which has a negative effect on their efficiency as they cannot be specialised in every aspect of the business. They may find it difficult to get to know all the employees they are responsible for.
2. The individual employee's functions, tasks and roles could become *blurred* as they are responsible for more than one employee, which reduces the chance of specialisation.

### How a Flat Structure Affects the Business

Since decision-making is a quicker process than in tall-structured businesses, these changes in the marketplace. There are few layers to a flat-structured business, which means more than one responsibility; this can lead to higher empowerment and **motivation** but also overworked and, potentially, undervalued. Flat-structured businesses, therefore, may streamline efficiency and expecting too much of their staff.

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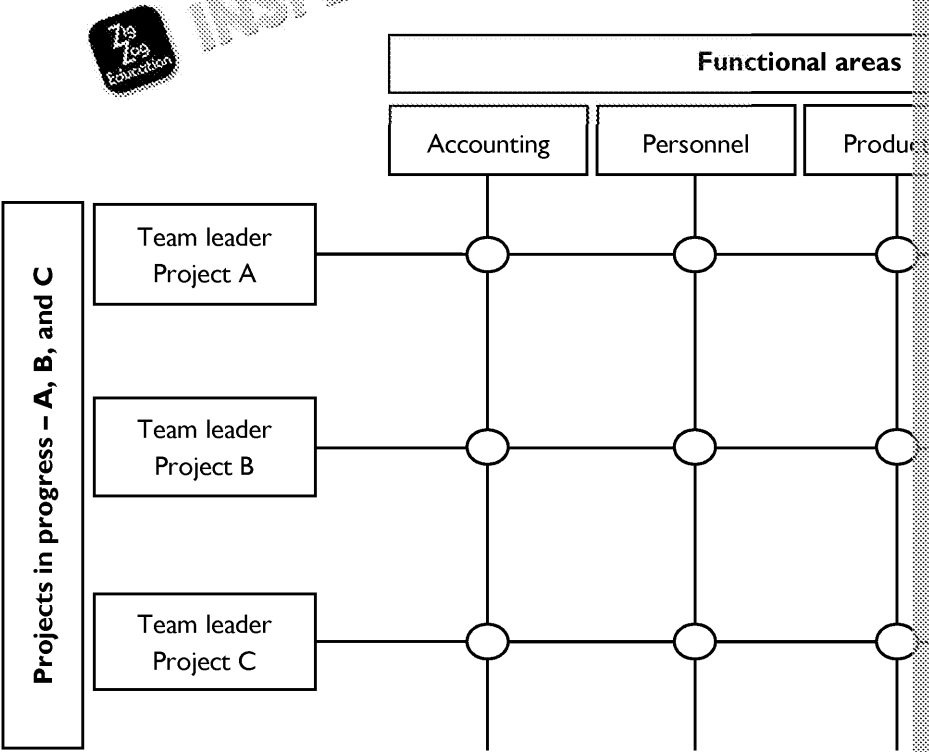
**Matrix**

Matrix structures encourage teamwork, cutting across the traditional idea of independent human resources, accounting, purchasing, marketing, and research and development. It encourages employees and functional area managers to 'think outside the box', have input into the successful implementation of a project for the betterment of the business as a whole, rather than just their specific department.

For example, senior management may decide to implement a few new projects. For each project, a project or team leader is appointed and decide on the best employees to be in that team to ensure the project is successful. Project team members would be chosen for their particular expertise or skills in their departments or functional areas.

During the implementation of the project, team members usually report to their departmental manager as well as the project leader.

The matrix structure diagram:



**Advantages of matrix structures:**

1. The project is staffed and implemented by employees who have been chosen from a particular functional area and is, therefore, more likely to be successfully completed.
2. The project takes on board a wide variety of employees with different specialisms and different decision-making and working processes and so avoids the narrowness of selecting personnel from only one or two functional areas.
3. Projects are time-bound and must be completed within a specific time frame and must be completed within a specified financial budget. These are the most important factors for both the team leader and the team members.

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### ✖ **Disadvantages of matrix structures:**

1. Project team members report to both their team leader and their department manager. This can cause team members to have a *conflict of interest* or loyalty, especially if scarce resources within the organisation. When a choice has to be made, which resources are allocated to *the project* or to *their department*?
2. It is usual for members of the project team to be given a *degree of independence* or *responsibility* when carrying out their tasks. This makes the job of *monitoring* the team *more difficult* as each team member must be individually monitored and held *accountable* for the overall success of the project.
3. If the business increases the number of projects undertaken, they must *employ more staff* and involve *more employees* from various functional areas. This action would possibly have a negative impact on the efficiency of *individual functional areas*.

### **How a Matrix Structure Affects the Business**

Operations in matrix-structured businesses can be divided into two main categories: *project work* and *business as usual (BAU)*. As we have seen, employees report to their project team leaders and to their BAU team leaders. This dual reporting can ultimately reduce the business's potentials for **efficiency** and **effectiveness**. Businesses become too reliant on project work; this is time-consuming with processes may not have achieved the same goal.

Nevertheless, projects are restricted to a certain amount of time (or budget) and are designed to improve the overall business (e.g. updating the IT infrastructure). As such, once a project is completed, it can bring higher levels of efficiency to the entire business. After completion, the project team members return to their BAU roles, working more effectively as a result of the project.

When it is done well, a matrix structure can **motivate** employees, as they are involved in a project and can see the fruits of their labour in the form of a completed project, and see what other departments involved in the same project. But when matrix structures do not work, employees are reporting to two bosses – the project leader and their BAU line manager – and struggling to balance their priorities. Done badly, matrix structures also have potential to *reduce* motivation.

### **1.4.3. Questions**

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

5. Identify whether each of the following statements refers to a 'centralised' or 'decentralised' structure.
  - a. All business decisions are made by a single group or person, who then informs the rest of the organisation.
  - b. Authority is delegated from the head office to employees further down the organisation.
6. Give two reasons why a business owner might wish to keep their organisation structured in a particular way.

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## 1.4.4. Motivation in Theory and Practice



### Key Points Covered

- The Importance of Employee Motivation to a Business
- Motivation Theories
- Financial and Non-Financial Incentives to Improve Employee Motivation

### The Importance of Employee Motivation to a Business

Motivation is the force that *drives individuals* to behave in certain ways. It can be *intrinsic* (the individual themselves as a way to gain personal satisfaction or enjoyment) or *extrinsic* (tangible factors, such as money). Employers use both financial and non-financial motivators to encourage their employees.

Money is *probably* regarded as the *most effective motivator* for the *majority* of employees. However, each unique individual has different needs, wants, attitudes and goals. Due to this, other (non-financial) motivators must be considered, such as job satisfaction, status, sense of achievement, recognition, sense of belonging, job security and trust in the individual.

There is *no one motivator* that suits all employees. For this reason, the manager, supervisor must *know the individuals* within their *span of control* in order to apply the *appropriate motivators* to increase productivity. It can be quite difficult to motivate staff in large *hierarchical-type* organisations due to the large number of workers employed and the usually *impersonal nature* of these businesses.

### Motivation Theories

#### Frederick W. Taylor (1856–1917)

The main points of Taylor's *Scientific Management* Theory are:

1. The development of *specialisation and division of labour* to improve the efficiency of the work.
2. The *systematic analysis* of the relationship between the worker and task undertaken. Taylor believed that management can redesign the way that a task is carried out in order to improve the efficiency of the work.
3. The *formalisation* of the task to be undertaken, which involves developing a set of instructions to be followed for a task's completion.
4. The direct *linking of pay to output* for each worker in order to motivate them to work harder, faster and efficient.
5. The development of a *rigorous recruitment, selection and training process* to ensure that the best people are employed to do the job.
6. The encouragement of *shared responsibility* between management and the workers.

#### Elton Mayo (1880–1949)

Elton Mayo was the founder of the *Human Relations Movement* and carried out experiments with workers for Frederick W Taylor, between 1924 and 1927, on human behaviour. These were known as the *Hawthorne Experiments* at the Works of the Western Electric Company in Chicago. The experiments became widely known.

Initially, the studies were based on the theory of *Scientific Management*, but over time it became clear that changes in working conditions and financial incentives had a *negligible* effect on productivity.

He concluded that productivity *did increase* when workers participated in team or group work. He also found that management showed interest in what the work employees did, as well as taking an interest in their welfare.

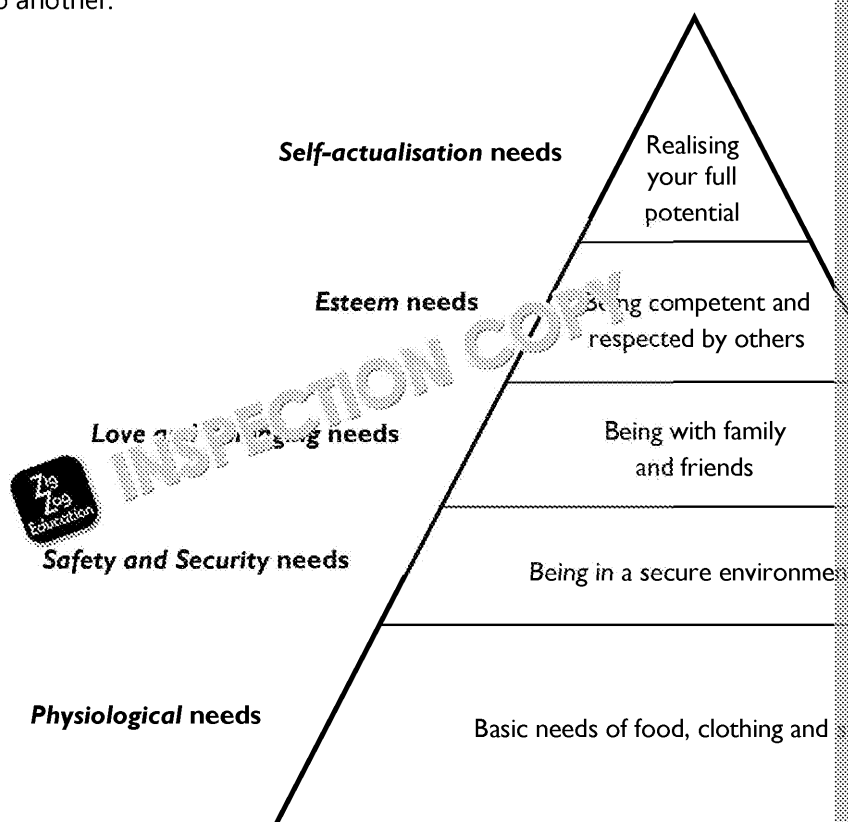
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### Abraham H Maslow (1908–1970)

Maslow's contribution to management theory and motivation is his famous pyramid. His five-layer pyramid displays the basic needs of people: from the base, each need must be met before moving upwards to another.



### Frederick Herzberg (1923–2000)

Frederick Herzberg proposed from his research of professional engineers and accountants that job satisfaction and dissatisfaction at work resulted from *two* different categories: *hygiene* and *motivators*. Both categories must be present in order to *ensure job satisfaction*.

1. **Hygiene factors:** These include supervision, working conditions, salary, security and management. Hygiene factors need to be present to avoid job dissatisfaction, but hygiene factors *by themselves* will not cause job satisfaction.
2. **Motivation factors:** These include recognition, responsibility and advancement. These factors are necessary for job satisfaction, but may not be the only factors that can affect job satisfaction.

### Financial Incentives to Improve Employee Performance

Most management theorists agree that money (or, more precisely, the *lack of money*) is a key factor in worker motivation. However, few believe it to be a primary motivator as most workers are motivated by *achieving higher goals*. Frederick Taylor, the founder of the theory of *Scientific Management*, paid workers by *piece rate* (i.e. by the number of units of output they produced) was a pioneer in this area. Psychologist Douglas McGregor's Theory X postulated that some managers thought workers were lazy and needed a financial incentive to motivate them.

Financial incentives would include:

- **Piecework:** Paid according to output of units produced
- **Time rate:** Paid for the number of hours worked
- **Profit-sharing:** Paid an additional amount based on a percentage of profit
- **Commission:** An extra payment based on a percentage of sales
- **Bonus:** This is usually an additional, one-off, special payment
- **Fringe benefits:** These are 'perks' such as free health insurance, cars and holidays
- **Performance-related pay:** Payment directly linked to how well workers do their job

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Financial incentives can be very effective when used, for instance, with low-skilled workers for sales commission. In both of these cases, the potential for higher pay can spur them to push themselves further than they would if pay stayed the same. These incentives, however, are less effective in creative environments, where a workforce is usually driven by the prospect of innovation and the opportunity to make more money. Financial incentives can also toe a fine line between motivating employees and encouraging competition.

### Non-financial Incentives to Improve Employee Performance

There are management theorists who believe that money is not as strong a motivator as it seems to be and that other factors are stronger motivators. *Abraham H Maslow*, considered the father of *Psychology*, developed his famous *hierarchy of needs* showing that *money* was not a motivator. *Frederick Herzberg*, the *clinical psychologist* and pioneer of the theory of *job enrichment*, believed that *higher motivators* had nothing to do with money but involved employees getting a sense of *recognition and responsibility* from their jobs.

Non-financial motivators include:

- *Job enlargement*: This is the *vertical expansion* of an employee's existing duties. It involves giving employees a degree of control over their job, or to increase the amount of responsibility they have over their job. *Job enlargement* should make work more challenging and rewarding.
- *Job enlargement*: This is the *horizontal expansion* of an employee's duties. It involves giving employees more of the same skill level, to an existing job. The purpose of job enlargement is to make work more interesting and less boring.
- *Job rotation*: This involves *moving employees between different jobs* in order to keep them more motivated. It has the benefit of making the employee more *multi-skilled* and more business with the *extra costs of training*.
- *Employee empowerment*: This involves encouraging employees to *take more responsibility*. Empowerment encourages employees to get involved in the decision-making process of the business they do. It also enables employees to make *independent decisions* about their work.
- *Delegation*: Management passes *authority* to lower levels of the business. It involves giving employees participation in decision making, increasing employee motivation and productivity.
- *Team working*: This makes the employee feel *less isolated* and helps stimulate *innovative skills*. It also increases the employee's *sense of belonging* to a business, which helps them succeed and so their level of *productivity*.
- *Consultation*: This relates to empowerment. Employees are included in the decision-making process, which gives them more say over what aspects of the business will affect them.
- *Flexible working*: A positive work-life balance is important to everyone and not just women. Flexible hours to the traditional 9 to 5. This is especially true with new parents, who need to be able to work with young children and who still need to work.

Non-financial incentives perform well in environments where the focus is innovation or creativity. Apple Inc., for instance, would place more importance on these incentives than firms that are more product-driven. These incentives do not work so well in low-skilled workplaces where employees are less willing to take on more responsibility, i.e. if the extra work does not lead to career progression or more money, there is little reason to accept the incentive.

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## Extend your Knowledge

The following two theories were introduced by Peter Drucker and Tom Peters. Motivation are not essential to your exams, but we have included them for your perspective on motivation.

### **Peter Drucker (1909–2005)**

Peter Drucker was the first to outline the theory of *Management by Objectives*. He wrote his book *The Practice of Management*. Drucker believed that effective management is a *scientifically based approach*, which should attempt to reach production targets by managing the resources it already has and should only make decisions based on available information.

To be effective, Drucker suggested that MBO should involve:

- *Setting and communicating organisational objectives and targets* (Measurable, Specific, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound).
- *Organising the workforce* to carry out tasks that help achieve the objectives.
- *Devising suitable motivational factors* for the workers. These should include both financial and non-financial motivators.
- *Developing a method of measuring the output* of each employee against a predetermined level so that a quantifiable performance measure can be obtained.
- *Developing the skills* of all employees in the most appropriate way.

### **Tom Peters (1942–)**

Unlike other management gurus, *Peters has no one, all-embracing theory*. He believes that businesses should *recognise the talents of the individuals* and move away from the 'Taylorist theory' and concentrate more on the importance of people being proactive.

In 1982, Peters and Robert Waterman published a book entitled *In Search of Excellence*. They identified the *eight characteristics of business excellence* as being:

- Proactive management
- Understanding customers
- Entrepreneurship
- Productivity through people
- Hands-on and value-driven management
- Doing what you know best
- Having a simple structure with lean staff
- Having both a centralised and decentralised philosophy

Peters and Waterman, in collaboration with Anthony Athos and Richard Schonberger, developed the 'Seven-S' model, emphasising a holistic view of an organisation, the *Seven S's*: *Strategy, Structure, Systems, Skills, Staff, Style and Shared values*.

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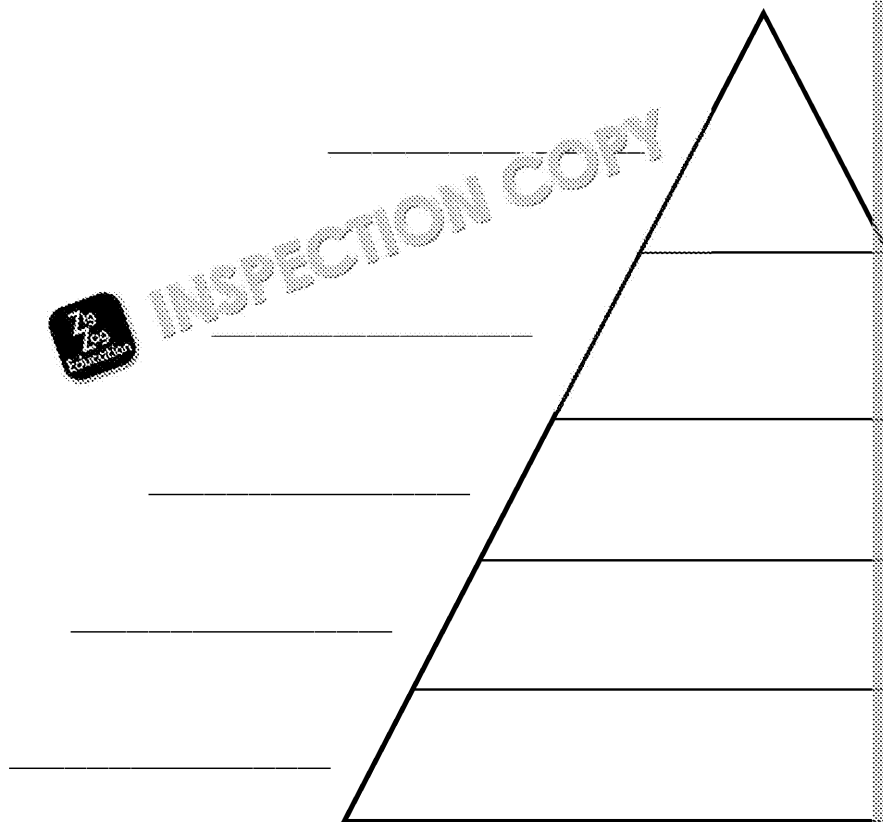


### 1.4.5. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

7. Fill in Maslow's 'hierarchy of needs' pyramid with the following terms:

Self-actualisation needs / Safety and security needs / Physiological needs / belonging needs



8. Explain what Herzberg meant by hygiene and motivation in terms of job satisfaction.

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## 1.4.5. Leadership



### Key Points Covered

- Leadership
- Types of Leadership

### Difference between Management and Leadership

*Management* involves four basic functions: *planning, organising, leading* and *controlling* business. It is the general administration of a business – the *business as usual* or day-to-day running of the business.

*Leadership*, on the other hand, describes how a business is *run*, how a person can *inspire* employees and positively influence them in order to bring success to the business. They have *innate* and often *charismatic* characteristics that *encourage* and *inspire* their full potential.

It is worth noting that *managers are not necessarily good leaders!*

### Types of Leadership Style

The most common styles of leadership are:

#### Democratic

This involves *empowering employees by involving them in the decision-making process*. Employees are consulted, but remains in overall control. After a task has been decided *workers then decide the best way to complete it within the deadline*. Although such consultation *slows down* the decision-making process, democratic leadership can improve employee *motivation* as it makes them feel part of the team.

Leaders of start-ups and medium-sized businesses often use the democratic style as their teams are relatively small. Leaders of these firms have short chains of command, with most employees, and so they tend to involve more people before they act. However, the decision-making, where numerous people all give their opinion, can make it seem impossible to get anything done!

#### Autocratic

This is a *dictatorial style* of leadership where workers are set a task and *told* how and when to complete it, without consultation and participation in the decision-making process. The absence of consultation can *decrease* employee motivation, but on the other hand the decision-making process is much *faster*.

This type of leadership technique is often used in large factories where businesses might employ many low-skilled workers. The workforce is directed to perform a task and given very specific instructions to follow. While an efficient way of getting things done, autocratic leadership can lead to resentment within the workplace since employees feel undervalued by their employers.

#### Paternalistic

This is a *'father knows best'* style of leadership which allows for *consultation* with employees, but the final decision as to how to carry it out is *made by the business leader*. It is nevertheless a style which takes into account the needs and best interests of the employees.

Much like democratic leadership, the paternalistic style is generally favoured by small businesses. It can have drawbacks, though, such as a leader becoming so involved in the process that they end up controlling everything and hindering the development and/or creative freedom of the team.

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### Laissez-faire

This leadership style *empowers* employees to carry out a given set task with the *minimum of interference* from the manager. The degree of the leader's participation in the task is *being available to give advice and guidance, when sought* by employees.

The laissez-faire technique works well in large organisations that have many layers of management below the business leader. Departments / business units work autonomously to achieve their objectives, speaking to the leader only when absolutely necessary. This technique can be difficult for leaders to administer, however, especially if they are not 100 per cent confident in their employees. The workforce may also lack confidence in the leader or in themselves, as most are used to being told what to do and when to do it. Laissez-faire can also create a 'big brother' atmosphere in the workplace, where people know that while the boss is not around he/she is always watching.

### 1.4.5. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

9. Tennis Elbow are a manufacturer of sports equipment. Since their inception, the company (with 30 employees) have been led in an autocratic manner. They are now thinking about becoming more laissez-faire.

Consider the positives and negatives of changing from autocratic to laissez-faire and what they should do.

10. Describe how management and leadership differ.

## 1.4 Keywords

<b>Span of control:</b>	The amount of control that a manager has, e.g. a sales manager with three sales advisors and so the span of control is three.
<b>Hierarchy:</b>	The way in which a business is structured, such as flat, tall, etc.
<b>Delegation:</b>	This is the process of transferring authority and power from a manager to an employee in a lower management layer. Note that authority can be delegated downwards but responsibility cannot be.
<b>Chain of command:</b>	This is the <i>route</i> in which power and authority are passed through the <i>layers of management</i> .
<b>De-layering:</b>	This is the process of <i>removing layers</i> of the organisation.
<b>Centralisation:</b>	This often means that a few <i>top-level managers</i> retain all the responsibility for the whole business. All decisions would be made in the <i>head office</i> and then <i>communicated</i> to the business's various branches.
<b>Decentralisation:</b>	This often involves the process of <i>delegating authority</i> to employees <i>lower down</i> the business's chain of command, or <i>allowing</i> the business's various <i>branches and outlets</i> to operate <i>independent of head office</i> .
<b>Outsourcing:</b>	When a business pays workers in another country to make products or provide services.
<b>Dismissal:</b>	When an employee is removed from his/her position without notice.
<b>Redundancy:</b>	This happens when an employee's position no longer exists.

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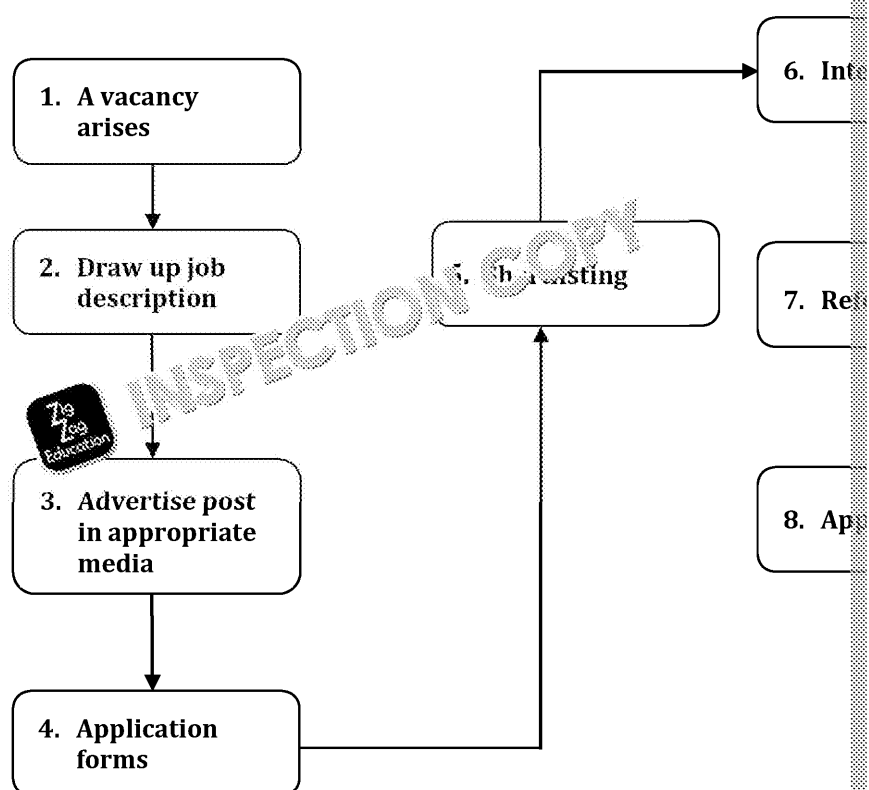
## 1.4. Answers

1.
  - a. Businesses using 'hard' HR methods often view their staff as a cost. So they use staff as cheaply as possible in order to get a task done rather than investing in their staff.
  - b. Students should show any of the following ways in which 'hard' HR methods differ from 'soft' HR methods:
    - Soft HR looks to develop staff rather than just use them for a purpose
    - Soft HR follows market changes to continually train staff in leading edge skills
    - Soft HR sees employees as contributing to the output of a firm
    - Hard HR does not focus on development while soft HR sees this as a key part of the value of the company and of the workforce
2. Examples of flexible working include:
 

Temporary: workers are employed on a short-term basis in order to fulfil a specific task.

Job sharing: multiple workers are employed in order to fulfil a single role that cannot commit to a full week of work, for instance.

Teleworking/working from home: individuals are employed (or contracted) to work from home.
3. Two examples are given for each type of recruitment.
  - a. Internal recruitment
    - i. Advantages include: motivation of employees by showing there is a career path; existing employees require less training than external hires.
    - ii. Disadvantages include: hiring internally can cause friction with existing staff; hiring within still means that another job becomes vacant so the company must advertise for that.
  - b. External recruitment
    - i. Advantages include: hiring externally allows a business to bring in new ideas; advertising externally opens up a wider pool of people than if they were to look internally.
    - ii. Disadvantages include: the wider pool of people means external hiring takes longer than internal, and so it costs a lot more; hiring externally means employees who then feel undervalued by their employer.
4. Copy out and fill in the following recruitment flow chart.

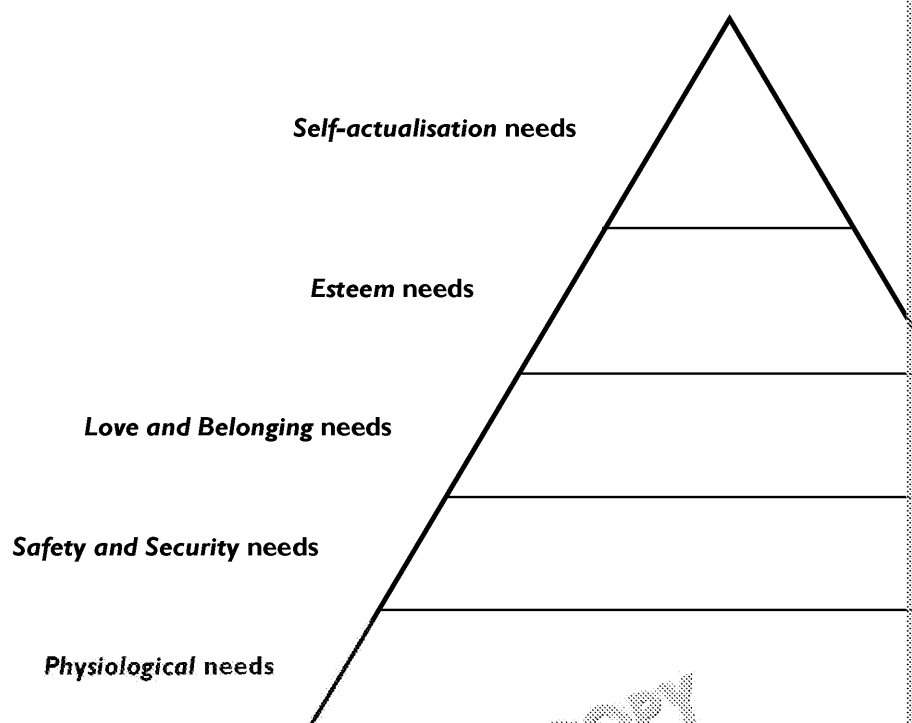


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5. Identify whether each of the following statements refers to a 'centralised' or 'decentralised' business structure.
- Centralised:** All business decisions are made by a single group or person on behalf of the rest of the company.
  - Decentralised:** Authority is delegated from the head office to employees at lower levels of command.
6. Students should identify two reasons for staying flat, such as (but not limited to):
- With fewer layers of management, there is less bureaucracy to contend with, making the decision-making process much quicker
  - Quicker decision-making also means the business can react more quickly to changes in the environment
  - A business owner may also wish to keep a tighter grip on more aspects of the business; a flat structure allows this
  - The business's employees can feel more motivated since communication is easier, and they see a benefit for the business and, therefore, the owner.
  - With better communication, employees may feel more part of the team and more committed to the business objectives.
7. Fill in the gaps in Maslow's 'hierarchy of needs' pyramid with the following terms:

Self-actualisation needs / Safety and security needs / Physiological needs / Love and belonging needs / Esteem needs



8. Students should explain at least one point for each factor.
- Hygiene involves:
- Security: making the workforce feel safe in their working environment
  - Salary: employees require a fair salary in order to feel valued by the company
  - Relationships: management and peers must be able to communicate effectively
  - Supervision: management needs to be aware of what is happening in the workplace and ensure employees need to feel their work matters to the bigger picture
- Motivation involves:
- Recognition: a motivated workforce needs to feel valued by its employer
  - Advancement: if there is no upward mobility in an organisation, employees will become disenchanted
  - Responsibility: employees do not always demand money in return for their work; sometimes only wish to have more influence on the company they work for

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9. Learners should show their understanding of the difference between autocratic and democratic leadership (i.e. autocratic leaders make decisions then inform their workers, while democratic leaders act more like advisors to their employees by giving them large amounts of freedom and not intruding less often).

Learners should also consider which manner would work best for a small business like Tennis Elbow. The company are still quite small (with 30 employees) and so the manager can stay fully involved in order to ensure processes are completed to standard. A democratic approach shows employees that their leader trusts them, which may help them to succeed.

Learners may wish to mention that a change in leadership should only be made if the current one is not working – this applies to Tennis Elbow, too. Learners could also consider if the company consider a democratic leadership style, this would allow more employees to have a say in decisions without reallocating all authority away from the main decision-maker.

10. Students should understand that while leadership involves setting the vision and motivating the workforce, management is more focused on the day-to-day running of the business and ensuring it is run and, therefore, meet its objectives.



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## 1.5. Entrepreneurs and Leaders

### 1.5.1. Role of an Entrepreneur



#### Key Points Covered

- Creating and Setting Up a Business
- Running and Expanding a Business
- Barriers to Entrepreneurship
- Innovation within a Business
- Anticipating Risk and Uncertainty in the Business Environment

Being enterprising is about risk-taking, innovation, facing new challenges and generating an *Enterprise Culture* that involves any business activity undertaken with the aim of making a profit.

#### Creating and Setting Up a Business

Entrepreneurs are the driving force behind the economy as they stimulate economic activity. They are the ones who *take the risk* and put their own, not others', money *where their mouth is*. Their reward for success is *profit*. Entrepreneurs spot a *gap* (a niche) in the market and develop new products, services and ideas, or develop existing ones to *fill that gap*. By their actions, entrepreneurs provide the customer with an *extended choice* of goods and services, as well as *create jobs* for the local and national economy which in turn *increases economic growth*.



Many entrepreneurs work from home.

Entrepreneurs are *optimists* who see the glass as being half full and not half empty. They *believe in themselves*, their product or service, and above all the future success of their enterprise.

There is no entrepreneurial *gene bank*. Anyone, irrespective of age or gender, can be an entrepreneur provided they have the *right business idea* and the *resources* of time and *personal capital*. Entrepreneurs are a *special and unique type of labour* who can combine the *factors of production* (labour, capital) into a *coordinated, viable and working enterprise*.

Once an entrepreneur has a viable idea, they will go through certain steps before launching their business. These steps can be numerous, including:

- **Market research:** This helps an entrepreneur understand whether the gap in the market actually needs to be filled. This might include primary research, such as interviewing potential customers, or secondary research, such as reading published surveys.
- **Business Plan:** This will allow the entrepreneur to map out what they expect to happen over the next months to few years.
- **Finance:** This is integral to setting up a business. An entrepreneur will either use their own money or look to outside financing, such as bank loans or venture capitalists.
- **Location:** Once financing is in place, the entrepreneur can prepare to launch their business. For a retail business they have set up, this might entail purchasing raw materials or securing a mortgage for a new location.

Not every business follows these steps, nor do they follow them in order. Businesses can fail, though they are more likely to fail in this way.

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## Running and Expanding a Business

Once an entrepreneur launches their business, they will likely be the only employee responsible for all day-to-day operations. These include production (making the product), marketing (studying the market and promoting in the right way), finance (taking care of the books), administration (e.g. bookkeeping and tracking contracts) and purchasing (finding the right price).

As revenue and demand grow, the business expands. This expansion occurs in many ways:

- Employing staff to work in areas of the business (this will also mean the business owner takes on a management role)
- Increasing levels of production to match quantity demanded
- Promoting products/services to new and/or foreign markets
- Purchasing new equipment and locations

What was once a one-person operation grows into a business with multiple employees. The entrepreneur takes a seat from production and divide their business into departments. They become a manager, or leader, with subordinate employees working under them.

## Innovation within a Business

Many companies promote *intrapreneurship* from their staff as a way to cultivate innovation and leadership. *Intrapreneurs* are individuals who act like entrepreneurs but work within a company.

Businesses benefit from this initiative as it helps develop employees into highly motivated individuals that become more valuable as a result. The intrapreneur, on the other hand, benefits from taking on certain risks, as an entrepreneur would, while comfortable in the knowledge that they are not on the line personally.

Companies encourage intrapreneurship through reward systems. These can include bonuses and commission payments. The business reaps any rewards from this venture, while the intrapreneur is responsible for any failures.

## Barriers to Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurs have to face many obstacles along the way, including lack of training and resources to develop their own skills. The government recognises the need for entrepreneurs and the small business sector to *develop, survive and grow*. Entrepreneurs and small businesses are viewed as essential to the development of *economic growth* and the *provision of employment*. Successful small businesses (SMEs) tend to be *less footloose* than businesses encouraged by *inward investment*.

In an attempt to grow an *enterprise culture*, the government gives support to entrepreneurs in several ways:

1. Promoting the work of regional development agencies
2. Promoting and funding the DTI's Small Business Service
3. Encouraging a less-litigious, and more risk-taking society, with less red tape
4. Encouraging the growth of enterprise colleges and enterprise colleges
5. Encouraging the development of enterprise education in schools through the Enterprise Education Programme

## Anticipating Risk and Uncertainty within the Business Environment

Entrepreneurs are willing to take risks – though calculated ones, naturally. The profit is based on an informed calculation between success and failure.

Risks present the greatest potential for failure and, at the same time, possible success. Small-scale start-ups, introduce a product/service with little to no market research. This can lead to failure since the business does not know whether there is a genuine need for the product. However, there is great potential for success, too, as competition already existing in the market.

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A main risk for any entrepreneur is whether their planned venture will make as much money as they need. If it doesn't earn the person enough money, he/she may be forced to abandon the project. However, inspirational entrepreneurs continue even after multiple failures. Steve Jobs is a great example of this. He held his vision for Apple to the very end, even after failing on multiple occasions and eventually leaving the company!

### Uncertainty

Unlike risk, uncertainty involves the elements that cannot be planned for, such as economic changes, health scares, new competition, legislation and political factors. Entrepreneurs often experience uncertainty through unexpected costs. New businesses often lack the knowledge that more-established firms already have, which can hit them with more uncertainty than they have been anticipated.

Health scares and political unrest can have drastic effects on a business. If a business is affiliated with an area that is affected by either of these factors, their control of the business is lost. The horse meat scandal of 2013 is a good (or perhaps 'bad') example of how health scares can affect a business.

Competition can create problems for businesses, too. If a firm is unprepared for competition or unwilling to change with cultural trends, the market may disappear from under its feet. An example of this is: in the 1990s, Nokia was one of the leading brands of mobile phones across the world. In the 2000s, Apple, Samsung and other smartphone producers had entered the market and were quickly gaining customers. Nokia did not change with this trend, instead it stuck to the products that brought them success in the 1990s. The company eventually lost out and their mobile phones were later bought by Microsoft (in order to control production of the Windows Phone). Nokia failed to keep up with the competition.

### 1.5.1. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

1. Give one reason why a business might encourage a culture of intrapreneurship.
2. The horse meat scandal of 2013 significantly affected food businesses across the world. Which products in your wide portfolio of products have helped some firms?

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## 1.5.2. Entrepreneurial Motives and Characteristics



### Key Points Covered

- Characteristics and Skills Required
- Reasons Why People Set Up Businesses

Entrepreneurs are people that thrive on success, risk and reward. They come in all shapes and sizes (and with all sorts of ideas!) and the reasons for becoming an entrepreneur can differ from person to person.

### Characteristics Required for an Entrepreneur

Their characteristics, however, are normally very similar and include:

- **Creative** – be able to look to the future
- **Hardworking** – have no problem putting in the necessary effort to run a business
- **Resilient** – be emotionally strong enough to bounce back from adversity
- **Self-confident** – have confidence in their own abilities and be able to convince others
- **Risk-taking** – be willing to take chances that have potential for great reward
- **Initiative** – be able to take an idea/plan and act upon it with minimal guidance

### Skills Required for an Entrepreneur

There are skills that an entrepreneur needs, too, which include:

- **Problem-solving** – have the analytical skills necessary to understand how to solve a problem
- **Teamwork** – have the ability to work with others and offer support where needed
- **Communication** – able to convey what they mean so everyone can understand
- **Organisation** – have the ability to juggle many tasks and responsibilities
- **Numeracy** – have the skills necessary for business calculations, such as financials
- **Information technology** – computers are a part of everyday life as they are used in business

### Reasons Why People Set up Businesses

Entrepreneurship is stressful, risky and time-consuming. It is also self-gratifying and often involves a lot of contrasts and conflicts do not dissuade people from becoming entrepreneurs because:

1. Enjoy a good *challenge*
2. Are *creative* individuals by nature
3. Have always wanted to be their *own boss*
4. See that *profit* can be made from their enterprise
5. Want to *do things differently* from everyone else
6. Have been *inspired* by the success or image of someone else
7. May have an *ethical stance*, or *moral reasons*, for wanting to enter a market through entrepreneurship, i.e. using business techniques to tackle social issues.

### Financial and Non-financial Reasons

There are *financial* and *non-financial* reasons for why people become entrepreneurs. *Financial* reasons include *profit maximisation* and *profit satisfying* (financial gain) and the flexibility of the *work-life balance*.

By focusing on *profit maximisation* (more on this in chapter 1.5.3.), entrepreneurs of businesses aim to attract as many potential customers as possible. *Profit satisfying* (making as much profit as possible), involves generating enough profit to fulfil a business aim. The amount of profit businesses aim to make can depend on many factors, such as long-term goals and the demands of any shareholders.

Society is shifting and the *work-life balance* (more on this in chapter 1.5.4.) is becoming more important. People no longer feel the need to work long hours as a way of earning more pay (this is true of many industries). Instead, people put value in their leisure and family time and so look for ways to balance around their lives, rather than the other way around. This social change has encouraged businesses to move from their own homes. Home-based businesses are often small operations that can be run without compromising what is really important to them.

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### 1.5.2. Questions

*Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.*

3. Identify three characteristics required in an entrepreneur.
4. Explain one reason why a person would choose to set up their own business.




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1.5.3. Business Objectives

 **Key Points Covered**

- Survival
- Other Objectives
- Profit Maximisation

Objectives are *goals*, or *targets*, that a business, be it in the *private* or *public* sector, tend to occur in a *layered hierarchy* with *sub-objectives* within each layer. Objective hierarchy are the *broad, long-term strategic* objectives focusing on *business policy*, achieving objectives further down the hierarchy. Objectives further down the hierarchy are *short-term, tactical and specific*, focusing on a business's *day-to-day operation*.

A *private sector* business may have objectives of survival, profit maximisation, market share and/or gaining promotion. A *public sector* enterprise may have objectives of efficient production of public services, such as health and education.

In essence, the *creation of an objective* very much depends on the *category of stakeholder*. Each individual objective carries its *own degree of risk and reward*. The following table shows possible objectives that might satisfy them.

Stakeholder	Possible business objectives to satisfy them
Shareholders	Survival, growth and profit maximisation
Owners	Survival, growth, positive reputation and acclaimed products
Management	Efficiency, low labour turnover, good industrial relations
Suppliers	High sales, steady growth, good liquidity and positive reputation
Government	Growth, high turnover, high profits, increased tax revenue and public awareness
Customers	Low prices, quality product, green credentials and reliable service

There are reasons for each objective and why businesses focus on them. Let's look at them.

**Profit Maximisation:** this objective is the most common for any business as it provides the means to purchase capital (e.g. equipment, location, etc.) and/or invest in growth and expansion.

**Survival:** businesses need a positive cash flow (i.e. enough finances so that they are able to pay their to-month bills and other expenses). If a company is profitable overall, but does not have enough to cover its short-term expenses, it probably will not be able to survive.

**Sales maximisation:** this objective supports profit maximisation. Since a business calculates profit by subtracting total costs from total revenue, they can achieve economies of scale by increasing sales. As they generate, i.e. with more sales comes more revenue and, as such, higher profits.

**Market share:** this objective also supports profit maximisation. Businesses focus on increasing their market share in order to provide themselves to more customers. As they introduce themselves to more customers, they increase their sales and, therefore, profits.

**Cost-efficiency:** while the previous two objectives help bring revenue up, cost efficiency helps bring costs down. This also supports profit maximisation as, with lower costs, businesses can earn more profit.

**Employee welfare:** this is an important objective for businesses in order to maintain the business, i.e. a business may be responsible for the quality of its products, but it is the employees who have control over this.

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**Customer satisfaction:** this objective links back to profit maximisation and survival. To ensure a business makes a profit, it must make sure it keeps its customers satisfied. This can lead to repeat sales which ultimately can convert into sales.

**Social objectives:** while most businesses start out with the primary aim of profit maximisation, many businesses have social objectives by supporting social causes (such as making charitable donations from their profits). Businesses have social objectives for many reasons, including the personal ethics of the business owner, the desire for a more positive reputation for the business's brand, which can lead to higher sales (and hence higher profits).

Any business that sets itself objectives must make sure they are '**SMART**':

- **Specific:** to the business's aims
- **Measurable:** quantifiable to ensure that the objectives are achieved
- **Achievable:** agreeing that they are capable of being fully completed
- **Realistic:** capable of being achieved using existing resources
- **Time-bound:** given a realistic time for completion

A business can carry out a **SWOT** analysis before fully committing itself to any objectives. It should consider **internal factors** over which it *has control* – that is, does the business have the resources to *deliver the objectives*? A business would need to review and build on the **Strengths** that it has and the **Weaknesses** that it has. It would also have to realistically consider the **Weaknesses** that would *prevent* the objectives from being achieved.

A business's **Strengths** might include a solid liquidity base and a good cash flow position. **Weaknesses** might include a lack of suitably trained employees and a high level of labour turnover.

The business should also consider *external factors* over which it has *no control*. It should consider **Opportunities** that would arise from an *achieved* objective. However, the firm must also consider **Threats** to its existence if it were to *fail (or even succeed)* in achieving the objectives.

**Business opportunities** may include the attraction of new customers and the encouragement of repeat business from existing customers. However, *threats to achieving* the objective may be a loss of image and prestige. The main *threat from success* would come from the competition being taken and possibly from problems arising from overtrading.

## Tactical and Strategic Objectives

**Tactical objectives** are low down the layered hierarchy of a business's objectives and are set by *middle management*. They are *short-term* objectives, *narrow* in focus and *specific* to the day-to-day running of the business. Their aim is to *facilitate* the achievement of strategic objectives.

Once tactical objectives have been identified, defined and agreed, it is usually necessary to set *sub-objectives*, or operational steps, in order to facilitate their achievement.

It is essential that these *tactical objectives* are *specific* to the achievement of a long-term objective, *achievable with existing resources* and *realistically implementable*. They should be achieved within a specific period of time, for example, *within one to two years*.

**Strategic objectives** are at the top of the layered hierarchy of a business's objectives. They are long-term objectives, focusing on *business policy* and *long term* in fulfilment of the business's vision. Their achievement depends on the achievement of the *tactical objectives* further down the hierarchy. There will be several *tactical objectives* for each *strategic objective*.

Strategic objectives are usually associated with *increasing* a business's *sales revenue*, *customer satisfaction*, *employee welfare* and, more recently, being *environmentally friendly*.

It is important for a business to identify, define and agree SMART strategic objectives. A business should have a *spirit of collective responsibility* in achieving common long-term goals. This '*esprit de corps*' is the motivation of the workforce and can be used as a means of incentive.

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1.5.3. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

5. Tin-Din Sounds are a record label that want to do a SWOT analysis of themselves shares of the rock, pop and hip-hop markets but have very little share in the punk markets. The current objective for the company is to maximise their share in the lot of competition in this business area.

Fill in the SWOT analysis, using both the information above and your own imagination. Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the company.

SWOT Analysis for Tin-Din Sounds	
STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS

6. Business objectives should be SMART. Identify what this acronym stands for.

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## 1.5.4. Forms of Business



### Key Points Covered

- Sole Trader, Partnership and Private Limited Company
- Franchising, Social Enterprise, Lifestyle Businesses and Online Businesses
- Growth to PLC

## Types of Entrepreneur

### Sole Trader

This is the *simplest* form of business structure. It is owned and usually operated by one person. If the business is financed by a bank or other financial institution, the owner is regarded as *self-employed* and is responsible for the profit that the business makes. The owner must keep *accurate financial records* of income and expenditure but does not have to pay corporation tax. However, the owner does have to *complete a self-assessment tax return* for HM Revenue and Customs and pay their own *personal National Insurance* contributions.

#### ✓ Advantages of being a Sole Trader:

1. The owner *keeps all* the profits themselves.
2. The owner *makes all* the business decisions.
3. It is a relatively *simple* form of business to *start up*.

#### ✗ Disadvantages of being a Sole Trader:

1. The owner is *personally responsible* for all the debts and losses of the business. This is known as *unlimited liability*.
2. The owner must personally take *total responsibility* for the efficient and successful running of the business. All business decisions are theirs and *theirs alone*.
3. The owner has a *limited ability* to raise capital for expansion as the business has a *limited asset valuation* for use as *collateral security*.

### Partnerships

This is a *simple yet flexible* way for *two or more people* to start a business. It is defined as the '*relationship which subsists between persons carrying on business with a common purpose and down certain fixed conditions that the partners must follow.*

However, most partnerships draw up their own deed of *Partnership or Partnership Agreement*, a document detailing, with the agreement of *all* partners, how the partnership is to be run. The deed ensures that the provisions of the *Partnership Act* are enforced.

The *finance* to start and operate the business is *raised by the partners themselves* from a financial institution. *Each partner* is classed as *self-employed* and is *taxed on their own income*. Each partner is also *responsible for their own National Insurance contributions*. The partners share the *profits and losses* of the business and the *business is not a separate legal entity*.

#### ✓ Advantages of being a Partnership:

1. The *partnership and expansion capital, risks and ideas* can be *shared* between the partners.
2. Each partner can *specialise* in the business task for which they are *best suited*.
3. A partnership can raise capital *more easily* than a sole trader because of the *greater asset valuation*.

#### ✗ Disadvantages of being a Partnership:

1. *Profits* must be *shared* between the partners.
2. Each partner is *equally responsible* for the debts of the partnership.
3. Decision-making can be *slow* as *all* partners have to be consulted.

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Private Limited Companies (Ltd)

This type of business exists in *its own right* which means that the *company's finances* are separate from the *personal finances of its owners*. *Shareholders* are the *owners* of the company and have *limited liability*. This means that if the company fails, shareholders *only stand to lose the amount invested* in the company. Their *personal goods and holdings* are *not at risk*. Operations must follow the provisions of the *Companies Act 2006*.

Private limited companies tend to be *larger* than partnerships in terms of both size and amount *invested* in them. They *must* have at least *one* shareholder but *cannot* issue shares to the public. They *only* issue shares to private investors. Private companies must be *registered/incorporated* and *must* have at least *one* director.

The *Board of Directors*, or *Director*, will make *all* the major *important* decisions. *Financial statements* (including *debenture issue, borrowings and/or retained profits* - these are profits that have not been paid out by way of *Dividends*). Private Limited Companies *must* file annual accounts with Companies House.

Advantages of being a Private Limited Company (Ltd):

1. They are a *less risky* investment than sole traders and partnerships as they have *limited liability*.
2. The *protection* of limited liability *encourages* more private individuals to invest in a limited company a *larger capital base* than the previous two forms of business.
3. They have *perpetual existence* which means that the company will continue to exist *after* a shareholder has died.

Disadvantages of being a Private Limited Company (Ltd):

1. They *cannot* offer shares for sale to the *general public* as their circulation is *restricted* to private investors. This greatly restricts the amount of capital they can raise.
2. Some of the profits made by the company *are distributed* to shareholders. This *reduces* the amount of retained profit they can keep for reinvestment in the business.
3. They *must* file annual accounts with the Registrar of Companies at Companies House.

Franchising, Social Enterprise, Lifestyle Businesses and Online Businesses

Franchises

Franchising allows a *small* entrepreneur to have his/her own business and compete in a *competitive* market. Franchises have become a popular form of business type as they allow the entrepreneur to start in a *'ready-made'* business opportunity.

The franchising process is fairly simple and straightforward: the owner of an established business grants a *franchisee* the *right to sell their product or service* in exchange for *monetary payment*. This allows a budding entrepreneur to set up and run a business with a *degree of independence*. Motor vehicle dealer franchises (such as Ford and VW) and product *brand* franchises (such as McDonald's) are very common types of business in the UK.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
For the franchisor (seller of the franchise)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They receive a <i>large sum</i> income from the franchise sale in addition to a regular <i>percentage</i> of franchisee's profit. The name of the established business gets <i>more widely promoted</i> with the sale of every franchise.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a <i>high level of competition</i> in the operation of the business.</li> <li>2. The <i>reputation</i> of the business can be damaged if the franchisee does not meet the <i>standards</i> of the franchisor.</li> </ol>
For the franchisee (buyer of the franchise)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It trades under an <i>established business name</i>.</li> <li>2. Has access to a <i>network of help and support</i> from the franchisor.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They <i>must</i> conform to the <i>characteristics</i> of the business.</li> <li>2. Part of the <i>profits</i> are paid to the franchisor.</li> </ol>

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## Not-for-Profit Businesses

These *social enterprises* are businesses that trade in order to *benefit the community* they were set up. Their *profit is reinvested in the community* or *used to support the* formed. Profit is *not used* to increase the personal wealth of owners and *guarantors*.

Such businesses aim to have a *financial trading surplus* to *reinvest in and further* and they were set up. Examples of such *social aims* are job creation, 'people' training, 'Fair Trade' with developing countries. There are many different types of social enterprises, associations, community development trusts, worker-owned cooperatives and leisure

Not-for-profit businesses are usually *limited by guarantee*, which means that they are *trustees* who are *guarantors* instead of shareholders. These guarantors enjoy the privilege of giving an undertaking to contribute a *nominal amount* towards the *winding-up* of the business in the event of a *shortfall on cessation of trading*. A clause in its *Memorandum of Association* restricts the rights of members. Not-for-profit businesses can apply for *charitable status*.

## Online Businesses and Lifestyle Businesses

Businesses are set up for all sorts of reasons. Some people come up with a new, innovative design for a product that they are able to patent while others spend years working for a company before deciding to branch out alone and become their own boss. Nowadays, it is common for young parents to set up their own business in order to work around the demands of their children or as a way to completely switch careers.

The Internet has opened doors for many would-be entrepreneurs who have great ideas but are unsure how to market themselves to the right consumer. This advancement in global communication has seen a whole new business model into prominence: the online business. From the dot-com boom of the late 1990s to the present day, online businesses are leading the way forward.

One of the most attractive things for entrepreneurs looking to set up an online business is the low costs involved compared to bricks-and-mortar high street businesses. Businesses can start small and grow significantly thanks to online trading. Some of today's most successful businesses, such as Facebook and Groupon, exist almost entirely online.

The growing importance of a positive work-life balance has opened the door to another type of business. These businesses often start as sole practitioners or partnerships (e.g. husband and wife) and grow through opportunity (or desire) for growth. While start-up firms can begin small and grow through angel investment and an increasing number of employees, the majority of these businesses remain small. This is because of the lifestyle choices the business owners make. These businesses are managed and supported by the same owner(s). To people who start a business for lifestyle maximisation, these businesses are set up for different reasons, such as:

- **Financial comfort:** the owner of a lifestyle business may strive to earn up to a certain level, i.e. only enough to support their lifestyle choices
- **Flexibility:** for entrepreneurs wishing to live in a certain location, or even work from home, a lifestyle business is a good option. Since lifestyle businesses are often sole traders or partnerships, it is simple to pick up the business and move it somewhere else.
- **Quality of life:** the business owner might put more importance on leisure time and a lifestyle business can allow for this freedom

Lifestyle businesses often target the creative industries rather than those that require a lot of capital. It can be difficult to pick up and move around if your business was in manufacturing or retail. Lifestyle business owners of similar lifestyle businesses to come together in the same location. California is a good example for technology-savvy individuals (Google, Facebook and Apple are all in California). Many of like-minded business owners all living and working in that one area.



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## Growth to PLC and Stock Market Flotation

A Public Limited Company (PLC) is a type of business that also *exists in its own right*. This means that the business's finances are separate and distinct from the *personal finances* of its *shareholders*, who are also protected by limited liability. PLCs must follow *the provisions of the Companies Act 2006*.

PLCs tend to be *much larger* than private limited companies in terms of both *size and the amount of capital invested* in them. PLCs *must have at least two shareholders* and must have issued shares to the value of *£50,000 or more* before they can begin to trade. Unlike private limited companies, PLCs can *issue shares to anyone* through the *Stock Exchange*. They must be registered, or incorporated, as *Companies* in the Companies House and must have *at least two directors* and a *professionally qualified Company Secretary*.

The company's *shareholders* make all management decisions while *finance* comes from *debenture* and *share* borrowings and *retained profits*. Public Limited Companies must file accounts with the Companies House.



Share Exchange

### ✓ Advantages of being a Public Limited Company (PLC):

1. They can obtain *very large* amounts of capital as their *shares can be bought* worldwide by individuals or financial institutions.
2. As they are *very large*, usually *dominate* the market and have an *extensive* network of companies *find it easy to obtain loans* from financial institutions.
3. Because of their huge size, they can benefit from *Economies of Scale*. For example, their *purchasing power* commands *favourable purchasing* terms from its suppliers.

### ✗ Disadvantages of being a Public Limited Company (PLC):

1. They can get *too large* and *impersonal*, causing employees to *lose their sense of purpose* because *motivation and communication problems* as well as *diseconomies of scale*.
2. There is a *divorce of ownership* by the *large body of shareholders and controlling directors*. This means that a *small group* of people may make decisions about what the company will take. These decisions *may not be* the ones that the vast majority of shareholders want. An *unpopular decision* could be *challenged* at an *Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting*. However, in reality the rank-and-file shareholders *seldom* attend these meetings.
3. The large hierarchical structure of these organisations often *works against* efficiency as it takes a long time for an idea to *move up* the hierarchy for *approval and implementation*.
4. They can be subject to *hostile takeovers* – that is, being unwillingly taken over. This is usually preceded by a *dawn raid* involving the sudden purchase of a substantial number of ordinary shares, against the wishes of the Board of Directors. The ordinary shareholders can protect their shares by being offered a price *that is higher* than the market value.

### 1.5.4. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.


7.
  - a. Give two limitations of a partnership.
  - b. Identify two benefits of being a sole trader.
8. Explain one reason why an entrepreneur might choose to invest in the McDonalds chain.

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1.5.5. Business Choices



Key Points Covered

- Opportunity Cost
- Choices and Pot

Opportunity Cost

This is an *economic term* that defines true or real cost, in *non-monetary* terms, as the (given up) the *next best alternative* when making a decision. Opportunity cost implies that to get what you want, you must give up what is sacrificed to get it. This is an extremely important concept for an entrepreneur starting a new business or product.

If an entrepreneur decides to invest time and money in one particular project, then the value of the *next best project* that could have used those resources (time and money) is the opportunity cost.

Opportunity cost is not a *separate cost from benefit* – instead, it allows an individual to measure the *cost in relation to the benefits of the next best alternative choice*.

Assuming that only one of the alternatives is available for a choice then the *second best choice* is the opportunity cost. The second choice is given up in order to have the first.

Examples:

The Choice Made	The Possible Opportunity Cost
Build a new motorway	A new hospital
Go on holiday	A new HD television
Repay a loan	A new computer
Go to the cinema	A trip to the zoo
Study for an examination	A trip to a theme park
Buy a music CD	A DVD movie
Become an arable farmer	A dairy herd
Employ extra staff	A machine purchase

Choices and Potential Trade-offs

A traditional business is made up of many individual departments, each with its own set of *goals* (or *targets*) that the department intends to achieve by pre-determined time. The departments should be interdependent, working together with the aim of fulfilling the business's objectives stated in its *Mission Statement*.

The following table shows different departments and the objectives they may have.

Department	Objectives to be Achieved
Marketing	To have a dedicated, well-trained and highly-motivated sales team. To achieve or exceed their monthly or weekly sales targets.
Production	To sustain efficiency by having the most up-to-date equipment. To have a highly motivated production team.
Human Resources	To employ the right people for the jobs available. To foster and maintain good industrial relations.
Finance	To maintain a positive cash flow for the business. To manage the business's finances efficiently.

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Not all objectives can be achieved in a business – at least, not all at the same time. Of the company, some department objectives may need to be discarded. This is known as selective investment.

For example: a business may give more funding to its marketing department than its production department because the current plan is to promote its products rather than improve its machinery. An action dropped in order to put investment into the marketing department would be an opportunity cost.

Using this example, the business in question should also consider the following:

1. What are the consequences of selective investment, i.e. in a particular department?
2. What are the opportunity costs of such decisions?

Decision to Invest in	Possible Positive Consequences for Department	Possible Negative Consequences
<b>Marketing</b>	Increase in team size Increased motivation Possible sales increase Improved training	Demotivation of other depts No new production machinery Poorer cash management Mundane selective procedure
<b>Production</b>	Additional workers New machinery Increased motivation Increased output	Demotivation of other depts Possible loss of sales Poorer Human Resource Management Possible cash flow problem
<b>Human Resources</b>	Better staff management Increased motivation Additional workers Better selection procedure	Demotivation of other depts Fewer new sales Poorer financial management Less efficient production
<b>Finance</b>	Additional workers Equipment upgrade Increased motivation Better cash management	Demotivation of other depts Poorer sales Ineffective selection process Inefficient production

What other opportunity costs may arise by investing in one department rather than another?

### 1.5.5. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

9. The record label Tin-Din Sounds wish to invest in one of their main departments, but have a limited budget. They must consider the opportunity costs. Look at the table below and fill in the spaces with a possible opportunity cost.

Decision to Invest in	Possible Positive Consequence for Department	Possible Opportunity Cost
<b>Publicity</b>	Increase in team size Increased motivation Improved consumer awareness of Tin-Din's artists	
<b>Art and Repertoire (A &amp; R)</b>	Bring in additional artists Increased development of musicians Increased output (i.e. more records)	
<b>Human Resources</b>	Better staff management Increased motivation Improved recruitment	
<b>Sales</b>	Additional workers Increase in sales Increased motivation	

10. Identify and explain one reason why ignoring publicity might be a good thing for Tin-Din Sounds.

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## 1.5.6. Moving from Entrepreneur to Leader



### Key Points Covered

- The Difficulties in Developing from an Entrepreneur to a Leader

### The Difficulties in Developing from an Entrepreneur to a Leader

Take a look through the news and you'll find an abundance of entrepreneur success stories. Each news story may make it seem like it took only one person to strike it rich, however, this is very seldom true. Once a small business reaches a certain level of sales, it generally needs help to get to the next level. There are too many processes for the entrepreneur to keep overseeing alone. This is when they need to take the next step from business owners to business leaders.

#### Delegating

Building a business from the ground up can be an emotional endeavour. For many entrepreneurs, the companies they create become like family. This is something the entrepreneur must come to terms with once he/she wishes to take the business to the next level. Business owners may wish to oversee every little detail of the company, for fear of their employees doing something wrong. However, this *mollycoddling* only slows down processes and can demotivate workers. A good leader, rather than being an all-seeing entity, will accept that he/she cannot have a hand in everything and push key decisions further down the chain of command.

#### Trust and Verify

Good leaders will surround themselves with strong management who are able to set a high standard and (if possible) under budget. In order to fully achieve this, a leader must trust their members of the business. Certain employees, even those who started when the company was small, may not be able to move in the direction (or at the pace of) the business. This will be a necessary loss for the entrepreneur, but a necessary one if they want to grow their business.

#### Be Less Reactive

In the beginning, when creativity and innovation were the prominent factors in a company, an entrepreneur may have often followed his/her *gut feeling*. A business will eventually grow to control business processes, such as human resources, finance, marketing, training, etc. A problem entrepreneurs have with this is that they think it will harm their creativity. However, businesses succeed and stay creative, because they free employees to focus on the creative aspects of the business.

#### Learning to Listen

When a business starts up, the owner is likely to be the most important voice. As the business grows, the entrepreneur is going to tread new, unfamiliar territory. A good leader will surround themselves with some management of the company – who have the knowledge required to help them move towards success. The entrepreneur will need to develop their listening skills, too, to join business discussions and find their value.

#### Emotional Intelligence

Entrepreneurs are used to getting their own way – they start their own companies and make all the decisions. If a business owner gets so emotionally involved in the business that they go wrong, employees might be afraid to speak up. This would not only create a negative environment but the owner could risk missing vital information since everyone is too scared to speak.

Good communications should be promoted from the business leader down to all levels. If an entrepreneur can lead his/her team in an efficient but calm manner, this will help to nurture creativity, innovation, teamwork, good communication and, eventually, success.

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### 1.5.6. Questions

Please write your answers on a separate piece of paper or in an exercise book.

11. Give one reason why it is important for a business leader to:
  - a. Be able to listen:
  - b. Delegate:
12. A small bookshop is considering bringing in more systematic processes to take care of and other areas of the business. The shop has always prided itself on being creative and concerned that these processes will harm the company's creativity. Give one reason why this might be a good idea.

### 1.5. Keywords

	<b>Barriers to entry:</b>	Obstacles that stand in the way of businesses/entrepreneurs. Includes financial requirements and infrastructure.
	<b>Stakeholder:</b>	A person or group that has interest in, and/or is affected by, the business.
	<b>Shareholder:</b>	A person or group that has invested financially in a company and is entitled to a share of its profits.

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1.5. Answers

1. Students should understand that businesses benefit from intrapreneurship
- Employees can become valuable individuals to the business
  - Employees can also become highly motivated from the extra responsibility
  - Individuals are less afraid to take risks, as it is the business's resource and they can benefit the business as employees are more likely to push what is possible
2. Students should understand that it is good practice for firms to offer a wide range of products/services, rather than just one or two. This allows firms to better weather economic blights or the horse meat scandal.
3. Characteristics include: self-control, realism, a strong conceptual ability, drive, confidence and emotional stability
4. Examples of reasons why entrepreneurs are creative by nature; they have a vision and they want to be their own boss
5. Tin-Din Sounds are a record label that want to do a SWOT analysis of their business. They have large shares of the rock, pop and hip-hop markets but have very little share in the country markets. The current objective for the company is to maximise their share in the country market but there is a lot of competition in this business area.

Fill in the SWOT analysis, using both the information above and your own knowledge of the company's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the company.

SWOT Analysis for Tin-Din Sounds	
<b>STRENGTHS</b> <div>1. Large roster of talented musicians in rock, pop and hip-hop</div> <div>2. Network of useful contacts to help publicise artists and find new ones</div>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b> <div>1. Company are unsure of their target market correctly</div> <div>2. Tin-Din do not have a strong presence in the country or classical music markets</div>
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b> <div>1. Possibility to sign new artists to the record label</div> <div>2. Tin-Din already have fans, who may want to buy more r 'n' b</div>	<b>THREATS</b> <div>1. Many r 'n' b record labels are established in the market</div> <div>2. Tin-Din may have competition from other music that does not have a strong presence in the r 'n' b (consumer) market</div>

6. Students should show understanding of the SMART acronym:
- Specific
  - Measurable
  - Achievable
  - Realistic
  - Time-bound
7. a. Give two limitations of a partnership.  
Limitations include: all profits must be shared between the partners; the business is held by all partners; decisions can be slow to make since all partners have to agree.  
b. Identify two benefits of being a sole trader.  
Benefits include: the business is relatively simple to start up; the owner has complete control; the owner can make all business decisions himself/herself
8. Explain one reason why an entrepreneur might choose to invest in the McDonald's franchise.  
Students should show understanding that McDonald's offers entrepreneurs a number of advantages:
- Ability to trade under an established name
  - A network of help and support

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9. Table below is filled with possible opportunity costs.

Decision to Invest in	Possible Positive Consequence for Department	Possible Opportunity Cost
Publicity	Increase in team size Increased motivation Improved consumer awareness of Tin-Din's artists	Human resources which could be used for recruitment
Artists and Repertoire (A & R)	Bring in additional artists Increased development of musicians Increased output (i.e. more records)	Sales may be delayed, which would lead to less revenue
Human Resources	Retention and management Increased motivation Improved recruitment	Publicity may be a lower priority, so fewer opportunities for artists to get on the radio
Sales	Additional workers Increase in sales Increased motivation	Less investment in other areas may mean fewer opportunities for Tin-Din to become a household name

10. Identify and explain one reason why ignoring publicity might be a good thing for Tin-Din. Students should show understanding through one of the following (not limited to):
- The cash used for publicity could be better invested in other departments
  - If the company's artists are not right for the market, publicity might be wasted
  - The company may not wish to gain more brand awareness for itself
11. Examples of reasons for why it is important for a business leader to:
- a. Be able to listen: as a business grows, it enters new territory for which the expert; leaders should listen to those around them, as they could provide different voices give more possible solutions to a problem
  - b. Delegate: it is impossible for leaders to do everything; a business needs to grow and not to burn out; employees could lose motivation if they think their leaders are not taking certain responsibilities
12. Students should show understanding that systematic processes, when implemented, can help to free up the time of their employees and allow them to be even more creative. Fewer data entry tasks will be required by employees, allowing for a more

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## Keyword Glossary

<b>Add value:</b>	When a business turns the sum of raw materials into more. Value added is calculated as: Selling price of create product/service.
<b>Barriers to entry:</b>	The obstacles that stand in the way of businesses, e.g. financial requirements and infrastructure.
<b>Branding:</b>	This is the image that businesses create for a product themselves.
<b>Centralisation:</b>	This often means that a few top-level managers are responsible for the whole business. All decisions are made at the top and then communicated to the business.
<b>Chain of command:</b>	This is the route in which power and authority are passed through various layers of management.
<b>Competition:</b>	When two or more firms offer their products/services in competition with one another.
<b>Competitive advantage:</b>	Firms that positively distinguish themselves from their competitors, the competitive advantage, or the edge, over their competitors.
<b>Decentralisation:</b>	This often involves the process of delegating authority and powers to employees lower down the business's chain of command. It refers to the process of allowing the business's various departments to make their own decisions independent of head office.
<b>De-layering:</b>	This is the process of removing layers of the organisation.
<b>Delegation:</b>	This is the process of transferring authority and power from one layer to an employee in a lower management layer. Authority is delegated downwards but responsibility cannot be delegated.
<b>Demand/supply shift:</b>	More than movement along a demand/supply curve, a shift in the curve. A shift can occur from many factors, including changes in demographic, consumer tastes, fashions and external factors. A demand shift, for instance, comes predominantly from a change in the tastes of consumers.
<b>Differentiation:</b>	This covers the ways in which a company gains competitive advantage through strong product branding, price, marketing and customer service.
<b>Dismissal:</b>	When an employee is removed from his/her position.
<b>Dynamic markets:</b>	These are markets that are changing, with a variety of factors influencing them, such as government regulations and the emergence of new technologies.
<b>External factors:</b>	Factors that come from outside the company which affect its performance, such as changes in consumer tastes.
<b>Hierarchy:</b>	The way in which a business is structured, such as the reporting lines between departments.
<b>Loyalty:</b>	Brand loyalty (for a product, service or company) is the tendency of customers to stay with a business and make repeat purchases.
<b>Market equilibrium:</b>	The point at which consumer demand and producer supply are equal. The two curves intersect.
<b>Market mapping:</b>	Visual representation of a consumer market, which shows the relationship between price vs quality).
<b>Market orientation:</b>	When a business creates a product/service by first identifying what consumers want.

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<b>Market segmentation:</b>	When a market is split into groups, such as location, age, gender, etc. Businesses use segmentation in order to understand on which groups to concentrate.
<b>Objective:</b>	A business's objectives are those tasks required in order to achieve its purpose.
<b>Outsourcing:</b>	When a business pays workers in another country to produce a product/service.
<b>Primary data:</b>	Research data that has been gathered first-hand. Businesses gather primary data through questionnaires and surveys.
<b>Product orientation:</b>	When a business focuses more on its product and less on the market, considering what consumers are looking for.
<b>Promotion:</b>	This is how businesses build awareness of a product or service, such as direct selling and online advertising.
<b>Redundancy:</b>	This happens when an employee's position no longer exists.
<b>Risk vs Uncertainty:</b>	Risk is generally something that can be planned for and managed. It involves the factors, normally external, that are beyond a business's control. Businesses can take calculated risks, but they are generally uncertain.
<b>Secondary data:</b>	Research data that has been gathered second-hand, such as the statistics of a survey published by another company.
<b>Shareholder:</b>	A person or group that has invested financially in a company and receives dividends on their profits to all shareholders.
<b>Shortage:</b>	If the market price of a product is low, firms may not produce as much as worth their while. However, consumers will be more likely to buy, so demand will rise. This leaves suppliers with more demand than supply and so there is a market shortage.
<b>Span of control:</b>	The amount of control that a manager has, e.g. a manager responsible for three sales advisors and so the span of control is three.
<b>Sponsorship:</b>	When a business supports another person/business or activity for promotion, such as the sponsorship of sporting events.
<b>Stable markets:</b>	These markets stay the same regardless of changing circumstances, e.g. dairy and standard bread markets.
<b>Stakeholder:</b>	A person or group that has interest in, and/or is affected by, a business.
<b>Stock exchange:</b>	A place where public limited companies (plc) trade their shares. Individuals and other companies are able to buy and sell shares of owners in a firm.
<b>Surplus:</b>	If the market price of a product is high, suppliers are likely to produce more goods. However, consumers may not be able to buy as many products. This leaves suppliers with a surplus.
<b>Sustainable:</b>	Businesses that fulfil their own strategic objectives while also considering the society in which they operate.
<b>Trend:</b>	The direction in which most things appear to be moving. For example, for new technology firms to aim at young consumers.
<b>Unique Selling Point (USP):</b>	This is a feature that makes a product/service appealing and different from its competitors.

## Focus: Answers

### i Paper: Discuss the disadvantages that come with market mapping.

Students should explain disadvantages of market mapping, such as:

- It is a very black-and-white way of studying a market, which could be unable to be seen on a map – e.g. there may be another dimension to the market. For example, no consideration has been given to age or income of the target audience.
- Market mapping is generally done from an outsider's perspective and does not take into account the 'picture' of the market from within.
- The map is subject to the bias of its author, who, for example, may be more biased towards a more expensive when the market in general disagrees.

### Poundland: Analyse the possible strategic change. Poundland may need to change as the economy is in a more positive position.

Students should show understanding of Poundland's market, i.e. consumers who are price-conscious. Ways in which Poundland could maintain their status once the British economy improves:

- Offer more luxury/luxury items to customers. This would give consumers a choice of products at increased incomes.
- Allow shoppers to purchase goods online from a single Poundland website, which would reduce costs down if and when consumer demand for bricks-and-mortar Poundland stores decreases.

### Patagonia: Identify who you believe is the target audience for Patagonia. What measures the company could take in order to appeal more to this customer group.

The target audience for Patagonia includes outdoor adventurers who look for quality products (and also afford to pay more) and consumers who feel strongly about business ethics and how it impacts on the environment.

In order to appeal more to their target audience, Patagonia could:

- sponsor large events that meet the ethical expectations of their consumers, such as sponsoring environmental charities.
- give to charities that are local to their customers, such as helping to build a local school.
- expand beyond their current advertising, such as in magazines, to more traditional media, such as television commercials.

### New Coke: Discuss where you think Coca-Cola went wrong in the promotion of New Coke. Would the company reintroduce the product to today's market? Explain how Coca-Cola could do this.

Students should understand that, while Coca-Cola had conducted market research, the results on a new flavour, the company's customer base was not necessarily going to accept a replacement for a product they already liked.

If reintroduced to the market today, Coca-Cola could:

- sell New Coke as a different flavour, such as that of Cherry Coke or Vanilla Coke, rather than a replacement for Classic Coke.
- create buzz with an online social media campaign, using influencers.
- use product placement or celebrity endorsement in order to promote the product.

Students could also consider whether a new flavour would actually benefit Coca-Cola, as there is so much competition in the market for healthy products.

### The Mercury Music Prize: Discuss whether the Mercury Prize was right to change the name of the award, even though the sponsoring company no longer exists. Analyse how the award could still have the same prestige under a different name.

Learners should understand that the Mercury Prize would have kept the name 'Mercury Prize' recognisable to the general public.

The award would have significant prestige regardless of its title, due to the award's history. Changing the name would not affect this. The award would need significant promotion in the media and general public recognised it was the same prize. This promotion is likely the reason why the Mercury Prize did not do this in the first place.

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### **Oreo Cookies: Analyse the possible benefits and costs of a business such as Oreo Cookies and its social media presence.**

Students should understand that social media presence comes with advantages and disadvantages.

*Advantages:*

- It is a relatively low-cost form of promotion
- Can be quick to connect with followers and so distribute information
- Enables brands to react quickly to topical events and capitalise on the

*Disadvantages:*

- Social media allows any customer to say whatever they like about you and put it into discussion. These comments can be harmful.
- If not organised correctly, brands can publish inappropriate media or discuss sensitive issues that should not be commented on by businesses.

### **Coca-Cola: Look up one of Coca-Cola's Christmas advertisements online (e.g. <https://youtu.be/-gMjPezrCTI>) and analyse why the company's campaign is successful.**

Students should understand that Coca-Cola utilise branding as a way to create a strong link to the product of Coca-Cola.

### **Harry Potter: Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for retailers that use loss leaders.**

*Advantages:*

- Loss leaders bring more customers into a store through appealing prices
- Encourage shoppers to come to new stores that are just starting out

*Disadvantages:*

- Stockpiling: If the loss leader does not perform that well, the business is left with unwanted stock, which would be a cost to them
- Perception: Consumers can start to associate low prices (and low quality) with the business. If the business consistently offers loss leaders. This could then reduce the number of customers shopping there.

### **Radiohead: Analyse the reasons why Radiohead did not try the honesty policy in their record, *The King of Limbs*. Consider the differences between the music market in 2007 and 2011.**

The honesty policy of 2007 was a response to downloading culture. However, the music market had changed significantly. Streaming services, such as Spotify, had become more popular. As consumers were receiving music in different ways; this made Radiohead's 2007 strategy less effective.

### **Buzz Lightyear: Could the toy manufacturer have been better prepared? What actions the company could have taken in order to be ready for the toy craze.**

Students should identify two actions, such as:

- Perform more rigorous market research long before the manufacture of the toys
- Increase the price of the toys to make them more of a niche item
- Create other products related to Buzz Lightyear to offset the demand

### **PANDORA: Analyse how PANDORA's distribution network, and position in the market has changed over time.**

Students should understand that PANDORA's position in the distribution network has changed from retail to producer and wholesaler. In fact, the company now cover all the bases. As they become more successful, they have been able to branch out further and continue to grow.

### **Rubik's Cube: Professor Rubik's cube was never meant to become a toy, but it has become one of all time. Identify and explain two strategies that companies can use in their products/services.**

Students should explain two strategies, such as:

- Increase promotion: this will bring more consumer awareness to the product
- Decrease price: if the product originally had a high price tag, it may be more appealing if the price decreases, therefore, would enable more consumers to buy.

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