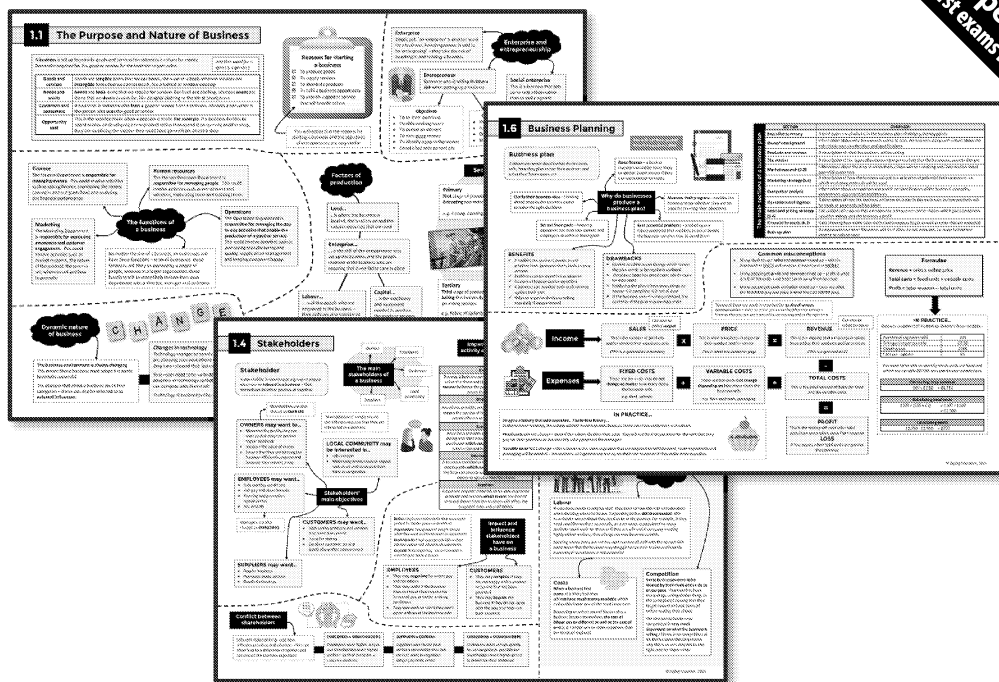




Topic on a Page

for GCSE (9–1) AQA Business

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All of the above are provided as Summary Posters and Activity Posters, in both A3 and A4 format.

Teacher's Introduction

This resource covers the AQA GCSE (9–1) Business specification. There are 25 A3 posters covering all content from the specification. Most subtopics are covered on one poster; some posters include two smaller subtopics.

Activity versions of the posters are also included, where some of the sections are blank, so that students can test their knowledge by completing these. Answers for these activities are on the summary sheets.

It is intended as a summary of the material and focuses on the main points rather than the detail, so all important areas are covered without going into too much depth. There are some topics where BLT (because... leading to... therefore...) points have been included to give students examples of how they could develop their chain of argument.

The posters can be given to students in class to refer to as an A3 laminated place mat or to stick in exercise books as an A4 poster. They could be stuck in books at the start of a topic so that students can see what concepts are coming up and to enable them to engage in class discussion, or at the end for retrieval practice.

At home, students can use the posters to add to their independent revision or to complete homework assignments. They could:

- Produce mind maps
- Read, cover, write and then check what they have remembered
- Produce flash cards
- Write quiz questions and answers
- Complete the partially completed posters

Teachers could use the posters **in class**. They could:

- Set homework to prepare for a topic before it is covered in class, i.e. for homework students could produce flash cards or quiz questions and answers for the key words and formulae in 1.6 and the lesson could be focused on completing calculations.
- Set homework to complete an activity after the concepts have been taught, i.e. to produce a mind map.
- Give out a section at a time, stick in books and annotate during class discussions and/or activities.
- Use the poster to RAG rate student understanding of the topics to identify areas that require more work in class and/or areas that require students to give independent attention to them.

The resource consists of:

- 25 completed posters which provide solutions to the activity posters, labelled **1.1** to **6.4**
- 25 activity (partially complete) posters for students to complete, labelled **1.1** to **6.4**

Both sets of posters are provided in A3 and A4 formats.

Different styles and layouts are used to help make the information interesting and to help students engage with the information in a productive way.

April 2025

A **business** is set up to provide goods and services to customers in return for money. Demand is required for the good or service for the business to gain sales.

Another word for a good is a **product**

Goods and services	Goods are tangible items that we can touch, like a car or a book, whereas services are intangible items that we cannot touch, like a haircut or window cleaning.
Needs and wants	Needs are basic items that we require for survival, like food and clothing, whilst wants are items that we desire or wish for, like designer clothing or the latest smartphone.
Customers and consumers	A customer is someone who buys a good or service from a business, whilst a consumer is the person who uses the good or service.
Opportunity cost	This is the sacrifice made when a decision is made. For example, if a business decides to spend money on developing a new product, the opportunity cost is the profit gained from an extra shop, they are sacrificing that profit.

Finance

The Finance Department is **responsible for managing money**. This could involve activities such as raising finance, monitoring the money coming in and out (cash flow) and analysing the financial performance.

Human resources

The Human Resources Department is **responsible for managing people**. This could involve activities such as recruitment and selection, motivating them and training them.

Marketing

The Marketing Department is **responsible for increasing awareness and customer engagement**. This could involve activities such as market research, the nature of the product, the price to set, where to sell and how to promote.

The functions of a business

Operations

The Operations Department is **responsible for managing the day-to-day activities that enable the production of a good or service**. This could involve activities such as overseeing manufacturing and quality, supply chain management and keeping customers happy.

Factors of production

Land...

... is where the business is located, the land and natural resources.

Enterprise...

... is the skill of setting up the business and the people involved in the business, ensuring that it is successful.

Labour...

... is all the people who are employed in the business – their skills are also considered.

Changes in technology

Technology changes so quickly – Apple are planning their next iPhone before they have released the previous one! Businesses need to be up to date with advances in technology so that they can compete with their rivals.

Technology is explored further in 2.1

Changes in environmental expectations

Businesses are constantly under pressure to be socially responsible – customers are becoming increasingly interested in how businesses manufacture and where they get their supplies from. For some customers, these expectations will be the reason whether they purchase or not.

Environmental expectations is explored further in 2.2

Dynamic nature of business

The business environment is always changing.

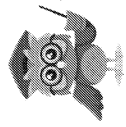
This means that a business must adapt if it wants to remain successful.

The changes that affect a business are in four categories – these can also be referred to as **external influences**:

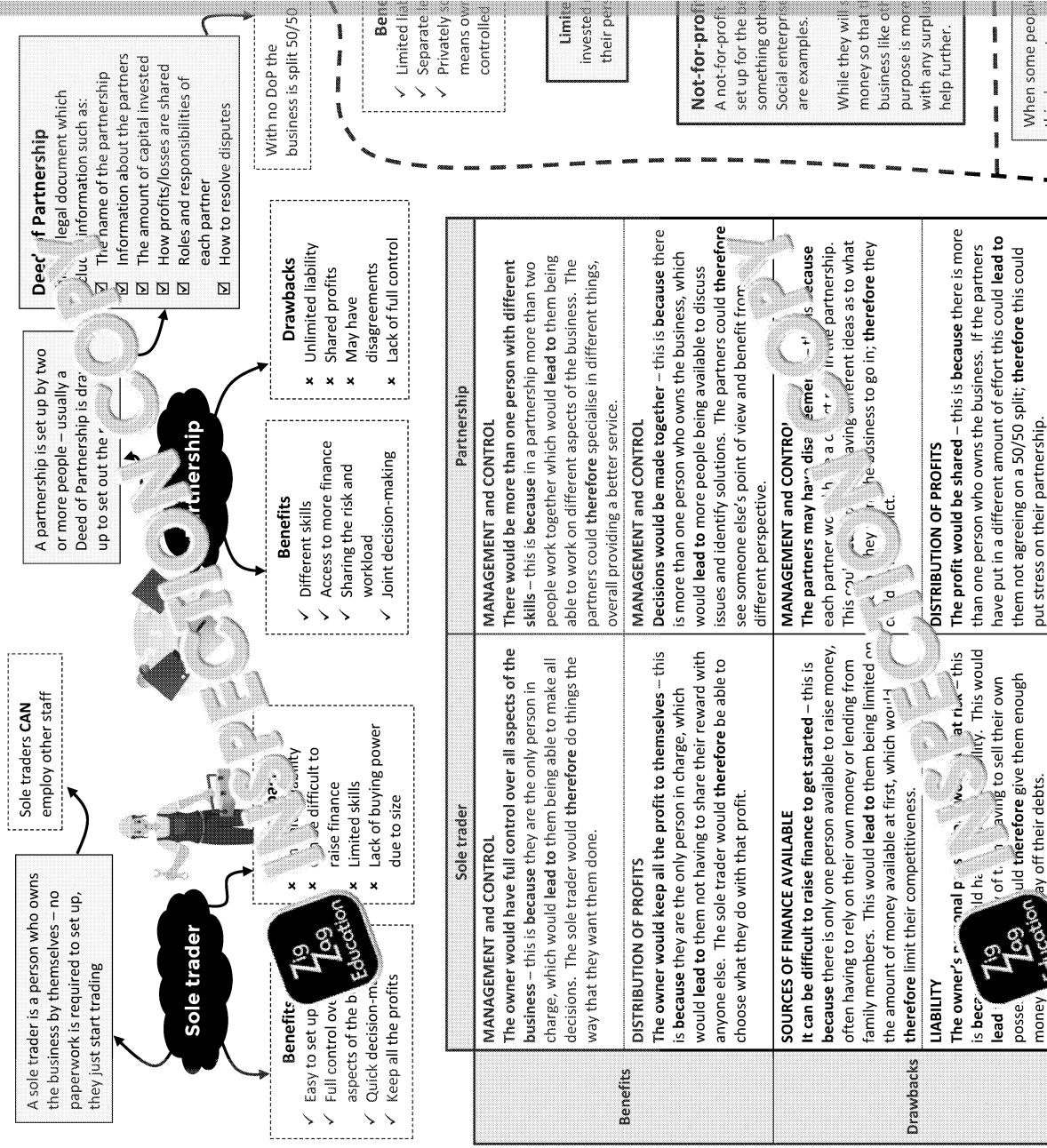
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When someone starts a business, they need to decide what **as**. There are many **benefits and drawbacks**, and so the **av** **their circumstances**. **All** these **business structures** can **emplo**



Sole traders and partnerships have **UNLIMITED LIABILITY** – this is when the owner's personal possessions are at risk if they find themselves in debt. Should they owe money, they are legally responsible for that debt and therefore may have to sell their personal possessions to pay that money back. This means that there is **more risk** with these types of ownership.

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1.3 Setting business aims and objectives

Aims vs objectives

An aim is a **general goal** that the business wants to achieve whereas an **objective** is a **specific target** that a business sets which helps to achieve that aim.

For example, a business may have a general aim of growth... so HOW can they achieve that? Through setting a more specific objective of 'opening three more stores by the end of the year'



Many businesses set SMART objectives

	Specific	Measurable	Attainable	Relevant	Timely
M	The objective needs to clearly show what the business wants to achieve , e.g. instead of 'open more stores' the business would say, 'open three more stores'	The business needs to be able to see whether the objective has been achieved , so by adding 'by the end of 2025' to their objective, they can easily assess whether they have done this	The objective needs to be realistic and so when deciding what it will be, the business will have to be clear that it is achievable, e.g. three more stores by the end of the year may be more attainable than 30	The business should be setting objectives that are in line with their own approach and ethos as well as matching their own context, e.g. in order to grow, some businesses may choose to release new products rather than open more stores	Setting a time by which to achieve the objective keeps the business on track ; by stating 'by the end of the year', it gives them a point at which to work towards
A					
R					
T					

Why set objectives?

- To give the business direction so that everyone knows what the business is trying to achieve
- To motivate employees so that they are more engaged in their work
- To enable the business to monitor their progress so that they can check whether they are doing well
- To ensure that resources are managed properly so that time and money are used on the most important things

Why can objectives differ between businesses?

There are three main reasons:

- The size of the business, e.g. a small independent shop vs a multinational
- The level of competition faced by the business, e.g. a business facing lots of competition needs a USP (5-4) and so may choose/change objectives that can achieve this
- The type of business, e.g. a not-for-profit organisation will focus on social objectives

Measuring success

PROFIT is not the only way businesses can be measured... businesses may also look at:

- Whether sales have increased
- Whether market share has increased
- How good relationships are with customers, employees and suppliers
- The level of growth that they have achieved
- The impact that they have on the environment
- The number of customers that continue to come back (repeat purchase)
- Whether the shareholder value has increased

Main aims / objectives

- Survival
- Profit maximisation
- Growth
- Market share
- Customer satisfaction
- Social and ethical
- Shareholder value

Changing objectives

Over time, it is inevitable that the objectives that a business sets themselves will change
A new business is likely to want to survive before they start thinking about profit maximisation
An established business has already survived and therefore will more likely be focused on growth

Remember, businesses can be faced with external influences (1.1) that may make them have to rethink their objectives

Faced with a national downturn in sales, an established business may be forced with having to switch to survival mode while they try to get customers back on board

Social and ethical

Most likely a main aim

To act more ethically to approach their business are thinking of others

For example, ensuring good wage, treating customers are all well

Although this can be long term, a business thus customers, especially running their business

Social objectives are very common for not-for-profit organisations where their main objective is NOT about profit but is about helping other people / society, e.g. supporting local communities, promoting fair trade or reducing environmental impact

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1.4 Stakeholders

Stakeholder

A stakeholder is someone who has or a group of people who have an **interest** in a **business** – that interest can be either positive or negative

Shareholders are also classed as **OWNERS**

OWNERS may want to...

- Maximise the profit – in other words, earn so that they can pay a higher dividend
- Increase the value of the business
- Ensure that they can expand the business efficiently, and increase their market share

EMPLOYEES may want...

- Safe working conditions
- Fair pay and other benefits
- Training and promotion opportunities
- Job security

Managers are also classed as **EMPLOYEES**

CUSTOMERS may want...

- High-quality products and services that meet their needs
- Value for money
- Excellent customer service (particularly after-sales service)

SUPPLIERS may want...

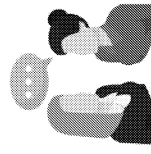
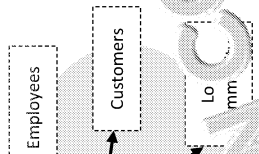
- Regular business
- Payments made on time
- Good relationships

Stakeholders' main objectives

LOCAL COMMUNITY may be interested in...

- Job creation
- Minimising environmental impact such as air and noise pollution, litter or congestion

The main stakeholders of a business



Impact of business activity on stakeholders

Owners
A business performs impacts directly on the value of a share and the level of dividend which means the better the performance, the better the return for the owners.
Employees
A business provides employment and wages which means the success of the business can affect how secure jobs are as well as income levels.
Customers
A business provides customer service before, during and after a product or service has been purchased which means the level of customer satisfaction and loyalty can be affected.
Local community
A business contributes to local economies through creating jobs which means if businesses do well the local community will gain jobs and have more money to spend in their local area.
Suppliers
A business requires materials to be able to provide products and services which means the level of demand shown from the business will affect the suppliers' sales and profitability.

Impact and influence stakeholders have on a business

CUSTOMERS

- They may **complain** if they are not happy with a product or service that has been provided
- They may **boycott** the business if they do not agree with the way that they run their business

CUSTOMERS vs SHAREHOLDERS

Customers want the highest quality possible for as low a price as possible but shareholders want higher prices to maximise their dividends

EMPLOYEES

- They may **negotiate** for better pay and working conditions
- They may **strike** if the business does not meet their request for increased pay or better working conditions
- They may **work to rule** if they don't agree with what the business asks

SUPPLIERS vs OWNERS

Suppliers want to be paid within a reasonable time, but owners want to negotiate longer payment terms

EMPLOYEES vs SHAREHOLDERS

Employees want higher wages, but shareholders want higher profits – both of these are a cost to a business

Conflict between shareholder

Different stakeholder groups have different priorities and interests – this can often lead to a difference in opinion and can impact the business objectives:

1.6 Business planning

Business plan

A document which details what the business sells, how they plan to run their business and what their future plans are

Clarify their business idea – thinking ahead enables the business owner to make the right decisions

Why do business owners write a business plan?

Raise finance – a bank or investors would be more likely to lend or invest money if they can see financial forecasts

Measure their progress – enables the business to see whether they are on track for meeting their objectives

Identify potential problems – predicting any future problems that are likely to occur means the business can plan how to avoid them

BENEFITS

- ✓ It enables the business owner to see whether their business idea is likely to be a success
- ✓ Problems can be identified in advance
- ✓ Sources of finance can be identified
- ✓ A business can monitor their performance against their plan
- ✓ Helps to organise decision-making, especially if inexperienced

DRAWBACKS

- ✗ Market conditions can change which means the plan needs to be regularly updated
- ✗ The plan is based on predictions which could be inaccurate
- ✗ Producing the plan is time-consuming; no sooner is it complete, it is out of date
- ✗ If the business owner is inexperienced, the contents of the plan may be inaccurate



Income

Can also be called output

SALES

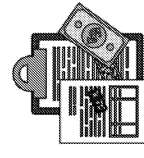
This is the number of products and/or services that a business sells (This is expressed as a number)

×

PRICE

This is what a business charges for their products or service (This is expressed as a price)

=



Expenses

These are the costs that a business has to pay for many items (This is expressed as a number)

+

VARIABLE COSTS

These are the costs that change depending on how many items the business sells e.g. raw materials, packaging

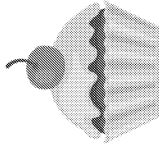
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Imagine a bakery that sells cupcakes...

Fixed costs will not change – even if the bakery doubles their sales, they will not be charged more for the rent that they pay for their premises or the monthly salary payment for managers.

Variable costs WILL change – this is because the more cupcakes that are required to fulfil demand, more ingredients and packaging will be needed – the business will spend more money on their raw materials if they make more cupcakes.

IN PRACTICE...



This is a fixed cost. A loss

The main sections of a business plan

SECTION
Executive summary
Owner's background
Products and services
The market
Market research (5.1)
Marketing strategy
Competitor analysis
Operations and logistics
Costs and pricing strategy (5.4)
Financial forecasts
Back-up plan

Common misconceptions

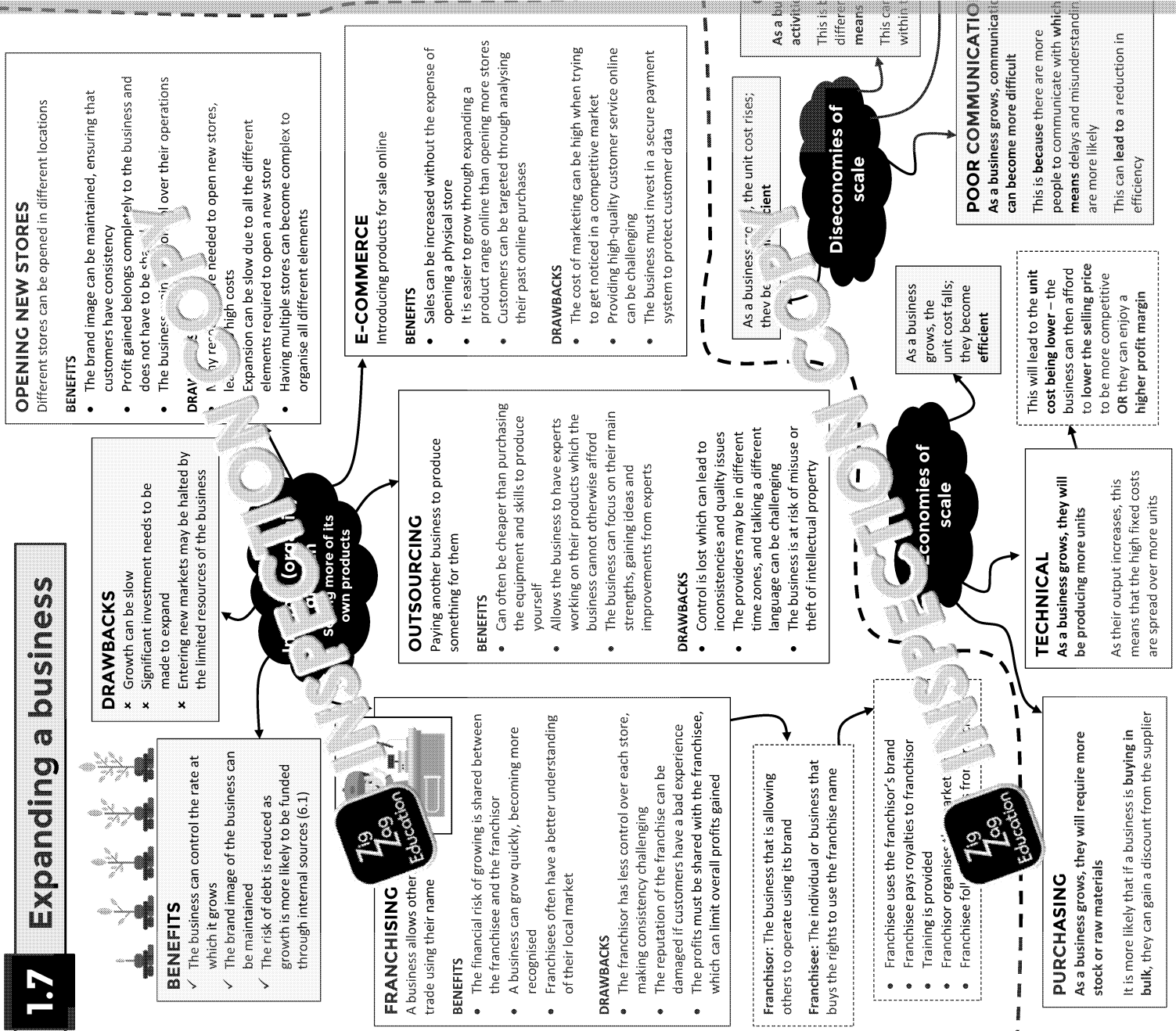
- Many students get sales and revenue mixed up. Sales is expressed in UNITS and revenue is expressed in £
- Many people get profit and revenue mixed up. Profit is what is left AFTER costs have been taken from revenue
- Many people get costs and price mixed up. Costs are what the BUSINESS pay and price is what the CUSTOMER pays

The use of these key words is important for quality of communication – make sure that you know the difference between them so that you can use them in the correct way and

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1.7 Expanding a business



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2.1 Technology

BENEFITS

- ✓ Businesses are able to sell globally – this expands their market and increases the number of customers massively
- ✓ Running an online shop has lower overheads than a traditional physical shop – this would lower the costs and increase potential profit
- ✓ Customers have the convenience of being able to shop 24/7 – this would increase customer satisfaction thus increasing sales

E-commerce: The buying and selling of goods and services online

M-commerce: Using a handheld device to buy and sell online

Increased productivity and efficiency

Many routine tasks can be automated, e.g. answering phone calls or manufacturing, which can reduce human errors and costs

Innovation and competitive advantage

New business models are available such as subscriptions and digital products
This enables the business to adapt to changes in the market, supplying what customers demand

The impact of the changing use of ICT influences business

DRAWBACKS

- ✗ The market is saturated with millions of online businesses in the world – this can make it difficult to compete, especially for new and small businesses
- ✗ As the business grows, logistics (3.2) can become challenging, especially when dealing with purchases and lost parcels – this can add to the running of the business as well as lower customer satisfaction
- ✗ Technology can be unreliable – sales will be lost if a website crashes or complete information is lost

Increased market reach and engagement

Doing business online enables the business to reach more customers as well as being able to engage with customers through digital marketing platforms

Data collection, storage and analysis

Businesses can keep track of customer purchases to identify preferences so that they can personalise their future marketing

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

Businesses exchange information electronically using different digital communication methods

Methods of digital communication

Direct messaging (DM)
e.g. WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, MS Teams

Email newsletters

Social media
e.g. Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, LinkedIn

Podcasts
e.g. BBC Sounds, Apple

Blogs
e.g. Wix, WordPress, Blogger

Webinars
e.g. YouTube, Facebook

Video conferencing
e.g. Zoom, MS Teams

Intranet

SMS and text messaging

Webinars
e.g. YouTube, Facebook

Video conferencing
e.g. Zoom, MS Teams

Intranet

SMS and text messaging

Webinars
e.g. YouTube, Facebook

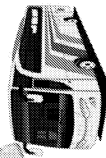
Communicating with stakeholders

OWNERS/SHAREHOLDERS: Emails, video conferencing, intranet

EMPLOYEES: Intranet, direct messaging

CUSTOMERS: Social media, chatbots, blogs, direct messaging, webinars, email newsletters

SUPPLIERS: Intranet, email



Sustainability: Being able to continue to produce goods and services in the future without harming the environment

TRADE-OFFS

Ethics vs profit
Sustainability vs profit

Behaving ethically or manufacturing sustainably can be expensive so in the short term, a business may have to forego some of its profits in order to meet their social objectives

PROTECT CUSTOMER DATA

There should be robust security measures in place to ensure that customer data is protected
Giving customer's control over their data and preferences will reduce the risk of a data breach thus increasing the trust the customer has in the business

COMPETE FAIRLY

The ways in which the business competes with rivals should be fair and transparent
There should be no unfair trade practices such as false advertising, price fixing, misrepresentation or selling counterfeit goods

ETHICAL MARKETING

Advertising products and services without any false claims
Customers will trust the business more if they see future marketing messages as honest

Ethical advertising

ETHICAL MARKETING

Advertising products and services without any false claims
Customers will trust the business more if they see future marketing messages as honest

Ethical advertising

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2.3 The economic climate on businesses

As interest rates rise, borrowing becomes more expensive but saving becomes more appealing

As interest rates fall, borrowing becomes cheaper and saving becomes less appealing

You do not need to know how/why interest rates change

Interest rates are the cost of borrowing money, given as a percentage
Interest rate changes are an **ECONOMIC** change

How fluctuating interest rates affect...

... CONSUMER

HIGHER interest rates	LOWER interest rates
Borrowing becomes more expensive: taking out a loan for big purchases such as houses and cars is more expensive to pay back which means people will either purchase cheaper items or they will not buy at all	Borrowing becomes cheaper: bigger purchases are encouraged as the monthly repayments would not be as high
Saving becomes more appealing: the more you save, the more interest will be earned, which means you are more likely to spend and more likely to save	Saving becomes less appealing: less interest will be earned on money saved which means you are more likely to spend

Economic climate

This refers to how well an economy is performing, e.g. if a country is selling lots of products and services, it is said to be strong or improving

Income elastic

The sales of these products will change as incomes change, e.g. when people earn more, they are more likely to purchase more of these types of products; when they earn less, the opposite will happen

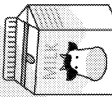
Non-essential products (luxuries)

These are products that customers **WANT** to buy, such as health club membership, sports cars or designer clothing – 'if I have the money, I will buy it'

Essential products

These are products that customers **NEED** to buy, such as bread, toilet roll or travel expenses

Consumer spending



How businesses are affected by changes in the rate of interest

Interest rates RISE	Interest rates FALL
Customers with loans have more disposable income → Customers spend more → The business receives more revenue → Profits are likely to be higher	Customers with loans have more disposable income → Customers spend more → The business receives more revenue → Profits are likely to be higher

... BUSINESS SPENDING

HIGHER interest rates	LOWER interest rates
Borrowing becomes more expensive: this means it is more expensive for a business to take out loans for assets such as machinery, equipment or vehicles, which could lead to the business not being able to expand	Borrowing becomes cheaper: this means businesses are more likely to take out loans to buy assets which will help the business to expand
Consumer spending is reduced: this means that a business may have to reduce its production levels due to a lack in demand	

STRONG economic climate	WEAK economic climate
High employment → Motivated employees → Secure jobs → Increased demand → Higher profits	Low employment → Employees more likely to move jobs with better pay and/or conditions → Lower demand → Lower revenue → Lower profits

How unemployment can affect a business

- Customers are spending less
- Sales will reduce
- More people available to employ
- Lower pay can be offered to new workers
- Profits will be reduced

Levels of employment

High employment → more money in the household → buy more products	Low employment → less money in the household → buy fewer products
--	--

S	Strong
P	Pound
I	Imports
C	Cheaper
E	Exports
D	Dearer

The pound (or any other currency) can be described as being **strong**, **weak**, **cheap** or **dear**.

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2.5 Legislation

Equality Act 2010

Protects employees from discrimination
It is illegal to discriminate against one of the nine **protected characteristics**

1. age
2. gender reassignment
3. being married or in a civil partnership
4. being pregnant or on maternity leave
5. disability
6. race, including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
7. religion or belief
8. sex
9. sexual orientation

Employment law

National Minimum Wage / Living Wage

- The minimum wage a worker is entitled to in the UK depending on their age
- Hourly rate set by the government
- Hourly rate is updated each year

Key points

- A business must:
- Provide a safe place of work
- Provide safe equipment
- Ensure staff are properly trained
- Carry out risk assessments
- Provide proper facilities
- Appoint a competent person to oversee health and safety



Health and Safety

Ensures that all employees have a safe working environment
Employees must be protected from permanent, casual, and temporary workers, as well as visiting employees of the public

Health and safety law

How can H&S affect the profit of a business?

- Workers need to be trained on safety protocol
- Protective clothing needs to be purchased
- Safety equipment needs to be installed
- Insurance needs to be purchased to cover potential risk

Legislation: The process of making laws which are a set of rules for different countries to abide by

Consumer law

Consumer law protects consumers from poor-quality products and poor business operations

- Products must have **accurate descriptions**, e.g. a product label must show information such as key features and dimensions
- Products must be **labelled**, e.g. a food company must show ingredients and allergy warnings on their packaging
- Products must be **safe to use**, e.g. toys must be tested to ensure they meet safety standards for children
- Products must be **advertised honestly** e.g. car dealerships must not give exaggerated claims about each vehicle's performance

Failed to follow the law?

- Fines
- Negative publicity
- Bad reputation
- Loss of customers
- Staff may leave
- Decreased productivity

There are different pieces of legislation that protect consumers:

- Consumer Rights Act 2015
- Consumer Protection Act 1987
- Trade Descriptions Act 1968

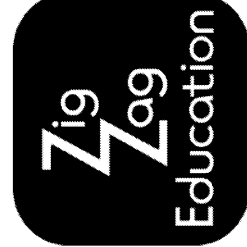
Trade Descriptions Act 1968

The main points of the law:

- It ensures that a business **accurately describes** their goods and services
- It is **illegal to falsely describe** any part of any products that they sell
- **Adverts should not be misleading** – false claims cannot be made

	Employment law	Health and safety law	Consumer law
Positive impact	Legal issues are avoided: This is because the business has clear guidelines on how employees should be treated which means mistreatment is less likely Lower labour turnover: This is because employees are more likely to be satisfied with their job which means they are less likely to leave Easier to attract potential applicants: This is because the business would have a good reputation for following employment law which means people may be more likely to apply to work there	Fines, compensation and negative publicity are avoided: This is because working conditions are safer which means there are fewer accidents in the workplace Staff are happier and more productive in the workplace: This is because workers feel safer and valued by the business It can be costly: This is because safety measures would have to be implemented and maintained which means time and money would need to be spent on training, purchasing equipment and regular inspections Risk of negative publicity: This is because if a business does not comply with the health and safety law, they can be reported as well as gain a fine which means it is likely that their non-compliance will be known locally and sometimes nationally	Customers are more likely to be loyal: This is because customers can see that the business is protecting them, enabling them to make informed decisions before purchasing which means they are likely to buy from that business again Competition is fair: This is because all businesses must follow consumer law which means no business can gain an unfair advantage through dishonest business practices It can be costly: This is because to adhere to the law, production of products needs to ensure that the products produced are fit for purpose with the right level of quality, which means along with any costs of legal advice or staff training, the process can become expensive Innovation can be reduced: This is because there are constraints on the way that products can be promoted or sold which means the business may lack the flexibility to use any means possible to increase their sales
Negative impact	Risk of negative publicity: This is because not understanding or following employment law correctly, such as paying the incorrect rate of Minimum/Living Wage, can be exposed by disgruntled employees which means the business will be named as not paying its workers the correct amount		

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3.1 Production processes

Benefits

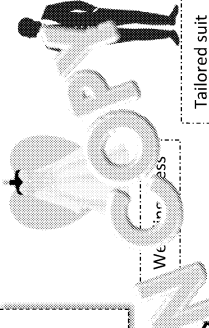
- ✓ Products can be **customised** to meet customer needs
- ✓ Usually **high quality** due to the time and attention that is given by skilled employees
- ✓ **Higher prices** can be charged due to the high quality of the product
- ✓ Employees are likely to be **motivated** due to the job satisfaction gained by having a varied job

Drawbacks

- ✗ Can be **expensive** as materials are bought in bulk
- ✗ It can take **time** to customise – this reduces customer satisfaction
- ✗ It can be **inefficient** due to the customisation of each product being different – this can lead to reduced productivity and increased costs

A method of production where one product is made at a time and is designed and made to fit the requirements of the customer

Examples...



House key

Artwork

Job is best when...

- ✦ Products need customising
- ✦ Smaller quantities are required
- ✦ Customers are happy to wait
- ✦ You have little to no production budget
- ✦ You have access to a skilled workforce

TRANSPORTATION

If there is too much movement needed to get materials from one part of the production line to another, time is being wasted

INVENTORY

Stock that is not being used and is just sitting in the warehouse is taking up space and therefore is costing money

MOTION

Employees moving around too much could mean the workplace is not designed effectively and results in loss of productivity

WAITING

Having to wait to use machinery or for materials to arrive wastes time and decreases productivity

TIMWOOD will not be examined

Lean production focuses on reducing waste

TIMWOOD (developed by Toyota) helps you to remember seven areas where a business could improve efficiency in the manufacturing process

How efficient a business is depends on:

- ✦ How well the **employees are managed** – if they are motivated then they should produce more, which means the unit cost would be lower
- ✦ How well **technology is used** – using up-to-date software, machinery and systems will help improve productivity
- ✦ How **good the relationship** is with suppliers arriving on time and with good communication will help to keep costs low (more in 3.2)
- ✦ How **often processes are reviewed** – continuously ensuring that there is little to no waste and implementing changes to streamline production processes will help to keep costs low

Reducing waste in a business is known as **LEAN PRODUCTION**

Lean production

Efficiency

Efficiency describes how well a business uses its resources such as materials, money and employees
Efficient = low cost per unit
Inefficient = higher cost per unit

This is a Japanese term that means 'continuous improvement'. It refers to the practice of making small changes to improve overall performance.

Kaizen is a part of **lean production** – continuous improvement refers to the belief that the small changes over time will add up to large, significant changes.

The kaizen approach requires the **involvement of employees** (and encourages them to make suggestions) all the way from the shop floor workers to management – it is believed that those who are closer to the 'shop floor' will know how best to improve to become **more efficient**.

If a business can eliminate these kinds of waste through becoming '**leaner**' then the business will be **more efficient** – reducing waste means that **costs are lowered** which means the business can be **more competitive** and therefore **more profit** can be made.

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3.2 The role of procurement

Benefits

- ✓ Costs are **reduced** as not as much storage is needed – this means that the existing storage can either be used for something else or it can be sold
- ✓ **Not as much money is tied up in stock** which means that money can be used on other things such as expansion or marketing
- ✓ Less likely that the business will have **damaged or out-of-date stock**

Drawbacks

- ✗ If any material is damaged or lost, it affects the supply chain
- ✗ If demand changes suddenly, the business may not be able to deliver
- ✗ As materials will be delivered in smaller quantities more often, this could have a **negative impact on transportation costs and the environment**

Remember

Reduced costs are great... BUT...
Following the principles of JIT will mean more deliveries and lost purchasing economies of scale

Having spare stock to satisfy demand is great... BUT...
It does come with the costs of storage as well as other costs associated with holding stock, e.g. insurance

JIT is best if...

- ✦ The business must respond often to changes in what customers want, i.e. trends, fashion
- ✦ The business has a wider **product portfolio (5.4)**

Just in case (JIC)

- ✗ Can be used for a wide range of products
- ✗ The business holds a large level of stock *just in case* it needs it
- ✗ It gives the business a wide product portfolio

JIC is best if...

- ✦ It is important that the business benefits from economies of scale to keep the unit cost down
- ✦ The business does not have a wide product portfolio

Factors affecting choice of supplier

Price
This includes the cost of products or services to the business as well as other costs like transportation

Quality

To ensure that the business maintains its reputation, it ensures that the supplier is consistent in the quality they are providing

Reliability
The business needs to be able to trust that the supplier will **deliver on time** so that delays are not passed on to the customers

Contract terms

Allowing the business to have an attractive to a business. The terms and conditions agreed by the supplier are in line with the benefits to the business.

Relationship potential

It is important to maintain strong relationships with suppliers as it can lead to **better prices and priority access to materials** if there is a shortage of resources

Getting goods and services for the best price and value

- ✓ Research will be carried out into the best suppliers
- ✓ Price AND quality will be researched into
- ✓ Negotiations will be carried out to get the best deal
- ✓ Businesses should achieve the best price for the expected quality
- ✓ Lower unit costs will help to keep competitive

Working with suppliers to ensure that key processes are running efficiently and cost-effectively

- ✓ Orders will arrive on time
- ✓ Businesses will not run out of stock
- ✓ Customer needs will be met
- ✓ Customers will be happy to purchase again and recommend to others
- ✓ Sales should remain constant

The value of effective supply chain management

Supply chain

The entire journey of the product or service from raw materials (primary sector) to the final customer (tertiary sector) – it includes both the production and the transportation

Procurement

Really important for the supply chain – it involves finding the best materials required for the service and the terms of the contract

Logistics

This refers to the movement of goods and services throughout the supply chain – it involves planning and storing deliveries and ensures that deliveries are managed efficiently and at the right place and the right time

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Businesses hold **stock (3.1)**, some more than others. This means that for some businesses the process of stock control is extremely important. There are two approaches to stock control that a business can use.

A method of stock control where the business aims to hold as little stock as possible

Just in time (JIT)

Just in case (JIC)

VS

3.3 The concept of quality

5 ways that businesses can MEASURE quality and IDENTIFY quality PROBLEMS

Monitor returns

By keeping an eye on how many items are being returned faulty can indicate whether there are issues in quality. Higher returns could indicate a problem.

Customer survey

Customers will be asked what they think about products and services to help them to identify areas for improvement.

Look at defects

An easy way of measuring is to see how many units in a batch are faulty. The less that are faulty, the higher the quality.

Check a sample

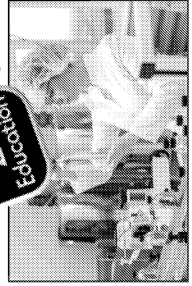
The business would inspect a random sample from a batch and based on their findings they would decide whether to accept or reject the whole batch.

Monitor delivery times

Where a business offers a service, delivery of that service can be monitored to see whether the work is being carried out or items are being delivered on time. On time shows efficiency and reliability which contributes to a quality product/service.

For example...

A drinks manufacturer bottles to check that they will even check how much fizz is in there!



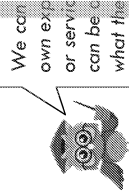
Methods of maintaining consistent quality

This is an approach to quality which encourages all functions (1.1) of the business to work together to meet quality targets and customer needs. It is a holistic approach.

Quality control vs quality assurance
Both are structured processes used to ensure that products are meeting customer requirements and quality standards

The aim of **QUALITY CONTROL (QC)** is to identify and correct faults in the finished products whereas the aim of **QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA)** is to prevent the faults from happening in the first place
QC is a REACTIVE process whereas **QA is a PROACTIVE process**

- Key features of TQM**
- Customer focused
 - Continuously improving
 - Employees involved
 - Committed managers
 - Strong relationships with suppliers
 - Preventative
 - Trained employees



Benefits

- Processes should be **streamlined** and waste should be reduced thus **improving efficiency**
- Involving all employees can **empower and encourage** which would **boost morale**
- Supplier relationships should be stronger** as TQM encourages close working relationships (3.2)
- Businesses that implement TQM can gain a **competitive advantage** through consistently delivering a high-quality product or service
- It can lead to **cost savings** as faults are identified and corrected while the need for after-sales repairs or refunds is reduced
- Customer satisfaction is more likely** if faults have been identified before the products hit the shelves
- Being proactive and identifying issues before they can occur will **minimise the likelihood of something going wrong in production**
- This approach is closely linked to the **kaizen** (3.1) approach of 'continuous improvement' which helps the business to become **more efficient**

Quality control



Quality assurance

Inspect products

Quality control processes should be clear and evident through the whole of the **production life cycle**
Regular inspections should take place to identify and address potential issues

Encourage a culture of quality

From the point at which jobs are advertised and new staff recruited, the ethos of **prioritising quality and continuous improvement** should be evident
The business should make it easy for employees to report quality concerns and suggest improvements to the processes used in production to reduce human error and ensure improved consistency when checking quality

To maintain their quality, a business should...

Invest in employee training

Employees should be trained in quality standards and processes
Staff are more likely to follow the standards where they are better informed of the reasons behind them and why they are important
Employees should be empowered to identify and address quality issues thus improving motivation (3.3)

Implement QA practices

The business should introduce a programme that highlights preventative measures and continuous improvement
Regular monitoring of quality processes should reduce the number of faults

Use reliable suppliers

The business should ensure that their chosen suppliers meet their quality standards
Any materials or finished products that are supplied should be good enough quality to meet the requirements of the customers
The business should regularly inspect the supplier's performance

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3.4 Good customer service

The sales process

Before the sale

Product knowledge
Having detailed knowledge about the company's products or services enables employees to provide accurate information to customers.

During the sale

Customer engagement
Clearly and concisely communicating information, instructions, or solution to customers in a polite and professional manner is essential for building a positive relationship and creating a positive experience.

After the sale

Post-sales service
This is the support provided to customers after they have made a purchase and started using the product or service. The aim is to maintain the relationship through addressing issues and/or concerns.

Customer service

This is an approach to enhancing a customer's experience, building strong relationships with them and meeting their needs fully

INCREASE IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Customers will be satisfied – this is because a good customer service which would lead to them being likely to leave positive reviews. This would encourage other customers to purchase from the business.

CUSTOMER LOYALTY
Customers are likely to stay with the brand – this is because they are happy with the product/service they have purchased or received. This would lead to them not switching with competitors. This would therefore help the business increase their market share.

Benefits of GOOD customer service

Increased profitability – this is because customers are satisfied with the product/service they have received which would lead to them being loyal and more likely to recommend to others. This would therefore increase the number of sales and revenue, thus resulting in an increase in profit.

Examples of post-sales service

- ❖ Quick deliveries
- ❖ Technical support
- ❖ Warranty and repair agreements
- ❖ Customer assistance
- ❖ Refunds

INCREASED SPEND

Customers are likely to spend more money with the business – this is because they are satisfied with their product/service which would lead to them being more confident to try other products/services. This would therefore mean that the revenue of the business increases.

The ways in which advances in ICT have allowed customer services to develop

Websites

A website can be set up quite cheaply either for one-off payment or monthly subscription. It can include ongoing maintenance and support.

Online Shop

A website can offer customer service by:

- ❖ Offering product information about what the business sells or services that they provide through written information, frequently asked questions (FAQs), pictures and videos
- ❖ Allowing customers to engage with the business through live chat or sharing of contact information such as email address, postal address and phone number
- ❖ Giving advice on post sales either through sharing 'troubleshooting' solutions, ways to contact the business for help, or information on how to make a complaint

E-commerce

Each year, more websites are appearing on the Internet that have an online shop. Businesses can also sell through other marketplaces.

E-commerce can offer good customer service by:

- ❖ Allowing customers the convenience of shopping when it is best for them 24/7 and 365 days a year
- ❖ Storing customers' personal and payment details so that they can purchase and pay for items at the click of a button
- ❖ Offering competitive prices
- ❖ Making suggestions of other, similar or matching products that are personalised to the customer
- ❖ Offering order tracking
- ❖ Showing other customers' reviews of products that the business sells
- ❖ Offering simple post-sales service for refunds and returns

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4.1 Organisational structures

It is important that businesses have a structure. This way, each employee knows who their **line manager** is and who they have responsibility for.

Directors (report to the MD)

Guided by the MD, they set the long-term goals for the business.

Managers (report to the Directors)

They are usually in charge of one of the business functions and aim to meet not only the long-term goals but also short-term goals too.

Supervisors (report to the Managers)

They are responsible for ensuring that day-to-day goals are achieved while managing the business.

Workers (reports to the Supervisors)

These can also be called 'shop floor' workers. They will carry out the day-to-day tasks.

Communication methods

Business Intranet	Emails	Meetings	Telephone	Video-conferencing	Written documents
This is a web-based platform that is accessible only to employees PROS ✓ Important company documents are available in one place ✓ Easier to collaborate on documents in teams CONS ✗ It can be expensive to set up so may only be useful for larger businesses ✗ It would need regular maintenance (adding to the expense if a member of staff needs to be employed) Employees may have access to a supplier database.	This is one of the most popular methods of communication for businesses to use PROS ✓ Enables you to communicate with others in different time zones ✓ Gives a record of business conversations CONS ✗ It can be overused making it difficult for some employees to prioritise ✗ Response times may not be quick enough resulting in slower decision-making	These are traditionally done face to face around a boardroom table PROS ✓ Allows real-time communication allowing for feedback and discussion time ✓ Face-to-face communication is clearer, resulting in less chance of misunderstandings CONS ✗ Lack of a clear agenda can lead to a lack of productivity ✗ It can be time-consuming as participants are often 'reshme' (re-engage) The board of directors may meet to discuss the future vision	Usually two people but 'teleconferencing' can allow for conversations with multiple people PROS ✓ Instant feedback and responses enabling quicker decision-making ✓ Confidential information can be discussed more securely CONS ✗ Lack of visual body language which can lead to misunderstandings ✗ Mistakenly understood which could lead to inconsistencies when recalling information Calls may be made to check on the progress of an order	These days, you may know this as Zoom or Teams or calls PROS ✓ Enables collaboration with stakeholders no matter where they are in the world ✓ Screen can be shared allowing participants to view documents CONS ✗ There can be technical issues which can disrupt meetings as well as being frustrating ✗ Meeting across time zones can be difficult to organise and be inconvenient for some stakeholders Business owners may meet with new suppliers outside of the UK	Most commonly letters, contracts, agreements, proposals PROS ✓ They are more formal and professional ✓ Sets the tone for stakeholder reception of the document ✓ Allows for confirmation of information to be given and being given and back CONS ✗ Can be slow to respond to, leading to delays in information exchange ✗ Lack of real-time interaction, making it difficult to engage in back-and-forth discussions A contract may be used for a new business premises

Advantages

- ✓ All decisions made will be consistent and in line with the business's overall aims
- ✓ Cost savings can be made due to economies of scale

Centralisation

This is where important decisions that have to be made are carried out by senior managers in the business – not much freedom is given to employees and they are controlled by their managers.

Disadvantages

- ✗ The expertise of local employees can be overlooked and lead to the business not fully understanding customer needs
- ✗ Employees may feel demotivated if they are not trusted by managers or given much freedom

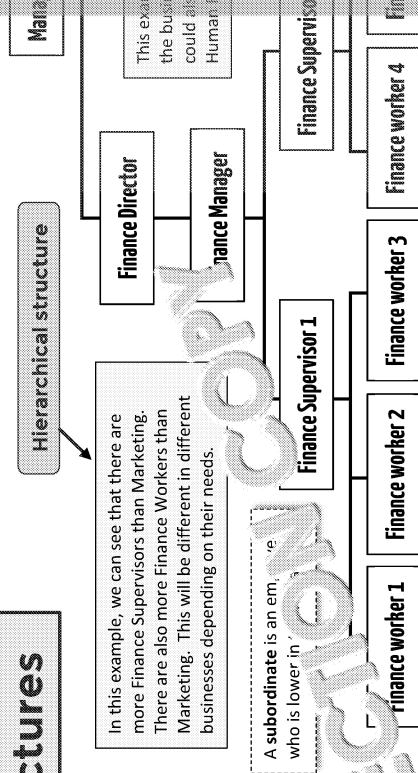
Hierarchical structure

In this example, we can see that there are more Finance Supervisors than Marketing. There are also more Finance Workers than Marketing. This will be different in different businesses depending on their needs.

A subordinate is an employee who is lower in the hierarchy.

The chain of command shows how communication passes from the top to the bottom of the business.

Within the Finance function, communication would pass from Finance Director → Finance Supervisor 1 → Finance worker 1



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4.2

Recruitment and selection of employees

Recruitment and selection is a process that businesses must go through when they need to employ a new member of staff.

There are many reasons why a business may be looking to recruit:

- they may be **expanding** and therefore need more staff, possibly in specialist roles
- existing staff may be leaving due to **retirement** or **promotion**, or they may have been **offered a job elsewhere**
- existing staff may have to be temporarily replaced due to illness or maternity leave

Recruiting new staff is an extremely important process for businesses which can be costly if not carried out correctly – **benefits of an effective recruitment process**

High productivity – the right employees because the right employees will work hard to produce a high level of products which will **lead to lower unit costs**. This would therefore help the business to be more competitive due to being able to lower selling prices.

High-quality output – this is because the right employees will have the correct skills to produce a high standard of goods which will **lead to the needs of customers being met fully**. This would therefore ensure that waste and costs are kept as low as possible.

Staff retention – this is because the right employees will enjoy their work and be motivated which would **lead to them being less likely to leave**. This would therefore mean the business can keep costs low by not having to recruit as often.

Customer service – this is because the right employees will have the right qualities to work directly with customers which will **lead to repeat purchases** which in turn may increase brand loyalty. This would therefore mean the business is likely to gain higher sales.

Benefits

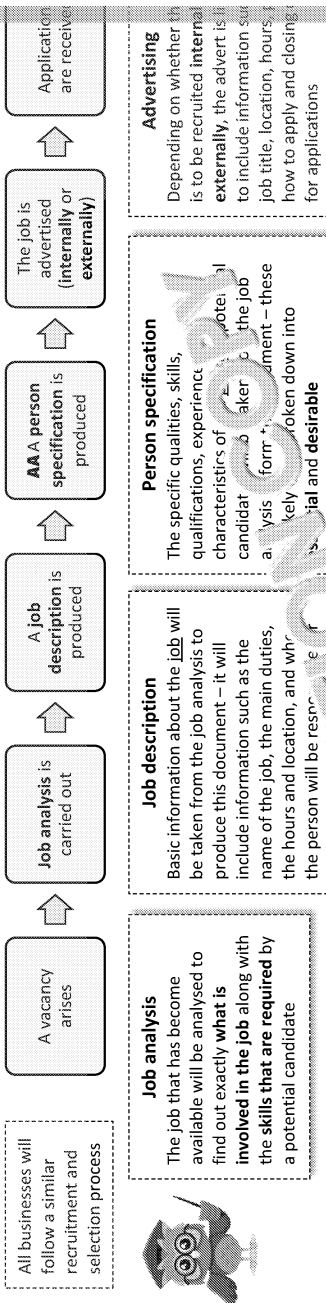
- ✓ **Cost-effective** External advertising is not needed, and less training is required as the employee is more familiar with the business
- ✓ **Internal promotion** Employees are more likely to stay with the company and therefore there are opportunities for advancing their careers

Internal recruitment

Drawbacks

- ✗ **New ideas are limited** Existing staff may stay in their comfort zone and therefore may not bring new ideas to the business
- ✗ **Gaps in skills** Existing employees may not have the experience, which could mean the business has to spend money to train new staff

The recruitment process



Different types of contract

- Job share:** This is where two or more people share the duties and responsibilities of a job
- Part-time:** This is where the employee works fewer hours than the standard number of hours per week
- Full-time:** This is where the employee works the standard number of hours per week – usually 35–40
- Zero hours:** This is where an employee is not guaranteed a fixed number of hours each week

Benefits to employees	
Flexibility: employees can manage their working life around their personal life, leaving time for family, hobbies and other interests	Phased retirement: employees can work towards retirement rather than giving up work straight away
Stable income: employees are able to fulfil their personal financial commitments and have a comfortable standard of living	Promotion opportunities: employees are likely to be able to advance in their career more so working full-time

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4.3 Motivating employees

Motivation is the factors that influence individuals to behave in the way that they do. These factors can be internal or external.

Salary

- Expressed as an annual amount
- Usually paid monthly
- No set hours each week

PRO: the business can budget for monthly costs

CON: employees may not be motivated to work harder since they get paid the same amount of money no matter how many hours they work

Salary and wage are the main methods of payment that businesses use – an employee is paid using one of these methods.

Businesses can choose what payment method to use. One of the other payment methods too is piecework.

Financial methods of motivation

In the UK, there is a **National Minimum Wage** and a **National Living Wage** (2.5 minimum rate of pay). Almost all employees are entitled to the National Minimum Wage, including casual, part-time and temporary workers. Self-employed and company directors are not entitled to the National Minimum Wage.

A theorist called Abraham Maslow

thought that money was not as important as Taylor thought it was; however, he did think that money was important to an employee as it would enable them to pay for food and somewhere to live.

Wage

- Expressed as an hourly rate
- Usually paid weekly or monthly
- Usually hours are fixed each week

PRO: if the business offers overtime, employees may be motivated to work harder knowing that they will receive more money

CON: paying overtime during times of increased demand increases the costs of the business

Profit-sharing

- Paid some of the business's profit as salary or wage
- Paid to staff, particularly if the business is quite profitable

CON: some employees may not find it fair if they have worked harder than others

A theorist called **Frederick Taylor**

introduced the idea of piecework because he believed that workers would work harder if they could earn more money

Piecework

- Paid based on how many products they make or tasks they complete
- Usually paid as well as the salary or wage

PRO: productivity should rise because employees work harder to earn more money

CON: quality may suffer if employees are rushing to produce more to earn more money

Commission and piecework are similar – the difference is that **commission is linked to selling** whereas **piecework is linked to making**

Commission

- Paid a percentage of the value of products/services they have sold
- Usually paid as well as the salary or wage

PRO: productivity should rise because employees work harder to earn more money

CON: employees may be so focused on making more money that they forget about customer needs, which could lead to lower customer satisfaction

Benefits of a motivated workforce

Staff retention

Staff are less likely to leave because employees are happy in their job and enjoy the work that they do which would lead to them being loyal to the business. This would therefore mean they would be less likely to leave their job to move to competitors.

High productivity

Staff are likely to be productive – this is because they enjoy their jobs and so work hard which would lead to them working as efficiently as possible. This would therefore mean that the business can produce products and services cheaply.

High quality

Staff are likely to produce higher quality work – this is because they are dedicated to their job and enthusiastic which would lead to them having a greater attention to detail. This would therefore mean that customers are likely to repeat purchase and recommend the business to others.

Motivated staff

- Are punctual and present
- Work efficiently while at work
- Use their initiative to solve problems
- Are enthusiastic
- Want to learn
- Communicate effectively
- Have a positive influence

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Motivating their workforce is something that most businesses do in a way that they do this will be dependent on the beliefs of the business (what they think is best), whether they are new or established, and

Greater enrichment

- Job enrichment
- Job rotation

PRO: need to

CON: if

correctly

necessar

and the

it has no

Job enrichment

to make them

give the emp

A theorist called **Frederick Herzberg**

wrote the 'Two Factor Theory' in which he showed his belief that to motivate staff you had to ensure that they were satisfied at work through factors such as giving them responsibility or providing opportunities for achievement

4.4 Training

Induction training

This is the training that new employees receive when they **first start the job**.
The main aim of this is to introduce staff to the people they will be working with and the environment that they will be working in.

Benefits

- ✓ **Employees are likely to be more productive** – this is because they feel supported by the business and they will be able to adapt to their new role more quickly. Businesses would therefore be more likely to have the costly task of recruiting more employees.
- ✓ **Employees are likely to be productive sooner** – this is because the induction programme has given them the necessary knowledge and skills that they need to do their job quickly which would lead to them feeling confident in their role. Employees would therefore carry out their jobs effectively.
- ✓ **Increased employee engagement** – this is because the induction programme has integrated them with their new colleagues which would lead to them feeling part of a team and valued. Employees are therefore more likely to be motivated, committed and stay with the business.

Induction checklist

- ☒ Introduce to colleagues
- ☒ Introduce the business (aims and vision)
- ☒ Tour of the workplace
- ☒ Learn about fringe benefits
- ☒ Observe what is required day to day
- ☒ Training on IT systems/technology
- ☒ Introduction to health & safety practices

Benefits of training employees

Increased productivity

Staff will be more productive because they will be able to do their job more efficiently. This means they will be able to spend more time on their job rather than correcting mistakes which would therefore enable staff to produce more products in a shorter space of time.

Staff will deal with changes in technology

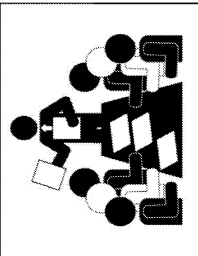
Staff will adapt well to changes in technology – this is because employees would have the skills to deal with technology that is constantly being updated. This would lead to staff easily adapting to changes in their systems which would therefore enable them to remain competitive.

Increased motivation

Staff will be more motivated – this is because employees will feel more valued by their employer which will lead to them being more committed to their job. Employees would therefore be happier in their work, meaning they will be more productive.

Staff retention

Staff will be less likely to leave – this is because the training the employees receive will increase their skills. This would lead to them having more opportunities for career development within the business which would therefore increase the loyalty of the employee to the business.



This is the type of training that employees receive in the **workplace**.
Employees learn from experienced staff who already work in the business which enables them to learn using the business's equipment.

On-the-job training

Where hands-on experience is required, on-the-job is likely – nursing and teaching are good examples.

- ✓ The training takes place in the context that the employee will be working in which means it will match the exact needs of the business
- ✓ It is cost-effective as no travel or external providers are needed
- ✓ Employees will be working with their colleagues enabling instant feedback and immediate correction of mistakes while being productive
- ✓ More efficient than off-the-job because they are learning while working

Drawbacks

- ✗ Other employees are likely to be distracted by the possible loss of their own work
- ✗ New ideas are unlikely to be shared as well as bad habits are not used
- ✗ The pace of learning is slow due to trial and error
- ✗ Employees don't have the opportunity to learn from experts as they are learning with colleagues

This is the type of training that employees receive **outside the workplace**.
Employees learn from specialised individuals who have knowledge in a particular field – the training may take place at a college or training centre.

Main methods of off-the-job training:

- ✦ **Classroom training:** employees are taught by a trainer in a classroom – teaching methods could include discussions, activities and presentations
- ✦ **College courses:** paid for by the employer, time given off work to attend 'lessons' or work would be done in the evening – usually working towards a qualification
- ✦ **Conferences:** usually industry conferences where employees can learn from experts in the industry share trends and offer their views
- ✦ **Workshops:** usually numerous sessions where employees can choose from and attend led sessions

Off-the-job training

Drawbacks

- ✗ Can be expensive due to the cost of the training
- ✗ Course content may not be relevant to the business
- ✗ Employees will be away from work while they are away
- ✗ Employees will have more time to learn from experts than they would gain from on-the-job training

Professionals like solicitors and accountants are likely to use off-the-job training as they need expertise in their industry.

- ✦ **Main methods:** Online, Classroom, Job shadowing, Job rotation, Training on the job
- ✦ **Online:** Employees can complete training at their own pace and time
- ✦ **Job shadowing:** Employees learn from experienced staff who already work in the business which enables them to learn using the business's equipment
- ✦ **Job rotation:** Employees learn from experienced staff who already work in the business which enables them to learn using the business's equipment
- ✦ **Training on the job:** Employees learn from experienced staff who already work in the business which enables them to learn using the business's equipment

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Needs and wants

Needs are basic items that we require for survival, such as food and clothing, whereas wants are items that we **desire** or wish for, like designer clothing or the latest smartphone

Why is it important for a business to identify customer needs (or wants)?
To provide a product/service that customers will buy

Knowing what customers need/want means that a business is more likely to produce a product/service that they actually want to buy

As the product/service would be in demand this would mean a lower likelihood of wasting time and resources

To select the correct marketing mix (5.4)

Knowing what customers need/want means that a business can ensure that the **product** is right for them at a **price** they are willing to pay or can afford to pay in a **place** where they know they would buy from and **promoted** in a way that would grab their attention

To increase sales

Higher demand would be more likely if a business meets the needs and wants of a customer

This in turn would result in more customers purchasing from the business

To avoid costly mistakes

Without knowing for certain exactly what customers need/want, a business may have to make changes to the product (or service), change the advertising, or, at worst, remove the product from their portfolio

Any of these actions can harm a business's reputation

To be competitive

Knowing what rivals are offering means that a business can make decisions about their products and/or services that are better value for money

As long as the business combines this knowledge with their own customer needs/wants, they are more likely to gain/retain customers

Different types of needs
Choice

Many customers expect different sizes and colours as well as different products within the same range

Quality

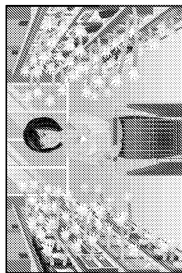
No one expects low quality; however, customers will expect that the quality they receive matches what they are being charged

Convenience

When customers are busy they require products/services that are easier or quicker and are happy to pay more for this

Price

Customers want value for money – they want to pay what they feel matches the quality that they are getting



$$\frac{\text{Percentage change difference}}{\text{original}} \times 100$$

$$\frac{\text{Market growth change in market size}}{\text{original market size}} \times 100$$

same as...

In practice...
If the market was £100,000 and it is now £125,000:
 $\frac{£125,000 - £100,000}{£100,000} \times 100 = 25\%$
Original market size: £100,000

Sales volume
This shows how big the market is in terms of the number of sales

Sales value
This shows how big the market is in terms of the revenue

The sales value will increase as the sales volume increases – unless the price goes down, in which case the sales value will not increase at the same rate

Develop customer insight

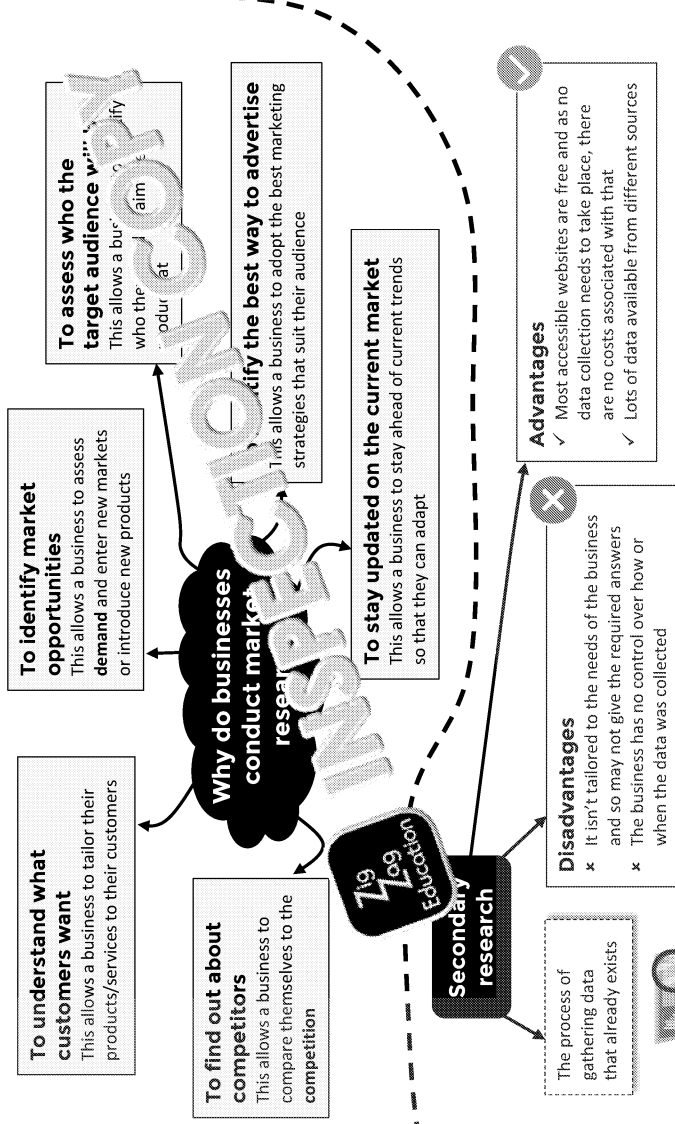
This is the insight into what customers think, feel, and do to help this information

Improved customer insight

This is because gaps in the market which were previously ignored can now be identified and addressed

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5.3 The purpose and methods of market research

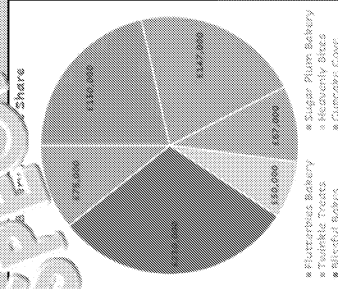


Internet research	Printed press	Benefits	Drawbacks
The process of gathering information online either directly through a company or organisation's website or through the use of a search engine	Gathering information through the use of printed publications such as newspapers, magazines and industry journals	✓ Lots of information is available 24/7 which makes it a convenient source ✓ It is cost-effective as no physical resources or travel are needed ✓ In-depth specific industry information is collected by specialists which may give expert opinions ✓ Local data would be available	✗ Not all sources may be reliable and/or may be out of date so the information may be misleading or inaccurate ✗ It can be time-consuming to find exactly the information that the business is looking for ✗ They can take a long time to be available for a business which they are more likely to out of date which would mean that the business is unable to identify current trends ✗ Information gathered may be biased, leading to unreliable data

Market share

Expressed as a percentage, market share measures how much of the total sales are held by the business

$$\frac{\text{revenue of the business}}{\text{total market revenue}} \times 100$$



In practice...

Flutterbus Bakery's market share is 21%

$$\frac{150,000}{699,000} \times 100 = 21\%$$

Heavenly Bites' market share is 7%

$$\frac{50,000}{699,000} \times 100 = 7\%$$

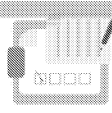
NOTE! To get the total market revenue, add together the revenue of all the businesses

Disadvantages

- ✗ It can be labour intensive and money producing efforts can be complex and time-consuming and skilled staff are needed

Questionnaire

A series of open (own words are expected) or closed (predefined answers are given) questions used to gather information from respondents



Surveys

A way of collecting and analysing data – a questionnaire is used to collect this information from respondents

Interviews

Asking questions from one person or a group of people to gain opinions and/or in-depth responses

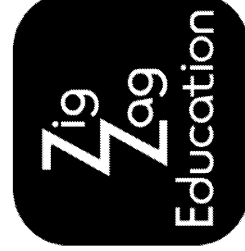
Focus groups

A small group of people gathered to give their thoughts, opinions and perceptions about a product or service

Both qualitative and quantitative market research can be used to make important decisions

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5.4 Part 1: Product and price

The stages in developing new products...

Generate ideas

Review and select the best ideas

Develop and test the ideas

Assess viability of the ideas

Create the prototype/s

Developing new products

Customer retention – customers are likely to remain loyal to the brand, thus increasing their satisfaction

Benefits

Competitive advantage – launch something new before competitors can show that the business is a better option, possibly gaining a competitive advantage

Increased efficiency – producing more could lead to benefiting from economies of scale, thus reducing costs

Increased market share – with more possible new audiences may be targeted, initially some business higher sales in their market

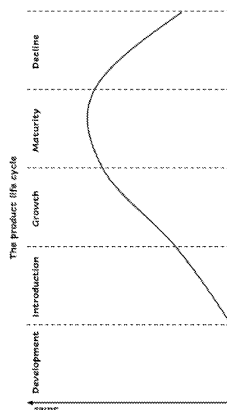
Risk of failure – it can be expensive to develop a new product (spending is needed on advertising and production) which may be affected if the new product fails

Product differentiation

Unique selling point – Something that differentiates a product from others, making it more likely to be able to distinguish itself

Product life cycle

This shows the stages that a product goes through from the time a business starts to develop it to when it is taken off the market



- 1. Development:** the product is being developed and tested – there are no sales at this stage
- 2. Introduction:** the product is launched; sales are low and costs may be high – the business needs to build product awareness
- 3. Growth:** sales increase, profits are growing and there are more competitors – the business should show how they are different from the competition
- 4. Maturity:** sales are at their peak and the market is saturated – the business should focus on brand loyalty and introduce product variations
- 5. Decline:** sales are decreasing and the product is at risk of becoming obsolete; the business should consider discontinuing the product

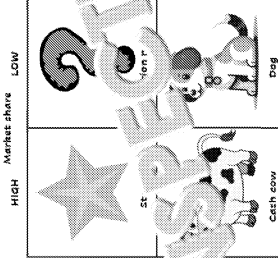
In order to stop a product from going into decline, a business can try different things to try to increase sales – these are called **extension strategies**

For example:

- ❖ Updating packaging
- ❖ Adding more or different features
- ❖ Changing target market
- ❖ Advertising
- ❖ Price reduction

Boston Matrix (Boston Box)

By placing their product portfolio into one of the four categories, a business can analyse its range and make decisions about the future of each product. Ideally, the product portfolio should be balanced across the four categories.



Cash cows operate in a slow-growing market with a high market share. They generate lots of money providing money for other areas of the business – this money can be invested in stars or question marks.

Dogs operate in a slow-growing market with a low market share. They do not generate much money and are often in the decline phase of the product life cycle – they are often discontinued.

Question marks operate in a fast-growing market with a low market share. It is uncertain whether they will become stars – investment is needed to increase their market share.

Stars operate in a fast-growing market with a high market share. They need lots of investment to get the most out of them – as they mature, they can become cash cows.

Brand image

The way that a product or business is portrayed or perceived by customers – this can be linked to a name, a logo or colours associated with the business – a strong image will more likely be remembered by customers

Factors that influence pricing decisions

INTERNAL factors

❖ **Costs:** Once a business knows what their fixed and variable costs are, they can decide how to set their prices; unless using a loss leader, the business needs ensure that these are covered

❖ **Product life cycle:** Depending where a product is in its life cycle will depend on which strategy is the most appropriate. For example, penetration pricing or skimming pricing would be appropriate for the introduction stage, and competitive pricing is useful for maturity

EXTERNAL factors

❖ **Costs:** There can be changes in the external environment that can affect the cost of raw materials and so a business must react to this and may change their pricing strategy accordingly

❖ **Nature of the market:** If customers are sensitive to price, the loss leader and penetration pricing strategies will work best; how the customer perceives the product

❖ **Degree of competition:** Depending on how much competition a business has, they can either decide to price similar to rivals or they can choose to price higher if the market is not saturated

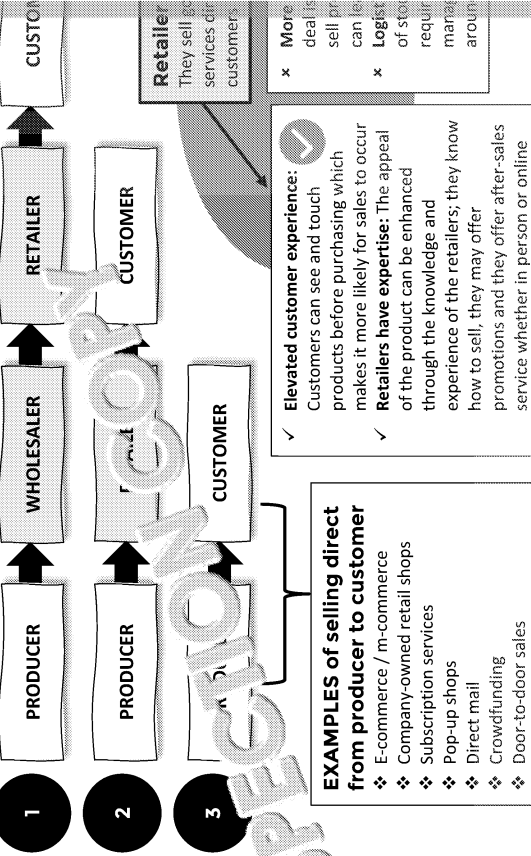
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5.4 Part 2: Place and promotion

Channels of distribution



EXAMPLES of selling direct from producer to customer

- ❖ E-commerce / m-commerce
- ❖ Company-owned retail shops
- ❖ Subscription services
- ❖ Pop-up shops
- ❖ Direct mail
- ❖ Crowdfunding
- ❖ Door-to-door sales

- ✓ **Elevated customer experience:**
Customers can see and touch products before purchasing which makes it more likely for sales to occur
- ✓ **Retailers have expertise:** The appeal of the product can be enhanced through the knowledge and experience of the retailers; they know how to sell, they may offer promotions and they offer after-sales service whether in person or online
- ✗ **More deals:** Retailers can offer more deals than producers can
- ✗ **Logistics:** Retailers require more logistics than producers

Sales promotion

Marketing strategies used to increase sales, e.g. point of sale displays, 2 for 1 offers, free gifts, samples, coupons, competitions

PROS: sales are immediately boosted; new customers may be attracted; existing customers are rewarded for their loyalty

CONS: increased sales may be temporary; profit margins will be reduced; customers may not purchase until the next promotion

Advertising

Magazines
Can be glossy, trade, local or national

PROS: customers can be targeted; they are often shared which extends the reach; quality is usually better than newspapers

CONS: can be expensive; market can be niche which reduces the reach; not very interactive

Advertising

Billboards
Large posters displayed along busy roads and motorways

PROS: easy to see/read; available to view over and over

CONS: can be expensive depending on location; limited space to target customers

Advertising

Public relations
Advertising through the media

PROS: free; increased brand awareness

CONS: cannot control what the media release; positive results are not guaranteed; negative publicity can spread quickly

Advertising

Social media
Several platforms available for use

PROS: customers can be targeted; can be cheap – a budget can be set; a variety of content can be shown to engage the audience

CONS: open to public scrutiny / negative feedback; adverts can easily be missed as users scroll quickly past; frequently changing algorithms can mean adverts don't always reach the correct audience

Advertising

Internet
Different methods of online advertising available

PROS: can be targeted; can reach customers worldwide; can engage customers

CONS: pop-up adverts may be blocked; competing with millions of other businesses making it hard to stand out

Advertising

Television
Lots of channels to choose from

PROS: large potential audience; can be affordable if choosing less popular channels

CONS: many people fast-forward adverts and so there is no guarantee that they will be prime-time and main channels are expensive

Advertising

Newspapers
Can be local or national

PROS: customers can be targeted; a printed paper can be kept and referred to over and over; can help engage with local community

CONS: purchase of printed papers is declining with the rise in digital papers; short life of advert if paper is read and thrown out; not very interactive

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6.1 Sources of finance

Internal sources are those where the money comes from **inside** the business
PRO: No interest charges
CON: Limited amounts

Internal

Owner's funds

This is where the owner puts their own money into the business

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ No debt obligations: No one else is owed money and there is no need to repay or pay interest, which means it is a cheaper option ✓ Retained control: The owner has to have to be shared with others, there are no other investors, which means the owner retains full control enabling them to maintain their own vision	✗ Limited capital: The owner can only have so much money to invest, which could limit the business's ability to grow or take advantage of economies of scale ✗ Opportunity cost: The owner may invest their savings into the business rather than alternative investment opportunities. If the business does not do well, they may have missed out on earnings from other investments.

Retained profit

This is profit made by a business from previous years – it is kept within the business (instead of distributing to owners or shareholders) so that it can be used for future growth opportunities

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ No cost of capital: As the retained profits are generated from inside the business, no interest has to be paid on it ✓ Avoids dilution of ownership: This source of finance allows the owner to maintain their ownership (unlike when issuing shares to raise finance) thus keeping their control	✗ Shareholder expectations: Shareholders may expect the profit to be distributed in the form of dividends – if the profit is continually reinvested, some shareholders may be dissatisfied ✗ Limitations on growth: Some businesses may not have a huge amount of retained profit and so their ability to grow may be limited to the amount of money that they have

Selling unwanted assets

This is where the business sells something that it owns to gain money to pay interest charges – this can be anything from buildings to machinery – businesses will lease the asset back so that they can continue to use it (a leaseback arrangement)

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ Money is freed up: The business is able to gain cash immediately to address financial issues ✓ Reduced maintenance costs: Regular storage or maintenance costs – by selling them, these costs will either be reduced or eliminated which can lower costs in the long term, thus improving profits	✗ Loss of future income potential: By selling an asset, the business is no longer using, they may be missing out on potential income should the asset become worth more money (appreciate) in the future. Without the asset, the business may not be able to respond to changes in market conditions or other opportunities that should arise. ✗ Reduced business value: The business will now be valued lower and therefore be worth less without the asset

Sources of finance are the different places that businesses can get money from
1. **To set up** – Money is needed for purchasing equipment.
2. **For day-to-day costs** – Money is needed for regular expenses.
3. **To grow** – Money is needed to open up in new locations.

External

External sources are those where the money comes from **outside** the business
PRO: Can raise large sums
CON: May charge high interest

Bank loans and overdrafts

Where the owner borrows money from someone that they know, such as a family member or friend, without interest or strict repayment terms

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ More accessible: Often it is easier (and quicker) to get money from friends and family as no credit checks or extensive paperwork is needed and there will be little to no interest ✓ More flexible: Terms and conditions, such as repayment terms, are likely to be more flexible as the method is informal	✗ Strain on relationships: Without any terms or documentation, conflict can arise if there are future disagreements about repayments or if repayment is needed. They also may want a say in the running of the business which may, again, cause conflict ✗ Limited access to capital: Just like with family and friends, the amount of funds, there is only so much money that can be borrowed and the business will have to lend to the business

Trade credit

This is where a supplier sells goods to a business but allows them to buy now and pay later

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ Immediate access to goods and services: Immediate payment is not required which allows the business to fulfil customer orders even when cash flow is tight ✓ Flexible payment terms: A business can negotiate payment terms with the supplier, such as 30, 60 or 90 days	✗ Lack of credit history: New businesses may struggle to gain trade credit at first as they have no history of payment – the supplier may be reluctant to pay upfront for the first payment ✗ Risk of late payment penalties: If a business does not meet the payment terms with the supplier, it may damage their credit rating and be put at risk of future trade credit agreements

A new share issue
As a limited company, a business can be 'financed' through selling shares of the business to raise money for investment

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ No debt obligations: Shareholders do not have their investment repaid (unless the company decides to buy back the shares) ✓ Diversified ownership: New shareholders are brought in with different backgrounds and expertise	✗ Dilution of ownership: The ownership stake of existing stakeholders will be reduced which can result in less control and influence in decision-making ✗ Dividend obligations: Shareholders are entitled to a share of the profit (dividends) which will reduce the amount of money available for reinvestment

How does a business decide which sources of finance are appropriate?

A NEW business is likely to have fewer choices when deciding which source of finance to use to finance their business. The source of finance used will depend on the business's needs and the owner's preferences.

- The amount of finance needed
- The ownership of the business
- How risky the business is

ESTABLISHED businesses have more choices when deciding which source of finance to use to finance their business. The source of finance used will depend on the business's needs and the owner's preferences.

- How profitable the business is
- The assets owned by the business
- The ownership of the business
- The amount of finance needed

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6.2 Cash flow

What is...?

Cash flow

Cash flow describes the money that goes into and out of a business on a daily basis

The effect of positive cash flow

Debt reduction

If a business has enough cash to run their business day to day, they are less likely to need to use an overdraft or a bank loan, which reduces the amount of debt that they have and they will avoid paying any interest which is an extra cost to the business.

More trustworthy / less risk

If the business decides that they would like a bank loan for expansion, they will be more likely to be accepted if they can show that they have a positive cash flow with the ability to pay their bills.

Growth opportunities

Having more cash available means that a business can invest to encourage expansion which will increase revenue and market share.

When discussing cash flow, DO NOT use the words profit and loss – use surplus and deficit

What is...?

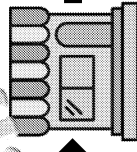
Cash

Cash is the money that a business has to spend to set up and run the business. Cash also includes money in the bank.

What are the main things that a business spends money on?

Cash OUTFLOW

This is the money going OUT of a business



Stock
Rent
Salaries/wages
Insurance
Advertising

Cash vs profit

Profit is the money left over after costs have been paid whereas cash is used to pay the costs

Stock

Some businesses will pay for their materials, ingredients or stock straight away and others will have trade credit (6.1) from their supplier/s.

Without enough cash, a business will not be able to supply their customers with outstanding invoices from suppliers.

What is cash for?

Cash in

A business receives money from the bank or from customers into the business.

Cash out

A business pays money from the business to suppliers or for expenses.

Net cash

This is the difference between the money going in and out.

Opening balance

This is the balance at the start of the month.

Rescheduling payments

A business may be able to negotiate with their suppliers to delay payments to them to give them enough chance to gain payment from their customers. Alternatively, the business could try to persuade customers to pay sooner (maybe by offering an incentive such as 10% off for payment upfront) to try to ensure they have money available.

Overdrafts (6.1)

Even though the interest charged on an overdraft can be quite high, using this short-term 'loan' can enable a business to pay a bill (or bills) if they have not yet received payment from a customer. As soon as the customer pays their invoice, the money goes into the bank, and the overdraft is no longer used.

Overdraft

Increasing cash inflow

A business may decide to increase their selling price but there is no guarantee that customers will pay the new prices. They may decide to increase their product range but, they may have to spend money to gain more revenue.

Finding new sources of finance (6.1)

Depending on what has caused the cash flow problem, the business may decide to take out a loan. It could give the business a lump sum of money but they would have to make monthly repayments with interest. They could sell assets, which is only useful if they no longer need them, or they could make changes to their business ownership to allow a new partner or shareholders (1.2).

Consequences of cash flow problems

Inability to pay bills

If a business cannot pay its day-to-day bills, this can lead to them paying late which can damage relationships with suppliers, resulting in them not being able to gain trade credit from them for future purchases. Relationships with employees may also be damaged if they are paid late, leading to them seeking employment elsewhere.

Lack of growth

Issues with cash flow can mean that a business cannot invest in opportunities that could see them increasing their revenue, such as opening new shops, expanding overseas or new market.

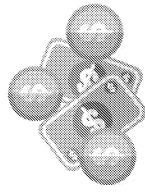
Operational disruption

If suppliers are not paid on time, it could result in delays on the production line if goods are not delivered when needed. This could lead to customer dissatisfaction if their deliveries are not made on time and could damage the reputation of the company/brand.

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6.3 Financial terms and calculations



Income

SALES

This is the number of products and/or services that a business sells (This is expressed as a number)

Can also be called output

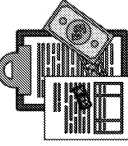
PRICE

This is what a business charges for its products or services (This is expressed as a number)

=

This is the total revenue from sales

Expenses



FIXED COSTS

These are the costs that do not change with the number of items sold (e.g. rent, salaries)

+

VARIABLE COSTS

These are the costs that change depending on how many items the business sells (e.g. raw materials, packaging)

=

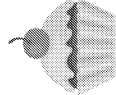
This is the total cost of production

IN PRACTICE...

Imagine a bakery that sells cupcakes... Flutterbies Bakery...

In the summer holidays, the bakery will sell more cupcakes because there are more customers in the town. Fixed costs will not change – even if the bakery doubles their sales, they will not be charged more for the rent that they pay for their premises or the monthly salary payment for managers.

Variable costs WILL change – this is because the more cupcakes that are required to fulfil demand, more ingredients and packaging will be needed – the business will spend more money on their raw materials if they make more cupcakes.



Break-even is the point at which total revenue is equal to total costs

Break-even

Margin of safety

This is the number of items a business can afford to not sell until it makes a loss

IN PRACTICE...

Flutterbies Bakery expects to sell 500 cupcakes. Based on their current figures, they have calculated that they will break even at 200 cupcakes. This means that they are making a profit on 300 cupcakes sold – as this is quite a lot of cupcakes compared to what they expect to sell, this tells the business that selling at the festival is low risk.

You will not be expected to draw a break-even chart in the exam

Expected sales – BEP

+
-
x
%

IN PRACTICE...

Flutterbies Bakery are considering selling cupcakes for a two-day festival

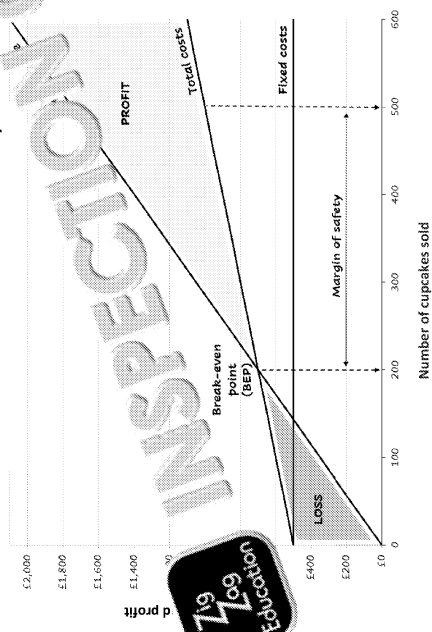
Expected sales: They think that they will be able to sell 500 cupcakes in total

Fixed costs: They are going to hire a catering van which will cost them £500

Variable costs: Each cupcake will cost £1 to make

Selling price: They are thinking of selling the cupcakes for £3.50 each

A break-even chart for Flutterbies Bakery



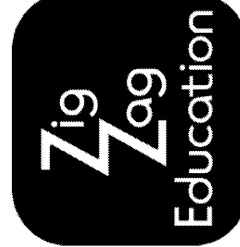
Effects of changes in costs and price can be seen:
When producing a chart, different variables can be changed (such as selling price, variable costs and fixed costs) and the impact on the BEP can be seen.
Useful for securing finance: If a bank can see that the business is likely to break even, they may be more likely to approve a bank loan or an overdraft.

Drawbacks

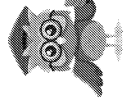
- Costs and price can change:** The BEP calculated is based on particular costs and selling price – if any of these variables change (such as deciding to increase or decrease selling price while at an event) the BEP is instantly incorrect
- Sales can change:** The BEP is calculated on a certain number of sales which of course is not likely to be accurate on the actual day of selling

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The use of these key words is important communication – make sure that you use them so that you can use them in the future



6.4 Analysing the financial performance of a business

Why do businesses prepare financial statements?

It is a legal requirement

Companies must produce these documents by law (under the Companies Act) at least once per year (smaller companies do not have to disclose as much information) – this is to ensure that the company is being transparent to all stakeholders in the recording of their finances

To assess business performance

A business will want to find out from its financial statements whether it is doing well or not. It will look at data such as revenue or profit to see if the business is worth investing in.

To help make business decisions

Both statements allow different stakeholders (1.4) to make informed decisions on the financial health of the business; for example, a bank may look at these documents to help them decide whether to lend money to the business or to help them decide whether to invest in the business. A business owner will look at their working capital to see if they have enough to cover their current liabilities.

Why might net profit increase or decrease?

- Revenue has changed
- Cost of sales has changed at a different rate to revenue
- Overheads have changed at a different rate to revenue

TIP: look at the variables from one year to the next and see what has happened – there can also be hints in the case study

Income statement

Also known as the **profit and loss account**, this financial statement shows how much profit is made, usually for one year

How to interpret the data on financial statements

- (A) Shareholders and owners will be interested in how a business is doing; seeing whether **more profit has been made** than last will help to inform them as to whether their investment was a good idea.
- (B) Other stakeholders, such as **shareholders, owners or investors** may be more interested in the worth of the business in other words, the **net assets employed**
- (C) It is always a good idea to make comparisons to previous years – there are several ratios you can use to make these comparisons; you only need to learn two:
- gross profit margin
 - net profit margin
- (D) Comparing performance against competitors would be useful for a business – **managers** may use the above ratios to see whether their decisions have been effective – the result also be used to make decisions for improvements in the following:

Income statement (profit & loss account) for Flutterflies Bakery

Revenue	£	35,000
Cost of sales		
Opening stock	1,000	
plus purchases	3,000	
	4,000	
minus closing stock	1,500	
		2,500
GROSS PROFIT		32,500
Overheads		
Rent	7,200	
Advertising	200	
Insurance	200	
Salaries	1,200	
Utilities	3,600	
Total Overheads		12,400
OPERATING PROFIT		20,100
Bank loan interest	500	
Overdraft interest	200	
Corporation tax	1,700	
Total interest and tax		2,400
NET PROFIT		17,700

This financial statement takes the simple formula of calculating profit and breaks it down into more detail to show exactly where the money was spent

This is where **variable costs** are shown

Gross profit
Revenue – cost of sales

This is where **fixed costs** are shown

You will not be given the formulae in the exam

Operating profit
Gross profit – overheads

Net profit
Operating profit – interest and tax

Gross profit margin
$$\frac{\text{Gross profit}}{\text{revenue}} \times 100$$

IN PRACTICE...
Using the gross profit margin

Year 3 – 93%
Year 2 – 93%
Year 1 – 92%

For each £1 of revenue, in Year 3 there was 93p of gross profit. This is quite **high** – it shows that the cost of sales (or cost of goods sold) is quite **low**.

Net profit margin
$$\frac{\text{Net profit}}{\text{revenue}} \times 100$$

IN PRACTICE...
Using the net profit margin

Year 3 – 13%
Year 2 – 7%
Year 1 – 3%

For each £1 of revenue, in Year 3 there was 13p of net profit. This is quite **low** – it shows that overheads (or expenses) and tax combined are quite high.

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1.1

The purpose and nature of business

A business is set up to provide goods and services to customers in return for money. Demand is required for the good or service for the business to gain sales.

Fill in the gaps below to complete the definitions

Goods and services	Goods are _____ items that we can touch, like a car or a book, whereas services are _____ items that we cannot touch, like a haircut or window cleaning.
Needs and wants	Needs are _____ items that we require for _____, like food and clothing. Wants are items that we _____ or, like designer clothing or the latest smartphone.
Customers and consumers	A customer is someone who _____ a good or service. A consumer is someone who _____ the good or service. For example, if a business makes a new product, the first person to buy it is the customer. If they buy it for their own use, they are the consumer.
Opportunity cost	This is the _____ made when a business decides to spend money on one thing rather than spend it on opening another shop, they are _____ the chance they could have gained from an extra shop.

What function is responsible for and give two of activities that could take place

Finance

Human resources

Operations
The Operations Department is responsible for managing the day-to-day activities that enable the production of a good or service. This could involve activities such as overseeing manufacturing and quality, supply chain management and keeping customers happy.

The functions of a business

Marketing
The Marketing Department is responsible for increasing awareness and customer engagement. This could involve activities such as market research, the nature of the product, the price to set, where to sell and how to promote.

No matter the size of a business, all businesses will have these functions – in small businesses, these functions are likely to be covered by a couple of people, whereas in a larger organisation, these functions will be more likely to have their own department with a director, manager and assistants.

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Dynamic nature of business

The business environment is always changing.
This means that a business must adapt if it wants to remain successful.
The changes that affect a business are in four categories – these can also be referred to as **external influences**:

Changes in technology
Technology changes so quickly – Apple are planning their next iPhone before they have released the previous one!
Businesses need to be up to date with advances in technology so that they can compete with their rivals.
Technology is explored further in 2.1

Changes in environmental expectations
Businesses are constantly under pressure to be socially responsible – customers are becoming increasingly interested in how businesses manufacture and where they get their supplies from.
For some customers, these expectations will be the reason whether they purchase or not.
Environmental expectations is explored further in 2.2

Factors of production

... is where the business is located, the land and natural resources available.

... is the skill of the people employed in the business – set up the business, manage the production process, ensuring that the business is profitable.

... is all the people who are employed in the business – their skills are also considered as factors of production.

You will notice that the reasons for starting a business and the objectives of entrepreneurs are very similar.

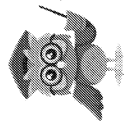
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Reasons for starting a business

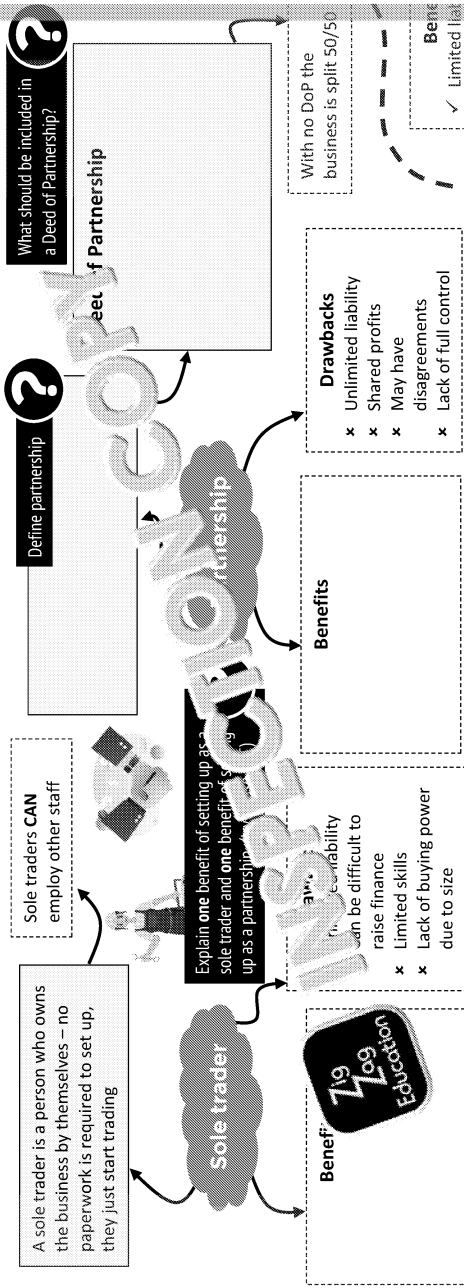
1. To make a profit
2. To provide a service
3. To create jobs

Identify three reasons why someone would want to start a business.

1.2 Business ownership



When someone starts a business, they need to decide what business structure to use. There are many benefits and drawbacks, and so the owner needs to consider their circumstances. **All** these business structures can employ different legal structures.



	Sole trader	Partnership
MANAGEMENT and CONTROL	The owner would keep all the profit to themselves – this is because they are the only person in charge, which would lead to them being able to make all decisions. The sole trader would therefore do things the way that they want them done.	There would be more than one person with different skills – this is because in a partnership more than two people work together which would lead to them being able to work on different aspects of the business. The partners could therefore specialise in different things, overall providing a better service.
DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS	The owner would keep all the profit to themselves – this is because they are the only person in charge, which would lead to them not having to share their reward with anyone else. The sole trader would therefore be able to choose what they do with that profit.	Decisions would be made together – this is because there is more than one person who owns the business, which would lead to more people being available to discuss issues and identify solutions. The partners could therefore see someone else's point of view and benefit from a different perspective.
SOURCES OF FINANCE AVAILABLE	It can be difficult to raise finance to get started – this is because there is only one person available to raise money, often having to rely on their own money or lending from family members. This would lead to them being limited in the amount of money available at first, which would therefore limit their competitiveness.	The partners may 'raise finance' in the partnership. This would lead to them having different ideas as to what business to go in, therefore they could be in conflict.
LIABILITY	The owner has unlimited liability – this is because if they have to pay off their debts, they would have to pay off their debts.	DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS The profit would be shared – this is because there is more than one person who owns the business. If the partners have put in a different amount of effort this could lead to them not agreeing on a 50/50 split; therefore this could put stress on their partnership.

Sole traders and partnerships have **UNLIMITED LIABILITY** – this is when the owner's personal possessions are at risk if they find themselves in debt. Should they owe money, they are legally responsible for that debt and therefore may have to sell their personal possessions to pay that money back. This means that there is **more risk** with these types of ownership.

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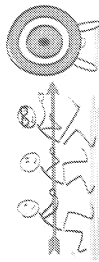
1.3 Setting business aims and objectives

Fill in the gaps

Aims vs objectives

An aim is a _____ that the business wants to achieve whereas an objective is a _____ that a business sets which helps to achieve that aim.

For example, a business may have a general aim of growth... so HOW can they achieve that? Through setting a more specific objective of 'opening three more stores by the end of the year'



What does SMART stand for when writing business objectives

	S	M	A	R	T
The objective needs to clearly show what the business wants to achieve, e.g. instead of 'open more stores' the business would say, 'open three more stores'					
The business needs to be able to see whether the objective has been achieved, so by adding 'by the end of 2025' to their objective, they can easily assess whether they have done this					
The objective needs to be realistic and so when deciding what it will be, the business will have to be clear that it is achievable, e.g. three more stores by the end of the year may be more attainable than 30					
The business should be setting objectives that are in line with their own approach and ethos as well as matching their own context, e.g. in order to grow, some businesses may choose to release new products rather than open more stores					
Setting a time by which to achieve the objective keeps the business on track; by stating 'by the end of the year', it gives them a point at which to work towards					

Why set business objectives?

- To give the business direction so that everyone knows what the business is trying to achieve
- To motivate employees so that they are more engaged in their work
- To enable the business to monitor their progress so that they can check whether they are doing well
- To ensure that resources are managed properly so that time and money are used on the most important things

Why can objectives differ between businesses?

There are three main reasons:

- The size of the business, e.g. a small independent shop vs a multinational
- The level of competition faced by the business, e.g. a business facing lots of competition needs a USP (5-4) and so may choose/change objectives that can achieve this
- The type of business, e.g. a not-for-profit organisation will focus on social objectives

Changing objectives

Over time, it is inevitable that the objectives that a business sets themselves will change

New business:

Established business:

Identify one example of an objective for a new business and one for an established business

Remember, businesses can be faced with external influences (1.1) that may make them have to rethink their objectives

Faced with a national downturn in sales, an established business may be forced with having to go into survival mode while they try to get customers back on board

Measuring success

PROFIT is not the only way success can be measured... businesses may also look at:

- Whether sales have increased
- Whether customer loyalty has increased
- How good relationships are with customers, employees and suppliers
- The level of customer satisfaction that they have achieved
- The impact that they have on the environment
- Whether the business continues to come back (repeat purchase)
- Whether the shareholder value has increased



Social objectives are very common for not-for-profit organisations where their main objective is NOT about profit but is about helping other people / society, e.g. supporting local communities, promoting fair trade or reducing environmental impact

Most likely a main objective... To act more ethically... For example, ensuring good wages, treating customers as all worth the same... Although this can be a long term, a business thus customers, especially those running their business

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1.4 Stakeholders

Stakeholder

Define stakeholder

The main stakeholders of a business

Identify the main stakeholders in a business

Shareholders are also classed as **OWNERS**

OWNERS may want to...

- Maximise the profit in order to earn so that they can pay a higher dividend
- Ensure that the business is efficient and increase their market share

EMPLOYEES may want...

- Safe working conditions
- Fair pay and other benefits
- Training and promotion opportunities

Managers are also classed as **EMPLOYEES**

SUPPLIERS may want...

- Regular business
- Good relationships

CUSTOMERS may want...

- High-quality products and services that meet their needs
- Excellent customer service (particularly after-sales service)

LOCAL COMMUNITY may be interested in...

- Minimising environmental impact such as air and noise pollution, litter or congestion

Stakeholders' main objectives



1.6 Business planning

Business plan

Define business plan

Identify the reasons for producing a business plan

Why do businesses produce a business plan?

thinking ahead enables the business owner to make the right decisions

knowing what private owners and managers have those goals

investors would be more likely to lend or invest money if they can see financial forecasts

You will not be expected to write a business plan

business to see whether they are on track for meeting their objectives

future problems that are likely to occur means the business can plan how to avoid them

BENEFITS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DRAWBACKS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Identify three benefits and three drawbacks

Common misconceptions

- Many students get sales and revenue expressed in UNITS and revenue is expressed in £
- Many people get **profit** and **revenue** is left AFTER costs have been taken
- Many people get **costs** and **price** mixed up. The **BUSINESS** pay and price is what the customer pays

The use of these key words is important for **quality of communication** – make sure that you know the difference between them so that you can use them in the correct way and

Income

This is the number of products and/or services that a business sells (This is expressed as a number)

Identify the key words being described

Expenses

This is the cost of the many items that a business sells

Identify two examples of these

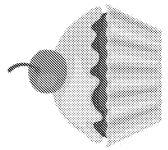
IN PRACTICE...

Imagine a bakery that sells cupcakes... Flutterbites Bakery...

In the summer holidays, the bakery will sell more cupcakes because there are more customers in the town.

Fixed costs will not change – even if the bakery doubles their sales, they will not be charged more for the rent that they pay for their premises or the monthly salary payment for managers.

Variable costs WILL change – this is because the more cupcakes that are required to fulfil demand, more ingredients and packaging will be needed – the business will spend more money on their raw materials if they make more cupcakes.



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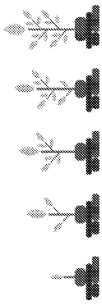
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SECTION

The main sections of a business plan

1.7 Expanding a business



BENEFITS

- 1.
- 2.

DRAWBACKS

- 1.
- 2.

Identify two benefits and two drawbacks of your own products.

Write a brief definition for each method of expansion.

FRANCHISING

Definition:

BENEFITS

- The financial risk of growing is shared between the franchisee and the franchisor
- A business can grow quickly, becoming more recognised
- Franchisees often have a better understanding of their local market

DRAWBACKS

- The franchisor has less control over each store, making consistency challenging
- The reputation of the franchise can be damaged if customers have a bad experience
- The profits must be shared with the franchisee, which can limit overall profits gained

Define the following:

Franchisor:

Franchisee:

- Franchisee uses the franchisor's brand
- Franchisee pays royalties to franchisor
- Training is provided
- Franchisor organises marketing from franchisor
- Franchisee follows franchisor's system

As a business grows, they will require more stock or raw materials

It is more likely that if a business is buying in bulk, they can gain a discount from the supplier

OUTSOURCING

Definition:

BENEFITS

- Can often be cheaper than purchasing the equipment and skills to produce yourself
- Allows the business to have experts working on their products which the business cannot otherwise afford
- The business can focus on their main strengths, gaining ideas and improvements from experts

DRAWBACKS

- Control is lost which can lead to inconsistencies and quality issues
- The providers may be in different time zones, and talking in a different language can be challenging
- The business is at risk of misuse or theft of intellectual property

E-COMMERCE

Definition:

BENEFITS

- Sales can be increased without the expense of opening a physical store
- It is easier to grow through expanding a product range online than opening more stores
- Customers can be targeted through analysing their past online purchases

DRAWBACKS

- The cost of marketing can be high when trying to get noticed in a competitive market
- Providing high-quality customer service online can be challenging
- The business must invest in a secure payment system to protect customer data

OPENING NEW STORES

Definition:

BENEFITS

- The brand image can be maintained, ensuring that customers have consistency
- Profit gained belongs completely to the business and does not have to be shared with a franchisor
- The business can control its own operations

DRAWBACKS

- Many resources are needed to open new stores, leading to high costs
- Expansion can be slow due to all the different elements required to open a new store
- Having multiple stores can become complex to organise all different elements

Diseconomies of scale

Identify the three types of diseconomies of scale

As a business grows, the unit cost rises; they become inefficient

As a business grows, the unit cost falls; they become efficient

This will lead to the unit cost being lower – the business can then afford to lower the selling price to be more competitive OR they can enjoy a higher profit margin

As a business grows, communication can become more difficult

This is because there are more people to communicate with which means delays and misunderstanding are more likely

This can lead to a reduction in efficiency

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2.1 Technology

BENEFITS

- ✓ Businesses are able to sell globally – this expands their market and increases the number of customers massively
- ✓ Running an online shop has lower overheads than a traditional physical shop – this would lower the costs and increase potential profit
- ✓ Customers have the convenience of being able to shop 24/7 – this would increase customer satisfaction thus increasing sales

E-commerce: The buying and selling of goods and services online

M-commerce: Using a handheld device to buy and sell online

Increased productivity and efficiency

Many routine tasks can be automated, e.g. answering phone calls or manufacturing, which can reduce human errors and costs

The impact of the changing use of ICT influences business

Describe two more ways that the changing use of ICT can influence business activity

1.

Data collection, storage and analysis

Businesses can keep track of customer purchases to identify preferences so that they can personalise their future marketing

2.

DRAWBACKS

- ✗ The market is saturated with millions of online businesses in the world – this can make it difficult to compete, especially for new and small businesses
- ✗ As the business grows, logistics (3.2) can become challenging, especially when dealing with purchases, returns and lost parcels – this can add to the running of the business as well as lower customer satisfaction
- ✗ Technology can be unreliable – sales will be lost if a website or sales page is damaged or if a website is down

Ethical and legal issues

Advertising products without any false claims
Customers will trust the future marketing messages

The ways in which the business competes with rivals should be fair
should be no unfair trade practices
false advertising, price fixing, mis packaging or selling counterfeit goods

There should be robust security that customer data is protected
Giving customer's control over their data and preferences will reduce data breach thus increasing the customer has in the business

TRADE-OFFS

Ethics vs profit
Sustainability vs profit

Behaving ethically or manufacturing sustainably can be expensive so in the short term, a business may have to forego some of its profits in order to meet their social objectives

Sustainability: Being able to continue to produce in the future without harming the environment

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

Businesses exchange information electronically using different methods

Identify the different methods of digital communication

Identify different ways that stakeholders can communicate

Communicating with stakeholders

OWNERS/SHAREHOLDERS: Emails, video conferencing, intranet

EMPLOYEES:

CUSTOMERS:

SUPPLIERS:

Methods of digital communication

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2.3 The economic climate on businesses

What happens as interest rates rise?

Interest rates are the cost of borrowing money, given as a percentage. Interest rate changes are an **ECONOMIC** change.

As interest rates **fall**, borrowing becomes **cheaper** and saving becomes **less appealing**.

You do not need to know how/why interest rates change.

How fluctuating interest rates affect...

Fill in the gaps

... CONSUMER ...

HIGHER interest rates	LOWER interest rates
Borrowing becomes _____: taking out a loan for big purchases such as houses and cars is more expensive to pay back which means people will either purchase cheaper items or they will not buy at all.	Borrowing becomes _____: bigger purchases are encouraged as the monthly repayments would not be as high.
Saving becomes _____: the more you save, the more interest will be earned, which means you are less likely to spend and more likely to save.	Saving becomes _____: less interest will be earned on money saved which means you are more likely to spend.

Economic climate

This refers to how well an economy is performing, e.g. if a country is selling lots of products and services, it is said to be strong or improving.

Describe the difference between essential and non-essential products

Income elastic

The sales of these products will change as incomes change, e.g. when people earn more, they are more likely to purchase more of these type products; when the economy is in a recession, the opposite will happen.

Consumer spending

How businesses are affected by changes in the rate of interest

Interest rates RISE	Interest rates FALL
Customers with loans have less disposable income.	Customers with loans have more disposable income.
The business sells fewer products.	The business sells more products.
The business receives less revenue.	The business receives more revenue.
Profits are likely to be lower.	Profits are likely to be higher.

... BUSINESS SPENDING

HIGHER interest rates	LOWER interest rates
Borrowing becomes _____: this means it is more expensive for a business to take out loans for assets such as machinery, equipment or vehicles, which could lead to the business not being able to expand.	Borrowing becomes _____: this means businesses are more likely to take out loans to buy assets which will help the business to expand.
Consumer spending is reduced : this means that a business may have to reduce its production levels due to a lack in demand.	

STRONG economic climate	WEAK economic climate
Motivated employees ↓ Secure jobs ↓ Increased demand ↓ High profits	Low employment ↓ Employees more likely to move jobs with better pay and/or conditions ↓ Lower profits

How unemployment can affect a business

1. Identify the ways that unemployment can affect a business.
- 2.
- 3.

Levels of employment

High employment
→ more money in the household
→ buy more products

Low employment
→ less money in the household
→ buy fewer products

What does SPICED stand for?

S	P	I	C	E	D
---	---	---	---	---	---



The pound (or pence) £1 (or pence) £1 (or pence) £1 (or pence) £1 (or pence) £1 (or pence)



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2.5 Legislation

Key points
A business must:

Identify three key points

Legislation: The process of making laws which are a set of rules for different countries to abide by

Equality Act 2010

Protects employees from discrimination

It is illegal to discriminate against one of the nine **protected characteristics**

1. age
2. being married or in a civil partnership
3. being pregnant or on maternity leave
4. race, including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
5. sex
6. sexual orientation
7. religion or belief
8. disability
9. gender reassignment

Employment law

Health and safety law

National Minimum Wage / Living Wage

- The minimum wage a worker is entitled to in the UK depending on their age
- Hourly rate set by the government
- Hourly rate is updated each year

How can H&S affect the profit of a business?

- Workers need to be trained on safety protocol
- Protective clothing needs to be purchased
- Safety equipment needs to be installed
- Insurance needs to be purchased to cover potential risk

Health and Safety

Ensures that all employees are safe and healthy in the workplace. It covers the health of their employees and the safety of the public.

- Failed to follow the law?**
- Fines
 - Negative publicity
 - Bad reputation
 - Loss of customers
 - Staff may leave
 - Decreased productivity

Consumer law protects consumers from poor-quality products and poor business operations

Describe the main parts of consumer law

Consumer law

Trade Descriptions Act 1968

The main points of the law:

Identify two key points of this Act

-
-

Employment law	Health and safety law	Consumer law
Legal issues are avoided: This is because the business has clear guidelines on how employees should be treated which means mistreatment is less likely Lower labour turnover: This is because employees are more likely to be satisfied with their job which means they are less likely to leave Easier to attract potential applicants:	Fines, compensation and negative publicity are avoided: This is because working conditions are safer which means there are fewer accidents in the workplace Staff are happier and more productive in the workplace: This is because workers feel more valued by the business It can be costly: This is because safety measures would have to be implemented and maintained which means time and money would need to be spent on training, purchasing equipment and regular inspections Risk of negative publicity: This is because if a business does not comply with the health and safety law, they can be reported as well as gain a fine which means it is likely that their non-compliance will be known locally and sometimes nationally	Customers are more likely to be loyal: This is because customers can see that the business is protecting them, enabling them to make informed decisions before purchasing which means they are likely to buy from that business again Competition is fair: It can be costly: Innovation can be reduced: This is because there are constraints on the way that products can be promoted or sold which means the business may lack the flexibility to use any means possible to increase their sales
Positive impact	Negative impact	

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3.1 Production processes

Fill in the gaps below.

Benefits

- ✓ Products can be _____ to meet customer needs
- ✓ Usually _____ due to the time and attention that is given by skilled employees
- ✓ _____ can be charged due to the high quality of the product
- ✓ Employees are likely to be _____ due to the job satisfaction gained by having a varied job

Drawbacks

- ✗ Can be _____ due to the materials are not _____
- ✗ It can _____ due to the customisation – this customer satisfaction
- ✗ It can be _____ due to the customisation of each product being different – this can lead to reduced productivity and increased costs

Describe job production

Identify four examples of items that can be made by job production

Examples...

- Job is best when...**
- ✦ Products need customising
 - ✦ Smaller quantities are required
 - ✦ Customers are happy to wait
 - ✦ You have little to no production budget
 - ✦ You have access to a skilled workforce

TRANSPORTATION

If there is too much movement needed to get materials from one part of the production line to another, time is being wasted

INVENTORY

Stock that is not being used and is just sitting in the warehouse is taking up space and therefore is costing money

MOTION

Employees moving around too much could mean the workplace is not designed effectively and results in loss of productivity

WAITING

Having to wait to use machinery or for materials to arrive wastes time and decreases productivity

What is reducing waste known as?

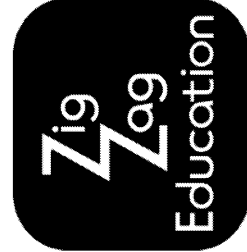
TIMWOOD (developed by Toyota) helps you to remember seven areas where a business could improve efficiency in the manufacturing process

How efficient a business is depends on:

- ✦ How well the employees are managed – if they are motivated then they should produce more, which means the unit cost would be lower
- ✦ How well technology is used – using up-to-date software, machinery and systems will help improve productivity
- ✦ How good the relationships are – suppliers arriving on time, quality and good communication will help to keep costs low (more in 3.2)
- ✦ How often processes are reviewed – continuously ensuring that there is little to no waste and implementing changes to streamline production processes will help to keep costs low

Reducing waste in a business is known as **LEAN PRODUCTION**

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3.2 The role of procurement

Benefits

- ✓ Costs are **reduced** as not as much storage is needed – this means that the existing storage can either be used for something else or it can be sold
- ✓ **Not as much money is tied up in stock** which means that money can be used on other things such as expansion or marketing
- ✓ Less likely that the business will have **damaged or out-of-date stock**

Drawbacks

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Describe three drawbacks of using JIT



Remember

Reduced costs are great... BUT...
Following the principles of JIT will mean more deliveries and lost purchasing economies of scale

Having spare stock to satisfy demand is great... BUT...
It does come with the costs of storage as well as other costs associated with holding stock, e.g. insurance

Describe these three factors affecting the choice of suppliers

Factors affecting choice of suppliers

Price



Reliability

Contract terms



Define the following

Supply chain

Procurement

Logistics

The value of effective supply chain management



Fill in the gaps

Working with suppliers to ensure that key processes are running efficiently and cost-effectively

- ✓ Orders will arrive _____
- ✓ Businesses will not run out of _____
- ✓ Customer needs will be _____
- ✓ Customers will be happy to purchase _____ and _____ to others
- ✓ Sales should remain _____

Getting goods and services for the best price and value

- ✓ _____ will be carried out by the best suppliers
- ✓ Price AND quality will be researched into _____
- ✓ _____ will be carried out by the best deal
- ✓ Businesses should achieve the best price for the expected _____
- ✓ Lower _____ will help to make prices competitive

Describe the difference between JIT and JIC

Just in case (JIC)

JIC is best if...
❖ It is important that the business benefits from economies of scale to keep the unit cost down
❖ The business does not have a wide product portfolio

JIT is best if...
❖ The business must respond often to changes in what customers want, i.e. trends, fashion
❖ The business has a wider product portfolio (5.4)

VS

Draw
x Can be used for
x The business must respond often to changes in what customers want, i.e. trends, fashion
x The business has a wider product portfolio (5.4)

Businesses hold **stock** (3.1), some more than others. This means that for some businesses the process of stock control is extremely important. There are two approaches to stock control that a business can use.

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3.3 The concept of quality

Identify the **five** ways that businesses can measure and identify quality problems

By keeping an eye on **how many** items are **being returned** faulty can indicate whether there are issues in quality. Higher returns could indicate a problem.

Customers will be asked they think about products/services to help them to **areas for improvement**.

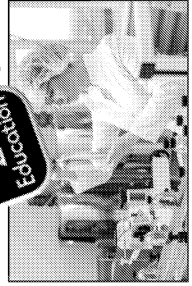
An easy way of measuring is to see **how many units** in a batch are **faulty**. The less that are faulty, the higher the quality.

The business would inspect a **random sample** from a batch and based on their findings they would decide whether to **accept** or **reject the whole batch**.

Where a business **offers a service**, delivery of that service can be monitored to see whether the work is being carried out or items are being delivered **on time**. On time shows **efficiency** and **reliability** which contributes to a quality product/service.

For example...

A drinks manufacturer bottles to check that they will even check how much fizz is in there!



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Key features of TQM

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Identify three key features of TQM



We can own expect or service can be different what the c

Methods of maintaining consistent quality

Define TQM

Quality management (TQM)

Describe two benefits of TQM

2.

Quality control



Quality assurance

It can lead to **cost savings** as faults are identified and corrected while the need for after-sales repairs or refunds is reduced
Customer satisfaction is more likely if faults have been identified before the products hit the shelves

Being proactive and identifying issues before they can occur will **minimise the likelihood of something going wrong in production**

Describe one more benefit of QA

Quality control processes should be clear and evident through the whole of the production life cycle

Regular inspections should take place to identify and address potential issues

From the point at which jobs are advertised and new staff recruited ethos of prioritising quality and continuous improvement should be evident

The business should make it easy to report quality concerns and suggest improvements to the processes used in production to reduce human error ensure improved consistency when checking quality

To maintain their quality, a business should...

Employees should be trained in quality standards and processes

Staff are more motivated to work where of a better job if let's say they are given the power to identify and address quality issues thus improving motivation (3.3)

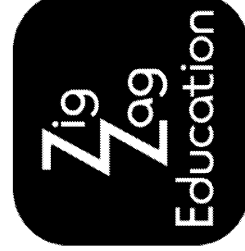
The business should introduce a programme that highlights preventative measures and continuous improvement

Regular monitoring of quality processes should reduce the number of faults

The business should ensure that their chosen suppliers meet their quality standards

Any materials or finished products that are supplied should be good enough quality to meet the requirements of the customers
 The business should regularly inspect the supplier's performance

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3.4 Good customer service

What is this process called?

Before the sale

Product knowledge
Having detailed knowledge about the company's products or services enables employees to provide accurate information to customers.

During the sale

Customer engagement
Clearly and concisely communicating information, instructions, or solution to customers in a polite and professional manner is essential for building a positive relationship and creating a positive experience.

After the sale

Post-sales service
This is the support provided to customers after they have made a purchase and started using the product or service. The aim is to maintain the relationship through addressing issues and/or concerns.

Identify three examples of post-sales service

Examples of post-sales service

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

INCREASE IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Customers will be satisfied – this is because good customer service which would lead to other customers to 'our business'.

Benefits of GOOD customer service

Business should benefit from increased profitability – this is because customers are satisfied with the product/service they have received which would lead to them being loyal and more likely to recommend to others. This would therefore increase the number of sales and revenue, thus resulting in an increase in profit.

INCREASED SPEND

Customers are likely to spend more money with the business – this is because they are satisfied with their product/service which would lead to them being more confident to try other products/services. This would therefore mean that the revenue of the business increases.

CUSTOMER LOYALTY
Customers are likely to stay with the brand – this is because

Explain this benefit of good customer service (try to use 'This is because... lead to... and therefore...')

Customer service

Define customer service

The ways in which advances in ICT have allowed customer services to develop

Websites

A website can offer customer service by:

- Offering product information about what the business sells or services that they provide through written information, frequently asked questions (FAQs), pictures and videos
- Allowing customers to engage with the business through live chat or sharing of contact information such as email address, postal address and phone number
- Giving advice on post sales either through sharing 'troubleshooting' solutions, ways to contact the business for help, or information on how to make a complaint

E-commerce

E-commerce can offer good customer service by:

- Allowing customers the convenience of shopping when it is best for them 24/7 and 365 days a year
- Storing customers' personal and payment details so that they can purchase and pay for items at the click of a button
- Offering competitive prices
- Making suggestions of other, similar or matching products that are personalised to the customer
- Offering order tracking
- Showing other customers' reviews of products that the business sells
- Offering simple post-sales service for refunds and returns

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4.1 Organisational structures

It is important that businesses have a structure. This way, each employee knows who their **line manager** is and who they have responsibility for.

Directors (report to the MD)

Guided by the MD, they set the long-term goals for the business.

Managers (report to the Directors)

They are usually in charge of one of the business functions and aim to meet not only the long-term goals but also short-term goals too.

Supervisors (report to the Managers)

They are responsible for ensuring that day-to-day goals are achieved while managing the staff.

Workers (reports to the Supervisors)

These can also be called 'shop floor' workers. They will carry out the day-to-day tasks.

Communication methods

Identify the PROS for emails, telephone and written documents

Identify the CONS for business intranet, meetings and videoconferencing

Business intranet	Emails	Meetings	Telephone	Video-conferencing	Written documents
This is a web-based platform that is accessible only to employees PROS ✓ Important company documents are available in one place ✓ Easier to collaborate on documents in teams CONS ✗ Employees may have access to a supplier database	This is one of the most popular methods of communication for businesses to use PROS ✓ It can be overused making it difficult for some employees to prioritise ✗ Response times may not be quick enough resulting in slower decision-making CONS ✗ It can be overused making it difficult for some employees to prioritise ✗ Response times may not be quick enough resulting in slower decision-making	These are traditionally done face to face around a boardroom table PROS ✓ Allows real-time communication allowing for feedback and discussion time ✓ Face-to-face communication is clearer, resulting in less chance of misunderstandings CONS ✗ Lack of visual aids can lead to misunderstandings	Usually two people but 'teleconferencing' can allow for conversations with multiple people PROS ✓ Enables collaboration with stakeholders no matter where they are in the world ✓ Screen can be shared allowing participants to view documents CONS ✗ Lack of visual aids can lead to misunderstandings	These days, you may know this as Zoom or Teams calls PROS ✓ Enables collaboration with stakeholders no matter where they are in the world ✓ Screen can be shared allowing participants to view documents CONS ✗ Can be slow to respond to leading to delays in information exchange ✗ Lack of real-time interaction, making it difficult to engage back-and-forth discussions	Most commonly letters, contracts, agreements, proposals PROS ✓ A contract may be used for a new business premises CONS ✗ Can be slow to respond to leading to delays in information exchange ✗ Lack of real-time interaction, making it difficult to engage back-and-forth discussions

Advantages

- ✓ Cost savings can be made due to economies of scale

Centralisation

Describe centralisation

- ✗ The expertise of local employees can be overlooked and lead to the business not fully understanding customer needs

Disadvantages

- ✗ The expertise of local employees can be overlooked and lead to the business not fully understanding customer needs

Hierarchical structure

In this example, we can see that there are more Finance Supervisors than Marketing. There are also more Finance Workers than Marketing. This will be different in different businesses depending on their needs.

6. Subordinate



5. Chain of command

Identify the CONS for business intranet, meetings and videoconferencing

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4.2 Recruitment and selection of employees

Recruitment and selection is a process that businesses must go through when they need to employ a new member of staff.

There are many reasons why a business may be looking to recruit:

- they may be **expanding** and therefore need more staff, possibly in specialist roles
- existing staff may be leaving due to **retirement** or **promotion**, or they may have been **offered a job elsewhere**
- existing staff may have to be temporarily replaced due to illness or maternity leave

Recruiting new staff is an extremely important process for businesses which can be costly if not done correctly – **benefits of an effective recruitment process** (try to use this as a model for your answer because... lead to... and therefore...)

High productivity – this is because the right employees will work hard to produce a high level of products which will lead to lower unit costs. This would therefore help the business to be more competitive due to being able to lower selling prices.

Explain why recruiting internally is cost-effective

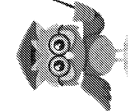
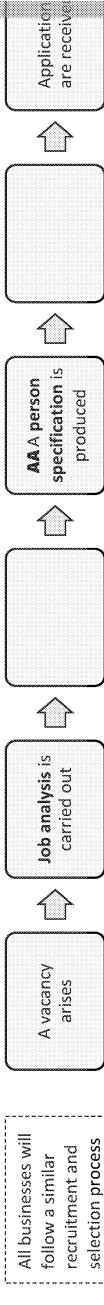
Benefits
✓ Cost-effective

Internal recruitment is more likely to stay with the company and therefore there are opportunities for advancing their career.

Internal recruitment

Drawbacks
× New ideas are limited
× Existing staff may stay in the job for too long
× Gaps in skills

↓ The recruitment process ↓



Job analysis
The job that has become available will be analysed to find out exactly what is involved in the job along with the skills that are required by a potential candidate

Define job description
Job description

Define person specification
Person specification

Advertising
Depending on whether the job is to be recruited internally or externally, the advert is placed to include information such as job title, location, hours, how to apply and closing date for applications

Different types of contract

Job share:

Zero hours:

Identify the missing words	Benefits to employers	Benefits to employees
Part-time: businesses can change their workforce to match the demand, i.e. seasonal peaks	Part-time: staff with certain skills can be used without committing to full-time costs	Part-time: employees can manage their working life around their personal life, leaving time for family, hobbies and other interests
Full-time: This is where the employee works the standard number of hours per week – usually 35–40	Full-time: staff are always available, leading to better communication and tasks that are performed smoothly	Full-time: employees are able to fulfil their personal financial commitments and have a comfortable standard of living
		Full-time: employees are likely to be able to advance in their career more so working full-time

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4.3 Motivating employees

Motivation

Define motivation

Identify one PRO of rewarding an employee with a salary

- Salary**
- Expressed as an annual amount
 - Usually paid **monthly**
 - No set **hours** each week

PRO:

CON: employees may not be motivated harder since they get paid the same matter how many

Salary and wage are the main methods of payment that businesses use – an employee is paid using one of the two.

Businesses can choose what payment method to use. One of the other payment methods too

Financial methods of motivation

In the UK, there is a **National Minimum Wage** and a **National Living Wage** (2.5). ALL employers must pay their employees a minimum rate of pay. Almost all employees are entitled to the National Minimum Wage, including casual, part-time and temporary workers. Self-employed and company directors are not entitled to the National Minimum Wage.

Identify one CON of rewarding an employee with a wage

Wage

- Expressed as an **hourly rate**
- Usually paid **weekly or monthly**
- Usually **hours** are fixed each week

PRO: if the business offers overtime, employees may be motivated to work harder knowing that they will receive more money

CON:

A theorist called **Abraham Maslow** thought that money was not as important as Taylor thought it was; however, he did think that money was important to an employee as it would enable them to pay for food and somewhere to live

Identify one CON of rewarding an employee with commission

Commission

- Paid a percentage of the value of products/services they have sold
- Usually paid as well as a salary or wage

PRO: Commission can be so focused on making more money that they forget about customer needs, which could lead to lower customer satisfaction

Benefits of a motivated workforce

Staff retention

Staff are less likely to leave because employees are happy in their job and enjoy the work that they do which would lead to them being loyal to the business. This would therefore mean...

High productivity

Staff are likely to be productive – this is because they enjoy their jobs and so work hard which would lead to...

This would therefore mean...

High quality

Staff are likely to produce higher quality work – this is because... which would lead to...

This would therefore mean...

Motivated staff

- Are punctual and present
- Work efficiently while at work
- Use their initiative to solve problems
- Are enthusiastic
- Want to learn
- Communicate effectively
- Have a positive influence

Identify one PRO of rewarding an employee with profit-sharing

Profit-sharing

- Paid some of the business's profit as a salary or wage

CON: some employees may not find it fair if they have worked harder than others

Identify one CON of rewarding an employee with piecework

Piecework

- Paid based on how many **products they make or tasks they complete**
- Usually paid as well as the salary or wage

PRO: productivity should rise because employees work harder to earn more money

CON:

Commission and piecework are similar – the difference is that commission is linked to selling whereas piecework is linked to making

Identify one PRO of rewarding an employee with commission

Commission

- Paid a percentage of the value of products/services they have sold
- Usually paid as well as a salary or wage

PRO: Commission can be so focused on making more money that they forget about customer needs, which could lead to lower customer satisfaction

CON:

A theorist called **Frederick Herzberg** wrote the 'Two Factor Theory' in which he showed his belief that to motivate staff you had to ensure that they were satisfied at work through factors such as giving them responsibility or providing opportunities for achievement

Job enrichment

- Job enrichment
- Job enrichment
- Job enrichment

PRO:

CON:

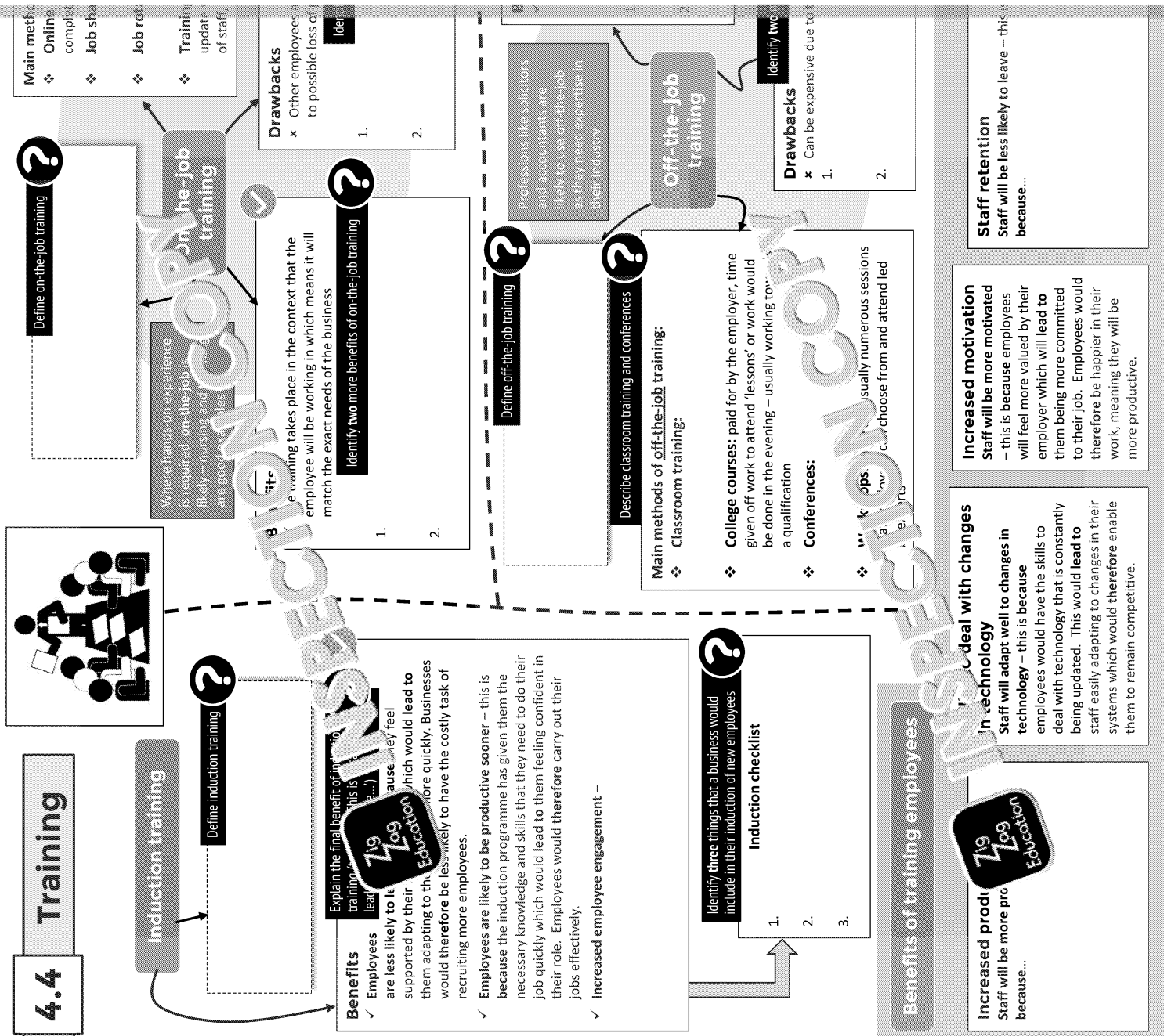
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Motivating their workforce is something that most businesses do, but the way that they do this will be dependent on the beliefs they have (what they think is best), whether they are new or established, and

4.4 Training



5.1

Identifying and understanding customers

Describe the difference between needs and wants

Needs and wants

Choice
Many customers expect different sizes and colours as well as different products within the same range

Different types of need

Quality

No one expects low quality; however, customers will expect that the quality they receive matches what they are being charged

Convenience

When customers are busy they require products/services that are easier or quicker and are happy to pay more for this

Price

Customers want value for money – they want to pay what they feel matches the quality that they are getting

What customers want changes all the time. In business, identifying and understanding customers will help a business to offer the right product/service

Why is it important for a business to identify customer needs (or wants)?

Identify the needs

To provide a product/service that customers will buy

Knowing what customers need/want means that a business is more likely to produce a product/service that they actually want to buy

As the product/service would be in demand this would mean a lower likelihood of wasting time and resources

To select the correct marketing mix (5.4)

Knowing what customers need/want means that a business can ensure that the product is right for them at a price they are willing to pay or can afford to pay in a place where they know they would buy from and promoted in a way that would grab their attention

Higher demand would be more likely if a business meets the needs and wants of a customer

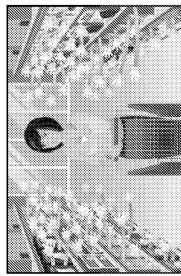
This in turn would result in more customers purchasing from the business

Without knowing for certain exactly what customers need/want, a business may have to make changes to the product (or service), change the advertising, or, at worst, remove the product from their portfolio

Any of these actions can harm a business's reputation

Knowing what rivals are doing means that a business can make decisions about their products and/or services that are better value for money

As long as the business combines this knowledge with their own customer needs/wants, they are more likely to gain/retain customers



$$\frac{\text{difference}}{\text{original}} \times 100$$

$$\frac{\text{change in market size}}{\text{original market size}} \times 100$$

same as...

In practice...
If the market was worth 100, and it is now worth 110, the market has grown by 10%

Describe the difference between sales volume and sales value

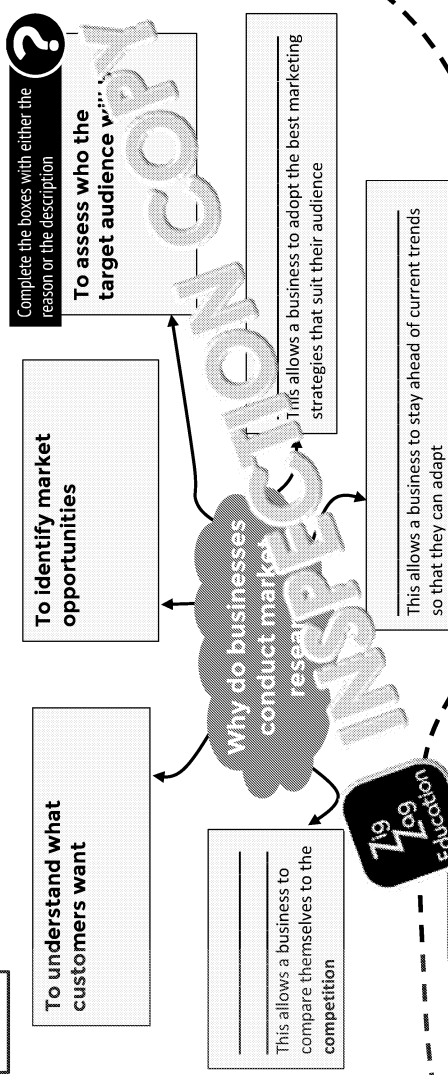
The sales value will increase as the sales volume increases – unless the price goes down, in which case the sales value will not increase at the same rate

Improved
This is because gaps in the market which were previously ignored are now being filled, leading to a higher sales value

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5.3 The purpose and methods of market research



Secondary research

The process of gathering data that already exists

Disadvantages

- It isn't tailored to the needs of the business and so may not give the required answers
- The business has no control over how or when the data was collected

Describe two advantages of secondary research

- 1.
- 2.



Internet research

The process of gathering information online either directly through a company or organisation's website or through the use of a search engine

Printed press

Gathering information through the use of printed publications such as newspapers, magazines and industry journals

Identify two benefits of Internet research

Benefits

1. In-depth specific industry information is collected by specialists which may give expert opinions
2. Local data would be available

Identify two drawbacks of printed press

Drawbacks

- Not all sources may be reliable and/or may be out of date so the information may be misleading or inaccurate
- It can be time-consuming to find exactly the information that the business is looking for

Surveys

A way of collecting and analysing data – a questionnaire is used to collect this information from respondents

Interviews

Asking questions from one person or a group of people to gain opinions and/or in-depth responses

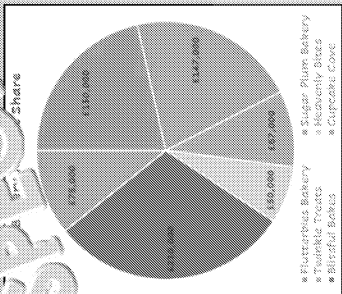
Describe a focus group method of primary research

Focus groups

Market share

Expressed as a percentage, measures how much of the sales are held by the business

Identify the formula for market share



In practice...
Flutterbus Bakery's market share is 21%
$$\frac{150,000}{699,000} \times 100 = 21\%$$

Calculate the market share for Heavenly Bites

NOTE! To get the total market revenue, add together the revenue of all the businesses

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5.4 Part 1: Product and price

The stages in developing new products...

Review and select the best ideas

Assess viability of the ideas

Developing new products

Fill in the missing stages in developing new products – choose from the following: create the prototype; develop and test the ideas; launch the product; generate ideas

customers are likely to remain loyal to the brand, thus increasing their satisfaction

Benefits

new before competitors could start the business is a leader in the industry, possibly gaining a competitive advantage

more could lead to benefiting from economies of scale, thus reducing costs

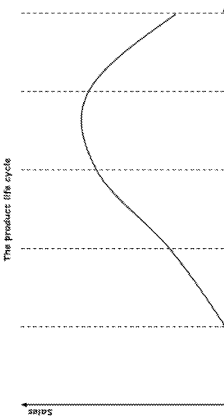
with more possible new audiences may be targeted, initially, more business higher sales in their market

Product life

This shows the stages that a product goes through from the time a business starts to develop it to when it is taken off the market

Identify the stages in the product life cycle

1. the product is being developed and tested – there are no sales at this stage
2. the product is launched; sales are low and costs may be high – the business needs to build product awareness
3. sales increase, profits are growing and there are more competitors – the business should show how they are different from the competition
4. sales are at their peak and the market is saturated – the business should focus on brand loyalty and introduce product variations
5. sales are decreasing and the product is at risk of becoming obsolete; the business should consider discontinuing the product

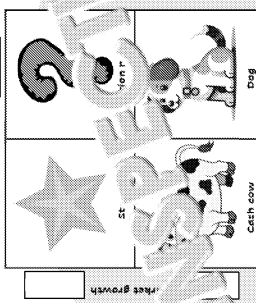


In order to stop a product from going into decline, a business can try different things to try to increase sales – these are called **extension strategies**

Identify two more examples of extension strategies

- For example:
 - Updating packaging
 - Adding more or different features
 - Changing target market

Market share



Boston Matrix (Boston Box)

By placing their product portfolio into one of the four categories, a business can analyse its range and make decisions about the future of each product. Ideally, the product portfolio should be balanced across the four categories.

Product portfolio – the products that a business sells – can also be called product range

Cash cows operate in a slow-growing market with a high market share. They generate lots of money providing money for other areas of the business – this money can be invested in stars or question marks.

Label the Boston Matrix axes

Stars operate in a fast-growing market with a high market share. They need lots of investment to maintain their position. As they mature, they can become cash cows.

Question marks operate in a fast-growing market with a low market share. It is uncertain whether they will become stars – investment is needed to increase their market share.

Dogs operate in a slow-growing market with a low market share. They do not generate much money and are often in the decline phase of the product life cycle – they are often discontinued.

Brand image

The way that a product or business is portrayed or perceived by customers – this can be linked to a name, a logo or colours associated with the business – a strong image will more likely be remembered by customers

Factors that influence pricing decisions

INTERNAL factors

- ❖ **Costs:** Once a business knows what their fixed and variable costs are, they can decide how to set their prices; unless using a loss leader, the business needs ensure that these are covered
- ❖ **Product life cycle:** Describe the product life cycle factor

EXTERNAL factors

- ❖ **Identify the missing factors:** There can be changes in the external environment that can affect the cost of raw materials and so a business must react to this and may change their pricing strategy accordingly
- ❖ **Nature of the market:** If customers are sensitive to price, the loss leader and penetration pricing strategies will work best; how the customer perceives the product
- ❖ **Dependence:** Depend on how much competition a business has. They can either decide to price higher than rivals or they can choose to price higher than the market is not saturated

Product differentiation

Unique selling point

to launch a new product, a business needs to be different from its competitors. This can be achieved by offering a unique selling point (USP) – a benefit or feature that sets the product apart from its competitors. Examples include: *customer retention; risk of competitors copying; increased efficiency*

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6.1 Sources of finance

Define internal sources of finance

Internal

Complete the missing benefits and drawbacks

Owner's funds

This is where the owner puts their own money into the business

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ No debt obligations: No one else is owed money and there is no need to repay or pay interest, which means it is a cheaper option ✓ Opportunity cost: The owner may invest their savings into the business rather than alternative investment opportunities. If the business does not do well, they may have missed out on earnings from other investments.	

Retained profit

This is profit made by a business from previous years – it is kept within the business (instead of distributing to owners or shareholders) so that it can be used for future growth opportunities

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ Avoids dilution of ownership: This source of finance allows the owner to maintain their ownership (unlike when issuing shares to raise finance) thus keeping their control	✗ Shareholder expectations: Shareholders may expect the profit to be distributed in the form of dividends – if the profit is continually reinvested, some shareholders may be dissatisfied ✗

Selling unwanted assets

This is where the business sells something that it owns to gain money to pay interest charges – this can be anything from buildings to machinery (on a lease) – businesses will lease the asset back so that they can continue to use it (ack)

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ Money is freed up: The business is able to gain cash immediately to address financial issues	✗ Reduced business value: The business will now be valued lower and therefore be worth less without the asset

Sources of finance are the different places that businesses can get money from

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

External

External sources are those where the business raises large sums of money from outside the business. These often charge high interest

Complete the missing benefits and drawbacks

Bank loans and overdrafts

where the owner borrows money from someone that they know, without interest or strict repayment terms

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ More flexible: Terms and conditions, such as repayment terms, are likely to be more flexible as the method is informal	✗ Strain on relationships: Without any terms or documentation, conflict can arise if there are future disagreements about repayments or if repayment is needed. They also may want a say in the running of the business which may, again, cause a slow down decision-making. ✗

Trade credit

This is where a supplier sells goods to a business but allows them to buy now and pay later

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ Immediate access to goods and services: Immediate payment is not required which allows the business to fulfil customer orders even when cash flow is tight	✗ Risk of late payment penalties: If the business does not meet the payment terms set by the supplier, it may damage their credit rating and put at risk future trade credit agreements

A new share issue

As a limited company, the business can be registered with the Companies Act and issue shares to raise money

Benefits	Drawbacks
✓ Diversified ownership: New shareholders are brought in with different backgrounds and expertise	✗ Dilution of ownership: The ownership stake of existing stakeholders will be reduced which can result in less control and influence in decision-making

Give two factors for each of the below

How does a business decide which sources of finance are appropriate?

A NEW business is likely to have fewer choices when deciding how to finance their business. The source of finance used will depend on the business's needs.

- 1.
 - 2.
- ESTABLISHED businesses have more choices when deciding how to finance their business. The source of finance used will depend on the business's needs.
- 1.
 - 2.

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6.2 Cash flow

What is...?

Cash flow

Cash flow describes the money that goes into and out of a business on a daily basis

The effect of positive cash flow

Debt reduction

If a business has enough cash to run their business day to day, they are less likely to need to use an overdraft or a bank loan, which reduces the amount of debt that they have and they will avoid paying any interest which is an extra cost to the business.

Describe the below effects of positive cash flow

More trustworthy / less risk

Growth opportunities

When discussing cash flow, DO NOT use the words profit and loss – use surplus and deficit

What is...?

Cash

Cash is the money that a business has to spend to set up and run the business. Cash also includes money in the bank.

Complete the titles

What are the main things that a business spends money on?

Cash vs profit

Profit is the money left over after costs have been paid whereas cash is used to pay the costs

Cash OUTFLOW
This is the money going OUT of a business

Identify three examples of cash outflow that a business may have



Cash INFLOW
This is the money coming INTO the business

Consequences of cash flow problems

Inability to pay bills

If a business cannot pay its day-to-day bills, this can lead to them paying late which can damage relationships with suppliers, resulting in them not being able to gain trade credit from them for future purchases. Relationships with employees may also be damaged if they are paid late, leading to them seeking employment elsewhere.

Identify the below two consequences of cash flow problems

Issues with cash flow can mean that a business cannot invest in opportunities that could see them increasing their revenue such as opening new branches, expanding overseas, etc.

Suppliers are not paid on time, could result in delays on the production line if goods are not delivered when needed. This could lead to customer dissatisfaction if their deliveries are not made on time and could damage the reputation of the company/brand.

Solutions to cash flow problems

Identify three solutions to cash flow problems and explain them

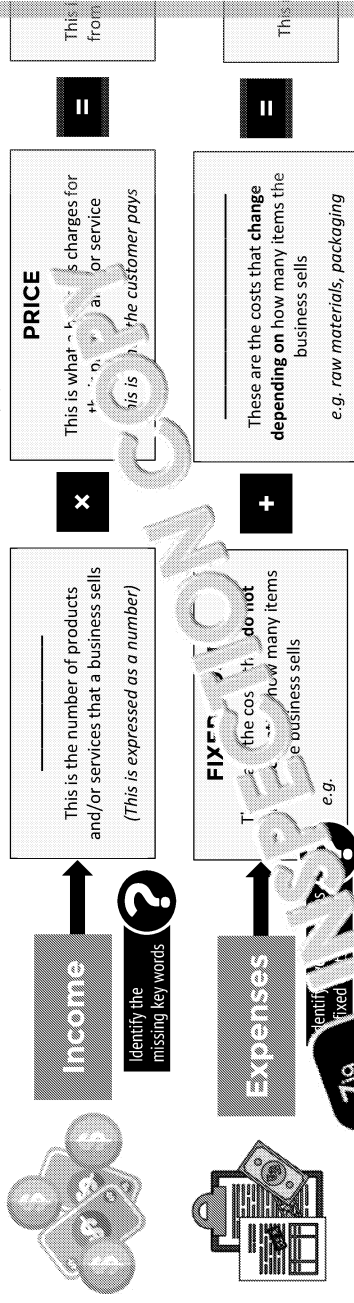
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6.3 Financial terms and calculations

The use of these key words is important **communication** – make sure that you use them so that you can use them in the future.



IN PRACTICE...

Imagine a bakery that sells cupcakes... Flutterbies Bakery...

In the summer holidays, the bakery will sell more cupcakes because there are more customers in the town. Fixed costs will not change – even if the bakery doubles their sales, they will not be charged more for the rent that they pay for their premises or the monthly salary payment for managers.

Variable costs WILL change – this is because the more cupcakes that are required to fulfil demand, more ingredients and packaging will be needed – the business will spend more money on their raw materials if they make more cupcakes.

Break-even

Margin of safety

You will not be expected to draw a break-even chart in the exam

IN PRACTICE...

Flutterbies Bakery are considering selling cupcakes for a two-day festival

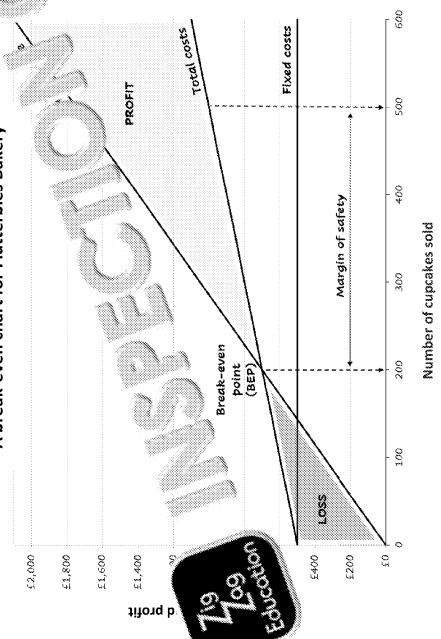
Expected sales: They think that they will be able to sell 500 cupcakes in total

Fixed costs: They are going to hire a catering van which will cost them £500

Variable costs: Each cupcake will cost £1 to make

Selling price: They are thinking of selling the cupcakes for £3.50 each

A break-even chart for Flutterbies Bakery

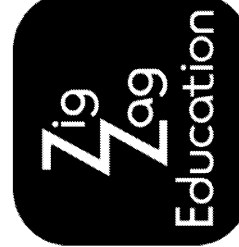


When producing a chart, different variables can be changed (such as selling price, variable costs and fixed costs) and the impact on the BEP can be seen. **Useful for securing finance:**

Drawbacks

- The BEP calculated is based on particular costs and selling price – if any of these variables change (such as deciding to increase or decrease selling price while at an event) the BEP is instantly incorrect
- Sales can change:

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6.4 Analysing the financial performance of a business

Why do businesses prepare financial statements?

Identify the three reasons

Both statements allow different stakeholders (1.4) to make informed decisions on the financial health of the business; for example, a bank may look at these documents to help the business decide whether to give the business a loan. A business owner may look at their working capital to review their current liabilities.

Companies must produce these documents by law (under the Companies Act) at least once per year (smaller companies do not have to disclose as much information) – this is to ensure that the company is being transparent to all stakeholders in the recording of their finances.

Why might net profit increase or decrease?

- Revenue has changed
- Cost of sales has changed at a different rate to revenue
- Overheads have changed at a different rate to revenue

TIP: look at the variables from one year to the next and see what has happened – there can also be hints in the case study

Income statement

Also known as the profit and loss account, this financial statement shows how much profit is made, usually for one year

Profit = total revenue – total costs

This financial statement takes the simple formula of calculating profit and breaks it down into more detail to show exactly where the money was spent

This is where variable costs are shown

Gross profit

Give the formula

This is where fixed costs are shown

You will not be given the formulae in the exam

Operating profit
Gross profit – overheads

Net profit

Give the formula

Income statement (profit & loss account) for Flutterflies Bakery	
Revenue	£ 35,000
Cost of sales	
Opening stock	1,000
plus purchases	3,000
	4,000
minus closing stock	1,500
GROSS PROFIT	2,500
Overheads	
Rent	7,200
Advertising	200
Insurance	200
Salaries	1,200
Utilities	1,200
Local council tax	3,600
Total overheads	25,700
OPERATING PROFIT	6,800
Bank loan interest	500
Overdraft interest	200
Corporation tax	1,700
Total interest and tax	2,400
NET PROFIT	4,400

How to interpret the data on financial statement

- (A) Shareholders and owners will be interested in how a business is doing; seeing whether more profit has been made than last will help to inform them as to whether their investment was a good idea.

Describe two more ways that data may be interpreted on a financial statement

(B)

(C)

Gross profit margin

$$\frac{\text{Gross profit}}{\text{revenue}} \times 100$$

IN PRACTICE...

Using the gross profit margin

- Year 3 – 93%
- Year 2 – 93%
- Year 1 – 92%

For each £1 of revenue, in Year 3 there was 93p of gross profit. This is quite high – it shows that the cost of sales (or cost of goods sold) is quite low.

Net profit margin

Give the formula

IN PRACTICE...

Using the net profit margin

- Year 3 – 13%
- Year 2 – 7%
- Year 1 – 3%

For each £1 of revenue, there was 13p of net profit. This is quite low – it shows that overheads (or expenses and tax combined) are quite high.

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