



a world of opportunity



**ABE Level 5 Diploma in
Business Management
(603/1596/9)**

Qualification Specification

Version 3.3

Version and date	Change details	Section
Launch Version – June 2017	Document created	All
Version 2.0 – March 2018		
Version 3.0 – July 2019	<p>Format changed from one to three separated specifications</p> <p>Additional guidance added</p> <p>Assessment method for 2020 added</p> <p>Assessment method changed- Unit 5UADM</p> <p>Weighting changed – Units 5UIBP, 5UEFM, 5UIBE and 5UMSR</p> <p>Indicative content removed</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Qualification summary; Assessment</p> <p>Qualification structure</p> <p>Unit specifications</p> <p>Unit specifications</p> <p>Unit specifications</p>
Version 3.1 – December 2019	<p>Assessment method for 2019 removed</p> <p>Assignment as an assessment method for 5UADM (December 2019) removed</p>	<p>Qualification structure</p> <p>Unit structure</p>
Version 3.2 – October 2021	Updating wording to reflect new assessment strategy.	<p>Assessment method – whole document</p> <p>Recognition of prior learning (RPL), accreditation of prior learning (APL), and exemptions</p> <p>Assessment</p>
Version 3.3 – November 2024	General update.	Cover sheet and Progression.

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About ABE

Recognition

ABE Level 4, 5 and 6 qualifications are designated higher education qualifications. They are aligned to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Subject Benchmark Statements. All ABE qualifications are part of the UK Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

ABE is fully regulated by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator for England. In addition to Ofqual, ABE has agreements or recognition by regulatory authorities in many other countries where we operate – check our website for more details.

ABE diplomas

Our diplomas are management focused and blend common units with more specialist subject areas, enabling you, through the learning, to develop expertise in particular disciplines as well as a strong understanding of business management in general. They represent the latest in professional standards and provide opportunities for students to develop professional behaviours. Our focus on developing practical workplace knowledge and skills alongside academic expertise, is a winning combination for ABE graduates.

ABE diplomas are valued internationally because they are:

Professional	Our qualifications are designed to give you the knowledge and skills you need to excel in a managerial career
Affordable	ABE is a not-for-profit organisation; as such we endeavour to keep costs to a minimum. Our fast track routes to degrees are often much less expensive than traditional routes.
Recognised	In addition to respected regulatory authorities, our qualifications are recognised by colleges, universities, employers and governments around the world.
Supported	As an ABE member, you can access a wealth of resources designed to support your studies and enhance your learning experience. Each ABE unit has its own study guide and we support our colleges with a wealth of tuition resources to help them deliver teaching to an outstanding standard
International	For more than 40 years, learners around the world have been benefitting from ABE qualifications.
Proven	Our alumni speak for themselves – see their testimonials on our website. They work in a diverse range of industries and organisations. Many are in top jobs or running their own successful enterprises.
Flexible	You can study full time or part time at a pace that suits you. All our diplomas provide expertise in business management and offer you the option of specialising in Marketing or Human Resources alongside this.
A great route to university	ABE diplomas have credits which are accepted by universities around the world. Holders of ABE diplomas can fast track onto a degree course, meaning the cost of your education is dramatically reduced.

Why study with ABE

ABE has an outstanding history and an excellent global reputation. Our qualifications are designed to give you the best chance of achieving your full potential in your chosen career. There is a world of opportunity waiting for you, and ABE can help you seize that opportunity and succeed.

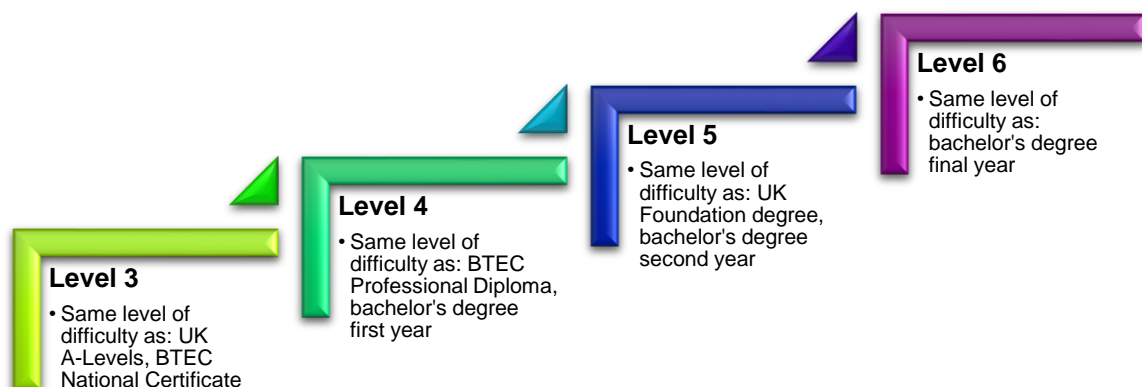
The content and format of our qualifications are the outcome of extensive research which explored the knowledge and skills employees need to possess in order for businesses to succeed. When redeveloping the new qualifications in Business, we collaborated with a wide range of students, employers, higher education providers, colleges and subject experts to ensure that the new qualifications meet their needs and expectations. Our findings highlighted that organisations require staff with a set of strong core business skills that can be flexible and adapted to diverse environments.

This research, along with consultation with employers and subject experts, has provided the backdrop for ABE's outstanding portfolio. Our qualifications are designed to adapt and develop in line with the needs and demands of employers now and in the future.

Whether you dream of becoming an entrepreneur, getting a great job, being promoted to senior management, or if you are already in a leadership role and want to enhance your professional skill set, an ABE qualification will help you turn your plans into reality.

About your qualification

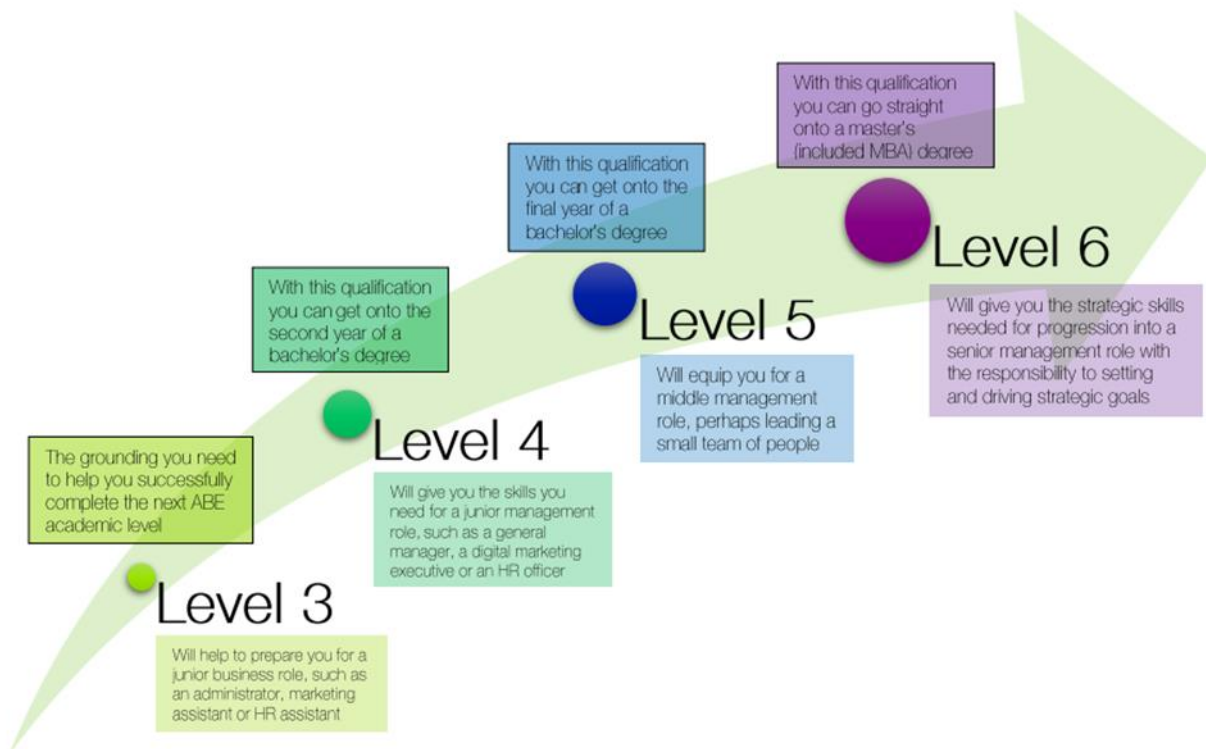
ABE is regulated by Ofqual who also manage the Regulated Qualifications Framework, which ABE Diplomas are accredited against. Qualifications within the RQF must be levelled against the RQF level descriptors to ensure they are broadly similar in the knowledge and depth of understanding required to pass them. The size and the content of qualifications at the same level can vary. The diagram below shows how the levels progress.



Pathways

ABE's framework of business management qualifications runs from Level 3, right through to Level 6. You can enter at Level 3 and progress all the way to Level 6, enabling you to accumulate the credits needed for a university top-up, or you can enter onto the framework at any point depending on your centre's professional and academic judgement— see our 'Entry guidance' section for more details.

Progression



ABE qualifications have been designed with progression in mind and, after completing one of our qualifications, you can progress to employment or to a higher level of study.

ABE offers you a full framework of qualifications that have been designed for you to be able to progress right from Level 3 all the way up to Level 6. Each qualification builds from the one before, taking you from introductory units through to strategic ones.

The Level 4-6 Diplomas do not have any pre-requisites and you are free to start on the Level that best suits where you are in your learning journey and the scope of the academic requirement in each qualification. ABE recommends that you follow the learning of one qualification at a time but this is not a requirement.

The **ABE Level 5 Diplomas** are each worth 120 credits, making them ideal for progression to higher education (e.g. a university degree) or onto ABE Level 6 Diplomas. You can also take advantage of one of our university partnerships (see website for more details on progression arrangement and exemptions).

Qualification summary

Qualification title

ABE Level 5 Diploma in Business Management (603/1596/9)

Operational start date

1st June 2017

Qualification objective

The objectives of the ABE Level 5 Diplomas in Business are as follows:

- to equip learners with business skills, knowledge and the understanding necessary to achieve high performance in the global business environment;
- to provide education and training for a range of careers in business, including management, human resources and marketing;
- to provide insight and understanding into international business operations and the opportunities and challenges presented by a globalised marketplace;
- to equip learners with knowledge and understanding of culturally diverse organisations, cross-cultural issues, diversity and values;
- to provide opportunities for learners to enter or progress in employment in business, or progress to higher education qualifications;
- to provide opportunities for learners to develop the skills, techniques and personal attributes essential for successful working lives;
- to provide opportunities for those learners with a global outlook to aspire to international career pathways;
- to provide opportunities for learners to achieve a nationally-recognised professional qualification;
- to offer learners the chance of career progression in their chosen field;
- to allow flexibility of study and to meet local or specialist needs.

Who is it for?

This qualification is for learners that are 16 and over.

The **ABE Level 5 Diplomas** build upon the subjects covered in the Level 4 Diplomas and give a more extensive coverage of knowledge and understanding in Business Management, Marketing and Human Resources. You will expand your knowledge and skills more by learning about entrepreneurship, quantitative methods and project management.

Who regulates this qualification?

The qualification is regulated in the UK by:

- Ofqual

Entry guidance and criteria

There are no formal entry requirements to study ABE Level 5 Diplomas; however, the centre should ensure that you have a reasonable expectation of success on the programme by assessing your previous qualifications and/or related work experience.

Hence, it is their responsibility to use professional and academic judgement when assisting you in making the decision at which level you should enter the ABE programmes.

In order to successfully study for an ABE qualification, you should have an appropriate level of English language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening). For the ABE Level 5 Diplomas, ABE recommends the following standards are met:

- IELTS - 6
- Cambridge ESOL - Cambridge English First- Cambridge English Advanced (points score 196 or above)
- Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) - 56
- Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) - B2

Centres can use other English language tests as a measure of a learner's English language skills; but the centre must be satisfied that the score is equivalent to those recommended above.

Before the qualification can be assessed and awarded

To be awarded the ABE Level 5 Diploma in Business Management and Marketing learners are required to successfully achieve the **four** core mandatory and **two** out of the three optional units

Knowledge, skills and understanding to be assessed

The knowledge, skills and understanding being assessed in this qualification are:

- Exploring the traditional nature and form of organisations and how the external environment has led to the emergence of new organisational forms and ways of working.
- Appraising the issue of innovation as it falls within, and relates to, a range of key business functions and disciplines. Being able to form a holistic view of the drivers and effects of innovation on the business enterprise, and to develop an awareness of the need to innovate.
- Exploring effective financial management of financial resources in a business, including the applied techniques that managers need in order to take financial decisions in a business.
- Developing a strong working understanding of economic theory and principles in the ever-changing and dynamic international economic marketplace.
- Understanding the different operations and supply chain methods adopted by companies.
- Theoretical, practical, and technical knowledge and understanding to build a capability to identify, define, analyse, and interpret data from a broad range of sources to support critical business decisions in a variety of contexts and using a range of methodologies.
- Exploring different stakeholders in depth, analysing their potential impact and influence, in order to develop relevant relationship management strategies that will enable organisations to overcome threats, take advantage of opportunities, achieve their objectives and protect their brand.

Staffing and physical resource requirements

As part of the centre accreditation process ABE asks for details around staffing and physical resource. For more information on becoming an ABE Accredited Centre go to: <https://www.abeuk.com/abe-accreditation>

Recognition of prior learning (RPL), accreditation of prior learning (APL), and exemptions

If you hold a qualification from either another professional body or university which is similar in content and level to the ABE Level 4, 5 or 6 qualifications, you might qualify for RPL, APL or an exemption from some ABE units.

If you wish to find out if you qualify for any exemptions before you register with us, please send us a letter or an email to admissions@abeuk.com and we will forward you a copy of the ABE Exemptions Policy and application form.

If you are already registered, you can find further information on the [ABE Portal](#).

Localisation

It is very important when studying for your ABE qualification that you consider your local business environment and try to apply what you are learning to relevant scenarios in your local business context. Doing this will help you to put your learning into practice and use it in your professional day-to-day activities.

The nature and form of organisations varies widely. Internal factors such as ownership, business strategy, and size each play a part in defining the shape and focus of an organisation. In turn, this impacts upon the expectations and responsibilities placed on individual managers. Whilst trends in the external environment impact on organisations differently, increased globalisation and digitalisation have led to increasing competition resulting in a growing need for managers to be aware of external practices and approaches and to adopt a best fit approach.

You should take into account the following when preparing for your summative assessment:

- The structure, culture, size, vision, and mission of the organisation you are working for or basing your assessment on
- The local culture and how it impacts on employee and stakeholder expectations of a manager
- Availability of resources
- Feasibility and suitability of practices within your specific setting

Qualification Structure

ABE Level 5 Diploma in Business Management (603/1596/9)

Learners must complete **four** core mandatory units and **two** of the three optional units to achieve ABE Level 5 Diploma in Business Management. In order to be awarded the qualification learners must achieve a minimum of a Pass in **all units**.

The total Guided Learning Hours (GLH) is **420 hours**

The Total Qualification Time (TQT) is **1200 hours**

The credit value is **120**

ABE Unit Code	Unit Title	Level	GLH	Credits	Assessment method
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Core Mandatory Units

5UMAO	Managing Agile Organisations and People	5	70	20	Assignment
5UIBP	Innovation and Business Performance	5	70	20	Timed Open Book Exam
5UEFM	Effective Financial Management	5	70	20	Timed Open Book Exam
5UIBE	International Business Economics and Markets	5	70	20	Timed Open Book Exam

Optional Units

5UOM	Operations Management	5	70	20	Assignment
5UADM	Analytical Decision-Making	5	70	20	Timed Open Book Exam
5UMSR	Managing Stakeholder Relationships	5	70	20	Assignment

QAA benchmarking

One of the key design principles of ABE qualifications is to enable progression to higher education university programmes. As well as ensuring that each qualification level offers the appropriate credit values for progression, we have also aligned the qualifications against sections of the QAA Framework. The QAA Framework applies to all degree-awarding organisations, such as universities, in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The framework describes the achievement represented by higher education qualifications.

The purpose of aligning ABE's qualifications to the relevant sections of the QAA Framework is to show how well ABE's qualifications could map to those qualifications offered at Degree-Awarding Organisations and should help support those wishing to progress to a degree programme.

In addition to this, the alignment also shows the business management skills, generic skills and attributes covered in both degree programmes and ABE's qualifications; highlighting in particular the underpinning knowledge of workplace skills and competencies - that you will consider whilst studying an ABE qualification.

Please see Appendix A for the mapping detail.

Credits, Guided Learning Hours (GLH) and Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Total Qualification Time

As part of Ofqual's regulation, ABE allocates a Total Qualification Time (TQT) to each of its qualifications. TQT is the estimated total number of hours that learners will need in order to complete and achieve the qualification.

Examples of activities which can contribute to Total Qualification Time include:

- Guided Learning
- Independent and unsupervised research/learning
- Unsupervised compilation of a portfolio of work experience
- Unsupervised e-learning
- Unsupervised e-assessment
- Unsupervised coursework
- Watching a pre-recorded podcast or webinar
- Unsupervised work-based learning

Within the TQT value of each qualification, we also define the Guided Learning Hours (GLH). The GLH is the estimated total number of hours for centres to deliver a qualification to their learners. The GLH covers any activities completed under direct instruction or supervision of a lecturer/teacher/tutor etc. For example, classroom learning supervised by a teacher, live webinar or telephone tutorial, e-learning supervised by a teacher in 'real time' and all forms of assessment which take place under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer/teacher/tutor.

Credits

ABE qualifications also have credits assigned to them. When you achieve a qualification with credits, you can use these credits towards progression to another qualification.

Modes of study

To study for an ABE qualification, you should be registered with an ABE Accredited Centre. For more information on finding an accredited centre, please see the ABE website.

When studying for your ABE qualification, you will most likely learn both with supervision from tutors at your centre and through your own self-study time.

Your centre is responsible for teaching ABE qualifications and they will likely use a range of delivery methods. For example, they might use:

- Classroom delivery (face to face taught time)
- Mentoring and coaching from tutors or external employers
- E-learning
- Formative assessment
- Live webinars
- Assessment support for assignment writing and revision sessions

Note: The list above is indicative; to find out more about how you will be taught, you should contact your centre.

Suggested reading and resources for the qualification

For each unit in the ABE qualifications, ABE will provide the following learning materials:

- A Study Guide in PDF format available on the ABE Portal. This Study Guide is aimed at learners and will expand on the Unit Syllabus, including case studies and examples, activities, and a glossary of terms
- Tutor Resource Packs for centres. These will contain session plans, presentations, activities and wider resources available for each unit
- A Recommended Reading List, including online resources, available on the ABE Portal

Assessment

ABE's assessments are specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. The **ABE Level 5 Diploma** is assessed by a combination of timed open book exams and assignments, both externally set by ABE. You can find out how each unit is assessed by checking the Unit Specification in this document, or the qualification tables above.

Timed Open Book Exam

ABE sets Timed Open Book Exams in the format of an OBE question paper and template answer booklet. Sometimes a scenario is provided. Like the assignments, there is a requirement for an organisational context. Learners can find the word count for Timed OBEs clearly outlined in the brief and repeated in the template answer booklet. In addition, there is a separate guidance document outlining guide times for each Timed OBE.

Learners have two opportunities each year to submit Timed Open Book Exams. For further details please visit the assessment section of the ABE website; <https://www.abeuk.com/assessments>

All Timed OBEs are submitted by centres to ABE for marking, and results will be released by ABE on each session's specified Results Day. For more information on results release, please consult the ABE Website. Centres can find more information about submitting Timed OBEs in the Centre Delivery Guide.

Assignment

ABE sets assignments in the form of an assignment brief. Sometimes a scenario and/or templates are provided as well. An organisation context is required. Learners can find the required word count for each assignment on the front of the assignment brief. For more information on assignments, please go to the questions and answers section of the ABE website.

Learners have three opportunities per year to submit assignments. For further details please visit the assessment section of the ABE website; <https://www.abeuk.com/assessments>

All assignments submitted are marked by ABE. Results are released by ABE on each session's specified Results Day. For more information on results release, please consult ABE Website. Centres can find out more information about submitting assignments in the Centre Delivery Guide.

Marking and moderation

ABE has a broad and varied external academic team with a breadth of experience across the qualification areas and levels. Our external assessment team marks across the three assessment windows and is very familiar with ABE students and the format of ABE exams and assignments. ABE has a very robust marking and moderation process: assessments are marked and standardised by our external team, after which they go through two phases of moderation. The results are presented to the assessment board for ratification, prior to publishing.

Additional examination requirements

There are no additional examination requirements for this qualification.

Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

In the development of this qualification ABE has taken steps to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to achievement. For learners with particular requirements reasonable adjustments may be made in order that they can have fair assessment and demonstrate attainment. There are also arrangements for special consideration for any learner suffering illness, injury or indisposition. Full details of the reasonable adjustments and special considerations are available from the ABE Portal.

Appeals and enquiry of results

ABE has an appeals procedure that has been written in accordance with the regulatory arrangements in the Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition. Full details of this procedure, including how to make an application, are available on the [ABE Portal](#).

You can find further information relating to ABE assessment on the Exam Regulations section of the [ABE website](#).

Grading

In order to achieve an ABE qualification, you must demonstrate sufficient depth of study and acquisition of knowledge and skills expected for the qualification. You will need to demonstrate your achievement through the assessments set by ABE. On completion of your ABE qualification, you will be awarded an overall qualification grade based on your performance across all of your unit assessments.

The following qualification grades are available:

Grade
Distinction
Merit
Pass
Fail

Units will be assessed using the following grading scale:

Grade	Boundary
Distinction	70 - 100
Merit	55 - 69
Pass	40 - 54
Fail	0 - 39

Calculation of the qualification grade

The overall qualification grade will be calculated based on learner performance at unit level. Each unit carries a maximum of 100 points. The calculation of the overall qualification grade is based on the learner's performance in all units to the value of 120 credits. All units in the qualification must be attempted and contribute to your final grade. A minimum of Pass is required for all units in order to complete the qualification.

ABE L5 Diploma in Business Management (120 credits/ 6 units)

Grade	Boundary points threshold
Distinction	420 - 600
Merit	330 - 419
Pass	240 - 329
Fail	0 - 239

Grade descriptors

The table below details the grade descriptors that will be used to make judgements on grade boundaries. These descriptors will also help you to understand what we expect to see in order to achieve each grade.

Level 5

0-39 Fail	40-54 Pass	55-69 Merit	70-100 Distinction
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Knowledge and understanding of the subject matter including underpinning theoretical concepts

Lack of, limited or incomplete knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and underpinning concepts and theories, including their relevance; lack of ability to apply concepts to a relevant context.	Adequate knowledge and understanding of most key areas of the subject matter and basic use of their underpinning concepts and theories; sometimes able to apply to a relevant context.	Sound knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and in the appropriate use of concepts and theories; understands how to apply them to a relevant context.	Extensive knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and in the appropriate use of related concepts and theories, including in-depth understanding and application to a relevant context.
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Awareness of relevant ethical, social, legal, regulatory and other local issues of relevance

Lack of awareness of relevant ethical, social, legal, regulatory and local issues.	Adequate awareness of relevant ethical, social, legal, regulatory and local issues.	Clear recognition of relevant ethical, social, legal, regulatory and local issues.	In-depth recognition of relevant ethical, social, legal, regulatory and local issues.
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Professionalism business acumen, innovation and professional practice

Lack of or limited awareness of business acumen, innovation and consideration of relevant professional practice.	Adequate awareness of business acumen, innovation and consideration of relevant professional practice.	Sound awareness of business acumen, innovation and consideration of relevant professional practice.	Clear evidence of awareness of business acumen, innovation and consideration of relevant professional practice.
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Investigating and solving problems using different methods including data gathering and use of literature

Lack of or limited use of information gathering, investigation and problem solving methods; limited use of data and of relevant literature.	Adequate use of information gathering, investigation and problem solving methods; some use of data and of relevant literature.	Sound use of a range of information gathering, investigation and problem-solving methods; good use of data and relevant literature.	Clear, consistent and appropriate use of a wide range of information gathering, investigation and problem-solving methods; use of data and relevant literature throughout.
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0-39 Fail	40-54 Pass	55-69 Merit	70-100 Distinction
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Critical evaluation, analysis and independent thinking

Lack of or limited evidence of evaluation, analysis and independent thinking; conclusions are unsupported or lacking; content is highly descriptive.	Adequate level of evaluation, analysis and independent thinking, although some content is descriptive; conclusions are generally made but often lack support.	Sound evidence of evaluation, analysis and independent thinking, points made are generally explored and supported; conclusions made where appropriate and are supported.	Clear and consistent evidence of evaluation, analysis and independent thinking, points made are appropriately detailed and supported; conclusions are consistently made, clear, relevant and justified.
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Professional communication

Poor or inappropriate standard of communication and editing, lacking in relevant examples; limited consideration of the audience; inappropriate choice of media and format; poorly referenced.	Adequate standard of communication and editing, generally using in relevant examples where appropriate; some consideration of the audience; some appreciation of the choice of media and format; referencing is generally adequate but inconsistent.	Good standard of communication and editing, using in relevant examples where appropriate; consistent consideration of the audience; sound appreciation of the choice of media and format; work is accurately referenced throughout.	Outstanding communication and editing, using highly relevant and topical examples where appropriate; clear and consistent consideration of the audience; thorough appreciation of the choice of media and format; high quality referencing throughout.
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Results and certification

The results release date for each session is published on your Portal dashboard and on the [Assessment page](#) of the website.

If you are taking an ABE Diploma, please allow three months from the date of your results to the receipt of your certificate. Certificates are usually dispatched around six weeks after results have been published (this is to allow time for any enquiries about results or appeals). Transit times vary according to which country you are in so we say allow three months, but most people won't have to wait this long.

For a fuller explanation of the process see our [blog](#).

Unit specifications

In the second section of this document, you will find the Unit Specification for each unit included in the **ABE Level 5 Diploma in Business Management**.

The Unit Specification contains all the information you need about a particular unit, including the Credit value, Guided Learning Hours and the Unit Syllabus details. You should use the Unit Specifications to see what you will be expected to learn and what you will be expected to demonstrate in your assessments.

Here are some key terms to help you read and use the Unit Specifications:

Qualification	The qualification is the outcome of your studies and assessment, and represents your achievement
Unit	A unit is a component of the overall qualification, focusing on a particular topic or area of study relevant to the qualification. Some units may be mandatory and some may be optional so be sure to check before starting your studies
Total Qualification Time (TQT)	TQT is the number of notional hours which represents an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required in order for a Learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	GLH is an element of the TQT and is an estimate of the number of hours during which the learner is given specific guidance by their tutor towards the achievement of the qualification, for example: face to face teaching, e-learning, mentoring etc
Element	An element represents a segment of learning within the unit. Each individual element has its own rationale and content
Learning outcomes	The learning outcome lays down the expectations of the learner and defines the knowledge, understanding and/or skills they will acquire on completion of the Unit
Assessment criteria	The assessment criteria define what a learner must know, understand or be able to do, proving that they can achieve the Learning Outcome
Indicative content	The indicative content is the scope of knowledge required in order to fulfil the assessment requirements and achieve the learning outcome; it also outlines the technical components of the programme
Weighting	The way in which a section of the content is emphasised in terms of teaching, learner effort, and emphasis in assessment

Indicative Content

Comprehensive indicative content for each unit can be found in the unit syllabus on the ABE Portal.

Unit Type: Mandatory

Level: 5

Credits: 20

GLH: 70

Assessment Method: Assignment

Modern organisations operate in an increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) environment. Changes and shifts in the wider external environment are no longer limited to either specific industries or by geographical boundaries, but both directly and indirectly impact on all organisations across the globe. Succeeding in this increasingly complex and integrated global environment requires organisations to be agile in order to respond quickly, flexibly and appropriately. This poses challenges for the modern manager: How can organisations plan and anticipate the future when this is often uncertain? How can organisations best balance the need for clear communication with increasing levels of ambiguity? How can internal resources be deployed most effectively whilst maintaining commitment and engagement levels? And finally, how does this impact on the professional development of managers?

This unit will explore the traditional nature and form of organisations and how the external environment has led to the emergence of new organisational forms and ways of working. The implications of this on the role and scope of management will be considered drawing out the professional implications for those aspiring to a career in management. A range of contemporary working practices will be considered, examining the risks and benefits associated with these leading to an understanding of how these can best be deployed. This unit will also consider the people performance link, developing an understanding of the contribution that the right person, in the right place at the right time makes in helping ensure sustainable organisational success.

What you'll learn

The table below shows the learning outcomes of this unit (what you will be able to do or what you will know), along with the assessment criteria (what you will be able to do to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcome).

Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	Weighting
1. Analyse the impact of the internal context and external trends on management practices and approaches	1.1 Assess the changing nature of organisations and assess the impact this has on management practice 1.2 Analyse the impact of vision, values, culture, and structure both on the organisation and on management practice 1.3 Demonstrate how the role of a manager has evolved in light of the changing external environment in order to assess the contribution management makes 1.4 Compare and contrast a range of management approaches in order to assess their suitability for specific contexts	25%
2. Evaluate the applicability of contemporary management practices in both a specific and wider organisational setting	2.1 Analyse the concept of organisational agility and its contribution to sustainable organisational success 2.2 Analyse contemporary management practices in the context of changing organisational forms and structures 2.3 Assess the impact of contemporary management practices techniques on organisational behaviour and management practice	25%
3. Assess the links between effective people management and organisational achievement	3.1 Demonstrate the people performance link and the contribution this makes to an agile organisation 3.2 Evaluate the importance of, and key principles underpinning, effective human resource planning including selection, evaluation, and development of employees 3.3 Assess how communication and interpersonal relations impact on organisational performance 3.4 Discuss methods of motivating others for high performance	25%
4. Assess personal capability to manage agile organisations and people, and develop a justified personal development plan as a result	4.1 Assess the role of continual professional development (CPD) in achieving personal and organisational objectives 4.2 Recommend a plan for personal development based on an analysis of needs 4.3 Justify approaches to meet personal development needs 4.4 Evaluate the impact of CPD at both an individual, professional, and organisational level	25%

Capabilities

Alongside academic learning and development, ABE qualifications have been designed to develop your practical skills and capabilities. These capabilities are highlighted as certain values, knowledge, skills, and behaviours that will help you in your professional development.

Below is an overview of the behaviours, skills, and attitudes that you will develop through this unit:

Element of learning	Key capabilities developed
Element 1 - The changing nature of organisations	Ability to conduct an analysis of both the internal and external environmental context Ability to present reasoned arguments in favour of adopting specific strategies <i>Analysis, judgement, commercial awareness</i>
Element 2 - Modern management practice and principles	Ability to present arguments in favour of changing practices Ability to draft a clear statement of values at team level <i>Analysis, judgement, communication, values, managing teams</i>
Element 3 - The people performance link	Appreciation of the need for communication and good working relationships Ability to select appropriate methods and media when communicating Ability to work within internal and regulatory practices when selecting, developing and evaluating staff Ability to facilitate staff development and performance <i>Communication, teamwork, performance management, developing team members, people management</i>
Element 4 - Personal development as a manager	Ability to take personal responsibility for ongoing personal development as a manager Ability to reflect on current practice, skills, and behaviours, and the impact of these in the workplace Ability to develop a justified and meaningful personal development plan (PDP) Ability to reflect on learning <i>Personal responsibility, people management, reflection, self-development, planning</i>

Unit Type: Mandatory

Level: 5

Credits: 20

GLH: 70

Assessment Method: Timed Open Book Exam

Throughout the world, the increasing level of innovation is a key factor that gives rise to constant changes in the market conditions for different goods and services. Business organisations therefore need to constantly evolve in order to compete effectively, underlining the need for strong business performance. This unit focuses on the importance of business performance and the need to identify, develop, and utilise the appropriate forms of measurement needed for informed managerial decisions and for the evaluation of the results of the actions taken. The impact of innovation within the organisation is very much part of this focus and its effect on business performance is addressed accordingly. As such, the unit aims to provide you with a theoretical framework of the concept of innovation that can be used to evaluate its impact in a range of business contexts and situations.

As a result of studying this unit, you should be able to appraise the issue of innovation as it falls within, and relates to, a range of key business functions and disciplines. You should additionally be able to form a holistic view of the drivers and effects of innovation on the business enterprise, and to develop an awareness of the need to innovate. Furthermore, you should come to realise that the concept of innovation pertains to more than just technology, and, indeed, may not even have a technological basis or dimension. However, the need to identify, develop and rely on the right measurements is crucial to developing the correct perception needed to maintain and enhance business performance.

What you'll learn

The table below shows the learning outcomes of this unit (what you will be able to do or what you will know), along with the assessment criteria (what you will be able to do to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcome).

Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	Weighting
1. Apply measurement techniques as an aid to business performance	1.1 Discuss the role of measurement in the management of business performance 1.2 Discuss the behavioural issues that can impact the setting and utilisation of business performance measures 1.3 Recommend the basis for developing metrics that are useful for monitoring and measuring business performance 1.4 Apply key measures of business performance for specific business functions	30%
2. Discuss the sources, drivers and patterns of adoption of innovation in goods, services and ideas	2.1 Explore the concept of innovation and assess its relevance to business performance 2.2 Examine the theories and models of innovation 2.3 Examine the phases in the innovation life cycle of a typical product or service. 2.4 Compare and contrast the different adoption patterns of innovation 2.5 Appraise the environmental factors that are relevant to an innovative business undertaking	25%
3. Assess the information requirements needed to manage the levels of innovation within an organisation	3.1 Appraise the characteristics of an innovative organisation 3.2 Assess the impact of innovation on overall business performance 3.3 Evaluate some of the common methods of measuring the extent and successes of innovation in a business	25%
4. Evaluate the risks and uncertainties that innovation creates for business performance	4.1 Appraise the risks and uncertainties associated with innovation that may affect business performance 4.2 Discuss the potential causes of failure in innovation activities 4.3 Assess the legal and ethical issues that can pose risks to innovation performance 4.4 Analyse the key ethical issues pertaining to innovation and the implications for corporate social responsibility and governance	20%

Capabilities

Alongside academic learning and development, ABE qualifications have been designed to develop your practical skills and capabilities. These capabilities are highlighted as certain values, knowledge, skills, and behaviours that will help you in your professional development.

Below is an overview of the behaviours, skills, and attitudes that you will develop through this unit:

Element of learning	Key capabilities developed
Element 1 - Measuring business performance	<p>Ability to apply performance measurement techniques</p> <p>Ability to recommend monitoring metrics</p> <p><i>Critical thinking, problem posing, problem solving using appropriate quantitative and qualitative skills, research skills, data analysis</i></p> <p><i>Critical reflection and evaluation, numeracy, information retrieval</i></p> <p><i>Communication and reporting</i></p>
Element 2 - Adopting innovation	<p>Ability to identify sources, drivers and patterns of adoption of innovation in goods, services and ideas</p> <p>Ability to analyse models and integrate theory and practice</p> <p>Commercial awareness (i.e. of key trends and features of the current business environment)</p> <p><i>Innovation, analysis, commercial awareness, critical thinking</i></p>
Element 3 - Managing innovation and its impact on business performance	<p>Ability to assess the information requirements needed to manage the levels of innovation within an organisation</p> <p><i>Information retrieval, synthesis and evaluation of data and information, adopting innovation, managing innovation</i></p>
Element 4 - Managing risk in innovation	<p>Ability to evaluate the risks and uncertainties that innovation creates for business performance and ascertain the business impact</p> <p>Appreciation of ethical and legal issues, commercial awareness (of the implications of risk and uncertainty)</p> <p><i>Communication, risk management, responsibility, evaluation, ethical awareness</i></p>

Unit Type: Mandatory

Level: 5

Credits: 20

GLH: 70

Assessment Method: Timed Open Book Exam

The focus of Effective Financial Management is the management of financial resources in a business. It addresses the applied techniques that managers need in order to take financial decisions in a business. It also addresses the critical and theoretical knowledge and skills that managers need to take financial management responsibilities.

The aim of this unit is to enable you to:

- Assess the objectives of financial management
- Evaluate organisational activities, processes and performance
- Understand the impact of the financial risk on financial management in a business
- Examine and explain how businesses can finance their activities
- Evaluate options for the financing of a business
- Apply techniques to make appropriate investment decisions

What you'll learn

The table below shows the learning outcomes of this unit (what you will be able to do or what you will know), along with the assessment criteria (what you will be able to do to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcome).

Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	Weighting
1. Assess the objectives of financial management and the role of different stakeholders in the financial strategy of a business	1.1 Assess the objectives of financial management in order to decide how best to formulate a financial management strategy for a business 1.2 Analyse the roles played by different stakeholders in order to select a financial management strategy that best meets the needs of stakeholders 1.3 Discuss the ethical issues that need to be considered in financial management in order to ensure that financial practices reflect ethical requirements and standards	20%
2. Evaluate organisational activities, processes and performance, using projected financial statements and measures of business performance	2.1 Analyse business objectives, organisational activities and processes 2.2 Evaluate business performance, and financial management processes, using financial statements and calculation of key financial ratios 2.3 Apply alternative techniques in order to evaluate the financial management of key organisational activities and processes	20%
3. Evaluate financial risk using suitable techniques in order to apply approaches that reduce exposure to financial risks	3.1 Assess the importance of financial risk in order to select appropriate financial management techniques 3.2 Evaluate financial risk using suitable techniques in order to ensure financial management decisions take account of financial risks 3.3 Apply approaches to financial risk management that reduce exposure to financial risks	20%
4. Evaluate options for the financing of business activities, including the characteristics of different sources of finance and how best to meet the financing needs of the business	4.1 Assess the role of capital markets and the efficient markets hypothesis in order to understand the effects of financing decisions on the business 4.2 Analyse the role and characteristics of different sources of finance in order to identify suitable sources of finance that best meet the financing needs of a business 4.3 Evaluate sources of finance in order to decide how best to meet the financing needs of the business	20%

<p>5. Evaluate investment opportunities in order to ensure that investment decisions reflect the needs of the business and its financial management strategy</p>	<p>5.1 Select and justify investment appraisal techniques in order to ensure that investment decisions reflect the financial management strategy of the business</p> <p>5.2 Compare investment appraisal techniques for a range of typical investment scenarios in order to best meet the needs of the business</p> <p>5.3 Analyse relevant non-financial factors, including the limitations of investment appraisal techniques, in order to ensure the investment decision-making takes account of the broader strategic needs of the business</p>	<p>20%</p>
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Capabilities

Alongside academic learning and development, ABE qualifications have been designed to develop your practical skills and capabilities. These capabilities are highlighted as certain values, knowledge, skills, and behaviours that will help you in your professional development.

Below is an overview of the behaviours, skills, and attitudes that you will develop through this unit:

Element of learning	Key capabilities developed
Element 1 - The objectives of financial management	<p>Ability to identify and understand the objectives of financial management</p> <p>Awareness of different stakeholders in the financial strategy that is used by a business and their role</p> <p>Awareness of the role of the finance function and of financial management within the wider business</p> <p>Appreciation of the agency problem and how it might be managed</p> <p><i>Analytical skills, commercial awareness, critical reflection, ethical appreciation, financial management, stakeholder management</i></p>
Element 2 - Organisational activities, processes and performance	<p>Ability to discuss business objectives, organisational activities, organisational processes and performance measures and the link between them</p> <p>Ability to assess business performance using financial statements and key accounting ratios</p> <p>Ability to prepare projected financial statements for a business and interpret their significance for decision-making purposes</p> <p>Ability to recommend possible measures of business performance and wealth maximisation</p> <p><i>Analysis, planning and implementing, using reporting skills, numeracy, evaluation, preparation of accounts</i></p>
Element 3 - Risk and financial management	<p>Ability to use suitable techniques to evaluate financial risks and their impact on organisational activities and decision-making</p> <p>Awareness of how different types of risk influence the pursuit of wealth maximisation</p> <p>Ability to calculate financial gearing for a business and awareness its significance</p> <p>Ability to evaluate different financial structures and assess their implications for the business</p> <p><i>Critical thinking, problem solving, numeracy, evaluation, ethical appreciation, financial management, decision-making</i></p>

<p>Element 4 - Sources of finance</p>	<p>Knowledge of the main sources of internal and external sources of finance, including their key features</p> <p>Ability to discuss the factors to be taken into account when choosing an appropriate source of finance</p> <p>Ability to recommend an appropriate source of finance</p> <p>Ability to calculate the weighted average cost of capital for a business and assess its usefulness in making investment decisions</p> <p>Awareness of the methods by which share capital can be issued</p> <p><i>Numeracy, analysis of models, creativity, financial management, decision-making, commercial awareness</i></p>
<p>Element 5 - Investment appraisal</p>	<p>Appreciation of the nature and importance of investment decision-making</p> <p>Knowledge of the key stages in investment decision-making</p> <p>Ability to apply techniques to evaluate investment opportunities, taking account of risk and non-financial factors</p> <p><i>Analytical, problem solving, analysis of models, numeracy, adaptability, decision-making, financial management</i></p>

Unit Type: Mandatory

Level: 5

Credits: 20

GLH: 70

Assessment Method: Timed Open Book Exam

This unit is aimed at developing a strong working understanding of economic theory and principles in the ever-changing and dynamic international economic marketplace. When a firm decides to engage in international trade, it has different options. The aim of this unit is to make you aware of the relevance of each method of entry with the analysis of case histories.

A key focus will be on how multinational firms and organisations operate internationally in an increasingly competitive marketplace. One of the key driving factors is the rise of information and communication technologies, and many markets that were previously limited to within nations are now truly international. The factors of production are increasingly mobile across the world with the movement of labour and capital being commonplace.

You will also gain a working knowledge of the organisations that facilitate the many processes involved within the international trading environment.

What you'll learn

The table below shows the learning outcomes of this unit (what you will be able to do or what you will know), along with the assessment criteria (what you will be able to do to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcome).

Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	Weighting
1. Analyse economic principles associated with international business	1.1 Explain the reasons why organisations engage in international trade 1.2 Justify the arguments for and against free trade with reference to restrictions in trade 1.3 Demonstrate an awareness of the impact of international issues such as globalisation on organisations trading internationally	20%
2. Evaluate markets from an international perspective	2.1 Evaluate the methods and criteria by which markets are selected 2.2 Assess the characteristics and applicability of the main market entry methods across a range of industry sectors 2.3 Conduct a structured analysis of a country/market from both external and internal perspectives 2.4 Recommend appropriate marketing mix strategies for different contexts	30%
3. Evaluate the significance of international trading blocs and organisations	3.1 Assess the characteristics of different types of economic cooperation and preferential trade arrangements 3.2 Evaluate the purposes and operations of intergovernmental bodies 3.3 Evaluate the international market in terms of the major trade blocs and regional groupings	30%
4. Discuss the key aspects of international finance	4.1 Analyse the aims and roles of key international institutions in the financial aspects of world trade 4.2 Evaluate the impact of foreign currency exchange and interest rates on international business 4.3 Analyse the trading position of a country with reference to balance of trade/payments	20%

Capabilities

Alongside academic learning and development, ABE qualifications have been designed to develop your practical skills and capabilities. These capabilities are highlighted as certain values, knowledge, skills, and behaviours that will help you in your professional development.

Below is an overview of the behaviours, skills, and attitudes that you will develop through this unit:

Element of learning	Key capabilities developed
Element 1 - Economic principles of international business	Awareness of the different economic and socioeconomic factors that affect how companies conduct business internationally and how the behaviours of customers and employees directly affect the workplace <i>Analysis, justification, presenting reasoned arguments, communication</i>
Element 2 - Markets from an international perspective	Ability to recognise and adapt to the impacts on products and markets arising from the availability of products, services and marketing communications from abroad Commercial awareness of cultural aspects and the direct impact of globalisation <i>Analysis, commercial awareness, cultural awareness, decision-making, communication</i>
Element 3 - International trading blocs and organisations	Ability to view the world not only in terms of an own country perspective, but to work within the wider sphere of global cooperation, treaties, and changing relationships <i>Global perspective, relationships, communication</i>
Element 4 - International financial aspects	Gaining an acceptance of the financial impacts and implications of being involved in global activity that are apparent in commercial activities of all businesses <i>Financial awareness, analysis</i>

Unit Type: Optional

Level: 5

Credits: 20

GLH: 70

Assessment Method: Assignment

The effective management of operations is vital in modern day business. This unit will introduce you to operations, logistics and supply chain management, a subject which is essential and which offers excellent employment opportunities. We will consider challenges implicit in introducing effective operations and a supply chain approach, how internal operations will have to work together to achieve common objectives, and how organisations need to co-operate at a strategic level.

The focus of this unit will be the study of different operations and supply chain methods adopted by companies.

What you'll learn

The table below shows the learning outcomes of this unit (what you will be able to do or what you will know), along with the assessment criteria (what you will be able to do to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcome).

Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	Weighting
1. Analyse the role and importance of operations management	1.1 Discuss the role of operations management in an organisation 1.2 Discuss the importance of quality and quality management and its integration with operations management	25%
2. Discuss the importance of the supply chain and supply chain management	2.1 Discuss the meaning of an organisation's supply chain 2.2 Discuss the role of supply chain management	25%
3. Analyse the role of procurement and procurement approaches	3.1 Discuss the meaning of organisational procurement 3.2 Analyse organisational procurement approaches	25%
4. Analyse the role of logistics and logistics management	4.1 Discuss the meaning of logistics 4.2 Analyse organisational logistics management considerations	25%

Capabilities

Alongside academic learning and development, ABE qualifications have been designed to develop your practical skills and capabilities. These capabilities are highlighted as certain values, knowledge, skills, and behaviours that will help you in your professional development.

Below is an overview of the behaviours, skills, and attitudes that you will develop through this unit:

Element of learning	Key capabilities developed
Element 1 - Introduction to operations management	<p>Awareness of the operations function and its importance to business organisations</p> <p>Appreciation of the role of quality management and how it integrates with operations management</p> <p><i>Understanding of business functions, inter-functional working, quality management, responsibilities, transformation processes</i></p>
Element 2 - Supply chain and supply chain management	<p>Awareness of supply chains and ability to undertake supply chain mapping</p> <p>Ability to identify and manage supply chain risks</p> <p>Appreciation of sustainability and ethical supply chain practices</p> <p>Ability to identify areas for improvement and how to approach them</p> <p><i>Understanding of business functions, sustainability and ethical awareness, risk management, continuous improvement</i></p>
Element 3 - Procurement	<p>Ability to discuss the objectives of purchasing</p> <p>Ability to show an awareness of the strategic importance of purchasing</p> <p>Ability to analyse various approaches to procurement available to business organisations</p> <p><i>Understanding of business functions, strategic approaches to business functions, supplier relationships</i></p>
Element 4 - Logistics management	<p>Ability to demonstrate an awareness of logistics and logistics management</p> <p>Appreciation of organisational logistics management considerations in order to put logistical plans into place</p> <p><i>Planning, risk management, strategic approaches to logistics, decision-making, partnerships and supplier relationships</i></p>

Unit Type: Optional

Level: 5

Credits: 20

GLH: 70

Assessment Method: Timed Open Book Exam

Robust, effective, and timely decision-making in any organisational context is a critical factor in determining the success of a project or enterprise. The currency, accuracy and relevance of information, data and other contributory aspects impact significantly on the outcome of any decision-making.

This unit is designed to provide you with the theoretical, practical, and technical knowledge and understanding to build a capability to identify, define, analyse, and interpret data from a broad range of sources to support critical business decisions in a variety of contexts and using a range of methodologies.

You will gain technical skills in research methodology including the collection, analysis, and interpretation of multiple data sets, using narrative and predictive techniques and models. These skills will encourage you to develop strong business acumen which will enable you to recommend and demonstrate confident business decisions across a range of organisational and business contexts and scenarios. In addition, these techniques will be useful when you undertake other units within the level 5 diplomas, for example in the Innovation and Business Performance unit.

What you'll learn

The table below shows the learning outcomes of this unit (what you will be able to do or what you will know), along with the assessment criteria (what you will be able to do to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcome).

Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	Weighting
1. Examine the role of analytics in decision-making in contemporary dynamic business environments	1.1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concepts of appropriate decision-making 1.2 Evaluate the nature, scope and impact of routine/non-routine, operational and strategic decision-making in response to identified issues and problems 1.3 Discuss the nature of analytics to support business decision-making 1.4 Assess analytical decision-making considering contemporary and emerging themes in a dynamic business environment	20%
2. Assess business information management data and systems appropriate for analytical decision-making in a variety of contexts	2.1 Evaluate data retrieval, analytics, and information management systems and methodologies 2.2 Assess how data sources and use of technology can benefit analytical decision-making in varied contexts 2.3 Examine a range of varied data sources and sets for a specific purpose in a range of organisational, functional, and complex contexts 2.4 Evaluate the validity of data sources in contemporary contexts	20%
3. Prepare evaluative reports to meet the requirements of a specific project brief	3.1 Plan the collection and analysis of information required for a business decision-making project 3.2 Design, collect, and collate appropriate data to meet requirements of business decision-making brief 3.3 Analyse complex data sets using a range of techniques from a range of sources to support project brief 3.4 Interpret complex data from varied sources to enable coherent reporting in response to a specific brief 3.5 Assess and reflect on risk factors when reporting against the project brief	30%

<p>4. Apply analytic techniques to develop options for decision-making, reports, and recommendations</p>	<p>4.1 Apply analytic techniques to develop appropriate options in context</p> <p>4.2 Apply scenario planning techniques to support decision-making</p> <p>4.3 Apply mapping and testing techniques to justify recommendations</p> <p>4.4 Report coherent findings and credible recommendations to facilitate management decision-making</p>	<p>30%</p>
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Capabilities

Alongside academic learning and development, ABE qualifications have been designed to develop your practical skills and capabilities. These capabilities are highlighted as certain values, knowledge, skills, and behaviours that will help you in your professional development.

Below is an overview of the behaviours, skills, and attitudes that you will develop through this unit:

Element of learning	Key capabilities developed
<p>Element 1 - Role of analytics in decision-making in contemporary dynamic business environments</p>	<p>Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the concepts of business decision-making and the role of analytics to support effective decision-making in a variety of organisational contexts</p> <p>Evaluating the nature, scope and impact of routine, operational and strategic decision-making in response to identified issues and problems</p> <p>Initiating decision-making with consideration for contemporary and emerging themes in a dynamic business environment</p> <p><i>Commercial and business understanding, assimilation of complex and diverse knowledge and data, appraisal in context, problem solving</i></p>
<p>Element 2 - Source and use of data, systems and technologies for relevant decision-making</p>	<p>Understanding and managing research methodology and systems for periodic and continuous data retrieval for routine and non-routine purposes to meet client and organisational requirements, meeting ethical and legal standards</p> <p>Identifying, sourcing and accessing information using technologies and a multiplicity of data sets in complex contexts</p> <p><i>Business research skills, quantitative methods, organisational skills, technology and software applications</i></p>
<p>Element 3 - Analytics in practice: analysis synthesis, evaluation, and reporting of data to meet requirements and the needs of a specific brief</p>	<p>Analysing, interpreting, and evaluating complex data sets from a range of internal, competitive and external sources</p> <p>Using a variety of techniques and models to evaluate data including qualitative/quantitative data, comparative studies, and trend and forecast extrapolation in a variety of contexts</p> <p>Reflecting on risk factors including access to reliable data, which can lead to anomalies and misinterpretation allowing for realistic margin of error</p> <p><i>High levels of analytical, interpretive and evaluative skills, objectivity, logical thinking, communication, business reporting, language and presentation skills, responsiveness, sensitivity to audience</i></p>

Element 4 - Option development in analytical decision-making

Evaluating options for decision-making through modelling techniques and scenario development with consideration for organisational culture and contexts

Mapping and testing the likelihood of success considering risk and other factors

Reporting and providing justifiable recommendations to enable decision-making

Lateral thinking for problem solving, skills in scenario planning to aid forecasting, logical argument, testing, decision-making, communication of ideas and justified argument

Unit Type: Optional

Level: 5

Credits: 20

GLH: 70

Assessment Method: Assignment

Stakeholders come in many forms: governments, pressure groups, employees and customers to name just a few. Some are more important than others but all can affect an organisation in some way.

For example, pressure groups can encourage consumers to boycott brands in a matter of minutes using social media. Shareholders can overturn board decisions. Governments can bring in legislation that will change the nature of an industry sector. Consumers can tell millions of others about poor service in a few clicks.

Given stakeholders' increasing awareness of the extent of their potential power and influence, it is important for organisations to take a proactive approach to managing stakeholder relationships if they are to protect their reputation, recognise new opportunities and continue to grow.

In this unit, you will explore different stakeholders in depth, analysing their potential impact and influence, in order to develop relevant relationship management strategies that will enable organisations to overcome threats, take advantage of opportunities, achieve their objectives and protect their brand.

What you'll learn

The table below shows the learning outcomes of this unit (what you will be able to do or what you will know), along with the assessment criteria (what you will be able to do to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcome).

Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>	Weighting
1. Assess the potential influence and impact of stakeholders for a range of organisations	1.1 Assess the stakeholders for a range of organisations including SMEs, social enterprises, charities, national and international organisations, and the public sector 1.2 Assess the relative importance of stakeholders for a range of organisations using relevant theoretical frameworks 1.3 Analyse the impact of influence and power on the interactions between organisations and their stakeholders 1.4 Assess environmental factors that may affect the power of key stakeholders to influence organisations	20%
2. Evaluate the opportunities and threats that can be created by key stakeholder groups	2.1 Explain the ways organisations and their stakeholders interact with each other 2.2 Assess the different relationships stakeholders can have with organisations 2.3 Evaluate the opportunities and threats that pressure groups can create for organisations in a range of industry sectors 2.4 Evaluate the opportunities and threats customers can create for a range of organisations using consumer behaviour theory 2.5 Evaluate brand position and reputation	30%
3. Assess the drivers for and key components of effective stakeholder relationships	3.1 Examine the relationship marketing concept 3.2 Evaluate the importance of trust and commitment in developing and maintaining effective stakeholder relationships 3.3 Assess the importance of customer loyalty to an organisation 3.4 Evaluate the relevance of networks and collaborations to a range of organisations	25%

<p>4. Apply relationship management strategies for a range of internal and external stakeholders</p>	<p>4.1 Identify the relationships an organisation has with a range of internal and external stakeholders</p> <p>4.2 Evaluate the relationships an organisation should have with key stakeholders</p> <p>4.3 Assess the relevance of online interactive technologies, digital media and social media in developing effective stakeholder relationships</p> <p>4.4 Develop relationship management strategies appropriate for key stakeholders</p>	<p>25%</p>
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Capabilities

Alongside academic learning and development, ABE qualifications have been designed to develop your practical skills and capabilities. These capabilities are highlighted as certain values, knowledge, skills, and behaviours that will help you in your professional development.

Below is an overview of the behaviours, skills, and attitudes that you will develop through this unit:

Element of learning	Key capabilities developed
Element 1 – Introduction to key stakeholders	Understanding of the potential influence and impact of stakeholders on a range of organisations <i>Types and categories of stakeholders, sources of power, environmental influences, analysis, theoretical knowledge</i>
Element 2 – Stakeholder groups	Awareness of opportunities and threats resulting from key stakeholder groups Recognition of the impact of stakeholders on brand position and reputation <i>Stakeholder communication, stakeholder relationships, pressure groups, consumer behaviour, analysis, communication</i>
Element 3 – Effective stakeholder relationships	Ability to recognise and establish effective stakeholder relationships Ability to establish trust and commitment <i>Relationship marketing, establishing and maintaining effective stakeholder relationships, customer acquisition and retention, trust and commitment, loyalty</i>
Element 4 – Stakeholder relationship management strategies	Ability to identify an organisation’s stakeholders and assess their effectiveness and contribution to business performance Ability to undertake a stakeholder analysis and gap analysis of stakeholder relationships to make improvements Ability to develop a relationship management strategy appropriate to key stakeholders <i>Stakeholder analysis, gap analysis, stakeholder relationships, analysis and decision-making, developing strategies</i>

Appendix A

Mapping of modules to QAA Benchmark Statement

(Business and Management - February 2015)

Undergraduate – Knowledge – Level 5

Module	Markets and Customers	Finance	People	Operations	Information Systems	Communication and Information Technology	Policy/ Strategy	Innovation / Enterprise Development	Social Responsibility
Managing Agile Organisations and People			•	•		•			
Innovation and Business Performance			•	•	•	•	•		
Effective Financial Management		•			•				
International Business Economics and Markets	•						•	•	•
Operations Management				•	•	•			
Analytical Decision-making					•				
Managing Stakeholder Relationships	•								•

Undergraduate – Business and Management Skills – Level 5

Module	People Management	Problem solving/ Critical	Research	Commercial Acumen	Innovation, creativity, enterprise	Numeracy	Networking
Managing Agile Organisations and People	•		•				•
Innovation and Business Performance		•	•	•			
Effective Financial Management		•	•			•	
International Business Economics and Markets			•	•	•		
Operations Management	•	•	•	•			
Analytical Decision-making		•				•	
Managing Stakeholder Relationships	•		•				•

Undergraduate – Generic Skills and Attributes – Level 5

Module	Work collaboratively	Working with those from a range of	Explaining information	Building/maintaining relationships	Communication	Emotional Intelligence / Empathy	Conceptual and critical thinking	Self-management	Self-reflection
Managing Agile Organisations and People	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
Innovation and Business Performance		•	•		•		•	•	
Effective Financial Management			•		•		•	•	
International Business Economics and Markets		•	•	•	•		•	•	
Operations Management	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
Analytical Decision-making	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
Managing Stakeholder Relationships	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	



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