

Comparison between HKDSE and International A-level - Business Studies and Accounting

The HKDSE Business, Accounting and Financial Studies (BAFS) syllabus is a comprehensive course covering Business skills as well as Bookkeeping and Accounting. It is Hong Kong centric, and it largely omits relevant content that may be examinable in other subjects (such as Economics.) It consists of a compulsory part and a choice of one (out of two) elective units. It maps poorly with the Edexcel International Advanced Level in both Business Studies and Accounting.

The following matrix highlights the overlap in the subjects concerned.

		HKDSE Business, Accounting and Financial Studies		
		Compulsory	Accounting Module	Business Management Module
Business Studies	Unit 1	5%	0%	5%
	Unit 2	10%	0%	50%
	Unit 3	5%	0%	10%
	Unit 4	0%	0%	0%
Accounting	Unit 1	25%	60%	0%
	Unit 2	0%	40%	0%

The breakdown is listed below on the areas that are in International A-level, but not in the HKDSE syllabus.

In regards to the assessment methods of IAL exam, ITS would suggest HKDSE students working towards the IAL in Business Studies to work on data response questions in all units, multiple choice questions that require explanation in Unit 1 and Unit 2 and long essay questions in unit 3 and unit 4, as those techniques are not honed in the HKDSE system. Furthermore, HKDSE students working towards the IAL in Accounting should focus on evaluative techniques which are not honed in the HKDSE system.

If you have further enquiries, please contact ITS at +852 2116 3916 or by email at info@itseducation.asia. ITS Education Asia is a full Edexcel academic centre in Hong Kong (Centre Number 92885). Further consultation is completely free of charge. You might also refer to the following FAQ page from ITS Education Asia <http://www.itseducation.asia/UK-fags.htm>

Topics in IAL Business Studies and not in the HKDSE

Unit 1 : Business Enterprise (Assuming Business Management Module)	
Entrepreneurship	Motivation (must be reviewed)
	Role
	Stakeholders (must be reviewed)
	Opportunity cost
Researching a business opportunity	Everything
Supply and demand	Everything
Measuring business performance	Everything
The wider business environment	Done from a Hong Kong perspective. Must be revised for a global context

Unit 2 : Business Structures and Processes (Assuming Business Management Module)	
Marketing	Marketing mix: BCG growth-share matrix
	Price elasticity of demand
	Income elasticity of demand
Managing operations	Productivity and efficiency
	Product or service design
	Capacity utilisation

	Inventory control (review)
	Lean production and quality management
Managing finance	Budgets: variance analysis
	Sales forecast
	Why businesses fail
Managing people	Motivation of staff: Taylor & Mayo

Unit 3 : Strategic Business Decisions (Assuming Business Management Module)	
Corporate objectives and strategy	Corporate objectives
	Stakeholder influences on corporate objectives (revise)
	Corporate culture
	Corporate strategy
Making strategic and tactical decisions	Decision making models: Ansoff matrix
	Decision trees
	Critical path analysis and project management
	Contribution
	Business contingency planning
Assessing competitiveness	Human resource competitiveness (revise)
Company growth	Nature of company growth
	Effects of growth

Unit 4 : Business in a Global Context (Assuming Business Management Module)	
International markets	Not covered in BAFS
Changing global economy	Not covered in BAFS
Business location	Not covered in BAFS
Other considerations before trading internationally	Not covered in BAFS
Global marketing	Not covered in BAFS
Multinational corporations	Not covered in BAFS

New Skills for taking IAL Business Studies Exam

Unit 1 & 2	
Multiple choice	Supporting explanation for answers
Data response questions	Long extended stimulus
	Data interpretation and analysis
	Extended response questions

Unit 3 & 4	
Essay response	Long essays
Data response questions	Long extended stimulus
	Data interpretation and analysis
	Extended response questions

Topics in IAL Accounting and not in the HKDSE

Unit 1 : The Accounting System and Costing	
Principles of accounting	Accounting concepts and conventions (revise)
Final accounts of organisations	Departmental accounts
	Clubs and societies
	Manufacturers
Introduction to costing and decision making	Valuation of inventory (stock)
	Accounting for labour costs
Evaluation of accounting statements	Social accounting

Unit 2 : Corporate and Management Accounting	
Limited companies	Capital structure
	Merger or purchase of limited company
Cash flow statements	Cash flow statements
Budgeting	Budgeting
Capital budgeting and appraisal	Capital budgeting and appraisal
Cost behaviour and break-even	Cost behaviour and break-even

New Skills for taking IAL Accounting Exam

Unit 1 & 2	
All Questions	New topics to be examined (see above)
	Evaluation style questions

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