A-Level Business Revision Planner

AQA • Pearson Edexcel • OCR | 8-Week Exam Preparation Plan

This planner should not be a generic weekly timetable. A better design combines:

- specification coverage;
- confidence-based prioritisation;
- spaced retrieval;
- quantitative practice;
- timed case-study questions;
- full-paper practice;
- error tracking.

That structure reflects how current revision tools increasingly personalise plans by confidence, exam-board content and available time, while scheduling repeated retrieval and exam practice rather than passive note-reading.

A single universal topic sequence would be suboptimal because the three main UK exam boards organise and assess content differently. Edexcel structures the course into four themes, OCR organises content around core functional areas and business environments, while the current AQA 7132 specification uses ten strategic and functional topic areas.

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1. Student Setup Page

My exam details

Field	Student completes
Exam board	AQA / Edexcel / OCR
Target grade	
Current working grade	
First exam date	
Weeks remaining	
Available revision hours per week	
Strongest topic	
Weakest topic	
Biggest exam-technique weakness	

My baseline scores

Skill	Current score	Target
Multiple-choice and short questions	/10	/10
Calculations	/10	/10
Application to case studies	/10	/10
Analysis	/10	/10
Evaluation	/10	/10
Essay planning	/10	/10
Time management	/10	/10

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2. Topic Audit

Students should rate every topic before beginning the plan.

Confidence scale

Rating	Meaning	Revision response
1	Cannot explain it	Relearn immediately
2	Partial knowledge	Relearn and test
3	Understand but cannot apply	Case-study practice
4	Mostly secure	Timed exam question
5	Exam ready	Maintain through retrieval

Core cross-board topic tracker

Topic	Confidence 1–5	Last revised	Exam question completed	Revisit date
Business objectives and strategy				
Leadership and decision-making				

Topic	Confiden ce 1–5	Last revised	Exam question completed	Revisit date
Marketing				
Operations management				
Human resources and organisational design				
Finance and accounting				
External influences				
Business growth				
Global business				
Change and risk management				
Quantitative skills				
Case-study analysis				

These categories cover the main functional and strategic areas appearing across the AQA, Edexcel and OCR qualifications, although students must use the version mapped to their own specification.

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3. Exam-Board Mapping

AQA 7132

The current AQA specification remains relevant for cohorts sitting examinations through 2027. AQA has also accredited a replacement specification for first teaching from September 2026, so Crown Tutor should label the downloadable planner by cohort and specification code rather than simply writing “AQA A-Level Business.”

Current AQA 7132 areas include:

1. What is business?
2. Managers, leadership and decision-making
3. Marketing management
4. Operational management
5. Financial management
6. Human resource management
7. Analysing strategic position
8. Choosing strategic direction
9. Strategic methods

10. Managing strategic change

Pearson Edexcel 9BS0

Edexcel students should organise revision around:

- Theme 1: Marketing and people
- Theme 2: Managing business activities
- Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy
- Theme 4: Global business

The Edexcel A-Level specification is organised into four themes and assessed through three externally examined papers.

OCR H431

OCR students should track:

- Business objectives and strategic decisions
- External influences
- Marketing
- Operations
- Human resources
- Accounting and finance

OCR's three papers focus respectively on local, UK and global business environments, but any specification topic can be assessed across the papers.

OCR is also introducing the redeveloped H436 specification for first teaching from 2026, so this planner should display the specification code clearly.

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4. Eight-Week Revision Plan

Week 1 — Diagnose and rebuild foundations

Focus

- Complete topic confidence audit.
- Sit a short diagnostic assessment.
- Review business objectives, ownership, stakeholders and decision-making.
- Begin formula retrieval.

Tasks

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Task	Complete
Rate every specification topic	☐
Complete one baseline paper or mixed question set	☐
Create an error log	☐
Memorise five core formulas	☐
Complete one calculation set	☐
Write one short analytical paragraph	☐

End-of-week output

I know my three weakest content areas and my two weakest examination skills.

Week 2 — Marketing and quantitative application

Knowledge focus

- Market research
- Segmentation and positioning
- Marketing objectives
- Price, promotion and distribution
- Product portfolio
- Demand and market data

Calculation focus

- Market share
- Market growth
- Price elasticity, where required
- Percentage change
- Sales revenue

Exam practice

- Two short calculation questions
- One data-response question
- One timed extended response

Week 3 — Finance and financial performance

Knowledge focus

- Sources of finance
- Cash flow
- Profit and loss
- Financial statements
- Budgeting
- Investment decisions
- Financial performance

Calculation focus

- Revenue, costs and profit
- Profit margins
- Break-even
- Contribution
- Margin of safety
- Current ratio
- Acid-test ratio
- ROCE
- ARR and payback, where required

Exam practice

Activity	Target
Formula recall test	90%
Calculation questions	10
Ratio interpretation paragraphs	3
Timed finance question	1

Week 4 — Operations and people

Operations

- Capacity
- Productivity
- Quality
- Inventory
- Supply chains
- Lean production
- Location
- Technology

People

- Motivation
- Leadership
- Recruitment and training
- Organisational structure
- Employer–employee relations
- Workforce planning

Calculation focus

- Capacity utilisation
- Labour productivity
- Labour turnover
- Absenteeism
- Inventory calculations

Exam practice

Complete one question that requires a recommendation between two operational or workforce options.

Week 5 — Strategy and business growth

Focus

- Corporate objectives
- Strategy
- Competitive advantage
- Organic and external growth
- Mergers and takeovers
- Ansoff Matrix
- Decision trees
- Investment decisions
- Managing change

Required activity

Create a one-page comparison grid:

Strategic option	Benefit	Risk	Suitable context
Market penetration			
Market development			

Strategic option	Benefit	Risk	Suitable context
Product development			
Diversification			
Organic growth			
External growth			

Exam practice

- One decision-tree question
- One strategy essay plan
- One full timed extended answer

Week 6 — External environment and global business

Focus

- Economic influences
- Interest rates
- Inflation
- Exchange rates
- Competition
- Regulation
- Ethics
- Sustainability
- Globalisation
- International markets
- Multinational businesses

Case-study requirement

Students should build a current business evidence bank rather than memorising disconnected examples.

Business	Issue	Topic link	Possible argument

Exam practice

Complete one question requiring analysis of how an external change affects a named or case-study business.

Week 7 — Interleaved exam practice

At this stage, revision should stop being organised entirely by topic. Mix finance, marketing, operations, strategy and external influences within the same study week.

Interleaving and spaced retrieval are preferable to completing one topic once and abandoning it, while practice should resemble the format in which knowledge will be tested.

Weekly targets

- Two timed question sets
- One full paper
- Two calculation drills
- Three essay plans
- One tutor or peer-marked extended response
- Review every error from the paper

Error classification

Error type	Example	Corrective action
Knowledge	Definition missing	Retrieval cards
Calculation	Wrong denominator	Formula drill
Application	Generic answer	Highlight case evidence
Analysis	Weak chain of reasoning	Build “because–therefore” chain
Evaluation	Unsupported judgement	Use criteria-based conclusion
Timing	Question unfinished	Timed section practice

Week 8 — Final examination preparation

Focus

- Full-paper practice
- Formula retrieval
- Weak-topic consolidation
- Judgement writing
- Time allocation
- No large-scale rewriting of notes

Suggested structure

Day	Main task
Monday	Full paper
Tuesday	Mark and diagnose errors
Wednesday	Repair weakest topic
Thursday	Timed calculations and short questions
Friday	Full essay plan set
Saturday	Second paper or selected paper sections
Sunday	Light retrieval and rest

Past-paper practice should become more prominent during the final weeks, rather than continuing to devote most revision time to reading notes.

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5. Weekly Revision Timetable

A rigid timetable is likely to fail because students have different school, work and family commitments. Crown Tutor should provide a repeatable template instead.

Recommended weekly allocation

Activity	Share of Business revision time
Weak-topic knowledge repair	25%
Active retrieval	20%
Exam questions	30%
Calculations	10%
Marking and error correction	15%

Example six-hour week

Day	Session	Activity
Monday	45 min	Weak-topic retrieval

Day	Session	Activity
Tuesday	45 min	Calculation practice
Wednesday	60 min	Case-study question
Thursday	45 min	Topic review and flashcards
Saturday	90 min	Timed extended response
Sunday	75 min	Marking, correction and spaced review

6. The 45-Minute Revision Session

Each session should produce an observable output.

Recommended structure

5 minutes — Retrieval

Write everything remembered about the topic without notes.

15 minutes — Repair

Check the specification or revision material and correct gaps.

15 minutes — Apply

Complete a calculation, case-study paragraph or exam question.

5 minutes — Mark

Use the mark scheme or model answer.

5 minutes — Schedule

Record the error and assign a revisit date.

Passive activities such as rereading and copying notes should not dominate the planner. Testing and retrieval are more useful when students need to reproduce knowledge in examination conditions.

7. Spaced Review Schedule

Every major topic should appear more than once.

Review	Timing	Activity
Initial study	Day 0	Learn and apply
Review 1	1–2 days later	Closed-book retrieval
Review 2	1 week later	Exam question
Review 3	2–3 weeks later	Mixed-topic test
Final review	Before exam	Rapid retrieval and errors

The key principle is not the exact interval. It is that students revisit and test topics instead of relying on one-off revision sessions.

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8. Past-Paper Tracker

Date	Exam board/paper	Score	Time used	Main weakness	Corrected?
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐
					☐

Progress rule

Do not merely record the total mark.

Track:

- knowledge marks;
- application marks;
- analysis marks;
- evaluation marks;
- calculation accuracy;
- unfinished questions.

That diagnosis determines the next week's revision priority.

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9. Essay and Extended-Response Tracker

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Question	Topic	Planning time	Writing time	Score	Improvement

Quality checklist

Before finishing an extended response:

- ☐ I answered the exact question.
- ☐ I used evidence from the case.
- ☐ I explained the consequence for the business.
- ☐ I considered an alternative argument.
- ☐ I identified the conditions affecting the outcome.
- ☐ I reached a supported judgement.

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10. Calculation Mastery Tracker

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Formula	Recall	Calculate	Interpret	Apply in context
Revenue	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gross profit margin	☐	☐	☐	☐
Operating profit margin	☐	☐	☐	☐
Current ratio	☐	☐	☐	☐
Acid-test ratio	☐	☐	☐	☐
ROCE	☐	☐	☐	☐
Contribution	☐	☐	☐	☐
Break-even	☐	☐	☐	☐
Margin of safety	☐	☐	☐	☐
Market share	☐	☐	☐	☐

Formula	Recall	Calculate	Interpret	Apply in context
Capacity utilisation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Labour productivity	☐	☐	☐	☐
ARR	☐	☐	☐	☐
Payback	☐	☐	☐	☐
Expected value	☐	☐	☐	☐

This should be linked directly to Crown Tutor’s Business Formula Sheet and Financial Ratio Cheat Sheet.

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11. Weekly Review Page

At the end of every week, students complete:

This week I completed

- Topics revised:
- Exam questions completed:
- Calculation score:
- Past-paper score:
- Total revision hours:

My strongest improvement

My largest remaining weakness

My priority for next week

Confidence changes

Topic	Previous	New
