GCSE

WJEC GCSE Business

Approved by Qualifications Wales

Sample Assessment Materials

Unit 2: Key Business Considerations

Teaching from 2025

For award from 2027

Version 2 November 2026



This Qualifications Wales regulated qualification is not available to centres in England.

Made for Wales.
Ready for the world.

WJEC would like to thank the students and teachers of Fitzalan High School, Cardiff and Llanwern High School, Newport for their participation in the creation of these covers.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Version	Description	Page number
2	The assessment release date has been updated from September to June.	4

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About this pack: information for teachers

This pack contains the assessment materials for Unit 2: Key Business Considerations.

Within this pack, you will find:
- information for teachers on how to manage arrangements for assessment
- a **candidate pack** which includes:
  - details of the assignment
  - a detailed breakdown of each task
  - information for candidates, which tells candidates about things that they must and must not do when they are completing the assessment
  - a Candidate Cover Sheet
  - a Candidate Declaration Form.

You must provide each candidate with a copy of the complete candidate assessment pack.

Managing the assessment

This is a WJEC marked (external) non-examination assessment. The following arrangements must be followed when managing the assessment

Task setting

This assignment has been produced by WJEC and cannot be changed.

Time

Candidates must be allowed **five hours** to complete this assessment. Candidates should spend approximately:

- 2 hours 30 minutes completing task 1
- 1 hour 30 minutes completing task 2
- 1 hour completing task 3 OR 4.

The time suggested for each task takes account of the contribution of the task to the overall assessment requirements. There can be no changes to the total time available for this assessment. Centres can, however, amend the suggested time available for each task.

Resources

Candidates must have access to the candidate assessment pack and any necessary resources, as specified in the detailed task tables within the candidate pack.

Collaboration

Group work is **not** allowed. Candidates must complete all tasks individually.

Supervision

All tasks in this unit are taken under indirect supervision:

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Type	Description
Indirect	Candidates do not need to be directly supervised at all times. The centre must ensure that: • all candidates participate in the assessment • there is sufficient supervision to ensure that work can be authenticated • the work an individual candidate submits for assessment is his/her own. Candidates' work must remain within the centre at all times and must be stored securely between timetabled sessions.

Centres must have in place systems to ensure candidates cannot access evidence they have been developing outside of supervised activities.

Authentication

Supervision must be in place to ensure the authenticity of evidence produced for summative assessment.

You should not provide input or guidance to candidates during the assessment time. This includes providing formative feedback on the evidence being produced. You can provide guidance on the requirements of the task and remind candidates of the mark bands and how they can be interpreted.

Candidates can review and redraft evidence independently within the time controls for the assessment.

Candidates must sign the declaration to confirm that all evidence submitted for moderation is their own work and that any sources used have been acknowledged.

Assessors must sign the declaration to confirm that evidence submitted for moderation was completed under the controlled conditions set out in this assessment.

Candidate evidence

The acceptable formats for evidence of each of the tasks is summarised in the task tables. Any modified assessment must enable the candidate to generate the evidence required in this table

Task marking

WJEC will mark all evidence produced by candidates.

Centres **must** ensure that a candidate cover sheet (included in the candidate assessment pack) is completed for every candidate and attached to the front of the candidate's work.

Centres **must** also ensure that candidates complete a candidate declaration form; this is included in the candidate assessment pack.

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Notes on the completion of the Candidate Declaration Form

- The form must be completed and securely attached to the Candidate's work, and sent to the awarding body
- The form can be completed electronically or manually. Electronic signatures will be accepted

Further information

You should refer the JCQ Instructions for conducting non-examination assessment for further information on managing assessment within our GCSE Qualifications.

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Assessment details

For this assessment learners are required to investigate a business that operates in their locality. The business they investigate can be a local scale business only operating in the locality or a national or global business that has a presence in the locality.

Learners will be required to undertake research on their chosen business and to use their research findings to produce a report. Part A of the report will be compulsory, but for part B WJEC will select two themes from the specification content (Business ethics, Business and the environment and Business and Technology) and centres and/or learners will choose **one** of the selected themes.

The assignment, featuring the two selected themes and the associated tasks, will be released during June for assessment in the next academic year and will change annually. Centres have the flexibility to decide when, during the assessment year, learners undertake the assignment.

This assessment contributes to 15% of the overall qualification grade and will take 5 hours to complete. The assignment could be completed in one sitting, or in multiple, shorter sessions. The assignment will be marked out of a total of 48 marks.

This unit will be assessed through an externally set assignment and will be set and marked by WJEC. Assessments must be submitted digitally (they may be hand written and scanned, or completed digitally).

The two themes selected each year from the specification content are shown below:

Year of submission	Choice of theme (Centres and/or candidates to select one from the selected themes)	
2026	Ethics	Business and the environment
2027	Business and technology	Ethics
2028	Business and the environment	Business and technology
2029	Ethics	Business and the environment
2030	Business and technology	Ethics

Centres and/or candidates select **one** theme from the two above to answer Part B of Task 2.

It is important that centres select the topic from the year that they plan to submit the work for marking as this may be different to the year that the candidates undertake the assessment.

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WJEC GCSE Business

Candidate Assessment Pack

Unit 2: Key Business Considerations

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Centre No:								Candidate No:							
Surname															
First name(s)															

GCSE

3160U2

Business – Unit 2
Key Business Considerations

External Candidate Assessment Pack
Candidate cover sheet

For examiner's use only	
Task	**Mark Awarded**
1a	/8
1b	/8
2a	/6
2b	/4
2c	/8
Either	
3a	/6
3b	/8
OR	
4a	/6
4b	/8
Total Mark awarded	**/48**

Candidates must write their name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces at the top of this page.

NB: This cover page must accompany the candidate's evidence

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About this pack: information and instructions for candidates

This candidate assessment pack is for candidates completing Unit 2 – Key Business Considerations.

Within this pack, you will find:

- your assignment
- a detailed breakdown of each task, the evidence requirements, and the conditions (controls) under which the task is to be completed
- information for candidates, which tells you about things that you must and must not do when you are completing the assessment
- the mark scheme which will be used to assess your work
- a Candidate cover sheet
- a Declaration Form.

You will have 5 hours in total to complete this assessment. You should spend approximately:

- 2 hours 30 minutes completing task 1
- 1 hour 30 minutes completing task 2
- 1 hour completing task 3 OR 4.

You will be supervised throughout the assessment.

Your teacher is allowed to help you to understand the assessment requirements and the tasks, but there are rules about the kind of help and how much they can give you. You should speak to your teacher if you have any questions about what you are and are not allowed to do as you are completing the tasks, as they will know how much help they are allowed to give you.

It is important that you work independently from other candidates and the work produced should be your own unaided work. You and your teacher will be required to sign a declaration that all work presented is your own work.

You are advised to check your work carefully to make sure that it is accurate and correct.

You must not discuss or share any details of the brief until after 5 May 202X.

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Assessment:

You are required to investigate a business that operates in your locality, then produce a report with two parts. The business you investigate can be a local scale business only operating in your locality or a national or global business that has a presence in your locality.

You have a total of **five** hours to complete this assignment.

You are required to:

Task 1:

- Investigate your chosen business.
- Present research findings.

Task 2:

- Use your research findings to write a report that covers the tasks in Part A and B:

Part A - **compulsory**

- Summarise the operations of your chosen business.
- Explain the impact society has on your chosen business.
- Analyse the impact of your chosen business on society.

Part B

Choose from the following, either:

Task 3: Business and the environment

- Summarise how your chosen business acts in a sustainable way.
- Evaluate the impact of your chosen business' environmental behaviour.

Or:

Task 4: Business and technology

- Summarise your chosen business' use of technology.
- Evaluate the impact of technology on your chosen business.

The tasks on pages 5 to 9 state what **should** be included in your evidence and what **could** be included:

- Where tasks use the word **should**, you will need to include what has been listed.
- Where tasks use the word **could**, this information is for guidance only. You should select what is appropriate for the business you are investigating.

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Tasks

	Task	Evidence	Controls
1	Research. You should: (a) Use primary and secondary research to select and collect appropriate qualitative and quantitative data about your chosen business that allows you to complete Task 2 and Task 3 or 4 of the report. [8 marks] (b) Present your research findings in appropriate formats. [8 marks]	Evidence of primary and secondary research carried out. All research findings should be included in an appendix.	Supervision: Indirect Guidance: Permitted Resources: Access to the Internet. Collaboration: Not permitted
You should spend approximately 2 hours 30 minutes completing this task.			
2	Report – Part A. You should: (a) Write a summary of the operations of the business you have investigated. This summary should include: • offered products (goods and services) • customers • the market it operates in • the sector it operates in • ownership and scale • main business aims • key stakeholders • location. [6 marks] (b) Explain the impact that society has on your chosen business. You could include: • social factors, such as: • demographics	Written report	Supervision: Indirect Guidance: Not permitted Resources: Research findings from Task 1. Collaboration: Not permitted

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	• attitudes and opinions • interests and lifestyles • social change, such as: • addressing social injustice • societal challenges. [4 marks] (c) Analyse the impact of your chosen business on society. You could include: • the importance of diversity for businesses • contributions to business from a range of different groups within society, including those of Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities and individuals • contributions to business from those traditionally underrepresented in business including women, disabled people and those who are socio-economically disadvantaged • career opportunities and employment • meeting consumer needs and wants • prosperity and standards of living • economic growth • wealth, wages and salaries • tax contribution • innovation and growth in technology • culture. [8 marks]		
You should spend approximately 1 hour 30 minutes completing this task.			

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Either complete Task 3 or Task 4.

	Task	Evidence	Controls
3	Report – Part B. Business and the environment You should: (a) Summarise how your chosen business acts in a sustainable way. This could include: • minimising waste • packaging • recycling • renewable energy • responsible consumption and production • use of innovation. [6 marks] (b) Evaluate the impact of your chosen business' environmental behaviour. This could include: • increased cost • increased sales • positive reputation • competitive advantage • improvements to the natural environment • supporting the local economy • improving the health and lifestyle of individuals. [8 marks]	Written report	Supervision: Indirect Guidance: Not permitted Resources: Research findings from Task 1. Collaboration: Not permitted
You should spend approximately 1 hour completing this task.			

OR:

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	Task	Evidence	Controls

4	Report – Part B.
	
	Business and technology
	
	You should:
	(a) Summarise your chosen business' use of technology.
	
	This could include:
	• 3D printing
	• Artificial Intelligence (AI)
	• automation
	• cloud storage
	• digitisation
	• e-commerce and m-commerce
	• electronic point of sale (EPOS)
	• online payment systems
	• quick response (QR) codes
	• robotics
	• social media.
	[6 marks]
	
	(b) Evaluate the impact of technology used by your chosen business.
	
	This could include:
	• changes in:
	  • the workforce
	  • working practices
	  • manufacturing processes
	  • marketing
	  • financial control
	  • customer expectations
	• cost of implementing technological change
	• reasons why businesses may not invest in technological change
	• resistance to implementing technological change
		Written report	Supervision:
			Indirect
			
			Guidance:
			Not permitted
			
			Resources:
			Research findings from Task 1.
			
			Collaboration:
			Not permitted

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	• impacts on:
	  • society
	  • customers
	  • the natural environment
	  • employees.
	[8 marks]		

You should spend approximately 1 hour completing this task.			

End of tasks

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Information for candidates

The following information has been taken from the JCQ Information for candidates – non-examination assessments and the JCQ Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications. This tells you about things that you **must** and **must not** do when you are completing your assessment. If there is anything that you do not understand, you **must** ask your teacher.

Preparing your work

- When you submit your work and sign your candidate declaration form, you need to ensure that your final product reflects your own independent work and isn't copied or paraphrased from another source such as an AI tool.
- If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you **must** tell your teacher who will then record the nature of the assistance given to you.
- If you worked as part of a group on a task, you **must** each write up your own account of the assignment. Even if the data you have is the same, you **must** describe in your own words how that data was obtained, and you **must** independently draw your own conclusions from the data.
- Take care of your work and keep it safe. **Do not** leave it lying around where your classmates can find it or share it with anyone, including posting it on social media. You **must** always keep your work secure and confidential whilst you are preparing it; **do not** share it with your classmates. If it is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need.
- **Do not** be tempted to use pre-prepared online solutions (such as those produced by AI tools and chatbots) – this is cheating. Electronic tools used by WJEC can detect this sort of copying.
- You **must not** write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts or ideas and trying to pass them off as your own. **It is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously.** Don't think you won't be caught; there are many ways to detect plagiarism:

- Markers can spot changes in the style of writing and use of language.
- Markers are highly experienced subject specialists – they may have read the source you are using, or even marked the work you have copied from!
- Internet search engines and specialised computer software can be used to match phrases or pieces of text with original sources and to detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation.

Penalties for breaking the regulations

If it is discovered that you have broken the regulations, one of the following penalties will be applied:

- the piece of work will be awarded zero marks
- you will be disqualified from that unit for the assessment series in question
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that assessment series
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

WJEC will decide which penalty is appropriate.

Remember – it's your qualification so it needs to be your own work.

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Candidate Declaration Form

You must complete Part A and Part B of this form

Centre No:						**Centre Name:**	
Candidate No:						**Candidate Name:**	
Unit Title:							

Part A: Candidate Declaration

References: Give details of the exact source of any non-original material used in the assignment.	**List of software packages/AI tools/chatbots[1]:** Give brief details of how these have been used in the assignment.

Authentication Declaration

I declare that my work was completed independently and without any assistance beyond that which was permitted. All work is my own, except for any non-original material clearly credited above. This work has not been submitted for any other qualification. I have clearly referenced any sources and any Artificial Intelligence tools used in the work. I understand that false declaration is a form of malpractice.

Candidate Signature:	**Date:**

Teacher Authentication Declaration

I confirm that the candidate's work was conducted under the conditions laid out by the specification.

I have authenticated the candidate's work and am satisfied that to the best of my knowledge the work produced is solely that of the candidate. The candidate has clearly referenced any sources and any AI tools used in the work. I understand that false declaration is a form of malpractice.

Teacher Signature:	**Date:**

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[1] Where you have used AI tools as a source of information, you must show the name of the AI source used and the date the content was generated. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/), 25/01/2023. You must, retain a copy of the question(s) and computer-generated content for reference and authentication purposes, in a noneditable format (such as a screenshot) and provide a brief explanation of how it has been used. This must be submitted with your work, so your teacher/assessor is able to review the work, the AI-generated content and how it has been used.

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End of Candidate Assessment Pack

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The marking scheme will be published separately after the assessment has taken place in line with WJECs publication policy.

Marking scheme

0 marks will be awarded if there is no evidence or submitted work is not worthy of credit.

Task 1 (a) Use primary and secondary research to select and collect appropriate qualitative and quantitative data about your chosen business that allows you to complete Task 2 and Task 3 or 4 of the report.	
Band	**AO4**
4	**7-8 marks** An excellent response which demonstrates: • appropriate and effective research tools used to collect primary and secondary data • a range of appropriate primary and secondary data collected • a range of relevant quantitative and qualitative data collected.
3	**5-6 marks** A good response which demonstrates: • appropriate research tools used to collect primary and secondary data • a range of appropriate primary and/or secondary data collected • a range of relevant quantitative and/or qualitative data collected.
2	**3-4 marks** A basic response which demonstrates: • some research tools used to collect primary and/or secondary data • some appropriate primary and/or secondary research data collected • some relevant quantitative and/or qualitative data collected.
1	**1-2 marks** A limited response which demonstrates: • minimal research tools used to collect primary and/or secondary data • minimal primary and/or secondary research data collected • minimal quantitative and/or qualitative data collected.
0	No response attempted or nothing worthy of credit.

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Task 1 (b) Present your research findings in appropriate formats.	
Band	**AO4**
4	**7-8 marks** An excellent presentation which demonstrates: • appropriate and effective data selected • a wide range of appropriate data presented • a highly organised layout which is very easy to understand.
3	**5-6 marks** A good presentation which demonstrates: • appropriate data selected • a range of appropriate data presented • an organised layout which is easy to understand.
2	**3-4 marks** A basic presentation which demonstrates: • some data selected • some appropriate data presented • some elements of the layout are disorganised and/or not easy to understand.
1	**1-2 marks** A limited presentation which demonstrates: • minimal data selected • minimal data presented • a lack of organisation.
0	No response attempted or nothing worthy of credit.

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Task 2 (a)
Write a summary of the operations of the business you have investigated.
This summary should include:

- offered products (goods and services)
- customers
- the market it operates in
- the sector it operates in
- ownership and scale
- main business aims
- key stakeholders
- location.

AO2					
Marks available					
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Summary of the operations has very little reference to the chosen business. There is very little use of research findings.	Limited summary of the operations of the chosen business which demonstrates limited use of research findings.	Basic summary of the operations of the chosen business which demonstrates some use of research findings.	Detailed summary of the operations of the chosen business which demonstrates detailed use of research findings.	Effective and detailed summary of the operations of the chosen business, which demonstrates effective use of research findings.	Highly effective and detailed summary of the operations of the chosen business, which demonstrates extensive and effective use of research findings.
					Total: /6

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Task 2 (b)
Explain the impact that society has on your chosen business.
You could include:

- social factors, such as:
  - demographics
  - attitudes and opinions
  - interests and lifestyles
- social change, such as:
  - addressing social injustice
  - societal challenges.

AO2			
Marks available			
1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Limited explanation of the impact society has on the chosen business which considers few social factors. Points may be superficial and/or generic, lacking in support from research findings and could relate to any business.	Basic explanation of the impact society has on the chosen business which considers some social factors. Points are supported by some research findings whilst some may be generic and could relate to other businesses.	Detailed explanation of the impact society has on the chosen business which considers a range of social factors. Points are mostly supported by research findings and are related to the chosen business.	Detailed and effective explanation of the impact society has on the chosen business which considers a wide range of social factors. Points are wholly supported by research findings and are clearly related to the chosen business.
			Total: /4

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Task 2 (c)
Analyse the impact of your chosen business on society.
You could include:

- the importance of diversity for businesses
- contributions to business from a range of different groups within society, including those of Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities and individuals
- contributions to business from those traditionally underrepresented in business including women, disabled people and those who are socio-economically disadvantaged
- career opportunities and employment
- meeting consumer needs and wants
- prosperity and standards of living
- economic growth
- wealth, wages and salaries
- tax contribution
- innovation and growth in technology
- culture.

Band	AO3
4	**7-8 marks** An excellent analysis which demonstrates: • highly effective analysis of how the chosen business impacts society • well-developed and balanced arguments which analyses a wide range of impacts • fully considered judgements that are effectively supported by research findings.
3	**5-6 marks** A good analysis which demonstrates: • effective analysis of how the chosen business impacts society • balanced arguments which evaluate a range of impacts Or • a well-developed argument which evaluate a range of impacts that may be one-sided • considered judgements that are supported by research findings.

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2	**3-4 marks** A basic analysis which demonstrates: • some analysis of how the chosen business impacts society • arguments which evaluate a range of impacts that are one-sided • some judgements made but may not be supported by research findings.
1	**1-2 marks** A limited analysis which demonstrates: • minimal analysis of how the chosen business impacts society • a limited number of impacts • few judgements which lack support or no use of research findings.
0	No response attempted or nothing worthy of credit.

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Either complete Task 3 or Task 4.

Task 3 (a)
Summarise how your chosen business acts in a sustainable way.
This could include:

- minimising waste
- packaging
- recycling
- renewable energy
- responsible consumption and production
- use of innovation.

AO2					
Marks available					
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Summary of acting in a sustainable way has very little reference to the chosen business. There is very little use of research findings.	Limited summary of how the chosen business acts in a sustainable way, which demonstrates limited use of research findings.	Basic summary of how the chosen business acts in a sustainable way, which demonstrates some use of research findings.	Detailed summary of how the chosen business acts in a sustainable way, which demonstrates detailed use of research findings.	Effective and detailed summary of how the chosen business acts in a sustainable way, which demonstrates effective use of research findings.	Highly effective and detailed summary of how the chosen business acts in a sustainable way, which demonstrates extensive and effective use of research findings.
					Total: /6

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Task 3 (b)
Evaluate the impact of your chosen business' environmental behaviour.
This could include:

- increased cost
- increased sales
- positive reputation
- competitive advantage
- improvements to the natural environment
- supporting the local economy
- improving the health and lifestyle of individuals.

Band	AO3
4	**7-8 marks** An excellent evaluation which demonstrates: • highly effective evaluation of the impact of the chosen business' environmental behaviour • well-developed and balanced arguments which evaluate a wide range of the chosen business' environmental behaviour • fully considered judgements that are effectively supported by research findings.
3	**5-6 marks** A good evaluation which demonstrates: • effective evaluation of the impact of the chosen business' environmental behaviour • balanced arguments which evaluate a range of impacts of the chosen business' environmental behaviour Or • a well-developed argument which evaluate a range of the impacts of the chosen business' environmental behaviour that may be one-sided • considered judgements that are supported by research findings.
2	**3-4 marks** A basic evaluation which demonstrates: • some evaluation of the impact of the business' environmental behaviour • arguments which evaluate a range of the impacts of the chosen business' environmental behaviour that are one-sided • some judgements made but may not be supported by research findings.

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1	**1-2 marks** A limited evaluation which demonstrates: • minimal evaluation of the impact of the business' environmental behaviour • a limited number of considered environmental behaviours • few judgements which lack support or no use of research findings.
0	No response attempted or nothing worthy of credit.

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Task 4 (a)
Summarise your chosen business' use of technology.
This could include:

- 3D printing
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- automation
- cloud storage
- digitisation
- e-commerce and m-commerce
- electronic point of sale (EPOS)
- online payment systems
- quick response (QR) codes
- robotics
- social media.

AO2					
Marks available					
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Summary of the use of technology has very little reference to the chosen business. There is very little use of research findings.	Limited summary of how the chosen business uses technology, which demonstrates limited use of research findings.	Basic summary of how the chosen business uses technology, which demonstrates some use of research findings.	Detailed summary of how the chosen business uses technology, which demonstrates detailed use of research findings.	Effective and detailed summary of how the chosen business uses technology, which demonstrates effective use of research findings.	Highly effective and detailed summary of how the chosen business uses technology, which demonstrates extensive and effective use of research findings.
					Total: /6

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Task 4 (b)
Evaluate the impact of technology used by your chosen business.
This could include:

- changes in:
  - the workforce
  - working practices
  - manufacturing processes
  - marketing
  - financial control
  - customer expectations
- cost of implementing technological change
- reasons why businesses may not invest in technological change
- resistance to implementing technological change
- impacts on:
  - society
  - customers
  - the natural environment
  - employees.

Band	AO3
4	**7-8 marks** An excellent evaluation which demonstrates: • highly effective evaluation of the impact of technology used by the chosen business • well-developed and balanced arguments which evaluate a wide range of impacts • fully considered judgements that are effectively supported by research findings.
3	**5-6 marks** A good evaluation which demonstrates: • effective evaluation of the impact of technology used by the chosen business • balanced arguments which evaluate a range of impacts Or • a well-developed argument which evaluate a range of impacts that may be one-sided • considered judgements that are supported by research findings.

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2	**3-4 marks** A basic evaluation which demonstrates: • some evaluation of the impact of technology used by the chosen business • arguments which evaluate a range of impacts that are one-sided • some judgements made but may not be supported by research findings.
1	**1-2 marks** A limited evaluation which demonstrates: • minimal evaluation of the impact of technology used by the chosen business • a limited number of considered impacts • few judgements which lack support or no use of research findings.
0	No response attempted or nothing worthy of credit.

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