

Subject	Year	Term																																										
Business	Year 12	Spring 2																																										
Topic																																												
3.1.4 Decision Making to improve operational performance																																												
Content (Intent)																																												
<p>Prior Learning – This is a standalone unit that looks at decision making and management in terms of production and operational efficiency.</p> <p>Students of this course study business in a variety of contexts and consider the importance of the context of business in relation to decision making. The topics covered are:</p>																																												
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>The value of setting operational objectives</td> <td>Includes costs, quality, flexibility, speed of response, dependability, environment and added value</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Internal & External influences on operational objectives and decisions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Calculation of operations data</td> <td>labour productivity, unit costs, average costs, capacity & capacity utilisation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The use of data in operational decisions</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Making operational decisions to improve performance</td> <td>The importance of capacity</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>The importance of efficiency and labour productivity</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>The benefits and difficulties of lean production (including Just-in-time)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Difficulties increasing efficiency and labour productivity</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>How to choose the optimal mix of resources (including labour v capital intensive)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>How to utilise capacity efficiently</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>How to use technology to improve operational efficiency</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Improving Quality</td> <td>The importance of quality</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Methods of improving quality</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>The benefits and difficulties of improving quality</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>The consequences of quality</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Managing inventory and supply chains</td> <td>Ways and value of improving speed of response, dependability and flexibility (including mass customisation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Managing supply to match demand (outsourcing, temp workers and producing to order)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Influences on inventory held (lead times, re-order levels, buffer inventory & interpreting inventory control charts)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Influences on the choice of suppliers</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>How to manage the supply chain effectively and efficiently</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>The value of outsourcing</td> </tr> </table>		The value of setting operational objectives	Includes costs, quality, flexibility, speed of response, dependability, environment and added value		Internal & External influences on operational objectives and decisions	Calculation of operations data	labour productivity, unit costs, average costs, capacity & capacity utilisation	The use of data in operational decisions		Making operational decisions to improve performance	The importance of capacity		The importance of efficiency and labour productivity		The benefits and difficulties of lean production (including Just-in-time)		Difficulties increasing efficiency and labour productivity		How to choose the optimal mix of resources (including labour v capital intensive)		How to utilise capacity efficiently		How to use technology to improve operational efficiency	Improving Quality	The importance of quality		Methods of improving quality		The benefits and difficulties of improving quality		The consequences of quality	Managing inventory and supply chains	Ways and value of improving speed of response, dependability and flexibility (including mass customisation)		Managing supply to match demand (outsourcing, temp workers and producing to order)		Influences on inventory held (lead times, re-order levels, buffer inventory & interpreting inventory control charts)		Influences on the choice of suppliers		How to manage the supply chain effectively and efficiently		The value of outsourcing
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<p>Future Learning – This unit sets the fundamental principles in place to consider the impact of strategic decision making on the functional areas of a business.</p>																																												
How will knowledge and skills be taught? (Implementation)	How will your understanding be assessed & recorded (Impact)																																											
<p>This topic will involve links to the four assessment objectives throughout and will include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teacher led lesson content - Independent learning tasks - Group discussion/debates and questioning - Using business terminology - Reference to business examples throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End of topic assessment - Past Paper responses and essays. Marked and feedback given. - Verbal responses. Individual and class feedback given. - Key term tests 																																											
How can parents help at home?																																												

- Discussing ideas and content at home & linking it to real businesses that they know
- Watch the news and/or read a good quality newspaper
- Watch any topical films or documentaries that link to Business e.g. Panorama, dispatches etc.

Support us with our department's high expectations of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and minimum standards.

Helpful further reading/discussion

Reading

- My revision notes: AQA A Level Business
- Business Review magazines (subscribe online)
- TUTOR2U website
- BBC Business news

Subject Key Terms

- Efficiency
- Added Value
- Dependability
- Procurement
- Logistics
- Inventory Control

Careers Links

- Engineering
- Operations Management
- Procurement
- Supply Chain Management