A-Level Business

Five questions on what is happening now

DATA AS AT 15 NOVEMBER 2026 · NEW QUESTIONS EVERY WEEK

How to use this pack. Time yourself, write a full answer, then check it against the mark scheme. Questions 1 and 2 include our mark scheme. Questions 3 to 5 have mark schemes you can unlock free on the website. Marks and skills follow the Curriculum Circle framework. Exam boards set the marks and wording for real papers, so always check your specification.

In the news: Greggs, a company growing in a tough market

+7.7%
Greggs sales growth in Q3 2026, with like-for-like sales in company-managed shops up 3.4%
Source: Greggs Q3 update

2,796
shops trading at 26 September 2026: 95 opened and 38 closed so far this year, a net gain of 57
Source: Greggs Q3 update

~3%
Greggs' expected like-for-like cost inflation for 2026, as stated in its May update
Source: Greggs May update

700+
jobs potentially lost under a plan to consolidate its manufacturing operations
Source: Sharecast via HL

New AQA Business specification. The new AS (7137) and A-level (7138) are first taught from September 2026, with first A-level exams in 2028. The outgoing A-level (7132) has its last exams in 2027. Source: AQA. See our Business specification map at thecurriculumcircle.com/a-level-business/specification-map/

© 2026 The Curriculum Circle. For personal study; not for redistribution. Original questions and mark schemes by CC.
Not affiliated with or endorsed by AQA, Pearson Edexcel or Cambridge.

QUESTION 1 4 MARKS · CALCULATE AND EXPLAIN · APPLICATION · ANALYSIS

Using the data, calculate (a) the net change in Greggs' shop numbers so far in 2026 and (b) how many shops it had at the start of 2026, assuming the net change in the data applies to the year to date. (c) Explain one reason why a business might close some shops while opening others.

Plan for about 5 minutes.

CC MARK SCHEME · FREE · Application 2 | Analysis 2

- (a) 95 opened − 38 closed = a net gain of 57 shops (1 mark).
- (b) 2,796 − 57 = 2,739 shops at the start of the year (1 mark). Own figure applies if (a) was wrong.
- (c) Up to 2 marks for a developed reason. For example: closing shops that are loss-making or badly located stops continuing losses (1), freeing money to open sites with higher expected sales and profit (1).

Common mistakes: Subtracting the wrong way (38 − 95). Not noticing that the data say "so far this year", so the start-of-year figure is an estimate built from the figures given.

QUESTION 2 6 MARKS · ANALYSE · APPLICATION · ANALYSIS

Using the data, analyse how cost inflation of about 3% could affect Greggs' profit margins.

Plan for about 8 minutes.

CC MARK SCHEME · FREE · Application 2 | Analysis 4

- Application (2): uses the expected cost inflation of about 3% and the like-for-like sales growth of 3.4% in company-managed shops, or the scale of the shop estate.
- Analysis (4): rising ingredient, wage and energy costs raise the cost of each item sold (1). If prices stay the same, profit per item falls, so the profit margin (profit as a percentage of revenue) is squeezed (1). Greggs could raise prices to protect the margin (1), but if customers are price sensitive, sales volume may fall and profit gains may be smaller than expected (1). Or it could cut other costs, for example through efficiency in production.

Common mistakes: Confusing profit with profit margin. Saying like-for-like sales growth of 3.4% shows margins are safe: sales growth does not show costs. No explanation of why volume might fall.

QUESTION 3 9 MARKS · ANALYSE · APPLICATION · ANALYSIS

Analyse how the plan to consolidate Greggs' manufacturing operations could affect its stakeholders.

Plan for about 12 minutes. Cover at least two stakeholder groups and link them.

MARK SCHEME · UNLOCK FREE AT THECURRICULUMCIRCLE.COM/EXAM-RESOURCES/

© 2026 The Curriculum Circle. For personal study; not for redistribution. Original questions and mark schemes by CC.
Not affiliated with or endorsed by AQA, Pearson Edexcel or Cambridge.

QUESTION 4 12 MARKS · EVALUATE · APPLICATION · ANALYSIS · EVALUATION

Evaluate whether Greggs should raise its prices to protect its profit margins.

Plan for about 15 minutes. Use the data and reach a clear decision.

MARK SCHEME · UNLOCK FREE AT THECURRICULUMCIRCLE.COM/EXAM-RESOURCES/

QUESTION 5 20 MARKS · EVALUATE · ANALYSIS · EVALUATION

Evaluate whether Greggs should continue opening new shops while it consolidates its manufacturing operations.

Plan for about 25 minutes. Use the data as evidence, say what else you would want to know, and justify a decision.

MARK SCHEME · UNLOCK FREE AT THECURRICULUMCIRCLE.COM/EXAM-RESOURCES/

Keep practising

Weekly questions and mark schemes: unlock Questions 3 to 5 and get new data every week at thecurriculumcircle.com/exam-resources/

Free 7-day taster: Marketing: demand, elasticity and segmentation, with practice questions and instant feedback. No card needed. thecurriculumcircle.com/taster/

Business platform: thecurriculumcircle.com/platforms/business/ · Specification map: thecurriculumcircle.com/a-level-business/specification-map/

© 2026 The Curriculum Circle. For personal study; not for redistribution. Original questions and mark schemes by CC.
Not affiliated with or endorsed by AQA, Pearson Edexcel or Cambridge.