

## A LEVEL BUSINESS PREPARATION WORK

Research suggests that 50% of new businesses fail within three years of opening. 801,006 new companies were registered in the UK in the 2022/3 tax year. So why might as many as 400,503 of these companies fail by 2025/6?

Starting a new business represents a major risk for entrepreneurs. At the start of 2024, over 47,000 firms were at [“...the edge of collapse...”](#), emphasising the scale of this problem. Rapidly rising energy bills, higher taxes and global uncertainty about Donald Trump’s Tariffs have made this situation even tougher in 2025. Understanding why other businesses have failed might help reduce this risk.

The reasons why a business might succeed or fail is an important theme within this A Level, so understanding some relevant case studies is very useful.

So, over the summer break, your task is to find out about four companies that have failed recently and write a summary of the main facts and figures for each.

You will need to research:

- The Body Shop
- Wilko
- Hunter Boots
- Meatless Farm Company

You should write a short summary for each of these businesses. Focus on things like:

- The history of the business
- What internal factors (things within the control of managers) caused it to fail?
- What external factors (things beyond the control of managers) caused it to fail?
- How did its failure affect staff, customers and other businesses?

General sources of information that you could use might include:

- The Financial Times
- The Economist
- Tutor 2u
- Wikipedia

Some specific articles that you should read include:

- [Body Shop 1](#) and [2](#)
- [Wilko 1](#) and [2](#)
- [Hunter Boots 1](#) and [2](#)
- [Meatless Farm 1](#) and [2](#)

You should produce a two-page summary of your research into these firms. Roughly half of a page for each one. Do not copy and paste information - write your findings out in your own words. You should submit this task in the first lesson in September.

Feel free to email [p.bentley@nghs.org.uk](mailto:p.bentley@nghs.org.uk) if you need any clarification of this task.