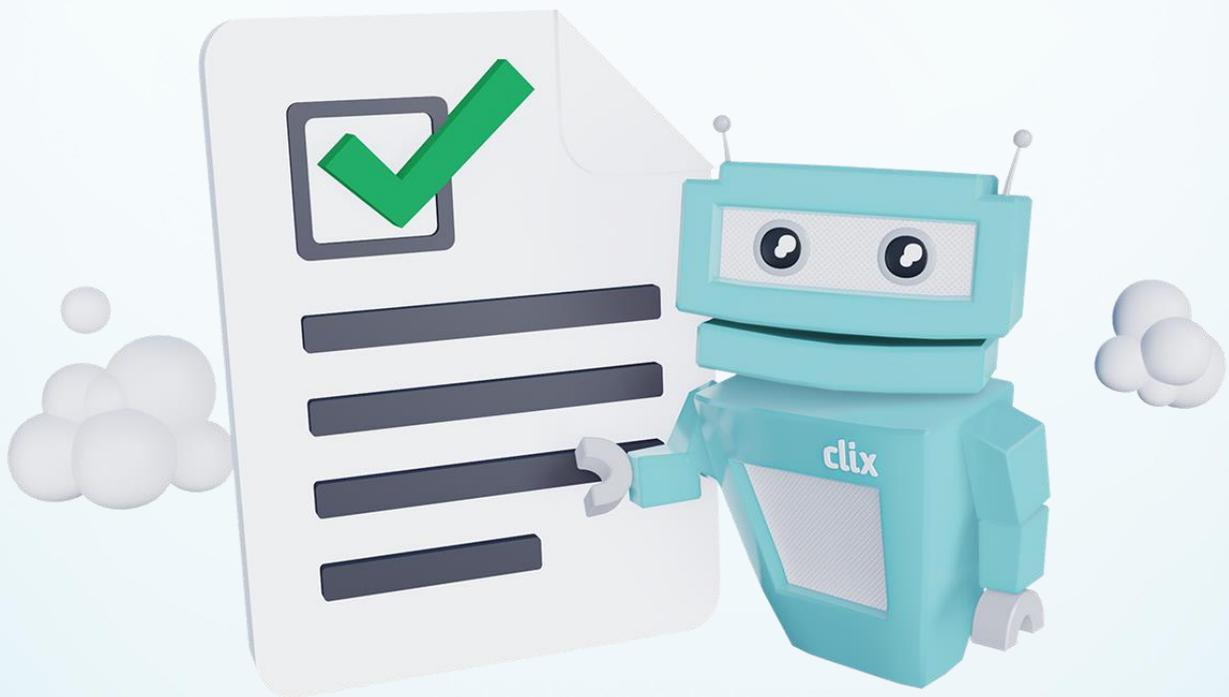


# Business Studies

How you can succeed in your  
Junior Cycle Business Studies CBA 2



**By Róisín Ní Dhonnagáin**

*Róisín Ní Dhonnagáin is an experienced teacher of Business Studies. Here she shares her hints and tips for the Junior Cycle Business Studies CBA 1.*



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## Introduction

The new Junior Cycle Business Studies course gives you an opportunity to showcase what you have learned in 2nd and 3rd year in the form of a Classroom Based Assessment (CBA). The Junior Cycle Business CBAs are two specific tasks, one in 2nd year and the other in 3rd year.

There is a unique grading system for the CBA, where you will receive a descriptor for your work from your class teacher. The descriptors include “yet to meet expectations”, “in line with expectations”, “above expectations”, and “exceptional”. These CBA descriptors do not contribute to your final grade, however they will be added to your Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement alongside the grade you get in your exam at the end of 3rd year.

You have already completed a CBA in Business Studies in 2nd year, so you know how it goes! This CBA guide will break down Business Studies CBA 2 and provide helpful tips and advice to ensure you are given the highest descriptor possible.

## Presentation Descriptors

Descriptors are the four levels of achievement for the CBA. The teacher will use the “Features of Quality” to decide the level of achievement you will be awarded. Your work will be given one of the following descriptors;

**EXCEPTIONAL:** The student communicates eloquently and confidently, displaying a very comprehensive knowledge of the topic, and the presentation is very well structured. The support material chosen displays creativity and is used very effectively to captivate the audience. The student’s reflections on the topic are of excellent quality, demonstrating clearly how the student’s point of view has developed or evolved over time.

**ABOVE EXPECTATIONS:** The student communicates clearly, competently and with confidence, displaying a very good knowledge of the topic, and the presentation is well-structured. The support material is well-chosen to interest the audience, displaying some creativity. The student’s reflections on the topic are of very good quality.

**IN LINE WITH EXPECTATIONS:** The student communicates well displaying a good knowledge of the topic but lacks some confidence and the presentation is unclear in places. The support material chosen is appropriate but not used to its full potential. The student displays an ability to reflect on their own perspective of the topic.

**YET TO MEET EXPECTATIONS:** The student does not communicate clearly or confidently, displaying a very limited knowledge of the topic, and the presentation lacks structure. The support material chosen is used in a basic manner. The student’s reflections on the topic are narrow and of poor quality.

## Classroom Based Assessment 2 - Presentation

CBA 2 will take place in December of 3rd Year and will take place over 3 weeks. CBA 2 gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge and understanding to real-life settings and gives you the opportunity to develop your communication skills by presenting.

You are required to investigate and present your findings on a business-related topic. You can choose an issue of local or personal relevance once it relates to the business environment.

### Potential topic ideas:

- A field visit to a local enterprise – this can be a cultural, social or financial enterprise.
- An investigation of a business-related story in the media
- Leaders in the Irish business field
- Consumerism
- An investigation of the impact of an organisation on a community – this can be both a positive or a negative impact or both.
- An investigation into a current economic issue
- Careers in business
- Successful Irish entrepreneurs.

### Tip

Choose a topic you have a genuine interest in as it will make researching and reflecting easier and more enjoyable.



**You will take part in three areas of activity to generate your evidence of learning in your CBA:**

- Investigating
- Reflecting on Learning
- Communicating

## **Investigating**

- Once you have decided on your topic, you will have to undertake some of your own investigative work to find out more about the topic.
- You must gather information from primary and/or secondary sources just like in CBA 1.
- You can meet/interview a local entrepreneur or chairperson of a local enterprise
- You can research your chosen topics online.
- As the topics are quite broad, you can focus on ONE area of the topic.
- Just like in CBA 1 – You must make a record of all your sources of information to assess their reliability.
- You are encouraged to view your topic from a range of different viewpoints just as you would in a professional business environment.

## **Reflecting on Learning**

After completing your investigative work, you are asked to evaluate what you have learned about the business environment and reflect on whether/how you see the world differently and whether/how your behaviour has changed after engaging with your topic.

### **In your reflection on learning you should include:**

- An evaluation of the importance of the topic for personal, local, social or environmental relevance
- Your existing knowledge, understanding and ideas relevant to the chosen topic
- An explanation of different opinions related to the topic where you can
- A reflection on what you thought about the topic before the investigation and what you think about it now
- A reflection on whether/how your behaviour or attitudes have changed as a result of investigating the topic.

#### **Tip**

You should aim to develop a personal opinion in relation to the business related topic. You should source your justification for this opinion in your original investigative work.

### **Communicating**

You must present all that you have learned about your chosen topic. The information should be presented in your own words and show your understanding of your chosen topic.

Your presentation should be no longer than 3 minutes long and your audience and teachers can ask questions during and at the end of your presentation.

You can use a range of different presentation tools or any graphical tools you feel you need to present.

## Your presentation should be structured as follows:

- Provide a brief overview of your chosen topic
- Explain your interest in the topic and why you chose it
- Evaluate what you have learned
- Present your opinions with an explanation of how you came to those opinions
- Communicate using support materials such as a presentation/images/prompt notes/props.

## Presentation Tips

### Do...

- ✓ Practice your presentation regularly
- ✓ Use flashcards with shortened notes
- ✓ Use lots of visual aids in your presentation
- ✓ Engage your audience and make eye contact

### Don't...

- ✗ Overload your slides with text – Keep them short and to the point
- ✗ Read directly from your flashcards
- ✗ Rush through your presentation – Take your time

## The Assessment Task

Your Assessment Task is the final part of your CBA and is worth 10% of your final Junior Cycle Grade. Your assessment task is submitted to the State Examinations Commission for correction along with your Final Examination.

You write your Assessment Task based on CBA 2, your presentation.

### **Your Assessment Task will assess your ability to:**

- Evaluate new knowledge or understanding that emerged during CBA 2
- Reflect on the skills that you have developed while completing CBA 2
- Reflect on how your opinions and values have been influenced through your experience in CBA 2.