



A level

Financial Studies

What will I learn?

On completion of this qualification, students will be able to:

- appreciate the benefits that can be derived from financial services products, and how these can contribute to achieving their personal aspirations;
- develop an awareness of risk and reward, and the obligations associated with different financial solutions;
- understand the concept of ‘money’ in all its forms, and how the value is subject to time and circumstance;
- understand the scope of the financial services industry and how it impacts upon the individual;
- appreciate how different external factors impact upon the individual directly and indirectly;
- compare and contrast a range of financial solutions and draw reasoned, informed and sound financial judgements in particular contexts.

What could this course lead on to?

At the end of Year 13, upon successful completion of the course, students will be awarded The Diploma in IFS Level 3 in Financial Studies, which is equivalent to an A Level. As part of the course, students will develop key financial capability skills that are relevant to everyday life/situations, and become a confident and informed financial services consumer. The course also provides an excellent grounding for undergraduate study within finance and business related disciplines, with many students going on to study accounting, business, finance and banking.

Entry Requirements:

GCSE grade 6 or higher in English (consideration will be given to those students who get a 5 in English subject to a recommendation by their English teacher) plus GCSE grade 5 or higher in Mathematics. In addition to this, an average attitude to learning of a grade 4 or above.

Key content and assessment

Unit	Title	Assessment
1	<p>Financial Capability for immediate and short-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Personal Lifecycle • Personal Values • Money: An Introduction • Financial Services Solutions & how to achieve them • The Value of Money • Financial Service for Personal Customers • Financial Service Providers & delivery • Customer Protection & its limitations 	<p>PART A – 45 min exam Multiple choice questions.</p> <p>PART B – 1 hour 45 Pre-release case-study. Essay style responses to questions</p>
2	<p>Financial Capability medium to Long-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing your Money • Planning to achieve aspirations • Risk • Attitudes to Risk & Planning • Using Financial Products to achieve your aspirations • Making Informed Choices 	<p>PART A – 45 min exam Multiple choice questions.</p> <p>PART B - 1 hour 45 Pre-release case-study. Essay style responses to questions.</p>
3	<p>Sustainability of an Individual’s Finances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of financial sustainability for individuals. • Key external financial factors influencing financial performance. • Monitoring personal budgets/adapting plans in response to changes in circumstances. • Personal implications of debt and borrowing solutions. • Understanding the impact of global events, developments and ethical considerations upon the FSI and the consumer. • Understanding the impact of the consumer changes in the FSI in recent years. 	<p>PART A – 1-hour exam Multiple choice questions.</p> <p>PART B – 2-hour exam Pre-release case-study: Essay style responses to questions</p>
4	<p>Sustainability of the Financial Services System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding how financial services providers work and the environment in which they operate. • Importance of sustainability for financial services providers and systems. • Influences of external factors upon financial services providers • The effectiveness of marketing materials produced by financial services providers • Approaches used by financial services providers to attract, retain and satisfy consumers. • How market segmentation and product development are used to meet the needs, wants and aspirations of financial consumers. 	<p>PART A – 1-hour exam Multiple choice questions</p> <p>PART B – 2-hour exam Pre-release case-study. Essay style responses to questions</p>

Course Details

Awarding Body: Agored Cymru (formerly LIBF) **Website:** www.agored.cymru

Specification Number: Level 3 Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS) 501/0049/X

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