A-level BUSINESS
SUMMER WORK

Well done for choosing to do A-level Business next year. I trust that you will find the course interesting and that you will learn a lot about the world of business.
A key to success in this subject is developing a good general business knowledge. Regular reading of the business pages in the newspaper or online will help you to apply the business theory you will learn in class.
In preparation for what we will be studying, you will need to complete the following assignment and submit it by the start of term in September.

Task One:

Using the business pages of a newspaper or the BBC website - business section:

- Find TWO articles about a well-known UK company
- For EACH print out the article or make a copy of it.
- Write down your answers to the following:
  - Find one business concept/word/phrase you do not know.
  - Find out what it means and write it down.
  - Write down what you have learnt from having read the article

Task Two:

Read the following article from the BBC webpage:

Amazon set to hire 10,000 UK workers

Published 14 May 2021 BBC website

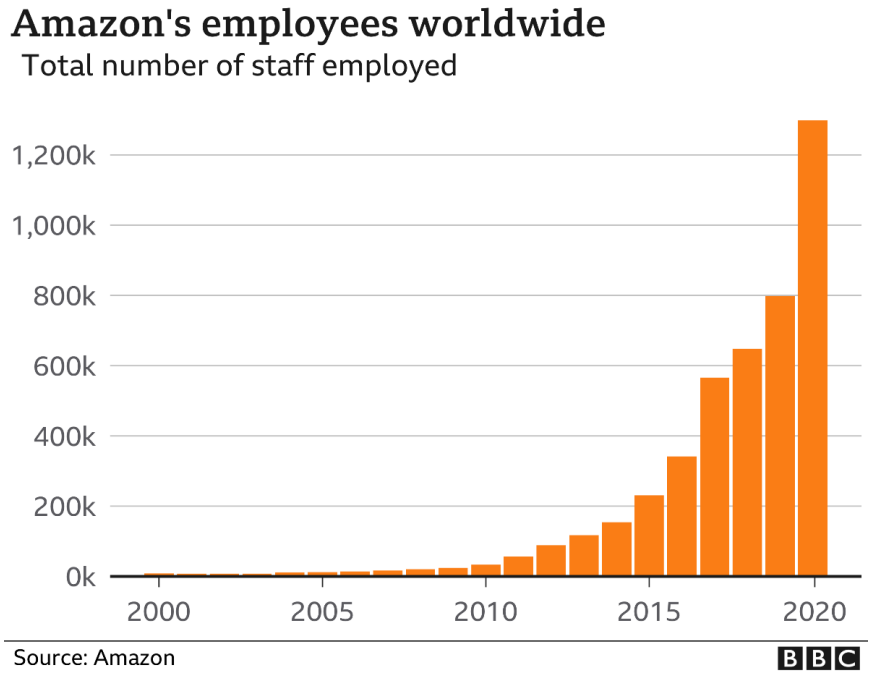
IMAGE COPYRIGHTGETTY IMAGES

US tech giant Amazon is to go on a hiring spree in the UK as online shopping continues to boom in the pandemic.

Amazon is to hire 10,000 UK employees as it opens more warehouses in the north and south of England.
It is also creating a number of corporate roles in Cambridge, Edinburgh, London and Manchester.
Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said the move was "a huge vote of confidence in the British economy".
The coronavirus pandemic has accelerated a trend towards online shopping, and tech giants such as Amazon have reaped the benefits.

Now the firm, which has come under criticism over working conditions and over the amount of tax it pays, is further entrenching its position in the UK.

The addition of 10,000 new roles, including thousands in its warehouses, will take its UK workforce to more than 55,000 by the end of the year. Amazon said pay for operations roles was £9.70 per hour, or £10.80 in London, with other benefits.



Its profits tripled in the first three months of the year to $8.1bn (£5.76bn), up from $2.5bn a year ago.
The online retail giant will open new "fulfilment" warehouses in Dartford, Gateshead, Hinckley and Swindon, and a "parcel receive" warehouse in Doncaster.
It will recruit in its offices for roles in fashion, digital marketing, engineering, video production, software development, cloud computing, AI and machine learning.
The company will also be recruiting for its Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud computing business and its operations network.

Working conditions

Amazon continues to face scrutiny over how much tax it pays in the UK, which prompted the government to launch a digital services tax in April 2020. The online retail giant has insisted that it pays all taxes required in the UK. On Thursday, it won a court battle overturning an order for it to pay €250m (£215m) in back taxes to the EU.

In March, the Unite union demanded that Amazon give its British workers a "new deal", including allowing them to unionise and have a greater share of the firm's profits.
At the same time, it also launched a confidential hotline for Amazon workers to call to whistleblow on working conditions.

"Amazon continues to be plagued by reports of poor working conditions and anti-union tactics," said Unite's executive officer Sharon Graham at the time.
"Unite has written to Jeff Bezos to call on him to guarantee workers the freedom to talk with and form a union without fear."

Training 'key'

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng heralded Amazon's plans as making a "prime investment in our retail sector", which will "open up a wide range of opportunities for even more workers".
Amazon will also invest £10m over three years into a scheme to train 5,000 employees in subjects including accountancy, HGV driving and software development, in a bid to give them transferable skills.
Amazon will pay 95% of tuition and associated fees for adult education courses, up to £8,000 over four years. Local chambers of commerce will work with Amazon to identify regional skills shortages.
Shevaun Haviland, director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "Providing staff with training to plug the skills gaps that exist within the local business community is going to be a key driver to increasing productivity and boosting the economy as the UK recovers from the pandemic."
Amazon's UK Country Manager John Boumphrey said: "We're proud of the front-line roles we offer across Amazon, and we also know that they will be a steppingstone for some in their career journey."

- Conduct some research into Amazon. Look on the internet or speak to your parents and adults who regularly do internet shopping.

  - Original Article: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-57109282
  - Other weblinks:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-56881547
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-57249843
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-56937428
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-14302319

- Write a 500-word (A4 page and a half) response to the following question:

The growth of Amazon in the UK has been beneficial for the local UK population.

- You need to think about both consumers (customers) and workers. Try to have a balanced argument:
- Write one paragraph - giving examples and explaining how Amazon's growth has been good for the population and then,
- Write a second paragraph explaining some of the criticisms of Amazon, providing examples,
- lastly, your third paragraph must be a conclusion which explains what you think personally .