Name:

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**Assignment Title: Investigating the Business Environment**

You have decided that you would like to start a business. You need to secure funding for your business idea in order to launch it, so you have organised a presentation for a group of potential investors. If they think that you have identified a business opportunity they would like to invest in, they will invite you to present your business plan at a later date.

You will research local businesses to understand the local business market and to see whether there is a gap in the market that your new business could fill. In order to do this, you will need to consider both current trends and the current business environment, and their impact on businesses.

You will need to produce a **presentation** summarising the local business environment and a **leaflet** assessing the factors that could affect the success of your start-up idea.

**Remember that you need to keep a list of your sources of information.**

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| **Task: PowerPoint** | **Details** | **Deadline** | **Completed** |
| **Your Presentation should start by including some details about the Business you wish to set up.** | | | |
| **Factors affecting business**  The potential investors want to know how the business environment and current trends are likely to affect your start-up business’s chances of success.  You will need to research and collect information on the local and national factors which affect the business environment. | Your presentation should include information on the likely effect of the following factors on a start-up business:  Local factors e.g:   * location of business * requirements for resources, e.g. * premises * staff * equipment, * location of suppliers * competitors * customers   National factors e,g:   * political issues * level and type of government support for business * taxation * the economy, e.g.   - level of employment  - inflation  - exchange rates  - cost of loans |  |  |

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| **Task: Leaflet** | **Details** | **Deadline** | **Completed** |
| **Trends affecting business**  You will need to include a section in the leaflet which explains how:  **changes in the current business environment may impact on a start-up business.**  Your leaflet should inform your audience about:  **current trends and how they affect start-up businesses.**  Research and comment on your sources of information for each of the following: | * social trends e.g * population changes * increasing life expectancy * households and families, e.g. more couples cohabiting * education, e.g. increasing achievements at GCSE * labour market, e.g. increase in flexible working * increasing travel for work, e.g. longer commutes to work * technology trends e.g.      * increasing use of information technology, telephony and web developments * ethical trends * ethical concerns of potential customers, e.g. * - carbon footprint * sources of timber * child labour * inadequate pay * animal welfare * identification of values of an organisation and ethical codes to address ethical concerns * contribution of business to the community * environmental trends e.g. * increase in renewable energy and recycling   **Use examples of each trend** to explain how these will impact on your start-up business.  Examples must be from research you have carried out. Look at BBC news reports and look at the Office of National Statistics (ONS) |  |  |

**MERIT/DISTINCTION TASK**

To support your argument, you need to demonstrate how these trends have affected **another start-up business**.

**Select a business from your area that is comparable to your business idea in terms of sector and size**.

Then select two trends from the list above and compare their impact on the existing start-up business you have selected.

To do this, you will need to identify the similarities and the differences between the impacts of these trends on the existing start-up business .

**This can be presented in table format.**

The investors want to know whether your business idea is likely to succeed.

Summarise your leaflet with an assessment of the current risks, opportunities and trends in the business environment that will affect your business idea.

You should say how these factors in the business environment will affect your business.

**You will need to back this up with evidence from your research and show that you have used trustworthy and relevant sources of information.**