Leaving Certificate Business

Professional Learning Booklet
Day 1

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Key Messages

- Business is a subject that empowers students with an understanding of how the world of Business interacts with their daily lives.

- A learning environment centred on investigation and inquiry cultivates students' critical thinking capacities enabling them to apply their knowledge to the real world of Business.

- The consistent integration of the unifying strand, "Investigating Business" through the four contextual strands enables students to develop key competencies and fosters an entrepreneurial mindset.

Senior Cycle Redevelopment- Business Professional Learning Experience Proposed Timeline

| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 |

| Red: Full Day PLE | Yellow: Collaborative | Green: Webinar |

Year 1
- 01 Full Day PLE 1 — Sept - Feb 2024/25
- 02 PLE: Webinar #1 — Nov 2024
- 03 PLE: Collaborative #1 — Dec 2024

Year 2
- 04 Full day PLE 2 — Sept - Feb 2025/26
- 05 PLE: Webinar #2 — Nov 2025
- 06 PLE: Collaborative #2 — Dec 2025
- 04 Full day PLE 3 — March - May 2026
- 08 PLE: Webinar #3 — March 2026
- 09 PLE: Collaborative #3 — April 2026

Year 3
- 10 Full Day PLE 4 — Sept - Feb 2026/27
- 11 PLE: Webinar #4 — Nov 2026
- 12 PLE: Collaborative #4 — Dec 2026
- 13 Full day PLE 5 — March- May 2027
- 14 PLE: Webinar #5 — Mar 2027
- 15 PLE: Collaborative #5 — April 2027

Year 4
- 16 Full Day PLE 6 — Sept-Feb 2027/28
- 17 PLE: Webinar #6 — Nov 2027
- 18 PLE: Collaborative #6 — Dec 2027

6 x Full-Day PLE's | 6 x Evening Collaboratives | 6 x Webinars

Support Materials

padlet

Oide Mailing Lists

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Supporting the Professional Learning of School Leaders and Teachers
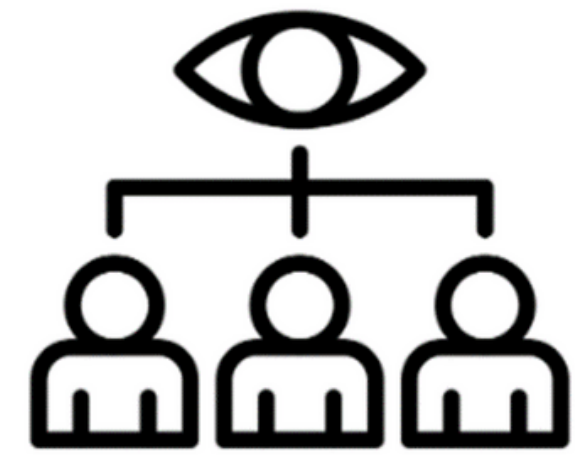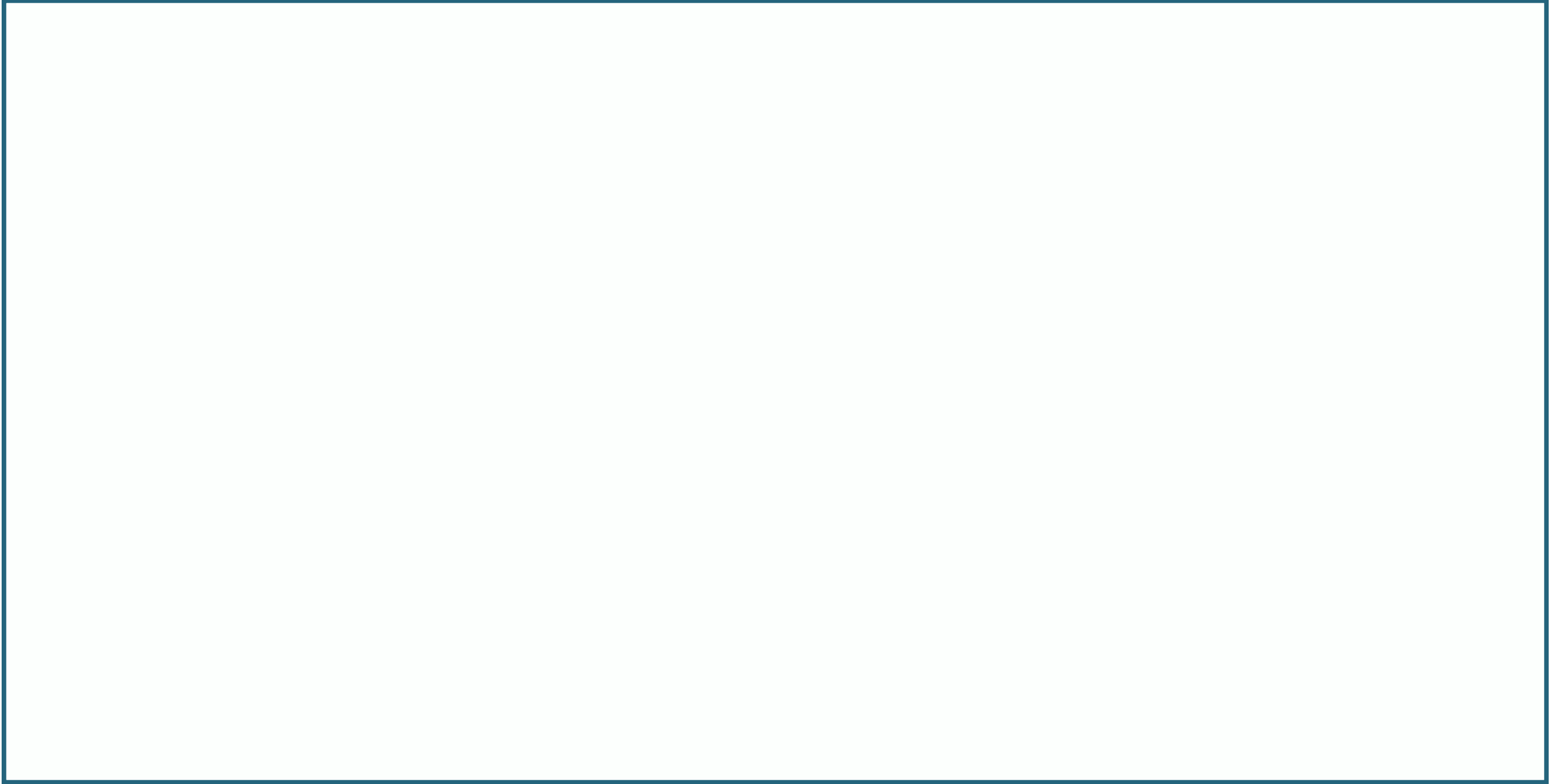
Session 1

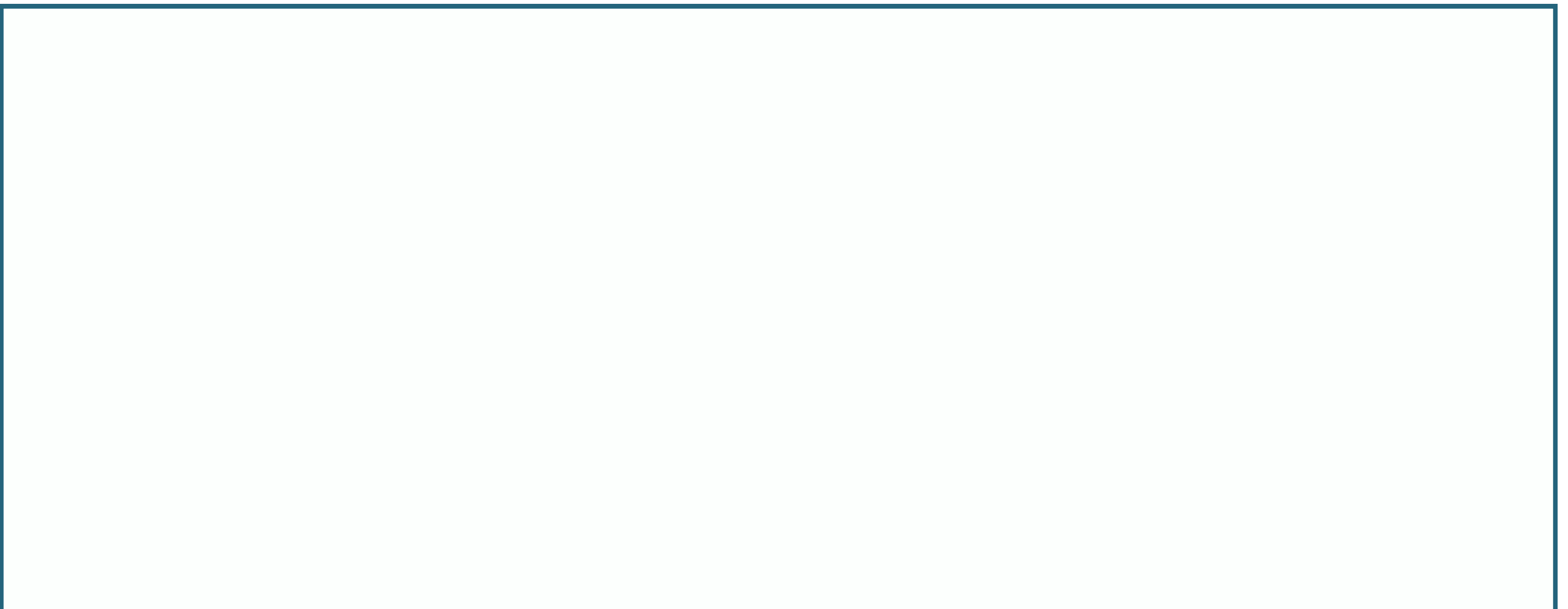### Activity- Vision for Learning

What is your vision for student learning in Business?

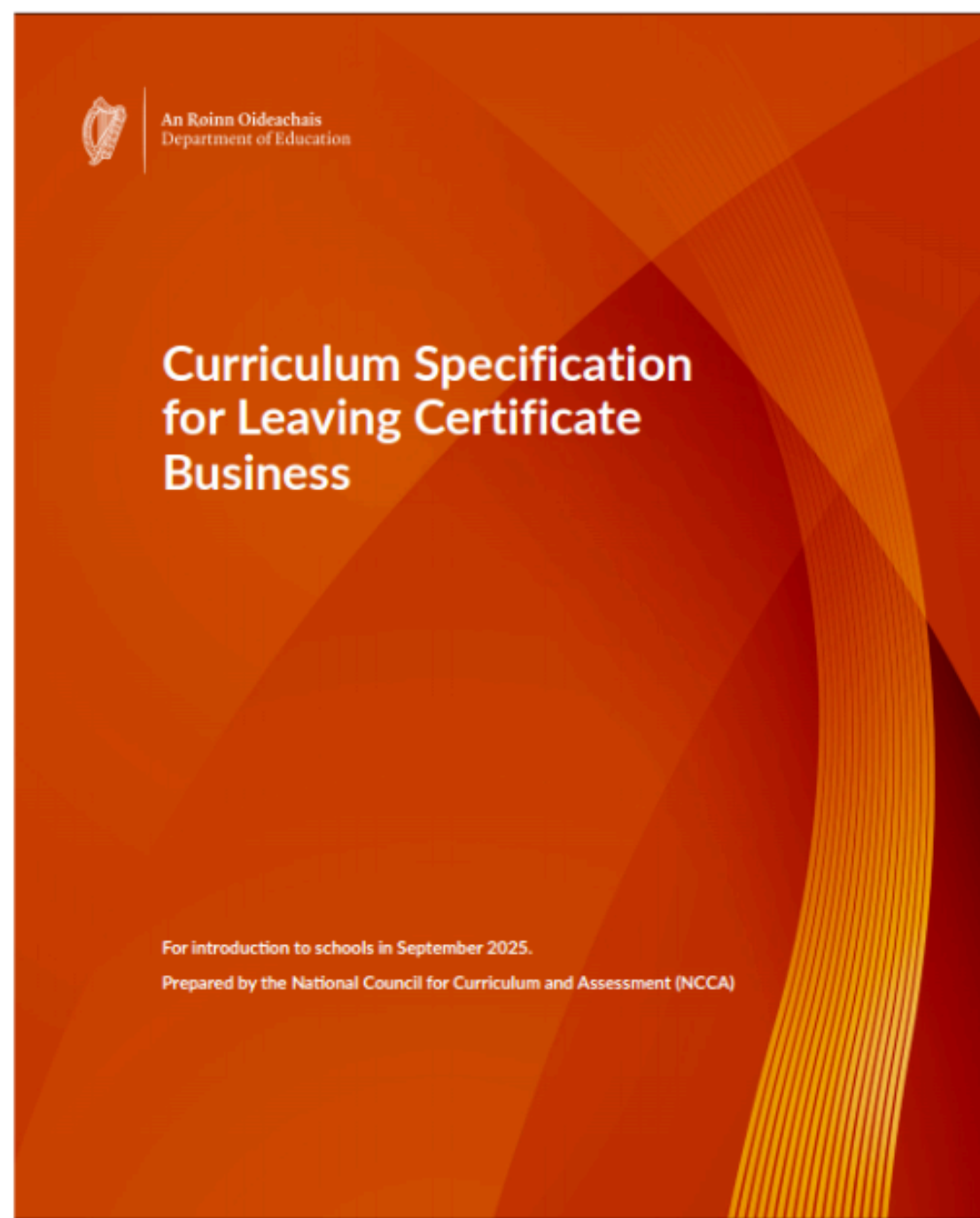What are the features of successful learning in the Business classroom?

What activities and approaches would facilitate meaningful student investigation and critical thinking in Business?

What are the values and dispositions that are enhanced through the study of Business?

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Curriculum Specfication for Leaving Certificate Business

Policy documents that underpin the new specification

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Senior Cycle Key Competencies

Figure 1: Key competencies in senior cycle, 2024, p.1. The components of competencies and their desired impact.
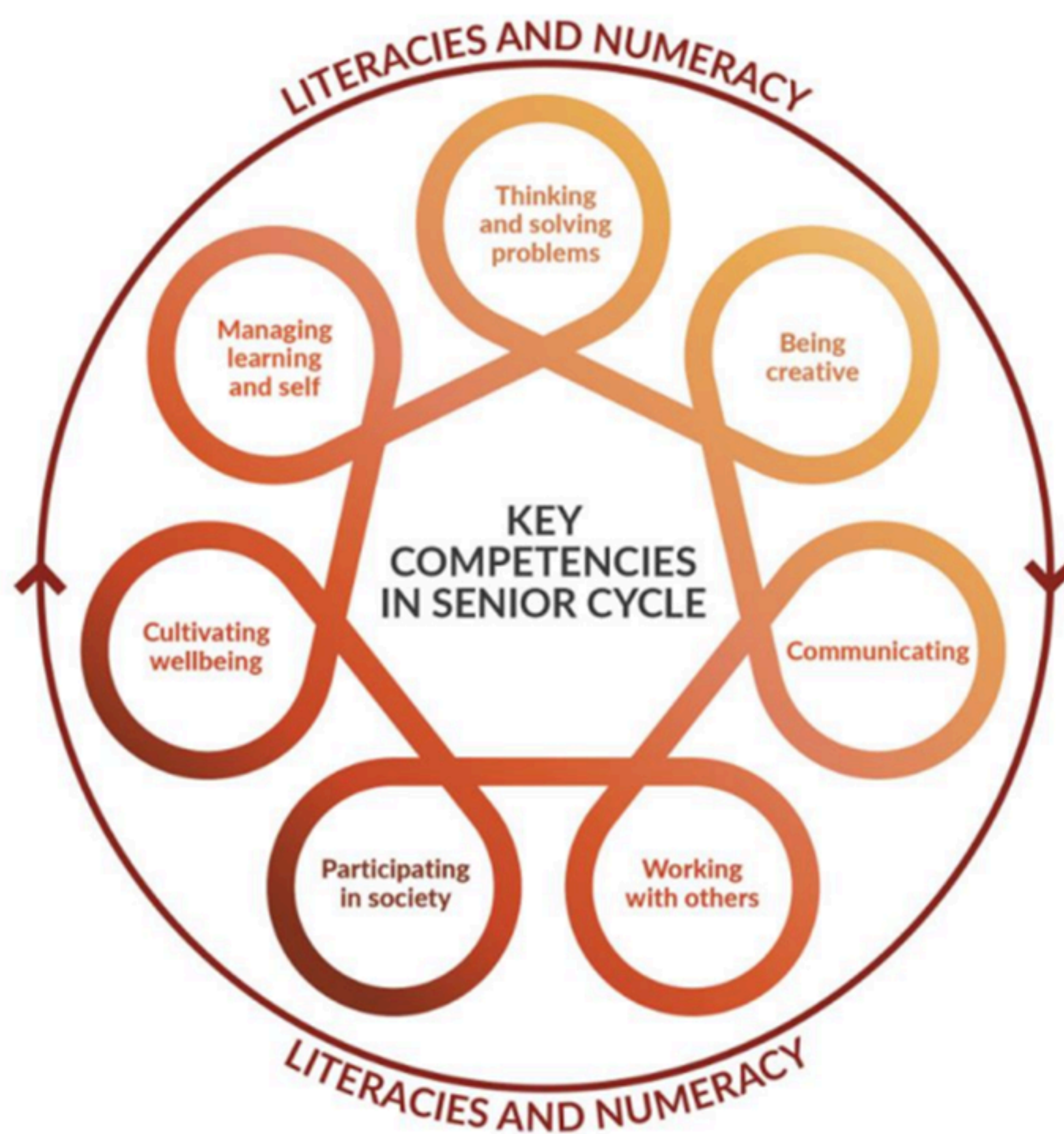

Figure 2: Key competencies in senior cycle, 2024, p.2. Key Competencies in senior cycle, supported by literacies and numeracy.

Reflection Activity- Exploring the Specification Rationale

Read the rationale for Leaving Certificate Business
(Business Specification, 2024, P.4)

How does the rationale align with or differ from our shared vision for learners?

Specification Overview

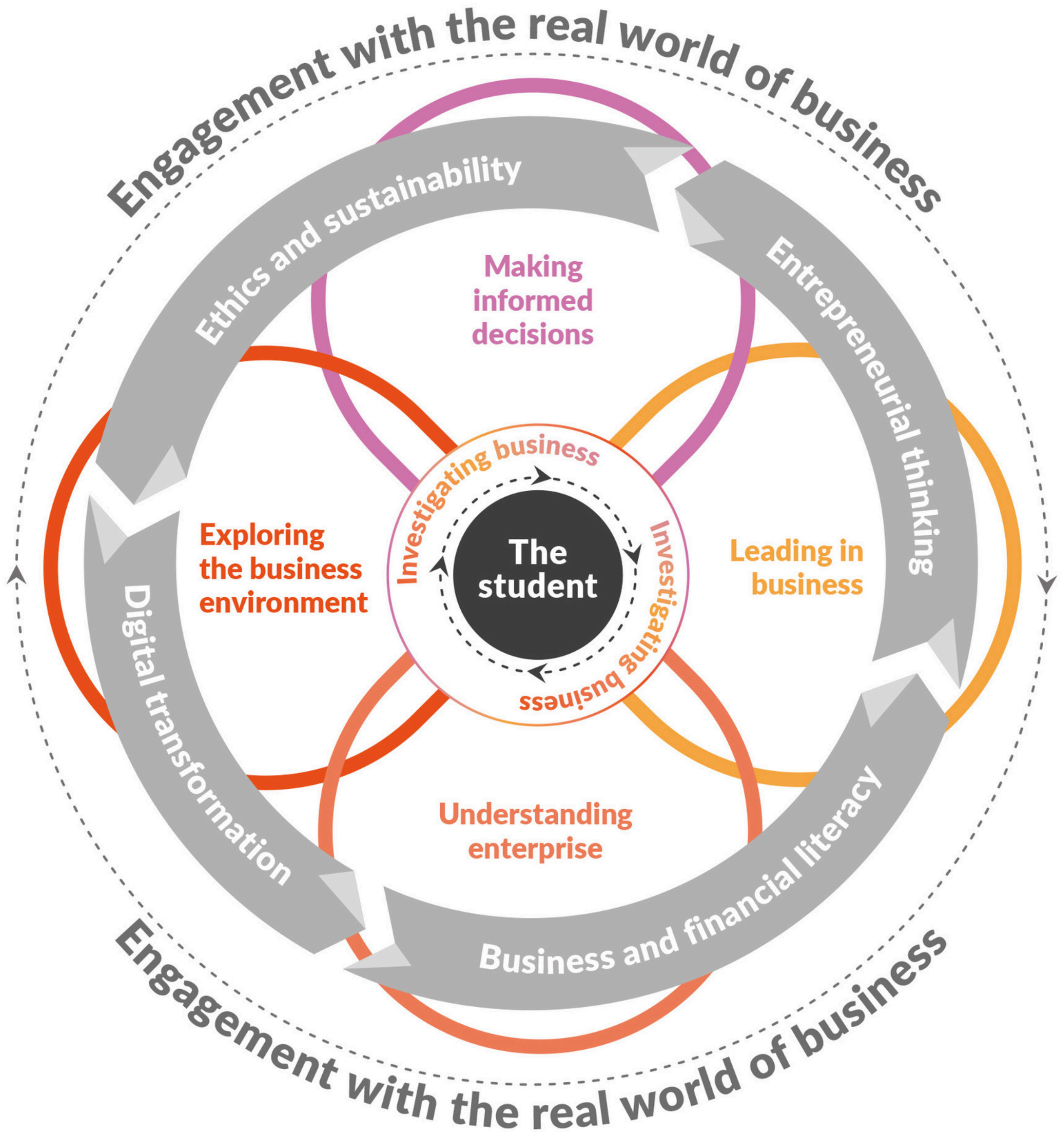**Figure 3:** Business Specification, 2024, p.11. Leaving Certificate Business: Specification Overview.

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Session 2

Activity- The Four Contextual Strands

Review the specification for the contextual strand assigned to you and consider the questions. (Business specification, 2024, p.15-29)

What looks familiar?

What looks new and interesting?

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What key points will I highlight to my department?

Activity- The Cross-cutting Themes

Read about the cross-cutting themes and consider their role in the dynamic world of business (Business specification, 2024, p.10)
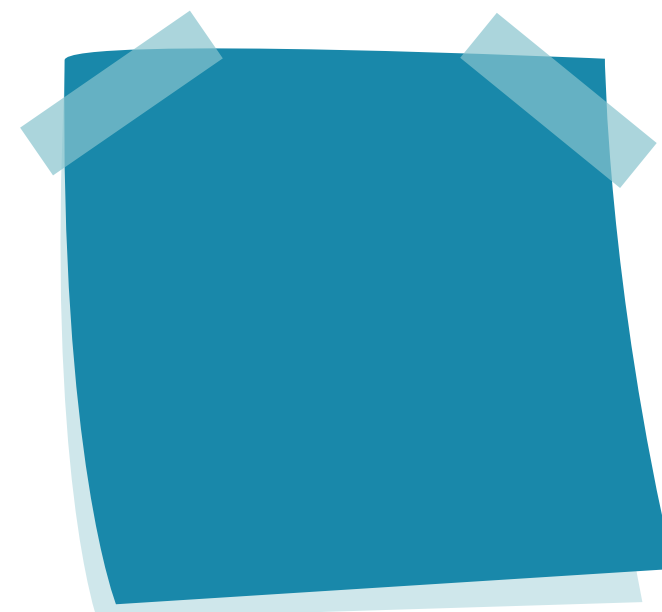
Identify three learning outcomes where cross-cutting themes may be relevant.

Learning Outcome:
Relevant Theme:
Strand: 1 ☐ **2** ☐ **3** ☐ **4** ☐

Learning Outcome:
Relevant Theme:
Strand: 1 ☐ **2** ☐ **3** ☐ **4** ☐

Learning Outcome:
Relevant Theme:
Strand: 1 ☐ **2** ☐ **3** ☐ **4** ☐

Notes:

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Session 3

Activity- The Unifying Strand

Read the learning outcomes of the unifying strand (Business specification, 2024, p.13)

Notes/Observations for discussion:

Activity- The Unifying Strand

Read the following article 'Amazon tells staff to get back to office five days a week' and consider the questions. (Booklet p.16)

'Amazon tells staff to get back to office five days a week'

By Natalie Sherman
BBC News

Amazon is ordering staff back to the office five days a week as it ends its hybrid work policy. The change will come into force from January, Amazon's chief executive Andy Jassy said in a memo to staff.

"We've decided that we're going to return to being in the office the way we were before the onset of Covid," he said, adding that it would help staff be "better set up to invent, collaborate, and be connected enough to each other".

Mr Jassy has long been known as a sceptic of remote work, but Amazon staff were previously allowed to work from home two days a week.

Amazon's push to get corporate staff back into the office has been a source of tension within the firm which employs more than 1.5 million people globally in full-time and part-time roles.

Staff at its Seattle headquarters staged a protest last year as the company tightened the full remote work allowance that was put in place during the pandemic.

Amazon subsequently fired the organiser of the protest, prompting claims of unfair retaliation, a dispute that has been taken up with labour officials.

In his message on Monday, Mr Jassy said he was worried that Amazon - which has long prided itself on preserving the intensity of a start-up while growing to become a tech giant - was seeing its corporate culture diluted by flexible work and too many bureaucratic layers.

Mr Jassy, who replaced founder Jeff Bezos as chief executive in 2021, said he had created a "bureaucracy mailbox" for staff to make complaints about unnecessary rules and the company was asking managers to reorganise so that managers are overseeing more people.

Amazon said those changes could lead to job cuts.

In addition to returning to the office five days a week, Amazon said it would end hot-desking in the US, although it will continue in most of Europe.

The company said staff could still work from home in unusual circumstances, such as a sick child or house emergency, as was the case before the pandemic.

But unless they have been granted an exemption, Mr Jassy said: "Our expectation is that people will be in the office outside of extenuating circumstances."

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'Amazon tells staff to get back to office five days a week'

By Natalie Sherman
BBC News

UK approach

Amazon's stance contrasts with the UK government's approach, which has promised to make flexible working a default right from day one as part of a new employment rights bill due to be published next month.

Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds told the Times newspaper that the government wants to end the "culture of presenteeism", and said there were "real economic benefits" to people working from home.

He said there was a balance to be struck, but flexible working arrangements could help businesses recruit from a wider pool of people.

Graeme from Northumberland, who didn't want us to use his surname, mainly works from home and believes "you just get so much more done".

The difference between that and office work was "night and day" in terms of productivity, he said. In the office people can come over for a chat, or to make requests, and then it can be more difficult to get back into a work flow, he said.

However, he added that the socialising aspect of working in an office was also important.

Wider shift?

Remote work peaked during the pandemic. Many companies started recalling staff in 2022, but the return has been incomplete.

As of this summer, about 12% of full-time employees in the US were fully remote and another 27% reported having hybrid work policies in place, according to a monthly survey by economists Jose Maria Barrero, Nicholas Bloom, and Steven J Davis.

Bank bosses such as JP Morgan's Jamie Dimon have been among the most high-profile figures critical of remote work and likely to demand full-time office attendance.
But the attitude has also spread to other industries, with UPS and Dell recalling staff to the office full-time this year.

In his memo, Mr Jassy said that Amazon's experience with its move to a hybrid policy had "strengthened our conviction about the benefits" of working in person.

But Prof Bloom, from Stanford University, said he did not think the announcements were a sign of a wider shift in work policies, noting that his data has found time spent at the office has been fairly stable for more than a year.

"For every high-profile company cancelling work-from-home, there's others that seem to be expanding it - they just don't get picked up in the media," he said.

Source: Sherman, N. (2024) 'Amazon tells staff to get back to office five days a week', BBC News, 17 September 2024. Available at: https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czj99ln72k9o (Accessed 25 September 2024).

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Activity- The Unifying Strand

After reading the article 'Amazon tells staff to get back to office five days a week'.
Consider the following questions.

Identify the learning outcomes and cross-cutting themes that may be relevant to this stimulus?

What role could a stimulus piece like this play in your classroom?

Activity- Apply my Learning

One of the aims of the leaving certificate business specification is :

"to appreciate the role that business plays in daily life, locally, nationally, and internationally and to recognise opportunities that business can provide." (*Business specification*, 2024, p. 5)

How might we support and motivate students to achieve this aim?

Activity- Working with the learning outcomes and key competencies

Read the Business specification and choose one learning outcome.

Learning outcome
Knowledge

Skills	Values and Dispositions

Websites and Resources

Oide
www.oide.ie

Technology in Education
www.oidetechnologyineducation.ie/

Scoilnet
https://www.scoilnet.ie/go-to-post-primary/

Padlet
Padlet.com

Mentimeter
Mentimeter.com

References

Department of Education (2024). *Looking at Our School 2022: A Quality Framework for Post-Primary Schools.* Dublin: Department of Education.

NCCA (2024). *Curriculum Specification for Leaving Certificate Business.*

NCCA (2024). *Key competencies in senior cycle.*

Sherman, N. (2024) 'Amazon tells staff to get back to office five days a week', BBC News, 17 September 2024. Available at: https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czj99ln72k9o (Accessed 25 September 2024).

Appendices

Figure 1: NCCA (2024). *Key competencies in senior cycle, 2024, p.1.* The components of competencies and their desired impact.

Figure 2: NCCA (2024). *Key competencies in senior cycle, 2024, p.2.* Key Competencies in senior cycle, supported by literacies and numeracy.

Figure 3: NCCA (2024). *Curriculum Specification for Leaving Certificate Business,* p.11. Leaving Certificate Business: Specification Overview.