

SL IB Business Management



Your notes

4.4 The Marketing Mix (7 P's)

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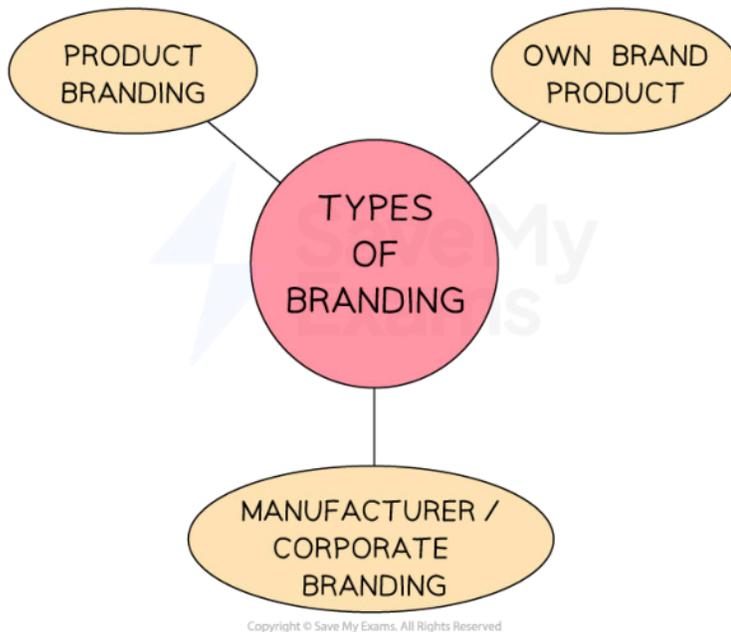


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Product Branding

Aspects of Branding

- Branding is the process of **creating a unique and identifiable** name, design, symbol, or other feature that **differentiates a product/service** or company from its competitors
- Branding is a **strategic tool** that helps businesses **create awareness, develop strong customer relationships, generate loyalty, and establish a perceived value** that sets them apart from competitors



The three different types of branding available to businesses

- Through **consistent and effective branding efforts**, companies can build a strong brand presence, cultivate customer loyalty, and achieve sustainable business growth

Manufacturer/Corporate branding

- This refers to the use of a company name or logo to **promote all the products or services offered by the company**
- This type of branding is used by companies like Nestlé, Nike, and Apple

The Advantages & Disadvantages of Corporate Branding



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Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a strong brand recognition and reputation for the company, which can increase customer loyalty and trust Allows the company to leverage its existing reputation and customer base to introduce new products more easily Helps to build economies of scale by promoting multiple products under one brand, which can reduce marketing costs and increase profitability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a company's reputation is damaged by a product it can have a negative impact on all the products offered under that brand If the company faces intense competition in one market (e.g. smartphones), it may affect the sales of all the products offered across other markets (e.g. laptops and desktops)

Product branding

- This refers to the use of a **unique name, design, or symbol** to promote a **specific product**
 - E.g. KitKat, Coca-Cola, and McDonald's Big Mac

The Advantages & Disadvantages of Product Branding

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a distinct identity for the product which can help to differentiate it from competitors and increase brand loyalty Allows the company to market different products to different segments of the market e.g. Coco Cola and Coke Zero Can help to build customer loyalty and trust by associating the product with a specific quality and benefits e.g. Dyson Vacuum Cleaners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost of creating and promoting a new brand for each product can be expensive Introducing new products under different brands is difficult as the business must build a new brand for each product from scratch Different products within the brand may have different levels of quality which can affect customer satisfaction

Own brand product

- Own brand or private label branding** refers to the use of a retailer's name to promote a specific product or service and is often used by supermarkets
 - E.g. ASDA chocolate, Tesco's Finest range, and Sainsbury's Basics range

The Advantages & Disadvantages of Own Brand Products



Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It can help retailers to differentiate themselves from their competitors by offering unique products It allows retailers to offer products at a lower cost than branded products which can help to increase sales and profitability It can help to build customer loyalty by offering exclusive products that are not available elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Own brand products may have a lower perceived quality than branded products which can affect customer loyalty and trust

- Brands can be built using **any one, or a combination** of the following methods:
 - By developing unique selling points (USPs)
 - Through advertising
 - Through sponsorship
 - Through the use of social media

Examples of the way Brands have been Built

Method	Explanation	Example
Unique selling points (USPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USPs are the features that make a product/service stand out from its competitors Brands can build their reputation by emphasising these unique qualities in their marketing efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apple is known for its innovative and sleek design and use of quality materials, which sets its products apart from its competitors The company has built its brand around this USP and is recognised worldwide for its premium design
Advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brands can create compelling ads that resonate with their target audience, raise brand awareness, and communicate their value proposition With the right advertising strategy, brands create a strong emotional connection with their audience and inspire brand loyalty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coca-Cola has successfully built its brand through advertising Iconic ads over the years have become synonymous with the brand E.g. The "Share a Coke" campaign encouraged people to buy Coca-Cola bottles with their friends' names on them and was a massive success



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<p>Sponsorship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnering with events, organisations, or individuals can help brands gain exposure and build their reputation by aligning themselves with positive associations or values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Nike</i> has sponsored many high-profile athletes and sports events, such as the Olympics and the World Cup The business has built a reputation for being a brand that champions excellence and inspires people to be their best
<p>Social Media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the right social media strategy, brands can build a loyal following and create a community around their brand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Glossier</i> has a strong presence on platforms like Instagram and it engages with its audience and shares user-generated content <i>Glossier's</i> social media strategy has helped the brand build a loyal following
<p>Emotional Branding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategy where companies build strong emotional connections with their customers by appealing to their values, beliefs, and emotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brands like <i>Patagonia</i> and <i>TOMS</i> have built their entire brand identities around their commitments to environmental and social causes, which resonates with customers who prioritise these values

The Importance of Branding

- Strong branding can provide several benefits to a business, including:

1. Added Value

- Strong branding can add value to a product by creating a perception of quality, reliability and reputation

2. Ability to Charge Premium Prices

- Customers may be **willing to pay more** for a product that is associated with a **well-established brand** as they perceive products with strong branding to be of higher quality and therefore worth the extra cost

3. Reduced Price Elasticity of Demand

- Customers are **less sensitive to price changes** of products with strong and appealing branding because customers who are **loyal to a brand** are more likely to continue purchasing the product even if the price increases

4. Branding Establishes Recognition & Identity

- This helps to build trust and credibility and creates an emotional connection with customers which helps to **generate repeat purchases**

5. Business Differentiation

- Branding **differentiates** a business from its competitors and **supports marketing and advertising** efforts which can use key elements to build memorable promotional materials and campaigns

Examiner Tip

Strong brands also strengthen a business's balance sheet.

Brands are considered intangible assets on a company's balance sheet. A strong brand adds to the overall value of these intangible assets, which may be an important part of a company's **net worth** and **make it more attractive to investors**.



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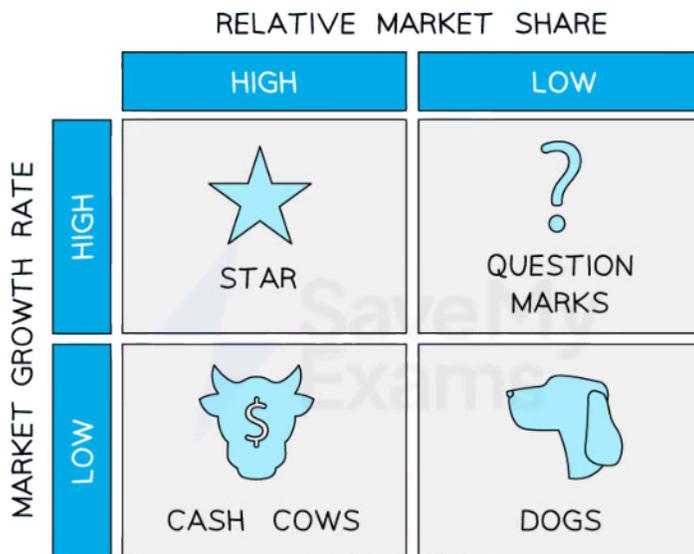


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Product Portfolio Analysis

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Matrix

- The Boston Matrix is a tool used by businesses to **analyse their product portfolio** and make **strategic decisions** about each product
- The matrix **classifies products into four categories** based on their market share and the market growth rate
 - Cash Cow
 - Problem Child/Question Mark
 - Star
 - Dog



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The classification of products in the Boston Matrix according to their market share and the growth rate in the market as a whole

- By categorising products into these categories, businesses can **allocate resources more effectively**, optimising their cash flow and developing marketing strategies that align with the product's potential

The Implications of Product Classification in the Boston Matrix for the cash flow and Marketing Strategy

Product Type	Explanation	Implications



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<p>Cash Cow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cash cows are products with a high market share in a mature market (the entire market is no longer growing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They generate significant positive cash flow but have low growth potential ▪ The business invests minimal resources in cash cows as they are seen as stable sources of income ▪ Marketing efforts focus on maintaining their market share and profitability ▪ Cash cows are valuable assets and can be used to fund the development of new products
<p>Problem Child/Question Mark</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Problem child or question mark products have a low market share in a high-growth market ▪ These products have the potential to become stars if the company invests in their development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is often a negative cash flow as businesses usually invest in problem child products to increase their market share and turn them into stars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If the investment does not result in growth the business may discontinue the product ▪ Marketing efforts focus on increasing their market share and brand recognition
<p>Star</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Star products have a high market share in a high-growth market ▪ The company typically invests in stars to maintain or increase their market share 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They generate significant positive cash flow and have the potential for continued growth ▪ Marketing efforts focus on building brand recognition and increasing market share ▪ Stars are valuable assets and the business should focus on maximising their potential
<p>Dog</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog products have a low market share in a low-growth market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They generate little revenue for the company and have no growth potential ▪ Businesses often move away (divest) from these to focus on more profitable products ▪ Marketing efforts for dog products are minimal or zero

Examiner Tip

In paper 2 you may be asked to apply the BCG matrix to a given product portfolio.

To achieve full marks you will need to demonstrate both **knowledge** and **application** skills.

- To demonstrate **knowledge** it's a good idea to **draw the matrix**, ensuring that both the axes and headings are **accurately labelled**
- **Application** is demonstrated through the **correct placement of products** within the four quadrants and by **explaining why** you have chosen to place individual products in each quadrant
 - Refer to each product's relative **market share** and the rate of **market growth**
 - Look for clues in the **stimulus material** to help you with this.



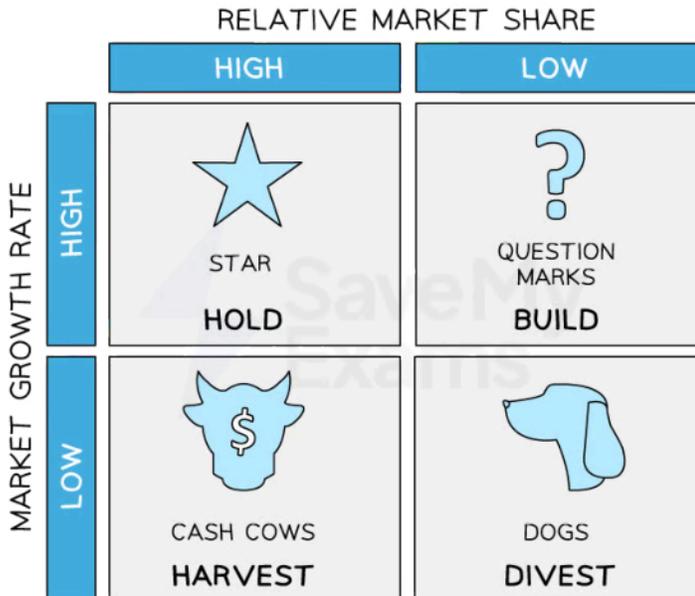
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Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Matrix Strategies

- Marketing strategies for products in a business portfolio vary depending on the **BCG Matrix quadrant** in which they sit



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Four different marketing strategies based on the BCG Matrix

1. Hold strategies for stars

- Allocate more resources to **support further growth**
- Build market share** through continuous investment in product development, marketing and innovation to maintain a strong market position
- Capture additional market segments by **expanding the product's reach** into new geographical markets

2. Harvest strategies for cash cows

- Maintain market dominance by protecting existing market share through branding, quality and customer loyalty
- Optimise profitability by streamlining operations**, reducing costs, and maximising efficiencies to maximise profits
- Extract cash flows to invest in other products or new ventures

3. Build strategies for question marks

- Conduct market research and analysis to determine the **potential for growth and profitability**

- Invest selectively and **allocate resources strategically to question marks with the highest potential** and withdraw resources from those with low potential
- Invest in marketing, research and development to increase market share and convert them into stars



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4. Divest strategies for dogs

- **Sell off the product** or business unit if it no longer fits with the company's overall strategy or long-term objectives
- Harvest or maintain if the product can still **generate some cash flows**
- If the product has no future prospects **plan for an orderly exit** from the market

Examiner Tip

Before suggesting divestment for 'dog' products, consider whether remaining in a low-growth market may provide the potential to develop a specialised, niche market where little large-scale competition remains. It may mean that **a dog may make the unusual step of becoming a cash cow** in the future.

- For example, when mass-market electronics brands such as Toshiba and Sony divested their portfolios of record players in the 1990s, smaller-scale manufacturers such as Denon and Technics continued to sell a small range of these devices alongside more technologically advanced audio equipment.
- The recent **vinyl revival** has meant that these brands now generate significant sales revenue and have become market leaders.



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Limitations of the BCG Matrix

- While the BCG Matrix provides **valuable insights for marketing managers** and serves as a useful **starting point for portfolio analysis** there are some limitations to its usefulness

Limitations of the BCG Matrix

Limitation	Explanation
Simplistic approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BCG matrix relies on a simple framework which classifies products solely based on market growth rate and relative market share <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other important factors such as competition, technological advancements, customer preferences and other industry trends are ignored Lack of consideration of these factors may lead to poor strategic decisions A high market share does not guarantee profitability when the market is highly competitive or if the company incurs significant costs to maintain its share <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. despite controlling market share of around 50% between them, the three largest airlines in the USA achieve average annual profit margins of less than 5 per cent
Lack of focus on the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BCG matrix is based on current market conditions and historical data and does not consider changes in the competitive environment It may not identify emerging trends which are crucial for long-term marketing planning
Ignores interdependencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BCG matrix treats each product in isolation and does not account for potential synergies or interdependencies among them In reality some products may complement each other or benefit from shared resources which can affect the marketing decisions that may be chosen
Time consuming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying market growth rates and market share for each product within a businesses portfolio is likely to take expertise and time

- If market conditions are changing rapidly **regular changes will need to be made** to the positioning of products within the matrix to ensure that appropriate marketing decisions are made



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The Marketing Mix: People

The Importance of People in the Marketing Mix

- People play a crucial role in the marketing mix as they are **responsible for designing and carrying out marketing activities, interacting with customers, selling products** and delivering a **positive customer experience**
- People can also **provide valuable feedback** and propose **innovative marketing solutions**
- In particular **people contribute to the marketing mix** in five key areas:



The importance of people is acknowledged in the extended marketing mix

- Careful **recruitment and training of workers**, especially those in customer-facing roles, is increasingly recognised as the **key determinant of marketing success**

An Explanation of the Importance of People in the Marketing Mix

Reason	Explanation
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Customer Interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Salespeople, customer service representatives or employees in a retail outlet have direct contact with customers ▪ These interactions can influence customer perceptions, build relationships and shape the overall customer experience
Brand Ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employees' knowledge, enthusiasm and passion for the brand can have a significant impact on how customers perceive and connect with the brand ▪ Positive interactions with knowledgeable and helpful employees can enhance brand loyalty
Customer Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skilled customer service employees can address customer inquiries, resolve issues and provide personalised support ▪ Positive customer experiences contribute to customer satisfaction, repeat business and positive word-of-mouth recommendations
Innovation and Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employees' observations and feedback can help identify emerging trends, customer preferences and areas for improvement ▪ This information is crucial for refining marketing strategies, developing new products and enhancing the overall customer experience
Sales and Persuasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skilled sales employees can understand customer needs, provide tailored solutions and effectively communicate the benefits of a product or service ▪ Their ability to build relationships, address objections and close sales is essential in achieving marketing objectives

- In order to gain these benefits businesses need to foster a **culture of unity**, particularly amongst customer-facing employees and take steps to ensure that they are **well-motivated**
- A satisfied workforce is more likely to provide excellent customer service, work hard to close sales and act as brand ambassadors

 **Examiner Tip**

A useful evaluative point in exam questions that require you to weigh up marketing strategies is the **extent to which people have the skills, training and motivation** to implement them effectively.

Even the most imaginative advertising campaign or the most enticing sales promotion can be undermined by negative interactions with staff members.



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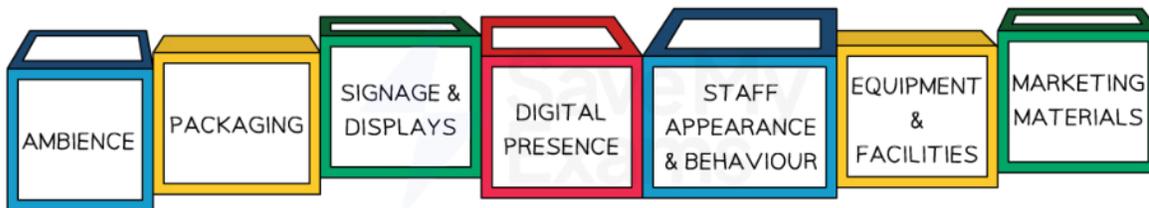


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The Marketing Mix: Physical Evidence

The Importance of Physical Evidence in the Marketing Mix

- Physical evidence refers to the **tangible** and **visible signs** of a product/service that customers interact with and perceive during their buying experience
- Visible** and **tangible signs** can include the following:



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Physical evidence can take many forms in the extended marketing mix

- It is a particularly **important element for services** as it helps to shape customer perceptions and build trust in a process where the intangible product cannot be viewed or touched by potential customers
 - Businesses use these physical aspects to **delight customers** and **set themselves apart** from competitors

Key Aspects & Examples of Physical Evidence in the Marketing Mix

Aspect	Explanation	Example
Store/Office Ambiance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The physical environment in which a business operates greatly impacts customer perceptions This includes factors such as store layout, interior design, lighting, colours, music and overall ambiance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Celine's</i> high-end fashion boutique in London uses elegant decor, soft lighting and soothing music to create a luxurious and exclusive atmosphere
Packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design, quality and functionality of product packaging contribute to the overall impression customers have of a brand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each product sold by beauty retailer <i>Lush</i> displays its simple business logo prominently on the front, ensuring that the brand is



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Packaging should be visually appealing, informative and aligned with the brand identity so as to differentiate a product from competitors 	<p>immediately identifiable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In line with its CSR concerns, all pots and bottles are made from BPA-free 100% recycled plastic and all containers are recyclable via an in-store programme
<p>Signage and Displays</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear and attractive signage helps customers navigate and locate products or services within a physical space ▪ Effective signage can provide important information, promotions or branding messages ▪ Eye-catching displays can draw attention to specific products or offers, influencing purchase decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The <i>Adidas</i> flagship London store is full of innovative, informative displays and flexible design ▪ The store includes movable cabinets and displays that allow staff to easily adapt merchandising activity ▪ A dedicated '<i>Marley</i>' sneaker display explains how the product is made using ocean plastics and augmented reality displays adding an extra visual layer to in-store promotional activity
<p>Digital Presence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A well-designed and user-friendly website, social media profiles, online reviews and customer testimonials can act as virtual physical evidence which provides customers with information and reassurance about the brand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2018, <i>KFC</i> showed how digital marketing is done with its response to the now infamous chicken shortage which happened when the company switched to a new supplier and was unable to meet demand ▪ Instead of shifting blame <i>KFC</i> took it in good humour, launching a "find my chicken" bot on Twitter, allowing customers to locate their nearest fully-stocked branch
<p>Staff Appearance and Behaviour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The appearance, professionalism and behaviour of employees representing a business contribute to the physical evidence ▪ Uniforms, grooming standards, and courteous behaviour impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Legoland</i> identified that all staff needed to be easily identified in each of the three theme parks site they operate in Europe ▪ All staff wear the same vibrant, consistent, comfortable and



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	<p>customer perceptions and the overall experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendly and knowledgeable staff can instil confidence and build trust 	<p>sustainable uniform that meets <i>Legoland's</i> branding requirements</p>
<p>Equipment and Facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality and condition of equipment and facilities in a business also form part of the physical evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Yooma Urban Lodge</i> in Brussels has modern and well-maintained amenities and innovative rooms aimed at families that create a positive impression on guests
<p>Marketing Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printed materials such as brochures, catalogues, business cards and product samples are physical evidence that customers can touch and take away to serve as a physical reminder of the business and influence purchase decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent schools and universities produce glossy informative brochures that are often distributed during open events or are available on request

 **Examiner Tip**

Physical evidence can support and embed a businesses unique selling point as it **reinforces values** and provides **visual cues** with which customers may align.

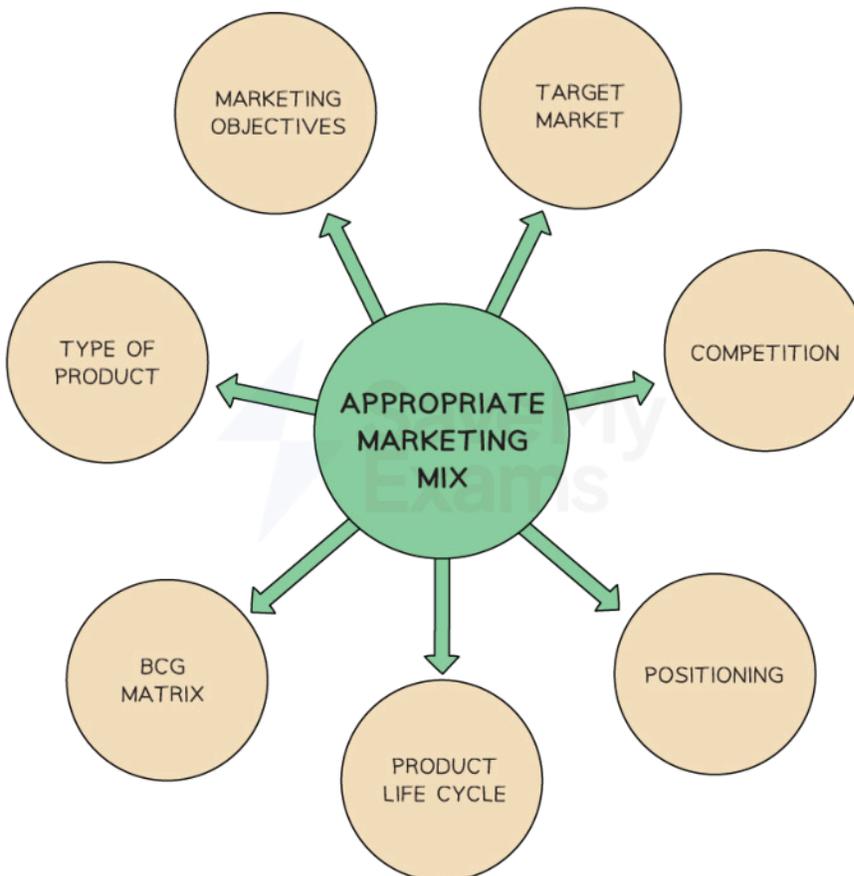
For example, my local café thrives and defines itself with being a local, eco-friendly business among the mass of coffee chains with which it competes in the area. Everything is local – the ingredients, the plates and mugs and the decor (which includes pieces produced by local artists) comes from the surrounding area – and that's visible evidence of how it stands out from the chain outlets and maintains a loyal following.



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Appropriate Marketing Mixes

- The different elements of the extended marketing mix must **complement each other** and be **appropriate for the business context**, taking into account a range of factors which include



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Businesses should consider a range of factors when developing an appropriate marketing mix

- The stage of the product in its **product life cycle** is likely to affect several elements of the marketing mix
 - Promotional activity** for a product in the maturity stage may need to be increased in order to differentiate the product from rivals
 - Low **pricing tactics** may be required during the introduction stage to persuade customers to purchase the product for the first time
- The balance of products in the **Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Matrix** will inform the marketing mix chosen
 - Investment in seeking new **distribution channels** may be needed for star products

- Improved **staff sales training** may be useful for question marks to increase market share over rivals
- The **type of product**, including whether it is aimed at a mass or a specialised niche market is likely to affect the marketing strategies and tactics selected
 - In a competitive mass market extensive **promotional activity** and **low prices** may be required to maintain market share
 - A business that sells specialised products may make extensive use of **personal selling** and **informative advertising** to support its niche products
- The businesses **marketing objectives** will have a direct impact on the marketing mix
 - A growth objective may require a business seeking new **distribution channels**
 - An objective to increase market share may require increased investment in **promotional activity**
- The **target market** is also an important factor in determining the marketing mix
 - Where the target market is relatively young **digital promotional tactics** may be effective
 - Older target markets may respond better to more traditional promotional activities and **physical evidence** such as brochures and direct mailings
- The marketing activities of **competitors** is a key factor to be considered
 - If a significant competitor launches a new product, a business may need to invest in **product or packaging upgrades** or **reduce prices** to maintain market share
- Market **positioning** will also inform the marketing mix
 - A business that positions its products as luxury items is likely to focus heavily on **personal selling**, high quality **packaging** and other **physical evidence**
 - Quality-focused businesses may use **premium pricing** and **streamlining processes** to ensure customers are fully satisfied with the purchasing process

 **Examiner Tip**

Evaluation by businesses of these factors should be a **continuous process** as their relative importance is likely to change over time, sometimes **without warning**.



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How the Elements of the Marketing Mix work Together

- The interaction between the elements of the marketing mix is crucial for the success of any marketing campaign
- A **change in one element** can have a significant **impact on the others**
- The **marketing mix will change** as a product moves through different stages of its product life cycle

How Changes to one Element can Change the Entire Mix

Changes to the Product	Changes to the Price
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The product/service is the heart of the marketing mix as it is what the customer is buying and all other elements are based on it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The product determines the price, the target audience, and the promotion strategy ▪ If the product changes then all other elements of the mix will likely need to change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E.g. if a business decides to launch a premium version of its product, it may need to increase the price, target a different audience and use a different promotion strategy to reflect the new product's value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The price of a product is closely linked to its perceived brand value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If a product is priced too high it may be perceived as too expensive by the target audience leading to lower sales ▪ If a product is priced too low it may be perceived as low quality leading to lower sales ▪ Increasing the price may require changes to the promotion strategy which are aimed at convincing consumers of the products value
Changes to the Promotion	Changes to the Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The promotion strategy can affect the price and distribution channels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E.g. If a business decides to launch a high-end promotion strategy, it may need to increase the price to reflect the product's value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The distribution/sales channels can affect the price and promotion strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E.g. if a business decides to use exclusive distribution channels, it may need to increase the price to reflect the exclusivity of the product

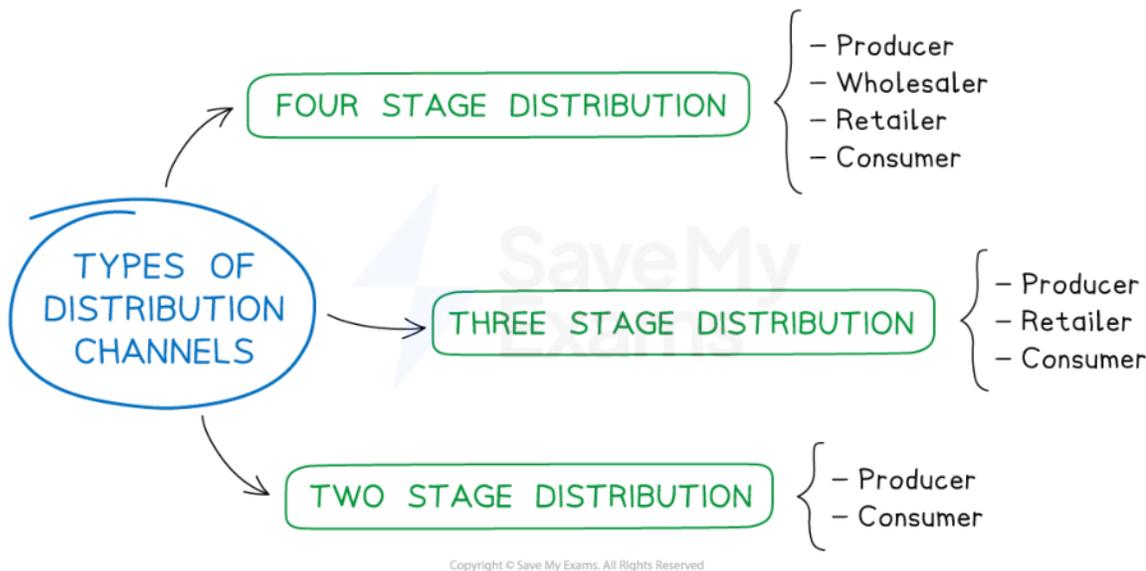


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The Marketing Mix: Place

Types of Distribution Channels

- Distribution channels refer to the chain of **intermediaries** through which goods/services move **from the manufacturer to the end customer**



The three different types of distribution channels businesses can use to move products from the manufacturer to the end consumer

Four Stage Distribution Channel

- A **traditional** channel consists of four stages: producer, wholesaler, retailer, and consumer
- This channel is commonly used for products such as groceries, clothing, and electronics
 - E.g. The Coca-Cola Company produces the soft drink and then sells it to a wholesaler, who in turn sells it to a retailer
 - The retailer then sells the soft drink to the customer

Three Stage Distribution Channel

- The three stage distribution channel **eliminates the wholesaler stage**, with the producer selling directly to the retailer
- This channel is often used for **products with high demand** or where the cost of distribution is high
- It is also frequently used for products with high profit margins, where the manufacturer can afford to sell directly to the retailer and still make a profit

- Eg Toshiba produces laptops and sells them directly to retailers like Currys, who then sell them to the end customer



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Two Stage Distribution Channel

- The two stage distribution channel **eliminates both the wholesaler and retailer** stages, with the manufacturer selling directly to the end consumer
- This channel is commonly used for **products that are sold online** or through direct sales channels
 - E.g. RyanAir sells its service (passenger tickets) directly to the end customer on their website

Advantages & Disadvantages of Different Distribution Channels

Distribution Channel	Advantages	Disadvantages
Four Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Storage costs are absorbed by the wholesaler ▪ The wholesaler takes on responsibility for breaking a large quantity of products into smaller batches for retailers to purchase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The wholesaler and retailer each demand a mark-up, reducing profit for the producer or increasing prices for consumers ▪ Control over below-the-line promotional activity is no longer under the control of the producer
Three Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customer service and some promotional activities are carried out by the retailer ▪ Storage and display costs are absorbed by the retailer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The retailer's mark-up will reduce the profit of the producer or make the product more expensive for consumers ▪ Promotional activity by the retailer may not be communicated with the producer, potentially causing production shortfalls
Two Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A low-cost and fast way to get products to consumers ▪ The producer has full control over promotional activity, merchandising and customer service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All storage and distribution costs are the responsibility of the producer ▪ Resolving customer service issues can take a lot of time and take attention away from production

- Changes in distribution have been impacted by social trends such as the **growth of e-commerce** and the **shift from product-based businesses to service-based businesses**
- By understanding these trends, businesses can **adjust their distribution strategies** to meet the needs of their customers better and **stay competitive** in the marketplace



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The Growth of E-commerce

Explanation	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online distribution has become increasingly popular due to the convenience and accessibility it offers to consumers ▪ Many businesses now use drop-shipping, which allows them to sell products without holding stock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Once the business has sold the products, they are shipped directly from the producer to the customer ▪ This reduces the cost and complexity of distribution, making it easier for businesses to sell online 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amazon is known as a third-party logistics provider (3PLs) ▪ It provides businesses with the infrastructure and online marketplace which allows them to reach a wide audience and increase sales without having to invest in their distribution infrastructure ▪ Many businesses now generate the bulk of their sales selling on Amazon

Examiner Tip

In some cases customers are also able to **purchase directly from wholesalers**.

Costco is a global business which operates a chain of membership-only warehouse outlets that allow both small retailers and consumer members to shop in its stores and online.

In 2022 Costco was the fifth largest global retailer and the world's largest retailer of choice and prime beef, organic foods, rotisserie chicken and wine.

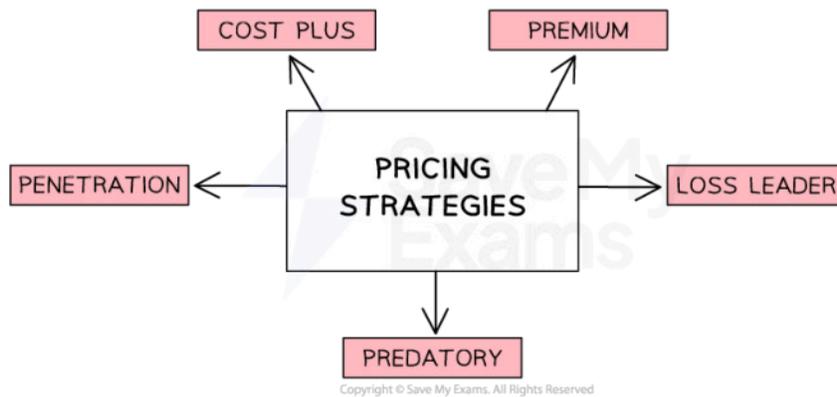


Your notes

The Marketing Mix: Price

Types of Pricing Strategies

- Choosing the right **pricing strategy** is essential for a business to be **profitable, competitive, and successful in the long run**
 - By understanding their customers, competitors, and costs, businesses can set prices that **maximise revenue** and profitability
 - Pricing can play a significant role in **positioning the brand** in the market and help a firm to compete effectively



Different types of pricing strategies

- Price** is the only element of the marketing mix that **relates directly to revenue** and is vital to a business achieving its sales and marketing objectives
- Businesses need to select the most appropriate methods of pricing to ensure that they are able to **make a profit** whilst **meeting the needs and expectations of customers**
 - A business may use **more than one method** of pricing across its product range
 - E.g. a large supermarket may offer **premium-priced product ranges alongside a selection of loss leaders**

An Explanation of Pricing Strategies

Pricing Strategy	Explanation	Advantages	Disadvantages
Cost plus			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The business calculates the cost of production and then adds a markup to determine the final price The markup covers the cost of production plus the business's desired profit margin This pricing strategy is commonly used by manufacturers that produce standardised goods e.g. washing machines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A simple and quick methods of calculating a price for a product It ensures that a profit is made on each item sold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It does not consider the needs of the market The pricing approach of competitors is ignored
Penetration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The business sets a low price for a new product/service when it is first introduced This is effective when a business wants to quickly capture market share and attract price-sensitive customers e.g. many new perfumes launch using penetration pricing Once they have enough customers, the business will start to raise the price 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers are attracted to buy the product at a low price leading to high sales volume and market share Competitors unable to match or beat the low price may be forced out the market leading to less competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers may perceive that the product is of low quality if the product is sold at a low price Selling at a low price will limit the amount of profit made
Loss Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charging a price below the average cost for a product The aim of this method is to attract customers to buy other profitable, products at the same time, making up for losses on the low-priced product It is frequently used by large supermarkets that operate in competitive markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an effective way to attract customers to switch brands Losses may be minimised for businesses that have high levels of stock turnover for loss leader products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller rivals may accuse businesses using this method of behaving unfairly If customers do not purchase other goods the business will make a loss
Predatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The business sets prices so low that it drives its competitors out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This method allows a business to gain a dominant position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of this strategy may have a negative impact



Your notes

	<p>of the market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This strategy is illegal in many countries as it is considered anti-competitive and harms customers by reducing choice in the market 	<p>in the market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It acts as a barrier to entry for firms considering selling in the market 	<p>on a businesses reputation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an expensive strategy for which a business needs sufficient finance to fund
Premium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The business sets a high price for its product which gives customers an impression of high quality and luxury This is effective for designer brands such as <i>Chanel</i> and <i>Ritz Carlton Hotels</i> The high price helps the business differentiate its products from competitors and make high levels of profit Premium pricing should not be confused with price skimming, where a high price is set for a short period at a product's launch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This method emphasises exclusivity and improves the value of a brand Premium-priced goods often attract favourable attention from celebrities and the media, reducing the need for promotional activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large numbers of more price-conscious customers are ignored which limits sales revenue Premium-priced products require high quality raw materials and components so variable production costs are usually high

Examiner Tip

Exam questions frequently ask you to be able to justify the most appropriate pricing strategy. When studying the data provided, consider the points in the table above and then make a recommendation.

For example, in launching a new product into a competitive market, it may be appropriate to use a penetration pricing strategy to attract customers and encourage them to switch brand in order to gain sales and market share quickly.

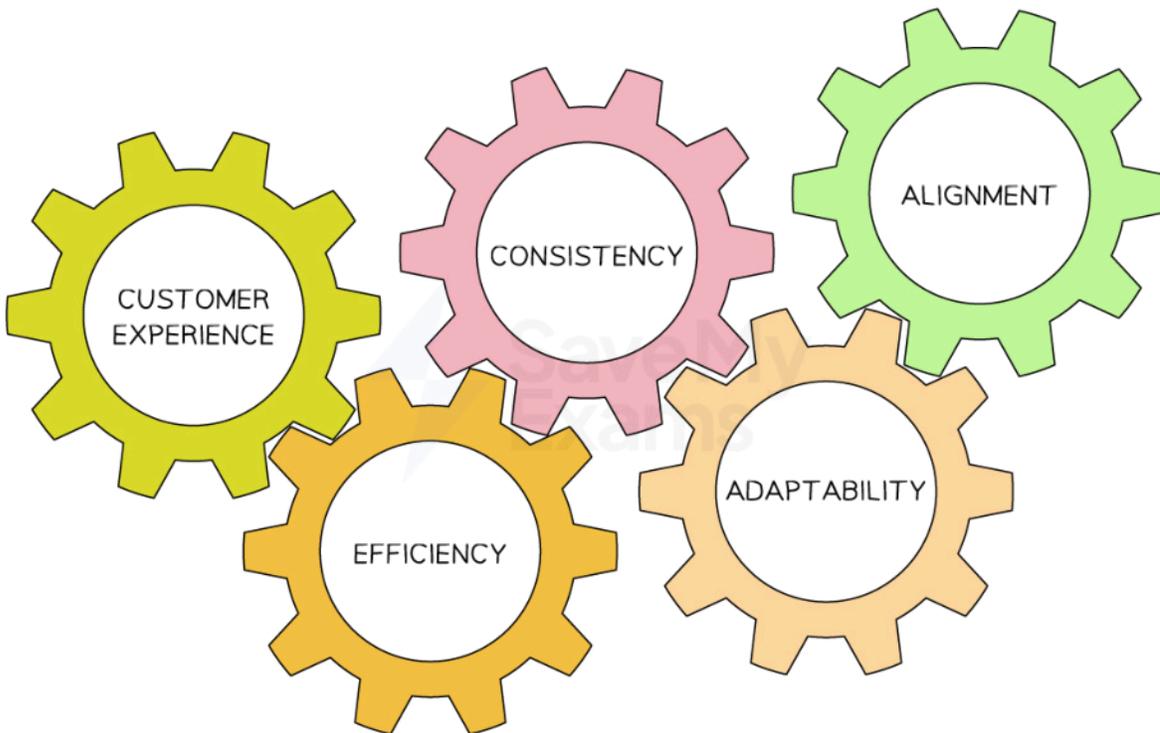


Your notes

The Marketing Mix: Processes

The Importance of Processes in the Marketing Mix

- Processes refer to the **activities, procedures and systems** a company employs to deliver a product or service to its customers and create a competitive advantage
- Some reasons why processes are important in the marketing mix include:



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Effective processes form an important part of the extended marketing mix

- Businesses develop a set of processes that allow for a product or service to be delivered effectively to their customers
- E.g. from the moment **cruise** passengers book their trip a series of process are engaged
 - Online **booking and customer service processes** provide for smooth organisation and preparation for the trip
 - When they arrive at the dockside customers are greeted; their baggage is taken to their allocated cabin; two weeks of services from restaurants and evening entertainment, casinos and shopping

are organised and provided; specialist services and facilities are available to those with particular needs and, finally, when customers arrive at their destination, baggage is delivered to them



Your notes

The Importance of Processes

Reason for Importance	Explanation	Example
Customer Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes directly impact the overall customer experience as they involve everything from how customers discover a product or service to how they make a purchase, receive support and interact with the brand Well-designed processes provide a seamless and positive customer journey, enhancing customer satisfaction and loyalty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>L'Oréal</i> uses artificial intelligence to improve the customer experience Face-scanning sensors measure a customer's skin which allows appropriate skincare products to be recommended to customers
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective processes improve efficiency, streamlining operations and reducing costs By carefully designing and planning marketing processes businesses can eliminate redundancies, automate repetitive tasks and improve the use of resources This leads to reduced timescales, increased productivity and profitability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Air BnB</i> hosts are encouraged to provide self check-in facilities, removing the need for the host to be present when guests arrive at their property
Consistency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes help to maintain consistency because they provide a framework for delivering consistent messages, branding and experiences whenever an interaction with customers occurs Consistency builds trust, reinforces the brand identity and helps to develop long-term relationships with customers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Economist</i> uses its established brand 'tone of voice' consistently across all of its social media channels Its posts are informative and factual, and its language is brief, clear and using everyday speech



Your notes

<p>Adaptability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing processes need to be flexible and adaptable to changing customer preferences By continuously monitoring processes businesses can identify areas for improvement and respond to emerging trends and challenges including the actions of competitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passengers travelling with the airline <i>Lufthansa</i> no longer need a boarding pass or passport on the airline's route from Miami International Airport to Munich following the opening of America's first all-biometric terminal, reducing check-in time to less than two seconds
<p>Alignment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes help different departments work together effectively to meet objectives When teams work together within defined processes it improves communication and coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At <i>HubSpot</i>, a leading business software company, cross-functional teams use a variety of collaboration tools which allow for the rapid approval of promotional activities The business also keeps a full recorded timeline of task completion so that anyone involved in the project can instantly see the status of a project

 **Examiner Tip**

When businesses change their processes it is crucial that they are carefully **tested in advance** to ensure that customers can continue to access products or services seamlessly. IT-based processes are particularly prone to problems and a number of high-profile disasters have hit well-known brands.

- In the early 2000's *Hershey's* tried to squeeze a complex IT upgrade project into an **unrealistic timeline** and launched it during the busy Halloween season **before its employees had been adequately trained** on the new system
 - As a result the business could not process **\$100 million** worth of confectionery orders and suffered a 12% drop in sales

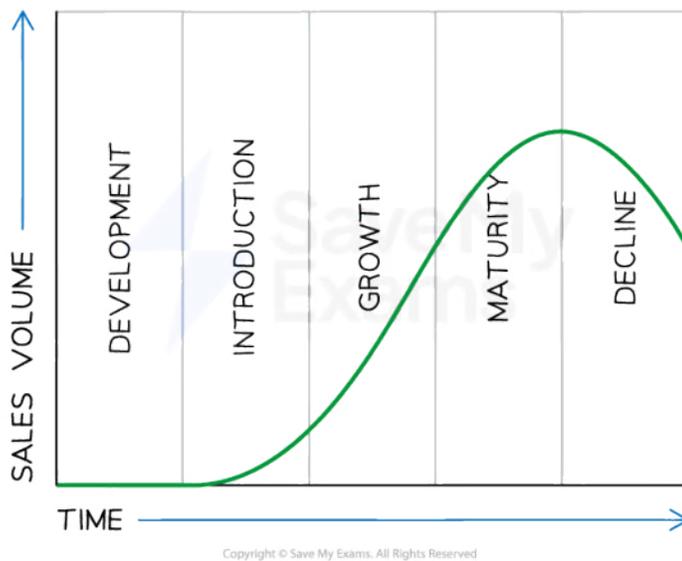


Your notes

The Marketing Mix: Product

The Product Life Cycle

- The product life cycle describes the **different stages a product goes through** from its conception to its eventual decline in sales
- There are typically **five stages in the product life cycle**: development, introduction, growth, maturity, and decline



The five stages a product goes through over its life span – from development to decline (and ultimately withdrawal from a market)

- The implications for cash flow and **marketing** vary at each stage of the product life cycle
- Companies should **tailor their marketing strategies** and manage their cash flow to ensure long-term profitability and success

Implications of the Product Life Cycle on Cash Flow and Marketing Strategy

Stage	Explanation	Implications & Strategies
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generating and screening product ideas and then 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cash flow is usually negative during this stage, as the company is investing heavily in the product without generating any revenue



Your notes

	<p>designing and developing the product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The business usually incurs high costs for research and development, market research, and product testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The marketing strategy during this stage is focused on creating awareness and generating interest in the product
<p>Introduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stage begins when the product is launched Characterised by slow sales growth as the product is still new and unknown to most consumers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash flow is usually negative as the business usually incurs high costs for promotion, advertising and distribution Promotional efforts are focused on creating awareness and generating interest in the product Pricing strategies will depend upon the nature of the product and the market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price skimming may be used for innovative or high technology products where little competition exists Penetration pricing may be more suited to products being introduced to competitive markets
<p>Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The product enters this stage when sales begin to increase rapidly The business focus shifts to building market share and increasing production to meet the growing demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash flow usually turns positive during this stage as sales revenue increases and costs are spread out over a larger volume of production Marketing strategies focus on differentiating the product from its competitors and building brand loyalty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price skimming tactics may be dropped in favour of longer-term premium pricing for high-end products Promotional activity including advertising is likely to increase as customers are encouraged to purchase repeatedly Further distribution channels will be sought to meet increasing demand
<p>Maturity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characterised by slowing sales growth as the product reaches its peak in terms of market penetration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash flow is usually positive during this stage as sales revenue continues to come in and costs are reduced through economies of scale and efficient production processes The marketing strategy aims to maintain market share and increase profitability by cutting costs and finding new markets



Your notes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotional pricing tactics may be used ▪ Advertising will focus on reminding customers of product benefits ▪ Further new distribution channels will be sought ▪ Product features may be upgraded
<p>Decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Starts when sales begin to decline as the product becomes obsolete or is replaced by newer products ▪ The business focus shifts to managing the product's decline and reducing costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cash flow usually turns negative as sales revenue declines and costs associated with the product's decline increase ▪ The marketing strategy may involve discontinuing the product, reducing its price to clear inventory, or finding new uses for the product

Examiner Tip

You should be aware that **product life cycles rarely follow this model precisely**

- In some cases the product life cycle is very **short**, lasting just a few months weeks
 - Memorabilia produced and sold for King Charles' coronation in 2023 enjoyed short product life cycles in general, available for sale for just a few months prior to and after the event
- In other cases product life cycles are incredibly **long**, lasting many decades
 - The Milka brand of chocolate was introduced in 1901 - more than a century later it remains one of the most popular global brands in its market segment with net sales of almost £2 billion in 2018



Your notes

An Introduction to the Marketing Mix

- The **marketing mix** refers to the seven elements that contribute to the **successful marketing of a product**

Diagram Showing the Seven P's of the Marketing Mix



The extended marketing mix includes 7 P's

An Explanation of the Seven P's of the Extended Marketing Mix

Element	Explanation
Product	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This involves identifying the features, design, quality, branding, and packaging of the product/service available for sale and ensuring that they meet the needs and expectations of customers E.g. <i>HSBC</i> offers different current accounts to meet a variety of customer needs, with each account having different features



Your notes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Premier Account</i> is a fee-free current account aimed at higher income individuals which includes free worldwide travel insurance, overdraft facilities and preferential interest rates on mortgages
Price	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This involves identifying the best pricing strategies to use after having considered the amount of money customers are willing to pay, as well as factors such as production costs, competition, demand and perceived value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. <i>Netflix</i> has recently changed its pricing structure to reflect the different needs of customers and achieve further growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers choosing the Standard service which includes adverts pay the lowest subscription fee Premium customers pay three times as much as Standard service customers but can enjoy advert-free, ultra-HD programming
Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This refers to the distribution channels and physical location used to make the product/service available to customers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place involves decisions related to the selection of sales outlets, logistics and supply chain management Intensive distribution involves targeting the mass market by selling products in as many popular outlets as possible Exclusive distribution involves targeting high end customers by limiting the sales outlets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. Porsche sports cars are sold through licensed retailers
Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This relates to the activities used to communicate and promote the product/service to the target market including advertising, public relations, sales promotions, personal selling etc. Promotional strategies are used by firms to make their existing and potential customers aware of their product, build their brand image and encourage loyalty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. <i>Southwestern Airlines</i> makes extensive use of humorous advertising, as well as offering frequent discounts on tickets and engaging in public relations by sponsorship of several US baseball teams
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This refers to the human resources involved in customer interactions and product/service delivery so as to provide a positive customer experience



Your notes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employing, training and retaining the right set of employees is especially important for the success of service-focused businesses
<p>Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This refers to the operational processes and workflows that enable the smooth and efficient execution of marketing strategies ▪ Process is an essential element as it ensures that the customer experience is consistent, streamlined, and meets or exceeds customer expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E.g travel companies such as Germany's <i>Meier's Weltreisen</i> sell a range of package holidays that provide flights, hotels and full transfer services while providing resort-based representatives that ensure a smooth vacation experience for customers
<p>Physical Evidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This refers to the tangible elements that customers can perceive when interacting with a product/service such as the physical environment, packaging, and branding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E.g. large fast food retailers such as <i>McDonalds</i> and <i>Pizza Hut</i> create almost identical outlets around the world, with highly recognisable logos and even matching furniture and decor in restaurants



Your notes

Extension Strategies

- Extension strategies refer to the techniques used by businesses to **extend the life of a product beyond its natural life cycle**
- These strategies are **designed to boost sales** and maintain profitability for a product that has **reached the decline stage** of its life cycle
- There are two types of extension strategies:
 - Product-related extension strategies
 - Promotion-related extension strategies

Product-related extension strategies

- Involves **changing or modifying the product** to make it more appealing to customers and extend its life cycle and can be achieved in one of three ways:
 - **Product improvements** e.g. Samsung releases new versions of its Galaxy Smartphone every year with upgraded features and improvements to the previous model
 - **Line extensions** e.g. Coca-Cola introduced Diet Coke and Coke Zero as line extensions of its original Coca-Cola
 - **Repositioning** e.g. when IBM's personal computer division started losing market share to other brands, it repositioned its products as high-end business machines and focused on the enterprise market

Promotion-related extension strategies

- Involves changing the marketing and promotion of the product to extend its life cycle and could include one or more of the following changes:
 - **Changes to advertising** e.g. Kellogg's continues to recreate adverts for its Corn Flakes cereal which has been around since 1906
 - **Price promotions** e.g. Cyber Monday occurs on the first Monday after Thanksgiving in the USA and electronic firms discount prices significantly to boost sales of their products
 - **Sales promotions** e.g. many coffee shops offer a **loyalty program** where customers can earn a free drink for every six consumed

Examiner Tip

Businesses sometimes make the choice to **remove a product from the market** when it reaches the decline stage of the product life cycle, rather than continue to invest in expensive and time-consuming extension strategies.

If you are asked to weigh up options to extend the life cycle of a product, a useful **evaluative point** could be the possibility of adopting none of the options - and considering the benefits of removing the product from sale.

These benefits may include reduced promotional and R&D spending as well as providing the opportunity for a business to focus on remaining products in its portfolio.



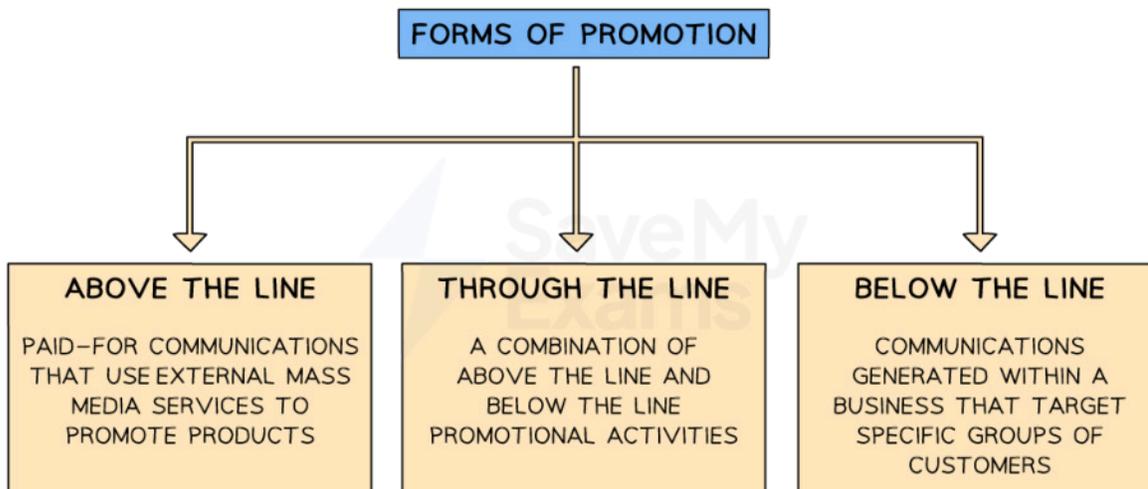
Your notes

The Marketing Mix: Promotion

An Introduction to Promotion

- Promotion plays a crucial role in **generating customer awareness, interest and desire** for a product/service
 - A business uses promotional activities to communicate its value proposition to potential customers and **differentiate** itself from competitors
 - Promotion helps to **build brand awareness** and **loyalty** which can lead to repeat purchases and referrals

- Promotion can be classified into three forms
 - Above the line
 - Below the line
 - Through the line



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There are three main forms of promotion which are frequently combined by businesses to achieve a coherent promotional mix

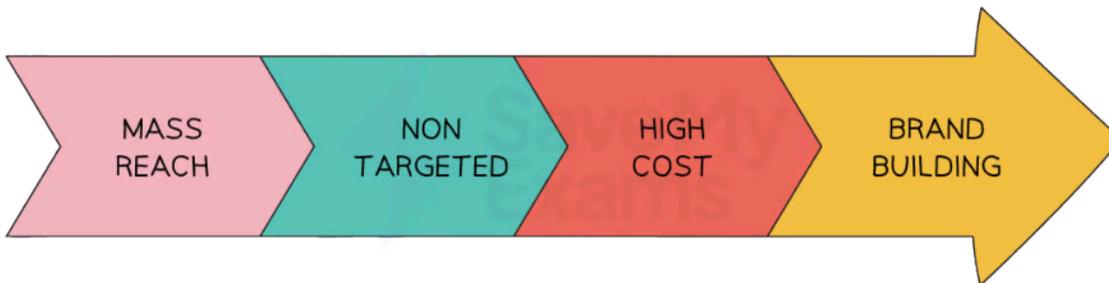


Your notes

Above the Line Promotion

- Above the line promotion refers to **advertising** activities that are aimed at **reaching a wide audience** through traditional **mass media** channels to **create awareness** about a product, service, or brand.
 - These channels typically include **television, radio, newspapers, magazines** and **outdoor advertising** such as billboards

Characteristics of above the line promotion



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Above the line promotion has a range of characteristics

1. **Mass reach:** Above the line promotion aims to **reach a large number of people** often through broadcasting media and is designed to **create brand awareness** and **generate interest** among a wide audience
2. **Non-targeted:** It is generally **not tailored to a specific customer segment** and aims to capture the attention of **as many people as possible**
3. **High cost:** Traditional above the line promotion methods require **significant budgets** due to the costs associated with advertising on television, radio or print media
4. **Brand building:** Above the line promotion plays a crucial role in brand building by establishing brand **recognition** and **familiarity** among consumers

Types of Above the Line Promotion

- Above the line promotion can be classified as being informative, persuasive or reassuring

Types of Above the Line Promotion

Classification	Explanation	Examples
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Your notes

<p>Informative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Informative advertising focuses on providing factual information about a product, service or brand ▪ Its goal is to educate and inform consumers about the features, benefits and value of a product, enabling them to make well-informed purchasing decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pharmaceutical companies such as <i>Bayer</i> when releasing a new drug may decide to make an informative television advertisement that provides information on the medication's proven benefits and lists mandatory information at the end
<p>Persuasive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persuasive advertising is designed to influence consumers' attitudes and behaviours towards products or services ▪ It aims to convince customers that a particular product or service is desirable, necessary or superior to alternatives in the market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A company selling luxury cosmetics such as <i>Elizabeth Arden</i> is likely to use well-known attractive celebrities in its magazine advertisements ▪ Package holiday companies that aim their services at families such as <i>Eurocamp</i> emphasise excellent weather and use images of children having fun in printed advertisements
<p>Reassuring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reassuring advertising aims to remind existing customers that they made the right decision when choosing a particular product over those of rivals ▪ It encourages customers to remain loyal and continue to purchase the product and others within the range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Coca Cola</i> reassures its customers through the use of television advertising that promote a 'feel-good' response

The Advantages & Disadvantages of Using Above the Line Promotion

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Businesses can reach a large and diverse audience because mass media channels provide a high level of visibility ▪ It is effective for creating a strong brand image, enhancing brand recognition and establishing a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Above the line promotion can be expensive, especially for small businesses with limited budgets ▪ As it focuses on reaching a wide audience rather than specific target segments, advertising may

sense of **credibility** and trust among consumers

- The marketing message can be communicated in an **impactful manner** using sound, images and graphics

not effectively reach the intended audience

- Advertising typically offers **limited interaction** or direct engagement with consumers
- With the rise of digital media **traditional media consumption has decreased** and consumers can easily **filter out** or ignore advertisements.



Your notes



Your notes

Below the Line Promotion

- Below the line promotion includes marketing communications over which a **business has direct control** and which **do not make use of mass media**

Assessing the Use of Below the Line Promotions

Method	Explanation	Advantage	Disadvantage
Direct Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves communicating directly with customers through email, text message, social media or post E.g. Takeaway restaurants distribute menus to households in the local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses can target specific audiences and personalise the message to individual customers Direct marketing is measurable which enables businesses to track their results and adjust strategy accordingly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be intrusive as customers may perceive it as spam Can also be costly, especially if businesses do not have an established customer database or need to purchase leads
Sales Promotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Techniques that encourage the purchase of a product or service by offering temporary incentives or discounts Examples include free samples, buy one get one free (bogof), discount coupons, loyalty cards, point of sale materials and rebates (customers have to mail in to receive money back) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can quickly boost sales or customer engagement Can help to clear out stock or promote a new product Can encourage impulse purchases Can be targeted to specific segments of customers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be expensive especially if the promotion requires a heavy discounting Can attract deal-seeking customers who may not be loyal to the brand May reduce the sales of full-priced products
Personal Selling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a salesperson interacts with customers one-on-one, either in person or through digital communication channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows businesses to build relationships with their customers and understand their specific needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be expensive due to the cost of hiring and training sales staff Limited impact as it is difficult to scale to



Your notes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E.g. Luxury skincare products are often sold by brand representatives at concession stands in department stores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enables businesses to provide personalised advice and guidance to customers 	<p>large audiences</p>
<p>Public Relations (PR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The business seeks to build relationships with the public and manage their reputation ▪ Public relations activities can include sponsorship, media relations, public events and community outreach activities ▪ Public relations can also involve eye-catching publicity stunts such as SpaceX's 2018 launch of a Tesla Roadster car into space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can enhance a business's reputation and credibility ▪ Often cost-effective when compared to advertising or personal selling ▪ May achieve a wide reach as imaginative PR activity is frequently shared on social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PR can be time-consuming and is difficult to measure the direct impact of PR activities on profits ▪ Specialist - and expensive PR companies can often achieve the best results



Your notes

Through the Line Promotion

- Through-the-line promotion **combines both above the line** and **below the line** techniques to create a **comprehensive** promotional campaign
 - It allows for a **holistic approach** to reach customers through both mass media and personalised communications
 - A through the line promotion campaign might involve running a **television commercial** to create brand awareness followed by **social media advertising** and **targeted email marketing** to reach specific customer segments and encourage them to take action

Advantages & Disadvantages of Through the Line Promotion

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It combines the broad reach of advertising with the personal touch of below the line techniques which is likely to lead to increased customer engagement The integrated approach can lead to better brand recognition as customers receive promotional messages in a variety of ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating a multi-channel through-the-line campaign requires marketing expertise for which a business may need to employ an expensive specialist marketing agency Careful planning is needed to ensure that all elements present a coherent message

Examiner Tip

For most businesses their choice of promotional techniques is limited by the budget available.

Take care to consider the costs involved in the promotional methods you recommend and ensure that you have carefully considered the financial position of the business. Low-cost methods such as social media and short-term sales promotions may be the only methods a business can afford and so considering how these may be put to best use is far more convincing than comparing them to methods that are beyond their reach.



Your notes

Social Media Promotion

- Social media marketing targets promotional activity at users of **online communities** such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube



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Examples of social media platforms

- Interacting with customers in this way builds **relationships**, drives **repeat business** from existing customers and **attracts new customers** as content is shared with other users

Advantages & Disadvantages of Social Media Marketing

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social media platforms have billions of active users which allows businesses to reach a vast audience across different demographics and locations ▪ Social media platforms enable businesses to deliver promotional content to specific groups based on demographics, interests and behaviours, increasing the chances of reaching the right audience ▪ Businesses can create and share content easily, increasing brand visibility and exposure which helps generate brand awareness ▪ Social media marketing can achieve organic reach and engagement without a large budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective social media marketing requires consistent effort and time to create quality content, manage multiple platforms, and engage with the audience which can be time-consuming, especially for small businesses with limited resources ▪ Social media opens up channels for public feedback and reviews, which can include negative comments or complaints which can be viewed by all other users ▪ Social media platforms frequently update their algorithms which may affect the visibility and reach of content ▪ Businesses face the challenge of breaking through the noise and capturing users' attention amidst the large volume of competing content

- As social media platforms evolve, businesses must also **adapt their social media strategies** to keep up with the latest trends
 - E.g. **Instagram** has been a popular platform for businesses to promote their products through influencer partnerships.
 - More recently many businesses have shifted their focus to promoting their brands through **short-form video** content on platforms like **TikTok**



Your notes

Examiner Tip

Currently, even the smallest of businesses make extensive use of social media to control their own below the line promotions.

In your responses you should acknowledge that these platforms are not below the line promotional methods themselves, rather vehicles through which below the line promotional activity can be shared widely with specific target markets at little - or no - cost and encourage interactivity with customers.