



Your guide to  
**BTEC Nationals 2025  
(AAQs)**

Partnering with you to create a future for every learner

April 2024 | Pre-approval

 **Pearson | BTEC**



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## BTECs are evolving

**The post-16 level 3 vocational qualifications landscape in England is undergoing major reform. In July 2021, the government completed a Review that impacts Level 3 BTEC Nationals, Cambridge Technicals and other level 3 vocational qualifications in England.**

Throughout this reform process, we have and will continue to provide support and guidance so you can make any required changes to your curriculum.

Visit our dedicated Level 3 Review webpage for all your latest updates including funding guides.



# BTEC Nationals (2025)

BTEC Level 3 Nationals 2025 (AAQ) qualifications provide students with meaningful and practical learning experiences across a range of career sectors.

They equip students with the applied knowledge, skills and personal attributes they need to enter and thrive in higher education and meet the demands of future employment in our fast-changing world.



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## Who are BTEC Nationals (2025) for?

BTEC Level 3 Nationals 2025 (AAQs) are for post-16 students aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment. With their applied and practical focus, they perfectly complement A levels as a part of a mixed programme of learning, helping to bring more theoretical learning to life.

Depending on size, students can take these qualifications alongside one or two A levels, or alternatively as the substantial qualification in their study programme, where permitted. The specifications and Statements of Purpose will clearly detail potential combinations for study programmes for each qualification.

## How do BTEC Nationals (2025) fit into a Level 3 programme of study?

### Possible combinations for qualifications





# Why choose BTEC Nationals (2025)?

## Developing skills for the future



The qualifications are designed to help learners recognise and develop transferable skills and digital skills, as well as engage with sustainability education.

## Streamlined assessment

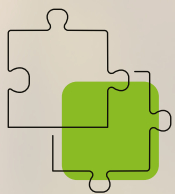


External assessments are now all exams so more manageable to deliver than examined tasks.

Less internal assessments so less marking for teachers.

Greater opportunity in the cycle for learners to resit if required.

## Designed to be delivered alongside A levels



Subject content that complements and extends the learning in A levels.

Lower number of internal assessments and flexibility of verification means they are easier to deliver alongside A levels.

Less assessment allows more time for teaching and learning across study programme subjects.

## Strong progression opportunities



High number of universities accepting/supporting BTECs for entry to undergraduate courses.

Digital badging helping learners to recognise and showcase their skills for onward progression.

## Great support and wrap around



Paid-for Student Books and Teacher Packs.

Complimentary teaching and learning resources and support.

Broad training and CPD offer.

Pre-exam and post-results support including Exam Wizard and ResultsPlus.

## The new BTEC Level 3 National qualifications are being developed in two cycles in line with the phasing of the reform.

The following qualifications have been submitted to be recognised as funded qualifications; funding outcomes will be announced in July 2024.

### Cycle 1

Subject	Size	First Teach
Applied Science	360 GLH	September 2025
Computing	360 GLH	September 2025
Construction	360 GLH	September 2025
Early Childhood Development	360 GLH	September 2025
Engineering	360 GLH	September 2025
Health and Social Care	360 GLH	September 2025
Information Technology	360 GLH	September 2025
Medical Science	360 GLH	September 2025

The following qualifications will be submitted to be recognised as funded qualifications in June 2024; funding outcomes will be announced in July 2025.

### Cycle 2

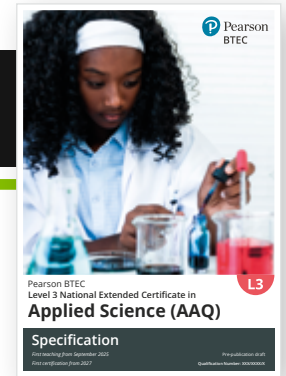
Subject	Size	First Teach
Art, Craft and Design	360 GLH	September 2026
Art, Design and Media	1080 GLH	September 2026
Creative Media Production	360 GLH	September 2026
Digital Games Production	360 GLH	September 2026
Digital Music Production	360 GLH	September 2026
Financial Studies	180 GLH	September 2026
Financial Studies	360 GLH	September 2026
Marketing	360 GLH	September 2026
Music	1080 GLH	September 2026
Music Performance	360 GLH	September 2026
Music Performance	1080 GLH	September 2026
Performing Arts	360 GLH	September 2026
Performing Arts	1080 GLH	September 2026
Production Arts	1080 GLH	September 2026
Sport	360 GLH	September 2026
Sport	1080 GLH	September 2026
Sport and Exercise Science	360 GLH	September 2026
Sport and Exercise Science	1080 GLH	September 2026
Sustainability	360 GLH	September 2026
Travel and Tourism	360 GLH	September 2026
Uniformed Protective Services	360 GLH	September 2026





## Overview of qualifications

## Applied Science



### Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science (AAQ)

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science (AAQ) enables students to study the principles and applications of biology, chemistry and physics, as well as practical scientific procedures and techniques. Students will also have the opportunity to develop their investigation skills or explore contemporary issues in science.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A levels as part of a study programme. It can link to learning in a range of A level subjects such as A level Psychology and A level Sociology. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science (AAQ) is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

#### Mandatory units, learners complete all units

1	Principles and Applications of Biology	60 GLH	External
2	Principles and Applications of Chemistry	60 GLH	External
3	Principles and Applications of Physics	60 GLH	External
4	Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques	90 GLH	Internal

#### Optional units, learners complete 1 unit

5	Scientific Investigation Skills	90 GLH	Internal
6	Contemporary Issues in Science	90 GLH	Internal

External Assessment	50%
Mandatory content	75%
Choice of Optional Units	1 of 2
External Assessment Administration	3 x Exams: 1hr each (please note the current version one paper was split into 3 sittings, the AAQ has less sittings)
Internal Assessments	2 units
Internal Assessment Length	Unit 4: 75hrs Unit 5: 60hrs Unit 6: 65hrs
Total assessments taken	5 units



# Computing



## Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Computing (AAQ)

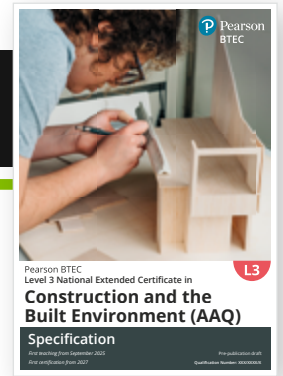
The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Computing (AAQ) gives students opportunities to develop the core knowledge, skills and understanding that underpin computer programming and to develop computational thinking and programming skills that will enable them to solve problems. Students will explore the critical components that safeguard information systems and data and will acquire knowledge and skills to comprehend and apply security and encryption principles and practices to computer networks in various situations. Students will also have the opportunity to examine the underlying principles of human-computer interaction (HCI) and develop a HCI solution to meet the requirements of a given brief. Students will draw synoptically on their programming learning and computational thinking skills to manage the development of a software solution to a problem.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A levels in Mathematics, Physics and Business. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

Mandatory units, learners complete all units			
1	Programming Fundamentals	120 GLH	External
2	Computer Network Security and Encryption	120 GLH	External
3	Human-Computer Interaction	60 GLH	Internal
4	Practical Programming	60 GLH	Internal

<b>External Assessment</b>	66%
<b>Mandatory content</b>	100%
<b>External Assessment Administration</b>	2 x Exams: 1 x 2hrs 30mins, 1 x 2hrs 15mins
<b>Internal Assessments</b>	2 units
<b>Internal Assessment Length</b>	Unit 3: 20hrs Unit 4: 36hrs
<b>Total assessments taken</b>	4 units

# Construction



## Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment (AAQ)

This qualification reflects the demands of a truly modern and evolving construction and the built environment – a qualification that enables your students to apply themselves and give them the skills to succeed in their chosen pathway.

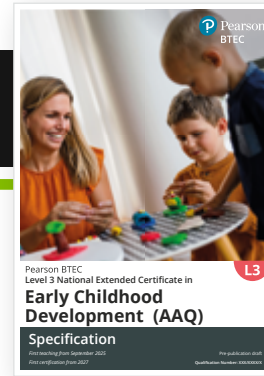
The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A level subjects such as A level Mathematics, A level Physics and A level Design and Technology. It is intended for students that wish to progress to higher education as a pathway to employment.

Mandatory units, learners complete all units			
1	Construction Principles	120 GLH	External
2	Construction Technology	60 GLH	External
3	Design for Construction and the Built Environment	60 GLH	Internal
Optional units, learners complete and achieve 2 units			
4	Construction Commercial Management	60 GLH	Internal
5	Retrofit in Construction and the Built Environment	60 GLH	Internal
6	Modelling in Construction	60 GLH	Internal

<b>External Assessment</b>	50%
<b>Mandatory content</b>	Principles (Construction Maths and Science), Technology, Design
<b>Choice of Optional Units</b>	2 of 3 from 4 Commercial Management, 5 Retrofit, 6 Modelling
<b>External Assessment Administration</b>	2 x Exams: 1hr 45mins each
<b>Internal Assessments</b>	Other than 5 Retrofit, all briefs will change each year. Every Assessment has one part that must be completed under supervision, such as carrying out the CAD or modelling work using software in the centre.
<b>Internal Assessment Length</b>	Unit 3: 15hrs Unit 4: 15hrs Unit 5: 9hrs 30 mins Unit 6: 12hrs
<b>Total assessments taken</b>	5 units



# Early Childhood Development



## Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Early Childhood Development (AAQ)

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Early Childhood Development (AAQ) allows students to engage in a broad investigation of the children's care and education sector (0-8 years). There are four mandatory units; two examined and two internally assessed. The internally assessed units give students the opportunity to engage in applied knowledge and understanding tasks to develop their health and social care knowledge.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A levels in Sociology, Psychology, Biology and English. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

### Mandatory units, learners complete all units

1	Children's Development	90 GLH	External
2	Keeping Children Safe	90 GLH	External
3	Play and Learning	90 GLH	Internal
4	Research and Reflective Practice in an Early Childhood Setting	90 GLH	Internal

External Assessment	50%
Mandatory content	100%
External Assessment Administration	2 x Exams: 1 hr 45mins each
Internal Assessments	2 units
Total assessments taken	4 units

# Engineering



## Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering (AAQ)

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering (AAQ) enables students to study the principles and applications of engineering including the fundamental mechanical, electrical/electronic and mathematical principles, the engineering sectors, engineering materials, engineering processes and emerging technologies.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A level STEM subjects such as A level Mathematics and A level Physics. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

### Mandatory units, learners complete all units

1	Engineering Principles	120 GLH	External
2	Engineering Applications	60 GLH	External
3	Engineering Design	120 GLH	Internal
4	Engineering Project	60 GLH	Internal

External Assessment	50%
Mandatory content	100%
External Assessment Administration	2 x mandatory Exams: 1 x 2hrs 15mins, 1 x 2hrs
Internal Assessments	2 units
Internal Assessment Length	Unit 3: Engineering Design 32hrs, certain tasks under supervision Unit 4: Engineering Project 30hrs, certain tasks under supervision
Total assessments taken	4 units



# Health and Social Care



## Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (AAQ)

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (AAQ) allows students to engage in a broad investigation of various aspects of the health and social care sector. There are two mandatory examined units and one mandatory internally assessed unit. Students will select a further optional unit from the four available. The internally assessed units give students the opportunity to engage in applied knowledge and understanding tasks to develop their health and social care knowledge.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A levels such as Psychology, Biology or English. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

Mandatory units, learners complete all units			
1	Human Lifespan and Development	90 GLH	External
2	Human Biology and Health	90 GLH	External
3	Health and Social Care Practice	90 GLH	Internal
Optional units, learners complete 1 unit			
4	Health, Policy and Wellbeing	90 GLH	Internal
5	Promoting Health Education	90 GLH	Internal
6	Safe Environments in Health and Social Care	90 GLH	Internal
7	Health Science	90 GLH	Internal

<b>External Assessment</b>	50%
<b>Mandatory content</b>	75%
<b>Choice of Optional Units</b>	1 of 4
<b>External Assessment Administration</b>	2 x Exams: 1 hr 30mins each
<b>Internal Assessments</b>	2 units
<b>Internal Assessment Length</b>	Unit 3: 16hrs Unit 4: 15hrs under supervision Unit 5: 17hrs, 1 task under supervision Unit 6: 16hrs Unit 7: 16hrs Depending on unit choice, learners will be assessed for approx. 32hrs (learners only do two internal assessments)
<b>Total assessments taken</b>	4 units

# Information Technology



## Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology (AAQ)

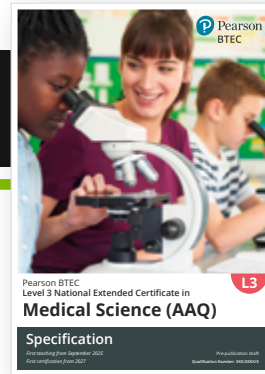
The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology (AAQ) allows students to study the fundamental knowledge of Information Technology covering the role and implications of using Information Technology systems and cyber-security threats and how to manage attacks. Students will also develop important skills for creating websites to meet a specific purpose and to manage data through the development of a relational database solution.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A level Mathematics and A level Business Studies. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

Mandatory units, learners complete all units			
1	Information Technology Systems	120 GLH	External
2	Cyber Security and Incident	120 GLH	External
3	Website Development	60 GLH	Internal
4	Relational Database Development	60 GLH	Internal

<b>External Assessment</b>	66%
<b>Mandatory content</b>	100%
<b>External Assessment Administration</b>	2 x Exams: 1 x 2hrs, 1 x 2hrs 15mins
<b>Internal Assessments</b>	2 units
<b>Internal Assessment Length</b>	Unit 3: 15hrs Unit 4: 15hrs Learners will be assessed for 30hrs (learners complete two internal assessments)
<b>Total assessments taken</b>	4 units





## Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Medical Science (AAQ)

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Medical Science (AAQ) enables students to study the principles and applications of medical science through three mandatory units, and further explore other areas in more detail via an optional unit. Students will also learn practical and investigation skills that build on this fundamental knowledge.

The qualification is designed to be taken alongside A levels as part of a study programme and can link to learning in A level subjects such as physical education and sport, sociology, chemistry and psychology. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

Mandatory units, learners complete all units			
1	Principles of Human Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology	90 GLH	External
2	Human Biology and Health Issues	120 GLH	External
3	Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases	90 GLH	Internal
Optional units, learners complete 1 unit			
4	Diseases, Disorders, Treatments and Therapies	60 GLH	Internal
5	Biomedical Science	60 GLH	Internal
6	Human Reproduction & Fertility	60 GLH	Internal

<b>External Assessment</b>	50%
<b>Choice of Optional Units</b>	1 of 3
<b>External Assessment Administration</b>	2 x Exams: 1 x 1hr 30mins 1 x 2hrs
<b>Internal Assessments</b>	2 units
<b>Internal Assessment Length</b>	Unit 3: mandatory 19hrs Unit 4: Diseases, Disorders, Treatments and Therapies: 11hrs Unit 5: Biomedical science: 18hrs Unit 6: Human Reproduction and Fertility: 11hrs Depending on unit choice learners will be assessed for between 30 and 37 hours (learners only do two internal assessments). Typically, with a minimum of 25hrs under classroom supervision.

## BTEC Level 3 Technical Qualifications

**In addition, to the BTEC Nationals 2025 (AAQs) suite of qualifications we also have BTEC Level 3 Technical qualifications.**

BTEC Level 3 Technical Qualifications enable students to develop a purposeful and coherent combination of knowledge, skills and behaviours to confidently enter or progress into employment in occupations that are recognised and demanded by employers.

Our new Technical Qualifications have been validated by a panel of employers to ensure that the qualifications meet the current and emerging needs of industry and provide reliable evidence of students' readiness to progress in their chosen occupation.



Find out more

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