

Megan Neale

BTEC Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering



BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Engineering
at Middlesbrough College



Level 4 HNC Mechanical Engineering
at Middlesbrough College



Working as a Mechanical Maintenance Technician
at Anglo American at the Woodsmith Mine

1 How did studying a BTEC Higher National help get you where you are now?

It gave me the background knowledge I needed in my role as a Mechanical Maintenance Technician. Although my role is primarily hands on, my HNC allowed me to understand the theory around how different machinery and equipment work on-site, which is critical when trying to find faults and solve any problems. Having a HNC qualification on my CV gives me reassurance that employers in the Engineering sector will recognise my achievements and hands on experience.

2 What top 3 skills did you gain from your BTEC Higher National?



Independent learning/ research skills



Problem solving skills



Self-evaluation skills

3 Can you describe your BTEC Higher National experience?

My employer, Anglo American, supported me with weekly day release to allow me to time to attend College. Each College day consisted of four lessons. The instructor started the lesson explaining the topic, followed by a question-and-answer session to ensure we fully understood the subject matter, we would then practice what we learned and do some further independent research. At the end of each unit, we would then have an assignment to complete at home, that would be marked and contribute towards our final grade.



My HNC gave me more than a foundation of Engineering knowledge; it improved my teamwork skills, taught me to be more independent and how to be a great problem-solver.



4 What did you like most about taking a BTEC Higher National?

I liked working on projects with a diverse group of people from different backgrounds and experience. This helped to improve my teamwork skills and allowed me to see different ways of approaching a problem.

5 What are your career ambitions?

After completing my HNC and apprenticeship with Anglo American, I continued to work for them securing a permanent role as a Mechanical Maintenance Technician at the Woodsmith Mine. In the future I plan to keep building upon the experience gained from my employment and continue my education to progress into an Engineer's role. My HNC covered the basic principles of Mechanical Engineering, providing me with a strong foundation of knowledge and a qualification equivalent to the first year of university.

