

Statement of Purpose

500/8985/7 – Pearson BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Vocational Studies (QCF)

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is designed for learners over the age of 14 working at level 1. It provides an introduction to a range of vocational sectors. Learners are able to choose units from a variety of different vocational areas that will help inform future progression choices. The main purpose of this qualification is to aid progression to the next level, but in addition, the nature and structure of the qualification will also appeal to those who may need to re-engage with learning or those who have a general interest in a type of work, but need to explore a broader range of sectors before deciding on a chosen career path.

What will the learner study as part of this qualification?

All the content of the qualification, relates directly to the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to support students in progressing to further study in a chosen vocational sector. This qualification provides an engaging and relevant introduction to vocational learning, allowing learners to choose units across different vocational sectors such as health and child care, business and retail or engineering and construction. The choice of units available enables the precise nature of the qualification to be tailored to meet the interests and progression aspirations of individual groups of learners. Learners will study 2 mandatory units that will help identify their learning goals and shape their progression (self assessment and career progression). The remaining optional units are taken from sector specific groups.

There is an opportunity through the choice of units for learners to develop their research or employability skills alongside their vocational learning.

What knowledge and skills will the learner develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

By developing the sector knowledge and skills outlined above, students will be well prepared for progression to a level 2 vocational area. Students might also consider an apprenticeship.

The portfolio-based approach to assessment will also support the development of communication skills such as extended writing and drafting, critical skills of analysis, team-working, working from a prescribed brief, working to deadlines, presenting information effectively, accurately completing tasks and processes and study skills such as research and time management. These skills will help support progression to level 2 and any future chosen course.

Is this qualification available in an apprenticeship?

This is a level 1 qualification and is not available as part of an apprenticeship.

What are the qualification outcomes?

The primary outcome of this qualification is to support progression to the next level of learning by introducing the student to a broad range of subjects and developing the skills necessary to succeed in further study. In addition the practical nature of the qualification will suit learners who are returning or re-engaging with learning and need to consolidate their learning, social

and employability skills before considering entering work. This qualification also suits learners who have a broad interest in a sector, but need to 'taste' a variety of subjects in order to make an informed decision on their progression choices. The choice of units will reflect each individual learner's needs. After successfully completing the diploma, learners can progress onto a level 2 vocational qualification of their choice.

What higher level learning will this qualification lead to?

Students who complete this qualification may progress to level 2 qualifications in any of the sectors studied as part of this course.

Why choose the Diploma sized qualification?

The BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Vocational Studies provides a comprehensive introduction to a range of vocational sectors at this level and is appropriate for students who have a definite interest in working in related sector areas following further study. By studying the diploma, students will secure a strong foundation of knowledge and skills in preparation for higher level learning.

Pearson offers the Award, Certificate and Extended Certificate sized Vocational Studies qualifications at level 1. The varying sizes and appropriateness for learners will depend on individual need as well as the learning programme design.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by Pearson centres including:

- Barking and Dagenham College
- The Cornwall College Group
- Nelson and Colne College
- Tower Hamlets College

Further Information

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-entry-level-and-level-1/vocational-studies-l1.html>