

Next generation BTEC Firsts from 2012 On demand, onscreen testing

This information relates to the new suite of BTEC Firsts, for teaching from 2012. This information is correct as of June 2014

Onscreen tests involve learners working through an online test under controlled conditions. The 'on demand' nature of this mode of external assessment means more flexibility for the centre. The outcomes are validated with the same rigour as traditional methods. Tests should be booked in advance of the test and no later than 24 hours prior to the test being taken. However, installation of the Pearson Onscreen Platform software is a pre-requisite of delivering a BTEC First onscreen test.

Centres will be able to schedule tests at any time after the published release date. Centres should only make test bookings when learners are ready to be tested. Please note that as an awarded qualification the results may not be made available straight away. We will need sufficient learners to take the test to ensure the awarding process is valid prior to publishing the results.

For the sectors where onscreen testing is available, Sample Assessment Material is available via the qualification pages on the www.edexcel.com webpage. This material gives you an indication of what can be expected from the live assessment.

If you have made test bookings and are planning to run the onscreen tests in June, please download the Diagnostic Tool (Windows only). This tool will test your system and advise if it meets the minimum technical requirements to support the new testing platform.

For the Diagnostic Tool, Please visit the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/onscreen-testing-next-generation-btec-firsts.aspx>

Pearson Onscreen Platform Technical Specifications and Software requirements

You must ensure that your IT network and hardware meet the minimum IT requirements outlined on our onscreen testing webpages here:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/onscreen-testing-next-generation-btec-firsts.aspx>

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What system will I use to make a test booking?

A. You will be able to make a test booking using EOL. Guidance to support you in making bookings is available via the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/onscreen-testing-next-generation-btec-firsts.aspx>

Q. How far in advance do I need to make a test booking?

A. Test bookings can be made at any time, but must be made no later than 24 hours prior to the test session. In addition you centre must have the Pearson Onscreen Platform installed before tests can be taken.

Q. When should learners be entered for an onscreen test?

A: Test booking should be made when you consider your learners ready to take the assessment. Centres should bear in mind when making this decision that these are level 2 assessments, equivalent to GCSE-level in standard.

Q. Can Year 9s take the external assessment?

A. As this is a level 2 assessment, we recommend that you **do not** enter Year 9 learners, unless you are confident they are ready to take the test.

Q. What procedures need to be followed to run an onscreen test?

A. The NQF BTEC Firsts Instructions for the Conduct of the Examination (ICE) document for Onscreen On-demand tests provides guidance to centres on the administration of the tests. The ICE is available here:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/delivering-onscreen-tests.aspx>

In addition, the JCQ guidance is applicable to the running of onscreen tests for this qualification, with particular reference to Appendix 1, from page 46-50. And can be found here:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations/instructions-for-conducting-examinations-2012-2013>

Q. Can the teacher be the sole invigilator of the onscreen test?

A. No, the head of centre, or exams officer, or quality assurance co-ordinator **must** make sure that a teacher who has directly prepared the learners for the subject being examined, or a senior member of teaching staff who has had overall responsibility for the learners preparation for the examination **is not** the sole invigilator at any time during the examination or on-screen test. You may choose to have your centre IT support personnel available.

For more information regarding requirements for invigilation, please refer to the NQF BTEC Firsts Instructions for the Conduct of Examinations (ICE document).

Q. If a candidate is absent, when can a new test booking be made?

A. If a candidate is absent for their test booking and the centre wish to make a new booking, the Examinations Officer should contact us in order to discuss this. Please note that Edexcel Online will not allow you to make a further test booking until the whole test 'package' has been through the marking and grading process.

Q. Does the whole cohort have to be tested at the same time?

A. No, you can select individual learners or a group of learners to be tested. Test bookings can be made throughout the year in line with your centre's delivery plan. This

allows you to ensure that test bookings are made for learners when they are fully prepared for assessment.

Q. Does a computer mark all of the questions?

A. No. Different question types are used during the test; therefore different marking methods are used. Trained examiners will mark some of the learner responses to questions. The Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) are available for centres, providing an overview of the question type and test structure learners should expect.

Q. How long will it take for results to be issued?

A. As this is an awarded test, which is not solely compiled of Multiple Choice Questions, you will not get an instant result, however we will endeavour to achieve a service level from 28 – 56 days.

Q. Will all learners receive results at the same time?

A. The onscreen, on-demand test bank contains a number of test versions, all of which are individually awarded and graded. Tests are randomly assigned to learners. Some learners may sit a test which has been awarded previously, whilst others may sit a new test version. As a result, some learners may receive results more quickly than others.

Q. What kind of feedback can we expect to receive?

A. Learners will receive results in the form of a grade (Distinction, Merit, Level 2 Pass or Level 1 Pass) or a result of Unclassified. They will also receive their mark.

Q: Where are the grade boundaries published for onscreen tests?

A: Multiple test versions will be active in the test bank simultaneously. Each test is awarded independently and as a result, grade boundaries may vary between test versions. As such, we have published a 'grade boundary range' on our website to provide you with information about the test versions we have set grade boundaries for previously. You can find this information here, along with information about the process we follow to set grade boundaries for our onscreen tests:

<http://www.edexcel.com/btec/delivering-BTEC/quality/BTEC-assessment/assessment/Pages/ea.aspx>

As tests are 'retired' from the test bank, we will publish these on the subject webpages. These will be accompanied with a full examiner report, along with the relevant grade boundaries.

Q. Will there be a remark service?

A. Post Results Services are available to centres. Further guidance on how to request a remark or clerical recheck will be provided to the Examinations Officer when results are issued.

Further information about Post Results Services can be found here:

http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Documents/NQF_BTEC_PRS_Guide.pdf

Q. How soon after the learner has sat the test can we request a resit?

A. You will be unable to make a new test booking for a learner that has not yet been issued with a result for their previous attempt. We would encourage you to make test bookings when you believe the learner is ready to be assessed.

Q. How many times can the learner re-sit the onscreen test?

A. We would encourage you to enter the learner for the external assessment when they are ready to be assessed. The nature of on demand testing means that you are in full control of when this decision is made. There is no limit to the re-sit opportunities for the

externally assessed units, however we may issue a limit to re-sit opportunities in the future, if appropriate.

Q. What is the cost of a re-sit?

A. Our vocational fees can be found here:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/vocational-fees.aspx>

A re-sit costs £13.85 per unit. One external assessment attempt is included within the registration fee for the qualification.

Additional information:

Learner information from the JCQ on onscreen tests can be found here:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations/instructions-for-conducting-examinations-2012-2013>

Customer support information:

<http://www.edexcel.com/contactus>

Teaching support: for NQF Level 1/Level 2 BTEC Firsts from 2012, with onscreen tests:

Subject	Unit	First external assessment	External Assessment Type	Contact information
ICT	Unit 1: The Online World	From June 2013, then on-demand	1hr on-screen test on demand	TeachingICT@pearson.com 0844 372 2186
ICT	Unit 2: Technology Systems	From June 2013, then on-demand	1hr on-screen test on demand	TeachingICT@pearson.com 0844 372 2186
Sport	Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise	From June 2013, then on demand	1hr on-screen test on demand	TeachingPEandSport@pearson.com 0844 576 0036
Sport	Unit 7: Anatomy and Physiology for Sports Performance	From March 2014, then on demand	1hr on-screen test on demand	TeachingPEandSport@pearson.com 0844 576 0036
Business	Unit 2: Finance for Business	From Nov 2013, then on demand	1hr on-screen test, on demand	TeachingBusiness@pearson.com 0844 372 2187
Engineering	Unit 1: The Engineering World	From Nov 2013, then on demand	1hr on-screen test on demand	TeachingEngineering@pearson.com 0844 463 2824
Performing Arts	Unit 8: The Performing Arts Industry	From June 2014, Then on demand	1hr on-screen test, on demand	TeachingPerformingArts@pearson.com 0844 372 2191