

## 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 August 2013.**

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](http://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.**

## **Pearson Onscreen Platform Technical Specifications and Overview**

For the Diagnostic Tool, Please visit the following link:

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

### ***Exam Centre Service (ECS):***

PC with or greater

- Pentium III with 900 MHz processor
- 2GB RAM
- Access to Internet (ADSL 1Mb min) via reliable ISP
- 10/100Mbps network interface adapter
- Disk space according to centre size and needs – shared drive visible for all network users with minimum 1GB spare to be used for installation, test and response packages. This space will vary depending on the number of learners in the centre, the number of tests and the size of the tests.
- Windows 7, Windows 8, Server 2008 R2 with .Net 4.0

### ***Administrator Dashboard / Invigilator Dashboard***

PC with or greater

- Pentium III with 900 MHz processor
- 2GB RAM
- 10/100Mbps network interface adapter
- Printer (local or network) - optional
- Windows XP, 7, 8 (recommended Windows 7)
- .Net v4

### ***Test Player***

PC with or greater

- Pentium III with 900 MHz processor
- 1GB RAM
- 100 Mb storage capacity
- 10/100Mbps network interface adapter (for local mode only)
- Sound recording device (for language assessments)
- Speakers /earphones (for sound based assessments)
- Access to Internet (ADSL 1Mb min) via reliable ISP ( if online mode)
- Windows XP, 7, 8,
- Windows Media Player 11 or above
- .Net v 4

### ***Software Prerequisites:***

These applications are in developed in .NET 4. The framework will need to be installed prior to BTEC ECS installation.

### ***Communication and Networking:***

The ECS Server communicates VIA HTTPS (Port 443) to Pearson servers. To the two service endpoints as follows:

<https://btecng.pearson.com/btecng/TDPService/AwardingBodyService.svc>

<https://btecng.pearson.com/btecng/TDPService/FileService.svc>

The ECC client communicates to the ECS server over ports 52222 and then incrementally thereafter.

So port range to be open of 52222 – 52250.

Any software firewall on the ECS server will need to be open to allow communication to the ECS server.

### ***Drives and Directories utilised by the system:***

#### **ECS**

C:\Program Files\ExamCentreService\

#### **ECC**

C:\Program Files\Pearson ECC\ECC

#### **ID**

C:\Program Files\Pearson\Dashboard\

#### **TDP**

C:\Program Files\Pearson\TDP\

## 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 your 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 a grade (Distinction, Merit, Level 2 Pass or Level 1 Pass) or a result of Unclassified. We are currently evaluating the level of feedback we are able to provide to centres, which will be in line with guidance that ensures the security of the onscreen tests. In the future we will release tests from the test bank to centres, and these will be accompanied with a full examiner report.

**Q: Will learners receive raw marks as well as grades?**

**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. Due to the nature of on demand testing, we are unable to release grade boundaries for live tests. Therefore, raw marks are not issued and results are issued as grade-only.

**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](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
<b>ICT</b>	Unit 1: The Online World	From June 2013, then on-demand	1hr on-screen test on demand	<a href="mailto:TeachingICT@pearson.com">TeachingICT@pearson.com</a> 0844 372 2186
<b>ICT</b>	Unit 2: Technology Systems	From June 2013, then on-demand	1hr on-screen test on demand	<a href="mailto:TeachingICT@pearson.com">TeachingICT@pearson.com</a> 0844 372 2186
<b>Sport</b>	Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise	From June 2013, then on demand	1hr on-screen test on demand	<a href="mailto:TeachingPEandSport@pearson.com">TeachingPEandSport@pearson.com</a> 0844 576 0036
<b>Sport</b>	Unit 7: Anatomy and Physiology for Sports Performance	From March 2014, then on demand	1hr on-screen test on demand	<a href="mailto:TeachingPEandSport@pearson.com">TeachingPEandSport@pearson.com</a> 0844 576 0036
<b>Business</b>	Unit 2: Finance for Business	From Nov 2013, then on demand	1hr on-screen test, on demand	<a href="mailto:TeachingBusiness@pearson.com">TeachingBusiness@pearson.com</a> 0844 372 2187
<b>Engineering</b>	Unit 1: The Engineering World	From Nov 2013, then on demand	1hr on-screen test on demand	<a href="mailto:TeachingEngineering@pearson.com">TeachingEngineering@pearson.com</a> 0844 463 2824
<b>Performing Arts</b>	Unit 8: The Performing Arts Industry	From June 2014, Then on demand	1hr on-screen test, on demand	<a href="mailto:TeachingPerformingArts@pearson.com">TeachingPerformingArts@pearson.com</a> 0844 372 2191