

## Statement of Purpose

### 500/9547/X - Pearson BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Agriculture (QCF)

#### Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is a Technical Certificate at level 2 designed for post-16 students working at that level. It has 360 guided learning hours.

It is designed for students who have chosen to focus their learning and career development within the environmental and land-based sector and who are looking for an engaging and stimulating qualification which will prepare them for progression directly into employment and/or into further study. Its size allows students to study particular specialisms in depth.

#### What does this qualification cover?

The qualification has two mandatory units, which provide the essential knowledge and practical skills to prepare students for progression to work within the sector.

- Unit 1, 'Undertake Work Related Experience in the Land-based Industries' - this unit aims to provide students with an understanding of the principles of work related experience and how these can be applied in practice.
- Unit 2, 'Environmental and Land-based Business' - this unit aims to provide students with an understanding of the principles of business within the environmental and land-based business, and how these can be applied in practice.

Students must then take one of the following units

- Unit 3, 'Introduction to Crop Establishment' - this unit aims to introduce students to skills and knowledge in crop establishment and how these can be applied in practice.

Or

- Unit 4, 'Introduction to Farm Animal Production' - this unit aims to introduce students to the skills and knowledge needed for farm animal production and how these can be applied in practice. This unit examines common livestock production systems and gives students an opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge needed to work with specified farm livestock.

Students then choose up to four optional specialist units which provide a close focus within the sector, supporting progression on to a more specialized level 3 technical course or into employment. The optional units cover key areas including machinery operations, animal and plant husbandry, animal and plant biology, and dairy and beef cattle husbandry.

Through this, students develop the knowledge and practical skills required for a range of roles in the sector and apply them in employment-related contexts, while enabling them also to acquire a valuable range of transferable and work related skills.

Communication skills are developed throughout the units, and students can also enhance their broader skills in ICT, while numeracy skills are developed in compulsory unit 2 'Environmental and Land-based Business'.

If the qualification is studied alongside a level 2 qualification in English and/or mathematics, it will provide numerous opportunities to develop relevant skills and knowledge.

**What could this qualification lead to?**

Achievement of this qualification would mean students are fully prepared to progress to an apprenticeship in the environment and land-based sector, for example, in plant and animal production, assistant stockperson, assistant tractor-driver, general farm worker, estate worker. The qualification will also have allowed students to gain a thorough understanding of agriculture which will serve them well on a level 3 programme where they may choose to specialise, for example a BTEC National in Agriculture.

**This qualification is part of a larger suite of BTEC Agriculture qualifications**

Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Agriculture has 360 guided learning hours (GLH).

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Agriculture is designed for post-16 students and provides a specialist work-related focus on the agricultural sector. This qualification prepares students for employment in the agricultural sector. It includes a mandatory work-related experience unit not included within the smaller sizes.

Pearson also offers a BTEC Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Agriculture which has 180 GLH. This forms a broad introduction to the agriculture sector and may form part of the student's study programme. For example, it could be taken alongside subjects such as English, mathematics, science, business, etc.

(Pearson also offers a BTEC First Certificate in Agriculture, which has 90 GLH and is predominantly designed for pre-16 students.)

All sizes of the qualification provide progression to Level 3 study programmes, apprenticeships and entry into a specialist area of employment.

**Who supports this qualification?**

This qualification is supported by the following employers and professional bodies:

- The National Association of Agricultural Contractors
- National Farmers Union
- EBLEX
- Hollow Trees Farm Shop
- Farming and Countryside Education (FACE)

Support letters from these organisations are available at the following link:  
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/agriculture-2010-qcf.html>.

**Further information**

Further information on the qualification can also be accessed at  
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/agriculture-2010-qcf.html>.