

Statement of Purpose

500/9932/2 - Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Agriculture (QCF)

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is intended as a Technical Certificate at level 2. It represents 180 guided learning hours.

This qualification is designed for post-16 students who have chosen to focus their learning and career development within the agricultural industry and who are looking for an engaging and stimulating qualification which supports transition directly into employment and/or into further study. This qualification includes a range of optional units that introduce students to the variabilities of employment opportunities within the agricultural industry.

The BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Agriculture offers flexibility and a choice of emphasis through the optional units. It is broadly equivalent to two GCSEs.

What does this qualification cover?

There are no mandatory units as this qualification contains a variety of optional units to sector specialist areas of agriculture.

Students can choose from 14 optional specialist units which provide a close focus within the sector. Depending on the optional units chosen, students can develop knowledge and skills in key areas needed for the agriculture industry such as:

- Crop, grass and forage crop establishment and production and how these can be applied to practice
- Farm animal production systems that develop the skills and knowledge needed to work with specified farm livestock. Students will have practical involvement in key stages of agricultural production
- key aspects of plant and animal husbandry requirements in land-based production. Skills and knowledge can be gained further within dairy and beef cattle husbandry and sheep husbandry
- land-based machinery principles and operations and how these can be applied in to practice especially where skills are needed for using tractors or other similar powered vehicles with associated machinery and equipment
- Tractor driving skills and the operations of land-based machinery safely, effectively and be able to carry out a range of tasks commonly associated with the machines
- good working practices in workshops and the importance of health and safety
- concepts of animal and plant biology where the students can build knowledge and apply in a variety of ways
- develop skills in estate management enabling basic maintenance and repair tasks.
- conservation and British habitat improvements gaining knowledge of different habitats and the techniques available for managing them

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

Students will also enhance their broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will be invaluable in support of progression to employment and/or to further level 3 studies.

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?

This qualification provides a sound basis for students to progress further within the industry to a BTEC National in agriculture, to an apprenticeship in agriculture, or direct entry to employment. Students are prepared for a varied spectrum of occupations within the industry, including assistant stockperson, assistant tractor-driver, general farm worker, estate worker.

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should the student choose this one?

Pearson offers two sizes of qualification in Agriculture, the Extended Certificate (equivalent to 2 GCSEs) and the Diploma (equivalent to 4 GCSEs).

Students are likely to take the Extended Certificate in Agriculture to gain an introduction to the agricultural industry, which will develop some of the basic skills and knowledge required by employers in the agricultural industry. The Extended Certificate in Agriculture is likely to be taken alongside other qualifications such as GCSE maths or English over a one-year course of study, while the Diploma is likely to be taken on its own as a full one year programme of study. The Diploma will provide a deeper understanding and develop further skills and knowledge at this level.

Who supports this qualification?

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

- AHDB Beef and Lamb
- Hollow Trees Farm Shop

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>.