

Statement of Purpose

601/4530/4 - Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Animal Care

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is a Technical Award equivalent in size to one GCSE. It is designed for pre-16 students working at level 2 who want to study animal care within their broader Key Stage 4 curriculum. It provides an introduction to some of the key themes within the industry, enabling students to develop their knowledge and practical technical skills.

What will the student study as part of this qualification?

The qualification consists of a compulsory core of two units making up 50% of the qualification, and a choice of two (from three) optional units. The core provides the key underpinning applied knowledge and skills, while the optional units enable students to undertake a range of internally assessed practical activities

Compulsory units

- *Unit 1: Animal Health* reflects vital aspects of working with animals in any field of the animal industry. It covers the fundamental knowledge and understanding required for undertaking health assessments alongside the identification of common diseases and disorders and their prevention. The unit also examines common parasites, from transmission to prevention. It is externally assessed.
- *Unit 2: Animal Handling* requires students to approach, handle and restrain animals safely, whilst also becoming familiar with the hazards and risks associated with handling animals. The unit also requires students to learn about industry guidelines, health and safety legislation and animal welfare legislation. It is internally assessed.

Optional units

The three internally assessed optional units are:

- Unit 3 'Animal Welfare'
- Unit 4 'Animal Housing and Accommodation'
- Unit 5 'Principles of Animal Behaviour'

These units offer students the opportunity to study particular aspects of the sector. Students can learn about animal welfare (Unit 3) and the management of animal accommodation (Unit 4), which is vital within the sector. Unit 5 will develop an awareness of normal animal behaviour and the stimuli needed to maintain an animal's physical and mental health.

What knowledge and skills will the student develop as part of this qualification?

Students will develop broad knowledge and skills relating to the animal care industry, as outlined above. This will enhance their knowledge of biology and enable them to apply that knowledge in the context of animal health. The qualification will provide a sound basis for progression for those students who wish to study a related qualification at level 3, such as BTEC animal management, or an apprenticeship. The applied knowledge of biology, which underpins this qualification, will also support study of A level biology.

Students will also develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication (including verbal and analytical writing skills), research and project management (providing an opportunity to demonstrate reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem). Furthermore, students will develop a valuable range of study and employability skills.

These include enhancing their skills in literacy, and numeracy e.g. through calculating, recording and reporting on water and food consumption or evaluating changes in temperature, pulse and respiration over time that will be valuable in support of progression to any level 3 course.

Which subjects will complement this course?

This qualification is designed to be taken as part of a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4. It is expected that learners will take this alongside GCSEs in EBacc subjects, particularly biology, as well as possibly two non-core GCSEs (for example business or computing) and/or other Key Stage 4 vocational qualifications.

Further information

Further information on the qualification can be accessed at <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts2012/animal-care/Pages/default.aspx>.