

## Pearson Authorised Assignment Briefs FAQs for Science

### **What are Pearson authorised assignment briefs for BTECs?**

These are briefs, prepared and verified by Pearson (the Awarding Organisation for BTECs), that can be used to effectively assess all or part of a BTEC unit.

They show:

- how Learning Aims can be used as a basis for assessment
- the type of tasks and evidence required
- the time the assessment will take
- how the assessment criteria can be applied.

Fully endorsed by subject experts, they represent a benchmark, so when centres create their own assessments, they should be informed by these authorised resources.

### **Are Pearson authorised assignment briefs available for all BTEC qualifications?**

Pearson authorised assignment briefs are currently only available for the new next generation BTEC Firsts.

### **Where can I find Pearson authorised assignment briefs?**

Pearson authorised assignment briefs are available via myBTEC, our online toolkit to support your BTEC planning, delivery and assessment. You can access myBTEC from our website at [www.btec.co.uk/myBTEC](http://www.btec.co.uk/myBTEC).

During the summer term 2012, while myBTEC is still in development, some authorised assignment briefs will be available on the subject pages in the relevant online specification pack. You will need your Edexcel Online username and password to access these briefs, which will be available exclusively via myBTEC once it is live. Learn more at [www.btec.co.uk/2012](http://www.btec.co.uk/2012).

### **Are there authorised assignment briefs available to cover every Learning Aim for every unit?**

For the new BTEC Firsts from 2012, we will provide authorised assignment briefs which address all the Learning Aims for the three internally-assessed units in each Award.

For optional units in the Extended Certificate and Diploma, we will offer at least one authorised assignment brief per unit, covering at least one Learning Aim.

### **Is it compulsory to use the authorised assignment briefs?**

No. The Pearson authorised assignment briefs for the next generation BTEC Firsts are intended to be supportive rather than prescriptive. They should provide:

- clarity around what's required
- a useful starting point for those new to BTEC
- more ideas for experienced BTEC practitioners.

### **Do I need to look at the authorised briefs if I am not using them?**

Even if you choose not to use the authorised assignment briefs provided for a unit, you should read them through and review them before preparing your own briefs.

If you prefer to develop your own assignment scenarios or contexts, the authorised assignments provide robust models for approaching assignment design. They will also be used within standardisation exercises for assessors, so Standards Verifiers will be fully familiar with them.

**Am I allowed to change the authorised assignment briefs?**

Yes. You have the flexibility to adapt the authorised assignment briefs - or not to use them at all. For example, if you do choose to use the authorised brief as a starting point, you may need to introduce a scenario more closely related to your local area, or a topical issue which is relevant for your learners.

Whatever changes you make, you must:

- ensure the assignment still works together as a coherent whole
- have the revised brief internally verified, or checked through the assignment checking service ([www.btec.co.uk/assignmentcheckingservice](http://www.btec.co.uk/assignmentcheckingservice)).

**If I want to use an authorised assignment brief without changing it, do I still have to get it internally verified?**

Yes. Your Lead Internal Verifier (LIV) will need to fit all your assignments into the overall plan, and know when they will be assessed, so you will need to submit an authorised assignment brief to your LIV along with all your other assignments in the usual way. It is important that you are as familiar with the endorsed assignment brief as you would be if you had created it yourself.

**Is the verification process the same for authorised assignment briefs (whether you have adapted them or not) and assignment briefs we create ourselves? Can you clarify the process for each?**

All assignments have to be internally verified.

**Pearson authorised assignments:** If you choose to use an authorised assignment brief without making any changes, you will need to submit it to your LIV in the usual way, and we will indicate clearly on the internal verification sign-off form which questions are applicable to the authorised assignments.

**Your own assignments:** Where you are creating your own assignments – or adapting an authorised assignment brief - the internal verification process will ensure the assignment brief is fully fit for purpose.

You can find more information on Pearson authorised assignment briefs in our Delivery Guide. Learn more at [www.btec.co.uk/2012](http://www.btec.co.uk/2012) and follow the links to your subject.

**How are the authorised assignment briefs different from assignment briefs Edexcel has provided in the past (e.g. through paid-for resources such as 'Assessment Resource Packs' and 'BTEC in a Box')?**

The assignment briefs for earlier BTEC qualifications - available from Edexcel in paid-for resources such as BTEC in a Box and Assessment Resource Packs - were sample briefs only. The authorised assignment briefs produced for the next generation BTECs have been created as part of the qualification development process and show the assessment requirements in practice.

**Can I re-use any of my existing assignment briefs from the existing BTEC Level 2 Firsts? If so, can you offer me any help with adapting them and with the verification process?**

Assessment in the next generation BTEC Firsts is based around Learning Aims, and this has been reflected in developing the new units. So, even if unit content is similar in the new BTEC Firsts, you will still need to adapt any existing assignment briefs to meet the new criteria.

While you will be able to re-use many assignment ideas (including scenarios, tasks and types of evidence), you should think of each assignment afresh for the new BTECs. To support you with this process, we have provided unit-by-unit mapping information on our website so you can easily check the best fit between new and existing units - learn more at [www.btec.co.uk/2012](http://www.btec.co.uk/2012) and follow the relevant subject links. And you can always submit your assignments to the Assignment Checking Service for more help and advice – learn more at [www.btec.co.uk/assignmentcheckingservice](http://www.btec.co.uk/assignmentcheckingservice).