

BTEC Firsts in Art and Design (NQF) from 2012: Grade boundaries for externally set and externally moderated units

Dear Colleague,

As you will be aware the new next generation BTEC Firsts contain elements of external assessment. For Art and Design this takes the form of up to two externally set tasks. For both units the centre assessor will provide a mark out of 30 for each learner and a sample of learner work will be externally moderated by Edexcel.

Ensuring accurate and fair results for all learners is our greatest priority and we have a responsibility to ensure that the standard of the qualification is maintained over time. Section 9 of the Specification for BTEC Firsts in Art and Design (NQF) makes it clear that for each external assessment, grade boundaries, based on learner performance, will be set by the awarding organisation. This will be done at an awarding meeting involving a panel of senior examiners and verifiers and in line with Ofqual requirements. It will involve careful consideration of learners' work and statistical information relating to the assessment.

With this in mind it is very important to note that the mark ranges assigned to the grades in the assessment criteria and assessment guidance for Units 2 and 7 of the NQF BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First in Art and Design **are for guidance only**. Following the awarding procedure outlined above it may become necessary to adjust these notional mark ranges.

Previous years' grade boundaries can be found in the Lead Examiner's report which is available for download on the website (<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts2012/art-and-design/>). Grade boundaries are always subject to change each year and so these can only act as a rough guide.

Support

We offer a range of support to help you in delivering and assessing this qualification.

- If you have any queries about the teaching or assessment of your NQF BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First course in Art and Design, for level 2 learners, you can contact our **Art, Design and Media team** led by Susan Young Art, Design and Media Subject Advisor. You can receive the latest news on our Art and Design qualifications, as well as links to useful resources to use in class, if you sign up for the regular eUpdate. Please email with your name and centre number to teachingartanddesign@pearson.com or teachingmedia@pearson.com

- **Ask the Expert** puts you in direct email contact with the senior examining and verification team. To submit a query, log on to www.edexcel.com/asktheexpert and you will receive a reply within two working days.
- There is a range of **support material and guidance** available on our website that you can download for free. This can be accessed at www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts2012/art-and-design.

Please feel free to contact the Next Generation BTEC Art and Design assessment team at btecdelivery@pearson.com for any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Barton', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Phil Barton
Qualification Delivery and Award Manager
Creative Arts and Media
Next Generation BTEC Assessment