

NQF BTEC Firsts in Art and Design Frequently Asked Questions

Can we import units through Meeting Local Needs?

There is no option to import units using Meeting Local Needs.

Can learners complete the Award in year 9?

Yes they can, however this qualification is designed for level 2 learners. Centres should consider whether learners in Year 9 will have the physical and mental maturity to cope with this Level 2 qualification at the age of 13 or 14.

For level 1 learners: We also offer a market-leading range of Level 1 BTECs which are specifically designed to meet the needs of level 1 learners and provide an excellent platform for progression to the BTEC Firsts. We believe these qualifications remain the best choice for learners at this level.

How can learners who register for the L2 award end up with a L1 qualification?

The fall-back level 1 pass was built in to the new Level 2 BTECs so that learners who don't quite achieve enough for a Level 2 pass may be able to achieve at level 1. Details of this can be found in Chapter 10 in the Specification.

Do the larger qualifications (the Certificate and Extended Certificate) still count as 2 / 3 GCSEs?

In terms of DfE Headline Measures no qualification will be 'worth' more than a single GCSE in future. For other purposes e.g. learner progression and wider performance tables the certificate and extended certificate is equivalent to 2 and 3 GCSEs respectively.

Can we top up to larger qualifications? If we do, can we re-do the units (and re-do the external unit)?

As with previous versions of the BTEC it will be possible for learners to study additional units that will allow them to top up a smaller qualification to a larger one. If this is done then the external unit may be re-attempted if the learner and the centre wishes.

What is endorsement? What is an endorsed pathway?

Endorsement means that the certificate received on passing the course will include the name of the pathway in brackets.

The endorsed pathways ensure that the majority, if not all, the units offered in the pathway are in a particular discipline or area of study. The endorsed pathway will indicate to the learner, future education establishments, training providers and employers which discipline or area of study is the focus for the course.

Are the suggested assignments in the specification just that? Can we still write our own?

The suggested assignment outlines have been included as examples of how a particular unit could be approached and assessed. There is no requirement to use the examples provided; it is guidance only. Teachers can design whatever kind of assignment they want to, so long as the brief meets the requirements of the unit.

Authorised Assignment Briefs are provided as examples that you can use as they are, adapt or simply use as a template to write your own from scratch. You aren't required to use these but they are good examples of how the assessment requirements should be addressed.

Do I have to submit my assignment briefs to Pearson for checking?

Your Standards Verifier will ask to see assignment briefs that you are using to ensure that they are fit for purpose. You can use the free assignment checking service to get your briefs checked before using them with learners which will make the standards verification process much smoother.

Can I integrate units to cover more than one in a single assignment?

Yes you can do this and when done well this can be a great way to teach and allow learners to work. It is doubly important to make sure that all your assessment planning is carefully done to ensure that you are sticking to the regulations around formative and summative assessment and resubmission.