

Statement of Purpose

601/0259/7 - Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is a Technical Certificate at level 2 (480 GLH) designed for post-16 students working at that level. It is intended for students who have chosen to focus their learning and career development within the Construction sector and who are looking for an engaging and stimulating qualification which will prepare them for progression directly into employment and/or into further study. Its size allows students to study particular specialism in depth.

What does this qualification cover?

The qualification consists of seven mandatory units, which span the underpinning knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to prepare students to work within the sector. Up to six additional optional units are then chosen from five specialisms in the sector: carpentry, brickwork, painting and decorating, plumbing and electrical techniques, with the opportunity to follow a particular specialism in depth.

Mandatory units

- Unit 1, 'Construction Technology', provides an understanding of the structural performance required for low-rise construction, and how sub-structures and superstructures are constructed.
- Unit 2 'Construction and Design', provides an understanding of the work of the construction industry, an understanding of a client's needs to develop a design brief for a low-rise building and an opportunity to produce a range of initial sketch ideas to meet the requirements of a client brief for a low-rise building.
- Unit 21, 'Maintenance and Adaptation of Buildings', requires students to develop an understanding of the factors influencing the maintenance and adaptation of buildings, explore the maintenance of buildings and the requirements for the adaptation of buildings.
- Unit 11, 'Sustainability in Construction', covers the concept of sustainability. It also examines the techniques and methods that are commonly adopted in construction to work towards ensuring sustainability.
- Unit 3, 'Scientific and Mathematical Applications for Construction', requires students to understand the effects of forces and temperature changes on materials used in construction and use mathematical techniques to solve construction problems.
- Unit 4, 'Construction Processes and Operations' covers the planning and sequencing of construction work, traditional and modern construction processes and operations used in low-rise construction and the properties and uses of construction materials.
- Unit 12, 'The Construction Industry' examines the job roles and responsibilities in the construction industry and explores approaches for gaining employment in the construction industry.

Optional units

The optional units provide a close focus within the construction sector, supporting progression into a more specialized level 3 technical course or into employment. The optional units cover key areas including carpentry, brickwork and blockwork, painting and decorating, plumbing and electrical operations.

Students develop the knowledge and practical skills required for a number of roles in the construction sector and apply them in employment-related contexts. They can also acquire a valuable range of transferable and work related skills, including creative thinking, project and self-management and team working. Communication skills are also developed, together with broader skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT. For example, in unit 3 '*Scientific and Mathematical Applications for Construction*'; students are required to use mathematical techniques to solve construction problems.

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?

Achievement of this qualification at level 2 would mean students are fully prepared to progress to a BTEC Advanced Apprenticeship in construction and the built environment. The qualification will have allowed students to gain a thorough understanding of construction and the built environment which will serve them well on a level 3 programme where they may choose to specialise.

Optional units 6 and 16 will ensure students are fully equipped for progression into carpentry or joinery roles where they might combine employment with a BTEC Advanced Apprenticeship in Construction Building.

Optional units 8 and 18 will ensure students are well equipped for progression into painting and decorating where they might combine employment with a BTEC Advanced Apprenticeship in Construction Building.

Achievement of this qualification at level 2 also supports progression to further study of a wide range of Tech Level qualifications in the sector, including the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Construction and the Built Environment (QCF), or to employment within the construction industry.

This qualification is part of a larger suite of BTEC Construction qualifications

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Diploma has 480 GLH. The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate, at 360 GLH, is also available.

(The suite also contains an Award (120 GLH) and Certificate (240 GLH) but they are designed for use pre-16)

The double-sized units (60 GLH) which form part of the Diploma mean this qualification has a focus on depth rather than breadth. Students might choose the Level 1/Level 2 Diploma rather than the Level 1/Level 2 Extended Certificate because it provides opportunities for specialisation which will enable students to focus on particular interests and develop the skill sets required for particular job roles within the building trades.

Both the Extended Certificate and Diploma support progression to Level 3 study programmes, apprenticeships and/or other employment in the construction and building technology sector.

Who supports this qualification?

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

- The Institution of Civil Engineers
- The Chartered Institute of Building
- Seddon Construction Ltd
- Wates Construction
- Balfour Beatty

Support letters from these organisations are available at the following link:
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/construction-and-the-built-environment-2013-nqf.html>.

Further information

Further information on the qualification can also be accessed at
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/construction-and-the-built-environment-2013-nqf.html>.