

Statement of Purpose

601/0258/5 - Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is a Technical Certificate (360 GLH) at level 2 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. It will enable students to develop a range of skills which will prepare them for progression directly into employment in a beginner role and/or into further study.

What does the qualification cover?

The qualification consists of four mandatory units which provide the underpinning knowledge and practical skills required for work in the construction sector. Up to eight additional units are then chosen from five specialisms in the sector: carpentry, brickwork, painting and decorating, plumbing and electrical techniques.

Mandatory units

- Unit 1, '*Construction Technology*', provides an understanding of the structural performance required for low-rise construction, how sub-structures are constructed and how 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 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.

Optional units

The optional units cover key areas including carpentry, brickwork and blockwork, painting and decorating, plumbing and electrical operations.

Through these units, 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.

What could this qualification lead to?

This qualification provides a sound basis for students to progress further within the construction industry, to level 3 Technical Level qualifications or an apprenticeship in construction and the built environment. Following further study at level 3, ambitious students are well prepared for a role within the construction industry.

This Level 1/Level 2 Extended Certificate gives a broad introduction to construction and in particular carpentry, brickwork, painting and decorating, plumbing and electrical techniques. The achievement of this qualification will prepare students for roles that require familiarity with these core construction and building skills and crafts.

Students can take any of the 'exploring' or 'operations' units to develop the skills needed and demonstrate their ability to work in the sector. This qualification can also develop general work related skills, for example, by gaining knowledge of safety and security procedures in construction environments, and learning how to communicate effectively and clearly.

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

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

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

This Level 1/Level 2 Extended Certificate provides an opportunity to study a wide range of construction areas and will be appropriate for the student who is looking to prepare for roles which will encompass several building craft areas. The size of the qualification also allows for time in the curriculum for those who need to include additional qualifications to prepare them for progression, such as GCSE English and/or mathematics.

Students who wish to specialise in particular aspects of construction would be more likely to choose the Level 1/Level 2 Diploma.

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

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>.