

Statement of Purpose

601/4556/0 - Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Equine Studies

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is a Technical Award equivalent in size to one GCSE. It is designed for pre-16 students working at level 2 who want to study equine studies within their broader Key Stage 4 curriculum. It provides an introduction to some of the key themes within the equine industry, enabling students to develop their knowledge and practical technical skills within an industry-related context. It enables students to undertake a range of diverse equine related activities, including practical horse handling and restraint, maintenance, observations of equine health and behaviour and research into animal welfare.

What will the student study as part of this qualification?

This qualification provides students with an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of equine health and care. They will explore some of the key themes across the sector, as outlined in the unit descriptions below. The qualification links to, and builds on, aspects of GCSE biology by incorporating aspects of health, disease, circulation and respiratory systems.

The qualification consists of a compulsory core of two units making up 50% of the qualification, and a choice of two (from three) optional units. The core provides the key underpinning applied knowledge and skills, while the optional units enable students to undertake a range of internally assessed practical activities,

Compulsory units

- *Unit 1: Equine Health and Welfare*, reflects essential aspects of knowledge required to monitor and maintain the health of a horse; it is externally assessed. This unit covers the fundamental knowledge relating to equine health, disease and their prevention required when maintaining the well-being of a horse.
- *Unit 2: Equine Husbandry*, explores essential knowledge and skills required to maintain a high standard of day-to-day horse care, which is a fundamental requirement in the equine industry. This unit will develop the student's knowledge and practical skills in vital horse husbandry principles, whilst also demonstrating safe working practices. It is internally assessed.

Optional units

The three internally assessed optional units are:

- Unit 3 'Horse Handling'
- Unit 4 'Equine Behaviour'
- Unit 5 'Equine Tack, Equipment and Clothing'

The optional units offer students the opportunity to pursue more specialist interests. Students can develop knowledge of horse handling (Unit 3) involving the key practical skills associated with handling and restraining horses. Equine behaviour (Unit 4) develops students' ability to recognise normal and abnormal behaviours, which is vital to demonstrate best practice in all aspects of horse care and management. Unit 5 develops students' knowledge and skills in fitting and maintaining tack and equipment, which is necessary for those wishing to work directly with horses in the sector.

What knowledge and skills will the student develop as part of this qualification?

Students will develop broad knowledge and skills relating to the equine industry, as outlined above. For those students who want to take their study of this sector further, this will provide a sound basis for study of a vocational qualification at level 3 in equine or animal care, or an apprenticeship. The applied knowledge of biology that is developed throughout the course will also support study of that subject at level 3.

Students will also develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication (verbal and analytical writing skills), research and project management (providing an opportunity to demonstrate reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem). Furthermore, students will develop a valuable range of study and employability skills. These include enhancing their skills in literacy and numeracy that will be invaluable in support of progression to any level 3 course.

Which subjects will complement this course?

This qualification is designed to be taken as part of a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4. It is expected that learners will take this alongside GCSEs in EBacc subjects, where biology will be particularly appropriate, as well as possibly two non-core GCSEs (for example business or psychology) and/or other Key Stage 4 vocational qualifications.

Further information

Further information on the qualification can be accessed at <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts2012/equine-studies/Pages/default.aspx>.