

## Statement of Purpose

### **501/0122/5 - Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Horticulture (QCF)**

#### **Who is the qualification for?**

This qualification is intended as a Vocational Qualification at level 2 designed for post-16 students working at that level. It represents 30 credits and 180 guided learning hours.

This qualification is designed for students who have chosen to focus their learning and career development within the agricultural industry and who are looking for an engaging and stimulating qualification which supports transition directly into employment and/or into further study. This qualification includes a range of optional units that introduce students to the variabilities of employment opportunities within horticulture and plant management.

The BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Horticulture offers flexibility and a choice of emphasis through the optional units. It is broadly equivalent to two GCSEs.

#### **What does this qualification cover?**

There are no mandatory units as this qualification contains a variety of optional units to sector specialist areas of horticulture. All optional units provide essential practical skills and underpinning theoretical knowledge.

The optional units cover key areas relevant to those working within any of the three sub-sectors within horticulture: nurseries and horticultural plant providers; landscaping and estate management; and sports and amenity turf management. They enable students to focus on a specialism within the industry and cover a wide range of the principal disciplines that are associated with key areas for employment within the sector, including, for example, land-based business, plant biology, soil science, growth and propagation of horticultural plants and crops, nursery stock production, retail management, the maintenance of sports and amenity turf, working with land-based machinery and estate maintenance.

This qualification enables students to acquire a valuable range of practical, work related skills in the plant management and amenity sectors, requiring them to develop and apply their knowledge in specific industry-related contexts. Examples include selecting, planting out, watering and caring for plants, preparing the ground and landscape for planting, preparing and maintaining turf, setting out plant display areas, advising customers, using horticultural tools and machinery and maintaining estate boundaries.

Students will also enhance their broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will be invaluable in support of progression to employment and/or to further level 3 studies.

In addition, students will develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication (working with colleagues, customers and clients), and research and project work (providing an opportunity to demonstrate reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem).

**What could this qualification lead to?**

This qualification provides a foundation for students to progress further in the horticulture industries - to a level 3 Technical Level qualification in Horticulture, to an apprenticeship, for example in greenkeeping, or direct entry to employment. Students are prepared for a varied spectrum of occupations within the industry, including, landscape supervisor, gardener, horticultural customer advisor, sports/groundscare technician, horticultural consultant, park ranger and fencing manager.

Students are likely to take the Extended Certificate in Horticulture to gain an introduction to the Horticulture which will develop some of the basic skills and knowledge required by employers in the horticultural industry. The Extended Certificate in Horticulture is likely to be taken alongside other programmes such as GCSE maths or English over a one-year course of study.

**Who supports this qualification?**

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

- Institute of Groundsmanship

Support letters from these organisations will be available at the following link:  
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts10/horticulture/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Further information**

Further information on the qualification can also be accessed at  
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts10/horticulture/Pages/default.aspx>.