

Supplementary notes regarding credit and grading of the BTEC Level 2 Firsts in Horticulture

To supplement:

1. Rules of combination for Edexcel BTEC Level 2 First qualifications (page 6)
2. Calculation of the qualification grade (page 11)
3. Annexe G - examples of calculation of qualification grade above pass grade (pages 283-285)

Calculation of the overall grade

Edexcel will automatically calculate the qualification grade for learners when the learner unit grades are submitted by a centre. The overall grade is calculated based on the rules of combination for the qualification, in the following way:

1. The mandatory units are selected and the points allocated and credit applied as in the following table
2. The best graded optional units are then selected, within the rules of combination
3. If the amount of credit needed for the qualification is within a higher graded unit, Edexcel will utilise the proportion of the unit to complete the overall grade calculation. Any surplus credits will be listed on the Notification of Performance.

Credit

The qualification is comprised of units with defined credits (this is estimated as being one-tenth of the learning time needed for an average learner) at an ascribed level. The overall qualification is determined by defined rules of combination as prescribed in the specifications. All units are graded as Pass, Merit and Distinction. Using the grading grid, assignments are created by centres to enable learners to be able to meet the criteria at Pass, Merit or Distinction; to gain an overall unit grade of Merit all the Pass criteria and all the Merit criteria must be achieved, and to achieve the overall grade of Distinction all the Pass, Merit and Distinction criteria must be achieved.

To gain the unit learners must achieve, as a minimum, the Pass grade; the Pass grade is in effect the gaining of the credit for the unit, and this contributes to the overall qualification grade. All units must be passes within the rules of combination to achieve the overall qualification. Please note that - unlike the NQF BTEC Firsts and Nationals where there was compensation (learners passing the qualification by compensating for not passing a unit(s) having gained Merit or Distinction grades in another unit(s)) - all units must be passed to achieve the qualification.

The table below shows the number of points scored per credit at the unit level and grade

| Unit QCF level | Points per credit | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------|-------------|
| | Pass | Merit | Distinction |
| Level 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Level 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Level 3 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

Learners who achieve the correct number of points within the ranges shown in the 'qualification grade' table below will achieve the qualification Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* grades.

| Qualification | Points range | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|---------------|
| | Pass | Merit | Distinction | Distinction* |
| BTEC Level 2 Certificate | 75-84 | 85-94 | 95-99 | 100 and above |
| BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate | 150-169 | 170-189 | 190-199 | 200 and above |
| BTEC Level 2 Diploma | 300-339 | 340-379 | 380-399 | 400 and above |

Important notes regarding Annexe G - examples of calculation of qualification grade above pass grade

Please note that this Annexe within the specification is for illustrative purposes only - the examples given do not apply to the specification for BTEC Level 2 Firsts in Horticulture. See below for additional examples which are based on this specification.

The qualification rules of combination are agreed at accreditation, utilising the agreed units and their associated credits. There are only Level 2 units within the structure of the BTEC Firsts in Horticulture, and there are no units available at other Levels within the rules of combination.

Meeting Local Needs

In order to meet local needs, centres are permitted to import a prescribed maximum number - as determined within the rules of combination within the specification - of Level 2 units from other QCF accredited BTEC Level 2 Firsts through Edexcel Online.

Example 1 - Achievement of pass qualification grade

A learner completing a 15-credit Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Certificate achieves the credit required to gain a pass qualification grade and does not achieve the points to gain a merit grade.

| | Level | Credit | Grade | Grade points | Points per unit = credit x grade |
|--|-------|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Understand the Principles of Plant Science | 2 | 5 | Pass | 5 | $5 \times 5 = 25$ |
| Understand the Principles of Soil Science | 2 | 5 | Pass | 5 | $5 \times 5 = 25$ |
| Setting Out from a Plan | 2 | 5 | Merit | 6 | $5 \times 6 = 30$ |
| Qualification grade totals | | 15 | Pass | | 80 |

Example 2 - Achievement of merit qualification grade

A learner completing a 15-credit Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Certificate achieves the points required to gain a merit qualification grade.

| | Level | Credit | Grade | Grade points | Points per unit = credit x grade |
|--|-------|-----------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Understand the Principles of Plant Science | 2 | 5 | Pass | 5 | $5 \times 5 = 25$ |
| Understand the Principles of Soil Science | 2 | 5 | Merit | 6 | $5 \times 6 = 30$ |
| Setting Out from a Plan | 2 | 5 | Merit | 6 | $5 \times 6 = 30$ |
| Qualification grade totals | | 15 | Merit | | 85 |

Example 3 - Achievement of distinction qualification grade

A learner completing a 15-credit Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Certificate achieves the points required to gain a distinction qualification grade.

| | Level | Credit | Grade | Grade points | Points per unit = credit x grade |
|--|-------|-----------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Understand the Principles of Plant Science | 2 | 5 | Merit | 6 | $5 \times 6 = 30$ |
| Understand the Principles of Soil Science | 2 | 5 | Merit | 6 | $5 \times 6 = 30$ |
| Setting Out from a Plan | 2 | 5 | Distinction | 7 | $5 \times 7 = 35$ |
| Qualification grade totals | | 15 | Distinction | | 95 |

Example 4 - Achievement of merit qualification grade

A learner completing a 30-credit Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate achieves the points required to gain a merit qualification grade.

| | Level | Credit | Grade | Grade points | Points per unit = credit x grade |
|---|-------|-----------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Understand the Principles of Plant Science | 2 | 5 | Distinction | 7 | $5 \times 7 = 35$ |
| Understand the Principles of Soil Science | 2 | 5 | Pass | 5 | $5 \times 5 = 25$ |
| Setting Out from a Plan | 2 | 5 | Distinction | 7 | $5 \times 7 = 35$ |
| Participate in Providing Estate Maintenance | 2 | 10 | Pass | 5 | $10 \times 5 = 50$ |
| Tractor Driving | 2 | 5 | Merit | 6 | $5 \times 6 = 30$ |
| Qualification grade totals | | 30 | Merit | | 175 |

Example 5 - Achievement of merit qualification grade

A learner completing a 60-credit Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma achieves the points required to gain a merit qualification grade.

| | Level | Credit | Grade | Grade points | Points per unit = credit x grade |
|--|-------|-----------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Understand the Principles of Plant Science | 2 | 5 | Merit | 6 | $5 \times 6 = 30$ |
| Understand the Principles of Soil Science | 2 | 5 | Merit | 6 | $5 \times 6 = 30$ |
| Setting Out from a Plan | 2 | 5 | Distinction | 7 | $5 \times 7 = 35$ |
| Undertake Work Related Experience in the Land-based Industries | 2 | 10 | Merit | 6 | $10 \times 6 = 60$ |
| Establish and Maintain Plants Outdoors | 2 | 10 | Pass | 5 | $10 \times 5 = 50$ |
| Participate in Providing Estate Maintenance | 2 | 10 | Distinction | 7 | $10 \times 7 = 70$ |
| Undertake Nursery Stock Production | 2 | 10 | Merit | 6 | $10 \times 6 = 60$ |
| Tractor Driving | 2 | 5 | Merit | 6 | $5 \times 6 = 30$ |
| Qualification grade totals | | 60 | Merit | | 365 |