

Statement of Purpose

601/0168/4 - Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Diploma in Performing Arts

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is a Substantial Vocational Qualification at Level 2 designed for post-16 students working at that level. It represents 480 guided learning hours.

It is intended for students who have chosen to focus their learning and career development within the Performing Arts sector and who are looking for an engaging and stimulating qualification which prepares them for progression directly into employment and/or into further study. It covers a range of specialisms, including those related to acting, dance and production for students who are passionate about the sector and allows specialisms to be studied in depth.

What does this qualification cover?

All the content of the qualification, mandatory and optional, relates directly to the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to work in the performing arts sector. For this qualification, students will need to complete all the relevant compulsory units, providing an initial in-depth coverage of the sector. The mandatory units that all students will take are:

- Unit 1: 'Individual Showcase', which provides students with the opportunity to explore progression opportunities within the Performing Arts and looks at what to include in a letter of application and how to prepare audition pieces and presentations;
- Unit 2: 'Preparation, Performance and Production', which provides important practical skills and knowledge to explore, develop and shape ideas for a performance and students will take part in the preparations for a live performance and in the performance itself.
- Unit 8: 'The Performing Arts Industry' provides knowledge of the structure of the Performing Arts industry and the types of job opportunities that exist.
- Unit 9: 'Performance in Context' provides students with the opportunity to analyse performance material.
- Unit 31: 'Community Arts' encourages students to explore different aspects of the role of arts in the local community in order to aid understanding of the Performing Arts sector, employment and careers. Unit 37: 'Performing Arts Enterprise' helps students to understand the factors that contribute to a successful performing arts enterprise as well as plan, participate and review a performing arts enterprise.

These units provide the underpinning knowledge and practical skills to support students' work within the sector.

There is also an additional compulsory unit for the pathway selected – these are 'Dance Skills' (Dance pathway), 'Acting Skills' (Acting pathway) and 'Production Skills for Performance' for the production pathway.

Students taking this qualification must also take additional compulsory units related to sector progression opportunities, including the Performing Arts Enterprise unit.

The optional specialist units make up the remainder of the qualification and cover key areas within the sector, including acting, dance, musical theatre and production. These provide a closer focus within the Performing Arts sector, supporting progression into a more specialised level 3 vocational course and developing general work-related skills.

The qualification requires students to develop and apply knowledge and practical skills in an industry-related context, while enabling them to acquire a valuable range of transferable skills,

engage with employers and carry out work activities and develop work related skills required to be effective in the workplace.

For example students can develop, project-/self-management and independent- learning skills through units such as Unit 9: 'Performance in Context', which requires students to explore the original context of a play and consider its potential for a contemporary audience. Team working is developed through units such as Unit 2: 'Preparation, Performance and Production', while key communication skills, business awareness and customer awareness skills in a vocational context will also be developed.

Students will also enhance their broader skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT, for example in the diploma size only unit 38 covers in depth use of ICT in the performing arts.

These skills will be invaluable in support of progression to employment and/or to further level 3 studies.

What could this qualification lead to?

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Diploma in Performing Arts provides students with the opportunity to prepare for a number of different areas within this creative and culturally important sector. Students will develop an in depth understanding of the industry and develop specialist practical and technical skills related to performance and backstage roles.

The diploma-size qualification includes different pathways that allow learners to follow a programme of study built on specialist units in a particular area of the performing arts sector.

The acting specialism includes a range of units such as compulsory unit 3 and optional units such as 10, 11 and 36 allow students to develop the skills to prepare them for a route into acting into roles such as an actor and performer within organisations such as theatres. The additional compulsory unit 31 reflects the way in which many young performers begin their careers by working in small community projects.

The dance specialism provides the skills and techniques for learners with an interest in a variety of different dance performance styles. Compulsory unit 4 and optional units such as 16, 17 and 30 can help prepare them for a route into dance into roles such as a dancer, junior choreographer and dance instructor or teacher.

The production specialism is designed for learners with an interest in working 'backstage' in the theatre and provides them with the opportunity to develop skills in areas such as technical theatre, design and construction. It includes a range of units that will allow them to develop the skills required by those working in production roles. Compulsory unit 7 and optional units such as 21, 24 and 34 provide the production skills (technical, design or construction skills and techniques) to prepare them for a route into production. Job roles include set designer, lighting technician, sound assistant, multimedia executive and roles within the stage management team.

Diploma optional units such as 14 and 40 equip students with singing skills to prepare a route into musical theatre.

Level 3 qualifications for learners who have completed the BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts could include BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Performing Arts.

This qualification is part of a larger suite of Performing Arts qualifications

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Diploma is 480 GLH and broadly equivalent to four GCSEs. The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Extended Certificate, at 360 GLH, is also available.

Students might choose the BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Diploma rather than the BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Extended Certificate because its larger size provides additional opportunities for specialisation, which will prepare them for a greater number of employment areas, and therefore increase the range of roles for which they might apply.

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award and Certificate have been designed for 14-16 year olds and are intended for delivery within a broad curriculum offer. These qualifications are not intended for post-16 students.

Who supports this qualification?

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

- Living The Dream
- UK Theatre Association
- Royal Ballet School
- Stopgap Dance Company
- JumpStartMove
- Rambert Dance Company

Further information

Further information on the qualification can be accessed at
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/performing-arts-2012-nqf.html>.