

Statement of Purpose

600/6870/X - Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

Who is the qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Performing Arts is designed for post-16 students working at that level. The qualification is 360 guided learning hours, equivalent in size to three GCSEs.

The qualification is designed for students who have chosen to focus their learning and career development within the performing arts industry and who are looking for an engaging and stimulating qualification which will prepare them for progression into employment, either directly - through entry level jobs in the sector – or through an apprenticeship in the performing arts or wider creative arts fields.

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.

All students will cover the compulsory areas:

- Unit 1 – ‘Individual Showcase’;
- Unit 2 – ‘Preparation, Performance and Production’

These units provide knowledge and key practical skills needed to explore, develop and shape ideas for a performance.

All students also take Unit 8 – ‘The Performing Arts Industry’, which looks at a range of performing arts organisations and the people who work in the industry in various roles, such as administration, technical and production roles.

Students then choose a further compulsory unit which is pathway-specific: ‘Dance Skills’ (dance pathway), ‘Acting Skills’ (acting pathway) and ‘Production Skills for Performance’ (for the production pathway).

The optional units make up the remainder of the qualification. These units provide an opportunity to explore key aspects of the sector in greater depth, including acting, dance, musical theatre and production. Students also have the opportunity to undertake relevant work experience which will improve their employability within the sector and help inform their career choices.

What could this qualification lead to?

Achievement of this qualification at level 2 will provide the student with the knowledge, skills and understanding to gain employment directly in an entry-level role or through an apprenticeship within the performing arts industry.

Job roles and progression to employment include:

- From the acting pathway - junior roles as an actor and performer
- From the dance pathway - entry roles such as a dancer and junior choreographer

- From the production pathway - entry level roles as a set designer, lighting technician and sound assistant
- An apprenticeship in the performing arts sector.

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

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate is 360 GLH, and broadly equivalent in size to 3 GCSEs.

This BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Performing Arts provides an opportunity to study a range of performing arts areas and will be appropriate for the student who is looking to prepare for general entry level roles. Achievement of mathematics and English qualifications at level 2 may be necessary to support progression into work.

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Diploma, at 480 GLH allows students to select additional optional units for greater breadth of study and to open up additional opportunities to further study at level 3 which could in turn provide access to Higher Education courses in performing arts and performing arts management.

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>.