

# Transferring from the pre-2006 BTEC First Qualifications to new 2006 BTEC Firsts and Using Unit Mapping Documentation

## What are BTEC Firsts?

BTEC First Certificates are three-unit vocational qualifications at Level 2 in the NQF, with the equivalence of 2 GCSEs (graded A\*-C). BTEC First Diplomas are at the same level, consist of six units, and have the equivalence of 4 GCSEs (graded A\*-C). At this point in time there is not in all subjects a BTEC First Certificate. Here is a list of the accredited BTEC Firsts and those awaiting accreditation: [BTEC Firsts Accreditation Update](#). Please note: the 2006 versions are listed under (g)

**My centre is approved to offer the current (2002/3) version of the BTEC First Diploma and students have been registered on this programme and are studying certain units. I like the new units and would like to switch them to the new (2006) specification. Is this possible? Are there other implications?**

In many cases the 2006 units cover the same outcomes as the "old" units; however, in others there are differences in content and achievable outcomes.

There are two options:

1. **For students already registered on the pre-2006 specification** they may, of course, remain on their existing registration, and complete the units they have started. The final grades will be reported and certification happen in the usual way.
2. **For students already registered on the pre-2006 specification and wishing to transfer to the 2006 specification** you will need to refer to attached mapping documentation for both the pre-2006 and 2006 specifications.

## How do I use the Mapping Documentation?

The attached mapping documentation shows the approximate coverage the "old" (pre-2006 specification) units have in the "new" (2006 specification) units shown in percentage terms. The Unit Numbers for the "old" specifications are across the top from left to right, and the "new" units down the left-hand side from top to bottom.

The following is designed to help identify how to utilise these mapping documents:

**a) Where there is full coverage** there is F in the grid - this means that learners who have completed, been assessed and graded on the pre-2006 specification unit(s) are able to carry forward the grade for this unit to the 2006 version. This should be reported on the Student Report Form or on Edexcel Online (EOL) in the usual way.

**b) Where there is full coverage but some additional coverage** there is X in the grid. All the outcomes in the old unit are also in the new one BUT there is some additional new coverage. There are additional notes provided to identify any additional outcomes and/or coverage. Once the learners have completed, been assessed and graded on the pre-2006 specification unit(s) - and undertaken and been assessed for the additional work required (e.g. through an assignment) - they are able to carry forward the grade for this unit to the 2006 version. The grade should be reported on the Student Report Form or on Edexcel Online (EOL) in the usual way.

**c) Where there is partial coverage** there is P in the grid. In this case there are some aspects of the coverage which remain the same, but there are some areas which need additional assessment to ensure the coverage is complete. In some cases it is a question of more detail or contextualisation. Again, once the learners have completed and been assessed and graded on the pre-2006 specification unit(s) with the additional work the new unit grade can be reported on the Student Report Form or on Edexcel Online (EOL) in the usual way

## Can new learners still register on the 2002/3 specifications in or after September 2006?

No; all new registrations must be on the 2006 specifications from this September.

**Our learners are currently registered on a BTEC First Certificate under the 2002/3 specifications. They want to top-up to a BTEC First Diploma. What should I do?**

The learners can be topped up to the 2002/3 specification BTEC First Diploma so that their First Certificate units are carried over, as they are already registered on the qualification. They cannot top-up from the 2002/3 specifications to the 2006 specifications as the top-up process requires that units are common to both qualifications. However following the top-up of a learner to the 2002/3 First Diploma, you may wish to transfer the learner to the 2006 specification and carry out the mapping process described above.

**What are the administrative procedures for topping-up or transferring to a new programme?**

These are identified in the Edexcel Information manual (see [here](#)); see in particular section 16.5.

**Will we need to apply again to Edexcel to gain approval for the 2006 BTEC Firsts?**

If your centre is already approved to deliver the 2002/3 BTEC Firsts you will be automatically approved to deliver the 2006 specifications. You will simply need to register students via Edexcel Online (EOL) or via EDI using the new programme numbers. You can check your centre's approved programmes via EOL.

**How does my centre get approval to offer the new 2006 BTEC First qualifications?**

By going online at [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk), clicking on the button "Qualifications" then on BTEC Firsts, then Approvals. BTEC centre and qualification approval for these BTEC qualifications is now an online activity only through Edexcel Online (EOL) for school and college centres.

In the meantime, if you have any queries please call our Customer Services on 0870 240 9800 who will be happy to help.

**After getting BTEC qualification approval online for a 2006 BTEC First Certificate or Diploma, where do I find the new programme number?**

Centres applying online for qualification approval (through Edexcel Online) will receive an onscreen confirmatory letter in your Edexcel Online mailbox. The relevant Programme Definition, identifying unit codes and other detailed accreditation information can be accessed by clicking in EOL on the Qualifications menu then selecting *Reports*.

**Will we need to apply again to Edexcel to gain approval for the 2006 BTEC Firsts?**

If your centre is already approved to deliver the 2002/3 BTEC Firsts you will be automatically approved to deliver the 2006 specifications. You will simply need to register students via Edexcel Online (EOL) or via EDI using the new programme numbers.

**Where can I get information about the Performance Table thresholds and funding?**

On the specific qualifications page on the Edexcel website ([www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)) there are links to both QCA's openquals database (which shows accreditation information, and details of the DfES Achievement and Attainment Tables etc.) and the Learning and Skills Council's Learning Aims Database (giving funding information).

**I'd like to know more about how to plan and teach BTEC programmes. How do I find out more?**

There is a substantial body of information on our website and this is being constantly added to and updated. We also offer a national programme of training events for centres new to BTEC, and tailored training or guidance sessions for staff in centres. For more information about our Professional Development and Training please go the website, click on Services to Centres, then on

FE and Schools, then on "Development and Training". Details of the dates and locations of the courses available are accessed through the drop-down box. For customised training, or if you have any query, please telephone Customer Services on 0870 240 9800, and you will be connected with one of our advisers.

**I've got other queries; where do I get more information?**

Call your Edexcel customer liaison team or send your query online at [www.edexcel.org.uk/ask](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/ask)