

Updated 11 July 2014

FAQs for Science teachers in centres offering BTEC First Applied Science (NQF) and GCSE Sciences – England only

1. My Year 10 students took BTEC Principles of Applied Science this year (2013/14) and will study GCSE Additional Science next year (2014/15). Which result will count in performance tables?

If your students are awarded their BTEC this summer at the end of Year 10 (summer 2014), then that result would be reported in performance tables, not the GCSE result at the end of Year 11. This is because BTEC Principles of Applied Science discounts against GCSE Sciences (except for applied science GCSEs). If you claim certification of the BTEC next year (summer 2015) then under the first entry rule the GCSE would count, not the BTEC.

2. Do the same rules apply to GCSE Additional Science and BTEC Application of Science?

No. GCSE Additional Science and BTEC Application of Science do not discount each other, so both are eligible for inclusion in performance tables. However, there is a limit on the number of non-GCSEs in the performance tables, so the BTEC *might* not count.

3. My students take science GCSEs and BTEC Firsts in Applied Science. Which combination of GCSEs and BTECs will be eligible to count for both the school and the student?

- GCSE Science followed by BTEC Application of Science – both qualifications can count.
- BTEC Awards in Principles of Applied Science and Application of Science – both qualifications can count.
- GCSE Science with BTEC Principles of Applied Science – only the first qualification entered/certificated will count. **For this year only**, the better of the two results could count, but only if Principles was awarded/certificated by the summer of 2013.
- BTEC Principles of Applied Science followed by GCSE Additional Science – if the BTEC is awarded/certificated at the end of year 10 then that result will count, **except** where the BTEC was certificated by summer of 2013, then **for this year only (2014) both** will be eligible to count.

4. My Year 10 students attempted the external assessment for Principles of Applied Science in June 2014, but have yet to complete or claim their full results for the qualification. They will likely retake in November 2014 or March 2015. Which result will count?

You will be able to register the better result from the two sittings (or any subsequent sitting) when making the final claim for their qualification. Our advice would always be that you only enter students when they are ready for the exam and you believe they can perform to their fullest potential.

5. Next year (2014/15) my Year 11 students will be taking BTEC Application of Science. If they take the March 2015 exam, can they resit in June 2015? Which result will count?

You will be able to register the better result from the two sittings (or any subsequent sitting) when making the final claim for their qualification. Our advice would always be that you only enter students when they are ready for the exam and you believe they can perform to their fullest potential.

Summary - for current year groups 2013/14

Year Group	Yr 10	Yr 11	Counts in performance tables
Current Yr 10 (2013/15)	BTEC Principles	GCSE Science	Principles result will count (if awarded/certificated at the end of year 10) If both are awarded/certificated at the end of Y11 then the GCSE Science result will count
	BTEC Principles	GCSE Additional Science	Principles result will count (if awarded/certificated at the end of year 10) If both are awarded/certificated at the end of Y11 then the GCSE Additional Science result will count
	GCSE Science	BTEC Principles	GCSE result will count
	GCSE Science	BTEC Application	Both are eligible to count
Current Yr 11 (2012/14)	BTEC Principles	GCSE Science	The better of the two results can count for this year only if Principles was awarded/certificated by the summer of 2013. For future years these two qualifications will be subject to the First Entry rule so Principles would count if awarded/certificated at the end of year 10
	BTEC Principles	GCSE Additional Science	Both results can count for this year only if the BTEC was awarded/certificated by summer 2013. For future years these two qualifications will discount against each other so Principles would count if awarded/certificated at the end of year 10
	GCSE Science	BTEC Principles	The better of the two results will count for this year only
	GCSE Science	BTEC Application	Both are eligible to count

The student will receive recognition for the qualifications they take.

For further advice, please contact the [Science subject advisor team](#).