

Updated 8th September 2014

## **FAQs for Science teachers in centres offering BTEC First Applied Science (NQF) and GCSE Sciences – Discounting and 'First entry'**

**1. My Year 10 students are taking BTEC Principles of Applied Science this year (2014/15) and will study GCSE Additional Science next year (2015/16). Which result will count in performance tables?**

These qualifications discount each other, therefore if your students are awarded their BTEC at the end of Year 10 (summer 2015), then only that result would be eligible for performance tables, not the GCSE result at the end of Year 11. If you claim certification of the BTEC at the end of Year 11 (summer 2016) then under the first entry rule only 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 if the results are good enough. However, please be aware that there is a maximum of three non-GCSEs that can be recognised in the Progress 8 and Attainment 8 performance tables.

**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?**

- All combinations of BTEC and GCSE science qualifications will count for the student. The combinations below refer to eligibility for performance tables.
- GCSE Science together with BTEC Application of Science– both qualifications are eligible to count.
- BTEC Awards in Principles of Applied Science in Year 10 or Year 11, followed by Application of Science in Year 11 – both qualifications are eligible to count.
- GCSE Science in Year 10 or Year 11 followed by BTEC Principles of Applied Science in Year 11 – only the GCSE result is eligible to count.
- BTEC Principles of Applied Science awarded in Year 10 followed by GCSE separate sciences in Year 11 – only the BTEC result is eligible to count.
- BTEC Principles of Applied Science awarded in Year 10 followed by GCSE Science **or** GCSE Additional Science – only the BTEC result is 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. This year (2014/15) my Year 11 students are 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.

**6. We operate a three-year key stage 4 programme. If our Year 9 start BTEC Principles of Applied Science in September 2014 and complete in summer 2016, will their results still count?**

The last time BTEC Science qualifications are eligible for performance tables is summer 2016. This group of students will only be in Year 10 in summer 2016, and so their results will not be reported on performance tables until summer 2017.

This means that a BTEC Science result achieved in summer 2016 *will* still be valid for individual students, but *will not* contribute towards performance tables. If these students subsequently took GCSE Science in Year 11 (summer 2017) their GCSE Science result(s) will *not* be discounted by their Year 10 BTEC achievements, nor will they be rendered ineligible by the 'first entry' rule.

**Summary - for current Years 10 and 11 (2014/15)**

Year groups affected*	Year 10	Year 11	Counts in Performance tables
Year 10 (2014/16)	BTEC Principles of Applied Science	GCSE Science	Only Principles result is eligible to count (if awarded at the end of Year 10) If both are awarded at the end of Year 11 then the GCSE Science result will count
	BTEC Principles of Applied Science	GCSE Additional Science	Only Principles result is eligible to count (if awarded at the end of Year 10) If both are awarded at the end of Year 11 then the GCSE Additional Science result will count
Year 11 (2013/15)	BTEC Principles of Applied Science	GCSE Biology, Chemistry or Physics	Only Principles result is eligible to count (if awarded at the end of Year 10) If Principles is awarded at the end of Year 11 then the GCSE separate Science result(s) will count
	GCSE Science	BTEC Principles of Applied Science	Only GCSE result is eligible to count
	GCSE Science	BTEC Application of Science	Both qualifications are eligible to count
	GCSE Science	GCSE Biology, Chemistry or Physics	Only GCSE Science result is eligible to count

\*BTEC L1/L2 Firsts in Applied Science are not eligible to count in performance tables after summer 2016.

The student will receive recognition for the qualifications they take.

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