



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION Specification

LEVEL

4

HNC

5

HND

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Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Environmental Conservation

Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Environmental Conservation

The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) has been introduced to replace the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). It recognises achievement through the award of credit for units and qualifications, working at all levels between Entry level and level 8.

To accommodate the new framework we have taken the opportunity to revise the academic level and size of the Edexcel BTEC HNCs (Higher National Certificates). These are now at level 4 and are a minimum of 120 credits in size. They have been nested within the structures of the Edexcel BTEC HNDs (Higher National Diplomas) which are a minimum of 240 credits in size and remain level 5 qualifications.

The qualifications remain as Intermediate level qualifications on the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). Progression to Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals continues to be from level 3 qualifications and progression from Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals will normally be to qualifications at level 6. Learners' progression routes do not necessarily involve qualifications at every level.

As a nested qualification, the HNC is an embedded component of the HND. However, it can be taken as a stand-alone qualification.

If a learner enrolls for an HNC they would be eligible to gain a grade for the HNC. If they then move onto an HND, the learner is graded on their HND performance. The grade for the HND will include units from the previously achieved HNC.

If a learner opts to take an HND from the start, then on successful completion of the HND they will receive one grade for the HND achievement only.

If a learner opts to take an HND from the start but later chooses to revert to an HNC programme, then on successful completion of the HNC they will receive a grade for the HNC achievement only.

Existing NQF Higher National units achievement can count towards the QCF Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals.

Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals within the QCF, NQF and FHEQ

QCF/NQF/ FHEQ level	Progression opportunities and examples of qualifications within each level
8	PhD/DPhil Professional doctorates (credit-based), eg EdD
7	Master's degrees Postgraduate diplomas Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)
6	Bachelor's degrees, eg BA, BSc Professional Graduate Certificate in Education Graduate certificates and diplomas
5	Edexcel BTEC HNDs (Higher National Diplomas) Foundation Degrees, eg FdA, FdSc Diplomas of Higher Education (Dip HE)
4	Edexcel BTEC HNCs (Higher National Certificates) Certificates of Higher Education (Cert HE) Level 4 Work-based Diplomas
3	Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Diplomas Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diplomas Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Certificates GCE Advanced Level Level 3 Work-based Diplomas Advanced Diplomas

UNITS

The units for the Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation are available from the Edexcel website.

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Qualification titles covered by this specification

Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Environmental Conservation (QCF)

Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Environmental Conservation (Gamekeeping) (QCF)

Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Environmental Conservation (QCF)

Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Environmental Conservation (Gamekeeping) (QCF)

These qualifications have been accredited to the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). The Qualification Numbers (QNs) for these qualifications are listed below.

These qualification titles are as they will appear on learners' certificates. Learners need to be made aware of this when they are recruited by the centre and registered with Edexcel. Providing this happens, centres are able to describe the programme of study leading to the award of the qualification in different ways to suit the medium and the target audience.

Centres are reminded that The Report of the National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education (the Dearing Report) recommended that they *'develop, for each programme they offer, a 'programme specification' which identifies potential stopping-off points and gives the intended outcomes of the programme ...'*

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) has produced guidelines for centres in preparing programme specifications (reference *Guidelines for preparing programme specifications*: QAA 115 06/06) which includes related post-Dearing developments. *Annexe 2: Working with programme specifications: a leaflet for further education colleges* of this QAA document contains additional guidance notes to support further education colleges writing programme specifications for Edexcel awards.

Qualification Numbers

The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) code is known as a Qualification Number (QN). Each unit within a qualification will also have a QCF unit code.

The QCF qualification and unit codes will appear on learners' final certification documentation.

The QNs for qualifications in this publication are:

600/2279/6 Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Environmental Conservation (QCF)

600/2161/5 Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Environmental Conservation (QCF)

Introduction

This specification contains the units and associated guidance for the QCF Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diplomas in Environmental Conservation and the Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND Diplomas in Environmental Conservation.

Each unit sets out the required learning outcomes, assessment criteria and content and may also include advice regarding essential delivery and assessment strategies.

This document also contains details of the teaching, learning, assessment and quality assurance of these qualifications. It includes advice about Edexcel's policies regarding access to its qualifications, the design of programmes of study and delivery modes.

Structure of the qualifications

Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Environmental Conservation

The Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC in Environmental Conservation is a qualification with a minimum of 120 credits of which 65 credits are mandatory.

The Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC programme must contain a minimum of 65 credits at level 4.

Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Environmental Conservation

The Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND in Environmental Conservation is a qualification with a minimum of 240 credits of which 80 credits are mandatory.

The Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND programme must contain a minimum of 125 credits at level 5.

Rules of combination for Edexcel BTEC Levels 4 and 5 Higher National qualifications in Environmental Conservation

The rules of combination specify the:

- total credit value of the qualification
- minimum credit to be achieved at the level of the qualification
- mandatory core unit credit
- specialist unit credit
- maximum credit that can be centre-devised or imported from other QCF Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications.

When combining units for an Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualification it is the centre's responsibility to ensure that the following rules of combination are adhered to:

Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC in Environmental Conservation

- 1 Qualification credit value: a minimum of 120 credits. (A maximum of 55 credits may be at level 5.)
- 2 Minimum credit to be achieved at the level of the qualification (level 4): 65 credits.
- 3 Mandatory core unit credit: 65 credits.
- 4 Specialist unit credit: 55 credits.
- 5 A maximum of 30 credits can be centre-devised or imported from other QCF Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications to meet local needs. Level rules and mandatory core units must not be changed.

Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND in Environmental Conservation

- 1 Qualification credit value: a minimum of 240 credits.
- 2 Minimum credit to be achieved at the level of the qualification (level 5): 125 credits.
- 3 Mandatory core unit credit: 80 credits.
- 4 Specialist unit credit: 160 credits.
- 5 The requirements of the HNC have to be met.
- 6 A maximum of 60 credits can be centre devised or imported from other QCF Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications to meet local needs. Level rules and mandatory core units must not be changed.

Structure of the Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC in Environmental Conservation

The Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC in Environmental Conservation is a 120 credit qualification that consists of 65 mandatory credits including a minimum of 15 credits from Group A and remaining credits selected from Groups A, B or C (subject to a maximum of 15 credits from Group C) that together provide for a combined 6 minimum of 120 credits.

Unit number	Mandatory core units – all four units must be taken	Unit credit	Unit level
1	Research Project	20	5
2	Project Management for Land-based Industries	15	4
3	Principles of Ecology	15	4
Group A – choose a minimum value of 15 credits			
5	Enterprise and Financial Management for Land-based Industries	15	5
6	Human Resource Management	15	4
Group B			
8	Genetics and their Application	15	5
9	Land-use Issues and Regulation	15	5
10	Environmental Management	15	5
11	Environmental Systems	15	4
12	Farmland Habitat Management	15	5
13	Animal Health and Welfare	15	5
14	Principles of Plant and Soil Science	15	5
15	Sustainable Development	15	5
16	Research Methods for Land-based Industries	15	4
17	Environmental Health Hazards	15	5
18	Habitat Management	15	5
19	Habitat Restoration and Repair	15	4
20	Countryside Recreation and Visitor Management	15	4
21	Rural Planning and Development	15	5
22	Working with Groups in Land-based Industries	15	4
23	Urban Habitat Management	15	5
24	Landscape Assessment and Management	15	5
25	Fish, Game and Wildlife Management	15	4
26	Rural Production Systems	15	4
27	Waste Management	15	5
28	Further Habitat Management	15	5
29	Landscape History and Development	15	5

Unit number	Group B (continued)	Unit credit	Unit level
30	Biodiversity and Conservation	15	5
31	Biological Survey Techniques	15	4
32	Environmental Law	15	5
33	Environmental Education and Interpretation	15	5
34	Establish a Game Shooting Programme	15	4
35	Control Shoot Day Activities	15	4
36	Develop a Wild Game Management Plan for a Wildlife Management Area	15	4
37	Monitor and Maintain Game Management Plans	15	4
38	Build and Maintain Effective Customer Relations	15	4
39	Develop a Game Bird Production Programme	15	4
40	Develop a Wild Deer Management Plan	15	4
41	Manage Wild Deer Culls	15	4
	Group C		
4	Biological Principles	15	5
7	Employability Skills	15	5
42	Business Environment	15	4
43	Global Food Production	15	5
44	Work-based Experience	15	5
45	Small Business Enterprise	15	5
46	Develop and Review a Marketing Policy	15	4
47	Manage Emergencies and Incidents in the Land-based Sector	15	4
48	Health and Safety in the Land-based Workplace	15	4
49	Visitor Attraction Management	15	4
50	Arboricultural Management	15	5

The Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC programme must contain a minimum of 65 credits at level 4.

Structure of the Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC in Environmental Conservation (Gamekeeping)

The Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC in Environmental Conservation (Gamekeeping) is a 120-credit qualification that consists of 65 mandatory credits including a minimum of 15 credits from Group A and remaining credits selected from Groups A, B or C (subject to a maximum of 15 credits from Group C) that together provide for a combined minimum of 120 credits.

Unit number	Mandatory core units – all four units must be taken	Unit credit	Unit level
1	Research Project	20	5
2	Project Management for Land-based Industries	15	4
3	Principles of Ecology	15	4
Group A – choose a minimum value of 15 credits			
5	Enterprise and Financial Management for Land-based Industries	15	5
6	Human Resource Management	15	4
Group B			
10	Environmental Management	15	5
11	Environmental Systems	15	4
12	Farmland Habitat Management	15	5
13	Animal Health and Welfare	15	5
16	Research Methods for Land-based Industries	15	4
17	Environmental Health Hazards	15	5
18	Habitat Management	15	5
20	Countryside Recreation and Visitor Management	15	4
21	Rural Planning and Development	15	5
22	Working with Groups in Land-based Industries	15	4
25	Fish, Game and Wildlife Management	15	4
26	Rural Production Systems	15	4
28	Further Habitat Management	15	5
30	Biodiversity and Conservation	15	5
31	Biological Survey Techniques	15	4
32	Environmental Law	15	5
34	Establish a Game Shooting Programme	15	4
35	Control Shoot Day Activities	15	4
36	Develop a Wild Game Management Plan for a Wildlife Management Area	15	4
37	Monitor and Maintain Game Management Plans	15	4
38	Build and Maintain Effective Customer Relations	15	4

Unit number	Group B (continued)	Unit credit	Unit level
39	Develop a Game Bird Production Programme	15	4
40	Develop a Wild Deer Management Plan	15	4
41	Manage Wild Deer Culls	15	4
	Group C		
4	Biological Principles	15	5
7	Employability Skills	15	5
42	Business Environment	15	4
43	Global Food Production	15	5
44	Work-based Experience	15	5
45	Small Business Enterprise	15	5
46	Develop and Review a Marketing Policy	15	4
47	Manage Emergencies and Incidents in the Land-based Sector	15	4
48	Health and Safety in the Land-based Workplace	15	4
49	Visitor Attraction Management	15	4

The Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC programme must contain a minimum of 65 credits at level 4.

Structure of the Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND in Environmental Conservation

The Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND in Environmental Conservation is a 240 credit qualification that consists of 80 mandatory credits including a minimum of 15 credits from Group A and remaining credits selected from Groups A, B or C (subject to a maximum of 30 credits from Group C) that together provide for a combined minimum of 240 credits.

Unit number	Mandatory core units – all five units must be taken	Unit credit	Unit level
1	Research Project	20	5
2	Project Management for Land-based Industries	15	4
3	Principles of Ecology	15	4
4	Biological Principles	15	5
Group A – choose a minimum value of 15 credits			
5	Enterprise and Financial Management for Land-based Industries	15	5
6	Human Resource Management	15	4
7	Employability Skills	15	5
Group B			
8	Genetics and their Application	15	5
9	Land Use Issues and Regulation	15	5
10	Environmental Management	15	5
11	Environmental Systems	15	4
12	Farmland Habitat Management	15	5
13	Animal Health and Welfare	15	5
14	Principles of Plant and Soil Science	15	5
15	Sustainable Development	15	5
16	Research Methods for Land-based Industries	15	4
17	Environmental Health Hazards	15	5
18	Habitat Management	15	5
19	Habitat Restoration and Repair	15	4
20	Countryside Recreation and Visitor Management	15	4
21	Rural Planning and Development	15	5
22	Working with Groups in Land-based Industries	15	4
23	Urban Habitat Management	15	5
24	Landscape Assessment and Management	15	5
25	Fish, Game and Wildlife Management	15	4
26	Rural Production Systems	15	4
27	Waste Management	15	5

Unit number	Group B (continued)	Unit credit	Unit level
28	Further Habitat Management	15	5
29	Landscape History and Development	15	5
30	Biodiversity and Conservation	15	5
31	Biological Survey Techniques	15	4
32	Environmental Law	15	5
33	Environmental Education and Interpretation	15	5
34	Establish a Game Shooting Programme	15	4
35	Control Shoot Day Activities	15	4
36	Develop a Wild Game Management Plan for a Wildlife Management Area	15	4
37	Monitor and Maintain Game Management Plans	15	4
38	Build and Maintain Effective Customer Relations	15	4
39	Develop a Game Bird Production Programme	15	4
40	Develop a Wild Deer Management Plan	15	4
41	Manage Wild Deer Culls	15	4
	Group C – choose units with a maximum credit value of 30		
42	Business Environment	15	4
43	Global Food Production	15	5
44	Work-based Experience	15	5
45	Small Business Enterprise	15	5
46	Develop and Review a Marketing Policy	15	4
47	Manage Emergencies and Incidents in the Land-based Sector	15	4
48	Health and Safety in the Land-based Workplace	15	4
49	Visitor Attraction Management	15	4
50	Arboricultural Management	15	5

The Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND programme must contain a minimum of 125 credits at level 5.

Structure of the Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND in Environmental Conservation (Gamekeeping)

The Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND in Environmental Conservation (Gamekeeping) is a 240 credit qualification that consists of 80 mandatory credits including a minimum of 15 credits from Group A and remaining credits selected from Groups A, B or C (subject to a maximum of 30 credits from Group C) that together provide for a combined minimum of 240 credits.

Unit number	Mandatory core units – all five units must be taken	Unit credit	Unit level
1	Research Project	20	5
2	Project Management for Land-based Industries	15	4
3	Principles of Ecology	15	4
4	Biological Principles	15	5
Group A – choose a minimum value of 15 credits			
5	Enterprise and Financial Management for Land-based Industries	15	5
6	Human Resource Management	15	4
7	Employability Skills	15	5
Group B			
10	Environmental Management	15	5
11	Environmental Systems	15	4
12	Farmland Habitat Management	15	5
13	Animal Health and Welfare	15	5
16	Research Methods for Land-based Industries	15	4
17	Environmental Health Hazards	15	5
18	Habitat Management	15	5
20	Countryside Recreation and Visitor Management	15	4
22	Working with Groups in Land-based Industries	15	4
25	Fish, Game and Wildlife Management	15	4
26	Rural Production Systems	15	4
28	Further Habitat Management	15	5
30	Biodiversity and Conservation	15	5
31	Biological Survey Techniques	15	4
32	Environmental Law	15	5
34	Establish a Game Shooting Programme	15	4
35	Control Shoot Day Activities	15	4
36	Develop a Wild Game Management Plan for a Wildlife Management Area	15	4
37	Monitor and Maintain Game Management Plans	15	4

Unit number	Group B (continued)	Unit credit	Unit level
38	Build and Maintain Effective Customer Relations	15	4
39	Develop a Game Bird Production Programme	15	4
40	Develop a Wild Deer Management Plan	15	4
41	Manage Wild Deer Culls	15	4
	Group C – choose units with a maximum credit value of 30		
42	Business Environment	15	4
43	Global Food Production	15	5
44	Work-based Experience	15	5
45	Small Business Enterprise	15	5
46	Develop and Review a Marketing Policy	15	4
47	Manage Emergencies and Incidents in the Land-based Sector	15	4
48	Health and Safety in the Land-based Workplace	15	4
49	Visitor Attraction Management	15	4

The Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND programme must contain a minimum of 125 credits at level 5.

Key features

Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals are designed to provide a specialist vocational programme, linked to professional body requirements and National Occupational Standards where appropriate.

They offer a strong, sector-related emphasis on practical skills development alongside the development of requisite knowledge and understanding.

The qualifications provide a thorough grounding in the key concepts and practical skills required in their sector and their national recognition by employers allows direct progression to employment.

A key progression path for Edexcel BTEC HNC and HND learners is to the second or third year of a degree or honours degree programme, depending on the match of the Edexcel BTEC Higher National units to the degree programme in question.

Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation have been developed to focus on:

- providing education and training for a range of careers in environmental conservation, game management and allied land-based industries
- providing opportunities for those employed within these industries to achieve a nationally recognised higher level vocationally specific qualification
- providing opportunities for full-time learners to gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific higher level qualification to enter employment within these industries at supervisory or management level or to progress to higher education vocational qualifications such as a full-time degree in environmental conservation, game management or science or related subject area
- expansion of the knowledge, understanding and skills of learners from an environmental or game industry supervisor's or manager's viewpoint
- opportunities for learners to concentrate on the development of higher-level skills in a land-based context, and how their role and that of their business fits within the overall structure of the land-based industries, the national and international economy and the global overview
- providing opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills, techniques and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

This qualification meets the needs of the above rationale by:

- equipping individuals with knowledge, understanding and skills for successful employment in the environmental conservation, game management and allied industries
- enabling progression to an undergraduate degree or further professional qualifications in related areas
- providing opportunities for specialist study relevant to individual vocations and contexts
- developing the individual's ability in the environmental conservation and allied industries through effective use and combination of the knowledge and skills gained in different parts of the programme
- developing a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attributes essential for successful performance in working life and thereby enabling learners to make an immediate contribution to employment

- providing flexibility, knowledge, skills and motivation as a basis for future studies and career development in the environmental conservation and allied industries.

Professional body recognition

The Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation have been developed with career progression and recognition by professional bodies in mind. It is essential that learners gain the maximum benefit from their programme of study.

Learners who possess an HNC/D in Biological Science and have had experience in responsible work in biological science or its application of at least five years subsequent or seven years prior to the award are eligible to apply for membership of the Institute of Biology.

Further details of professional body recognition and exemptions for Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals are given in the *BTEC Higher Nationals – Professional Recognition and Progression Directory 2008* available from our website: www.edexcel.com/quals/hn/Pages/Keydocuments.aspx.

National Occupational Standards

Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation are designed to relate to the National Occupational Standards in the environmental and land-based sector, which in turn form the basis of the Environmental Conservation and Game and Wildlife Management Work-based Diplomas. Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals do not purport to deliver occupational competence in the sector, which should be demonstrated in a work context. However, the qualifications provide underpinning knowledge for the National Occupational Standards, as well as developing practical skills in preparation for work and possible achievement of work-based diplomas in due course.

Annexe B contains mapping of the Higher National units in this specification against relevant Level 4 Work-based Diplomas where appropriate.

Qualification Requirement

Edexcel has published Qualification Requirements as part of the revision of Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals. Qualification Requirements set out the aims and rationale of the qualifications and provide the framework of curriculum content. They also identify the higher-level skills associated with the qualifications and any recognition by relevant professional bodies. The Qualification Requirement for the Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation is given in *Annexe A*.

Edexcel standard specification titles are developed from the Qualification Requirements. Licensed centres comply with Qualification Requirements when developing Higher Nationals under these standard titles.

Qualification Requirements provide consistent standards within the same vocational area and identify the skills and knowledge that can be expected of any holder of an identical Edexcel BTEC Higher National. This will allow higher education institutions, employers and professional bodies to confidently provide progression opportunities to successful learners.

Higher-level skills

Learners studying for Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation will be expected to develop the following skills during the programme of study:

- analyse, synthesise and summarise information critically
- read and use appropriate literature with a full and critical understanding
- think independently, solve problems and devise innovative solutions
- take responsibility for their own learning and recognise their own learning style
- apply subject knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems
- design, plan, conduct and report on investigations
- use their knowledge, understanding and skills to evaluate and formulate evidence-based arguments critically and identify solutions to clearly defined problems of a general routine nature
- communicate the results of their study and other work accurately and reliably using a range of specialist techniques
- identify and address their own major learning needs within defined contexts and to undertake guided further learning in new areas

Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC

The Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC in Environmental Conservation provides a specialist work-related programme of study that covers the key knowledge, understanding and practical skills required in the environmental conservation and game and wildlife management sectors and also offers particular specialist emphasis through the choice of specialist units.

Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNCs provide a nationally recognised qualification offering career progression and professional development for those already in employment and opportunities to progress into higher education. The qualifications are mode free but they are primarily undertaken by part-time learners studying over two years. In some sectors there are opportunities for those wishing to complete an intensive programme of study in a shorter period of time.

This specification gives centres a framework to develop engaging programmes for higher-education learners who are clear about the area of employment they wish to enter.

The Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC in Environmental Conservation offers a progression route for learners who are employed in environmental conservation and/or game and wildlife management.

Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND

The Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND provides greater breadth and specialisation than the Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC. Edexcel BTEC HNDs are mode free but are followed predominately by full-time learners. They allow progression into or within employment in the environmental conservation and/or game and wildlife management sectors, either directly on achievement of the award, or following further study to degree level.

The Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND in Environmental Conservation provides opportunities for learners to apply their knowledge and practical skills in the workplace. Full-time learners have the opportunity to do this through formal work placements or part-time employment experience.

The qualification prepares learners for employment in the environmental conservation and/or game and wildlife management sectors and will be suitable for learners who have already decided that they wish to enter this area of work. Some adult learners may wish to make the commitment required by this qualification in order to enter a specialist area of employment in environmental conservation and/or game and wildlife management or progress into higher education. Other learners may want to extend the specialism that they followed on the Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC programme.

Progression from this qualification may well be into or within employment in the environmental conservation and/or game and wildlife management sectors where learners may work towards membership of The Institute of Biology.

Teaching, learning and assessment

Learners must achieve a minimum of 120 credits (of which at least 65 must be at level 4) on their programme of learning to be awarded an Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC and a minimum of 240 credits (of which at least 125 must be at level 5) to be awarded an Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND.

The assessment of Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications is criterion-referenced and centres are required to assess learners' evidence against published learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

All units will be individually graded as 'pass', 'merit' or 'distinction'. To achieve a pass grade for the unit, learners must meet the assessment criteria set out in the specifications. This gives transparency to the assessment process and provides for the establishment of national standards for each qualification.

The units in Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications all have a standard format which is designed to provide guidance on the requirements of the qualification for learners, assessors and those responsible for monitoring national standards.

NB Any level 3 units in Edexcel BTEC Higher National specifications will appear as they are found in the relevant level 3 specifications (minus references to personal, learning and thinking skills [PLTS] and functional skills [FS].) This means that their format and assessment requirements will be slightly different from level 4 and level 5 units. 'Links' within the level 3 units will relate to units found in the level 3 specification and not to those within the level 4 and level 5 specifications.

Unit format

Each unit is set out in the following way.

Unit title, unit code, QCF level and credit value

The unit title is accredited on the QCF and this form of words will appear on the learner's Notification of Performance.

Each unit is assigned a level, indicating the relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of study, and learner autonomy. All units and qualifications within the QCF will have a level assigned to them, which represents the level of achievement. There are nine levels of achievement, from Entry level to level 8. The level of the unit has been informed by the QCF level descriptors and, where appropriate, the National Occupational Standards (NOS) and/or other sector/professional benchmarks.

Each unit in Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications has a credit value which specifies the number of credits that will be awarded to a learner who has achieved all the learning outcomes of the unit. Learners will be awarded credits for the successful completion of whole units.

Aim

The aim provides a clear summary of the purpose of the unit and is a succinct statement that summarises the learning outcomes of the unit.

Unit abstract

The unit abstract gives the reader an appreciation of the unit in the vocational setting of the qualification, as well as highlighting the focus of the unit. It gives the reader a snapshot of the unit and the key knowledge, skills and understanding gained while studying the unit. The unit abstract also highlights any links to the appropriate vocational sector by describing how the unit relates to that sector.

Learning outcomes

The learning outcomes identify what each learner must do in order to pass the unit. Learning outcomes state exactly what a learner should 'know, understand or be able to do' as a result of completing the unit. Learners must achieve all the learning outcomes in order to pass the unit.

Unit content

The unit content identifies the breadth of knowledge, skills and understanding needed to design and deliver a programme of learning to achieve each of the learning outcomes. This is informed by the underpinning knowledge and understanding requirements of relevant National Occupational Standards (NOS) where appropriate.

Each learning outcome is stated in full and then the key phrases or concepts related to that learning outcome are listed in italics followed by the subsequent range of related topics.

The information below shows how unit content is structured and gives the terminology used to explain the different components within the content.

- Learning outcome: this is given in bold at the beginning of each section of content.
- Italicised sub-heading: it contains a key phrase or concept. This is content which must be covered in the delivery of the unit. Colons mark the end of an italicised sub-heading.
- Elements of content: the elements are in roman text and amplify the sub-heading. The elements must also be covered in the delivery of the unit. Semi-colons mark the end of an element.
- Brackets contain amplification of elements of content which must be covered in the delivery of the unit.
- 'eg' is a list of examples used for indicative amplification of an element (that is, the content specified in this amplification that could be covered or that could be replaced by other, similar material).

It is not a requirement of the unit specification that all of the content is assessed.

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Each unit contains statements of the evidence that each learner should produce in order to receive a pass.

Guidance

This section provides additional guidance and amplification related to the unit to support tutors/deliverers and assessors. Its subsections are given below.

- *Links* – sets out possible links between units within the specification. Provides opportunities for the integration of learning, delivery and assessment. Links to relevant National Occupational Standards and Professional Bodies Standards will be highlighted here.
- *Essential requirements* – essential, unique physical and/or staffing resources or delivery/assessment requirements needed for the delivery of this unit are specified here.
- *Employer engagement and vocational contexts* – this is an optional section. Where relevant it offers suggestions for employer contact to enhance the delivery of the unit.

These subsections should be read in conjunction with the learning outcomes, unit content, assessment criteria and the generic grade descriptors.

The centre will be asked to ensure that essential resources are in place when it seeks approval from Edexcel to offer the qualification.

Learning and assessment

The purpose of assessment is to ensure that effective learning of the content of each unit has taken place. Evidence of this learning, or the application of the learning, is required for each unit. The assessment of the evidence relates directly to the assessment criteria for each unit, supported by the generic grade descriptors.

The process of assessment can aid effective learning by seeking and interpreting evidence to decide the stage that learners have reached in their learning, what further learning needs to take place and how best to do this. Therefore, the process of assessment should be part of the effective planning of teaching and learning by providing opportunities for both the learner and assessor to obtain information about progress towards learning goals.

The assessor and learner must be actively engaged in promoting a common understanding of the assessment criteria and the grade descriptors (what it is they are trying to achieve and how well they achieve it) for further learning to take place. Therefore, learners need constructive feedback and guidance about how they may improve by capitalising on their strengths, and clear and constructive comments about their weaknesses and how these might be addressed.

Assessment instruments are constructed within centres. They should collectively ensure coverage of all assessment criteria within each unit and should provide opportunities for the evidencing of all the grade descriptors.

It is advised that assessment criteria and contextualised grade descriptors are clearly indicated on each assessment instrument to provide a focus for learners (for transparency and to ensure that feedback is specific to the criteria) and to assist with internal standardisation processes. Tasks/activities should enable learners to produce evidence that relates directly to the assessment criteria and grade descriptors.

When centres are designing assessment instruments, they need to ensure that the instruments are valid, reliable and fit for purpose, building on the application of the assessment criteria. Centres are encouraged to place emphasis on practical application of the assessment criteria, providing a realistic scenario for learners to adopt, making maximum use of work-related practical experience and reflecting typical practice in the sector concerned. The creation of assessment instruments that are fit for purpose is vital to achievement, and their importance cannot be over-emphasised.

Grading Higher National units

The grading of Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications is at the unit and the qualification level.

Each successfully completed unit will be graded as a pass, merit or distinction.

A pass is awarded for the achievement of all outcomes against the specified assessment criteria.

Merit and distinction grades are awarded for higher-level achievement. The generic merit and distinction grade descriptors listed in *Annexe C* are for grading the total evidence produced for each unit and describe the learner's performance over and above that for a pass grade. They can be achieved in a flexible way, for example in a sequential or holistic mode, to reflect the nature of the sector concerned.

Each of the generic merit and distinction grade descriptors can be amplified by use of **indicative characteristics**. These give a guide to the expected learner performance, and support the generic grade descriptors. The indicative characteristics should reflect the nature of a unit and the context of the sector programme.

The indicative characteristics shown in the table for each of the generic grade descriptors in *Annexe C* are **not exhaustive**. Consequently, centres should select appropriate characteristics from the list or **construct others** that are appropriate for their sector programme and level.

It is important to note that each assessment activity does not need to incorporate all the merit and/or distinction grade descriptors.

Contextualising the generic grade descriptors

The generic merit and distinction grade descriptors need to be viewed as a qualitative extension of the assessment criteria for pass within each individual unit. The relevant generic grade descriptors must be identified and specified within an assignment and the relevant indicative characteristics should be used to place the required evidence in context.

Summary of grades

In order to achieve a pass in a unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• all learning outcomes and associated assessment criteria have been met
In order to achieve a merit in a unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pass requirements achieved• all merit grade descriptors achieved
In order to achieve a distinction in a unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pass and merit requirements achieved• all distinction grade descriptors achieved

Calculation of the qualification grade

Pass qualification grade

Learners who achieve the minimum eligible credit value specified by the rule of combination will achieve the qualification at pass grade (see section *Rules of combination for the Edexcel BTEC Levels 4 and 5 Higher National qualifications*).

Qualification grades above pass grade

Learners will be awarded a merit or distinction qualification grade by the aggregation of points gained through the successful achievement of individual units. **The graded section of both the HNC and the HND is based on the learner's best performance in units at the level or above of the qualification to the value of 75 credits.**

The number of points available is dependent on the unit grade achieved and the credit size of the unit (as shown in the 'Points available per credit at specified unit grades' table below).

Points available per credit at specified unit grades

Points per credit		
Pass	Merit	Distinction
0	1	2

Qualification grades

Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC

Points range	Grade	
0-74	Pass	P
75-149	Merit	M
150	Distinction	D

Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND

Points range	Grade	
0-74	Pass	P
75-149	Merit	M
150	Distinction	D

Annexe E gives examples of how qualification grades are calculated.

The grade achieved in units from an appropriate HNC may contribute to an HND grade.

If a learner moves from HNC to HND then credits from both the HNC and HND can contribute to the best 75 credits of the overall HND grade.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a method of assessment (leading to the award of credit) that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills they already possess and so do not need to develop through a course of learning.

Edexcel encourages centres to recognise learners' previous achievements and experiences whether at work, home and at leisure, as well as in the classroom. RPL provides a route for the recognition of the achievements resulting from continuous learning.

RPL enables recognition of achievement from a range of activities using any valid assessment methodology. Provided that the assessment requirements of a given unit or qualification have been met, the use of RPL is acceptable for accrediting a unit, units or a whole qualification. Evidence of learning must be valid and reliable.

For full guidance about Edexcel's policy on RPL please see our *Recognition of Prior Learning Policy* on our website. Please go to [http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/Recognition of Prior Learning.pdf](http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/Recognition%20of%20Prior%20Learning.pdf)

Quality assurance of Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals

Edexcel's quality assurance system for all BTEC higher level programmes on the QCF at Levels 4–7 will ensure that centres have effective quality assurance processes to review programme delivery. It will also ensure that the outcomes of assessment are to national standards.

The quality assurance process for centres offering Edexcel BTEC higher level programmes on the QCF at Levels 4–7 comprises three key components.

1) Approval process

Approval to offer Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications will vary depending on the status of the centre.

Centres that have a recent history of delivering Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications and have an acceptable quality profile in relation to their delivery will be able to gain approval through Edexcel Online.

Centres new to the delivery of Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications will be required to seek approval through the existing Edexcel qualification and centre approval process. Prior to approval being given, centres will be required to submit evidence to demonstrate that they:

- have the human and physical resources required for effective delivery and assessment
- understand the implications for independent assessment and agree to abide by these
- have a robust internal assessment system supported by 'fit for purpose' assessment documentation
- have a system to internally verify assessment decisions, to ensure standardised assessment decisions are made across all assessors and sites.

Such applications have to be supported by the head of the centre (principal, chief executive etc.) and include a declaration that the centre will operate the programmes strictly as approved and in line with Edexcel requirements.

2) Monitoring of internal centre systems

Centres will be required to demonstrate ongoing fulfilment of the centre approval criteria over time and across all programmes. The process that assures this is external examination, which is undertaken by Edexcel's External Examiners. Centres will be given the opportunity to present evidence of the ongoing suitability and deployment of their systems to carry out the required functions. This includes the consistent application of policies affecting learner registrations, appeals, effective internal examination and standardisation processes. Where appropriate, centres may present evidence of their operation within a recognised code of practice, such as that of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. Edexcel reserves the right to confirm independently that these arrangements are operating to Edexcel's satisfaction.

Edexcel will affirm, or not, the ongoing effectiveness of such systems. Where system failures are identified, sanctions (appropriate to the nature of the problem) will be applied in order to assist the centre in correcting the problem.

3) Independent assessment review

The internal assessment outcomes reached for all Edexcel BTEC higher level programmes on the Qualifications and Credit Framework at Levels 4-7 are subject to an independent assessment review by an Edexcel-appointed External Examiner.

The outcomes of this process will be to:

- confirm that internal assessment is to national standards and allow certification

or

- make recommendations to improve the quality of assessment outcomes before certification is released

or

- make recommendations about the centre's ability to continue to be approved for the qualifications in question.

Additional arrangement for ALL centres

Regardless of the type of centre, Edexcel reserves the right to withdraw either qualification or centre approval when it deems there is an irreversible breakdown in the centre's ability either to quality assure its programme delivery or its assessment standards.

Programme design and delivery

Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications consist of mandatory core units and specialist units. The specialist units are designed to provide a specific focus to the qualification. Required combinations of specialist units are clearly set out in relation to each qualification in the defined qualification structures provided in this document.

In Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications each unit's credit value usually consists of multiples of five credits. Most units are 15 credits in value. These units have been designed from a learning-time perspective. **Each 15-credit unit approximates to a learning time of 150 hours.**

These new Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND qualifications are the same size as the Edexcel Level 5 BTEC Higher National Diplomas which were accredited onto the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Therefore, it is expected that these Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HNDs, accredited onto the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), will also require approximately 960 guided learning hours (GLH).

Consequently, using the above approach, the new Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNCs, which are accredited onto the QCF, and are now half the size of the Edexcel BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diplomas, will require approximately 480 GLH.

Within the information relating to these units on the QCF, each 15-credit unit has been allocated a figure of 60 GLH to help guide centres (other units with smaller or larger credit values have figures calculated on a pro rata basis). Centres delivering these qualifications are required to use their professional expertise in the design and delivery of these qualifications within the overall guided learning hours for the qualification.

Guided learning hours are defined as all the time when a tutor, trainer or facilitator is present to give specific guidance towards the learning aim being studied on a programme. This definition includes lectures, tutorials and supervised study in, for example, open learning centres and learning workshops. It also includes time spent by staff assessing learners' achievements. It does not include time spent by staff in day-to-day marking of assignments where the learner is not present.

Learning time is defined as the time taken by learners at the level of the unit, on average, to complete the learning outcomes of the unit to the standard determined by the assessment criteria. It should address all learning (including assessment) relevant to the learning outcomes, regardless of where, when and how the learning has taken place.

Centres are advised to consider this definition when planning the programme of study associated with this specification.

Annexe D provides information for centres and learners who wish to compare, for teaching and learning purposes, the units of the NQF Edexcel Level 5 BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation with the new units of the QCF Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation.

Mode of delivery

Edexcel does not define the mode of study for Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications. Centres are free to offer the qualification(s) using any mode of delivery that meets the needs of their learners. This may be through traditional classroom teaching, open learning, distance learning or a combination of these. Whatever mode of delivery is used, centres must ensure that learners have appropriate access to the resources identified in the specification and to the subject specialists delivering the units. This is particularly important for learners studying for the qualification through open or distance learning.

Full guidance on our policies on 'distance assessment' and 'electronic assessment' are given on our website.

Learners studying for the qualification on a part-time basis bring with them a wealth of experience that should be utilised to maximum effect by tutors and assessors. Assessment instruments based on learners' work environments should be encouraged. Those planning the programme should aim to enhance the vocational nature of the Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualification by:

- liaising with employers to ensure that the course is relevant to learners' specific needs
- accessing and using non-confidential data and documents from learners' workplaces
- including sponsoring employers in the delivery of the programme and, where appropriate, in the assessment
- linking with company-based/workplace training programmes
- making full use of the variety of experiences of work and life that learners bring to the programme.

Resources

Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications are designed to prepare learners for employment in specific industry sectors.

Physical resources need to support the delivery of the programme and the proper assessment of the outcomes and, therefore, should normally be of industry standard.

Staff delivering programmes and conducting the assessments should be familiar with current practice, legislation and standards used in the sector concerned.

Centres will need to meet any specialist resource requirements when they seek approval from Edexcel.

Please refer to the *Essential requirements* section in individual units for specialist resource requirements.

Delivery approach

It is important that centres develop an approach to teaching and learning that supports the specialist vocational nature of the Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualification. Specifications contain a balance of practical skill development and knowledge requirements, some of which can be theoretical in nature. Tutors and assessors need to ensure that appropriate links are made between theory and practice and that the knowledge base is applied to the sector. This will require the development of relevant and up-to-date teaching materials that allow learners to apply their learning to actual events and activities within the sector. Maximum use should be made of the learner's experience.

Meeting local needs

Centres should note that the qualifications set out in these specifications have been developed in consultation with centres, employers and the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the environmental and land-based sector.

The units are designed to meet the skill needs of the sector and the specialist units allow coverage of the full range of employment within the sector. Centres should make maximum use of the choice available to them within the specialist units to meet the needs of their learners, as well as the local skills and training needs identified by relevant organisations and local funding agencies.

Centres may not always be able to meet local needs using the units in this specification. In this situation, centres can seek approval from Edexcel to use units from other Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications on the QCF. Centres will need to justify the need for importing units from other specifications and Edexcel will ensure that the vocational focus of the qualification remains the same.

Locally-devised specialist units

There may be exceptional circumstances where even the flexibility of importing units from other specifications does not meet a particular local need. In this case, centres can seek permission from Edexcel to develop a unit(s) with us to meet this need. Permission will be granted only in a limited number of cases.

Edexcel will ensure that the integrity of the qualification is not compromised and that there is a minimum of overlap and duplication of content of existing units. Centres will need strong evidence of the local need and the reasons why the existing standard units are inappropriate. Edexcel will validate these units.

Limitations on variations from standard specifications

The flexibility to import standard units from other QCF Edexcel BTEC Higher National specifications and/or to develop unique locally-devised specialist units is **limited to a maximum of 30 credits in an Edexcel BTEC HNC qualification and a maximum of 60 credits only in any Edexcel BTEC HND qualification**. These units cannot be used at the expense of the mandatory core units in any qualification, nor can the qualification rules of combination be compromised.

Access and recruitment

Edexcel's policy regarding access to our qualifications is that:

- qualifications should be available to everyone who is capable of reaching the required standards
- qualifications should be free from any barriers that restrict access and progression
- there must be equal opportunities for everyone wishing to access the qualification.

Centres are required to recruit learners to Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications with integrity. This will include ensuring that applicants have appropriate information and advice about the qualifications and that the qualification will meet their needs. Centres should take appropriate steps to assess each applicant's potential and make a professional judgement about their ability to successfully complete the programme of study and achieve the qualification. This assessment will need to take account of the support available to the learner within the centre during their programme of study, and any specific support that might be necessary to allow the learner to access the assessment for the qualification. Centres should also show regard for Edexcel's policy (see our website) on learners with particular requirements.

Centres will need to review the profile of qualifications and/or experience held by applicants, considering whether this profile shows an ability to progress to level 4 or level 5 qualifications. For learners who have recently been in education, the entry profile is likely to include one of the following:

- a BTEC Level 3 qualification in Countryside Management
- a GCE Advanced-level profile which demonstrates strong performance in a relevant subject or an adequate performance in more than one GCE subject. This profile is likely to be supported by GCSE grades at A* to C
- other related level 3 qualifications
- an Access to Higher Education Certificate awarded by an approved further education institution
- related work experience.

Mature learners may present a more varied profile of achievement that is likely to include extensive work experience (paid and/or unpaid) and/or achievement of a range of professional qualifications in their work sector.

Restrictions on learner entry

The Edexcel BTEC Higher National qualifications are accredited on the QCF for learners aged 18 years and over.

Access arrangements and special considerations

Edexcel's policy on access arrangements and special considerations for BTEC and Edexcel Work-based Diploma qualifications aims to enhance access to the qualifications for learners with disabilities and other difficulties (as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the amendments to the Act) without compromising the assessment of skills, knowledge, understanding or competence.

Further details are given on our website (www.edexcel.com).

Useful publications

Further copies of this document and related publications can be obtained from:

Edexcel Publications
Adamsway
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire NG18 4FN

Telephone: 01623 467 467
Fax: 01623 450 481
Email: publication.orders@edexcel.com

Related publications include:

- the current Edexcel publications catalogue and update catalogue
- Edexcel publications concerning the quality assurance system and the internal and external verification of vocationally related programmes may be found on the Edexcel website and in the Edexcel publications catalogue.

NB: Most of our publications are priced. There is also a charge for postage and packing. Please check the cost when you order.

How to obtain National Occupational Standards

The National Occupational Standards for Environmental Conservation and Game and Wildlife Management can be obtained from:

Lantra Sector Skills Council
Lantra House
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire CV8 2LG

Telephone: 024 7669 6996
Email: standardsandquals@lantra.co.uk
Website: www.lantra.co.uk

Professional development and training

Edexcel supports UK and international customers with training related to BTEC qualifications. This support is available through a choice of training options offered in our published training directory or through customised training at your centre.

The support we offer focuses on a range of issues including:

- planning for the delivery of a new programme
- planning for assessment and grading
- developing effective assignments
- building your team and teamwork skills
- developing student-centred learning and teaching approaches
- building key skills into your programme
- building in effective and efficient quality assurance systems.

The national programme of training we offer can be viewed on our website (www.edexcel.com/training). You can request customised training through the website or by contacting one of our advisers in the Training from Edexcel team via Customer Services to discuss your training needs.

Our customer service numbers are:

BTEC and Work-based Learning 0844 576 0026

GCSE 0844 576 0027

GCE 0844 576 0025

The Diploma 0844 576 0028

DiDA and other qualifications 0844 576 0031

Calls may be recorded for training purposes.

The training we provide:

- is active – ideas are developed and applied
- is designed to be supportive and thought provoking
- builds on best practice.

Our training is underpinned by the former LLUK standards for those preparing to teach and for those seeking evidence for their continuing professional development.

Further information

For further information please call Customer Services on 0844 576 0026 (calls may be recorded for training purposes) or visit our website at www.edexcel.com.

Annexe A

Qualification Requirement

BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation

This Qualification Requirement should be read in conjunction with overarching guidance from Edexcel.

Rationale

The BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation have been designed to focus on:

- providing education and training for a range of careers in environmental conservation, game management and allied land-based industries
- providing opportunities for those employed within these industries to achieve a nationally recognised higher-level vocationally specific qualification
- providing opportunities for full-time learners to gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific higher-level qualification to enter employment within these industries at supervisory or management level or to progress to higher education vocational qualifications such as a full-time degree in environmental conservation, game management or science or related subject area
- expansion of the knowledge, understanding and skills of learners from an environmental or game industry supervisor's or manager's viewpoint
- opportunities for learners to concentrate on the development of higher-level skills in a land-based context, and how their role and that of their business fits within the overall structure of the land-based industries, the national and international economy and the global overview
- providing opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills, techniques and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Aims of the qualification

This qualification meets the needs of the above rationale by:

- equipping individuals with knowledge, understanding and skills for successful employment in the environmental conservation, game management and allied industries
- enabling progression to an undergraduate degree or further professional qualifications in related areas
- providing opportunities for specialist study relevant to individual vocations and contexts
- developing the individual's ability in the environmental conservation and allied industries through effective use and combination of the knowledge and skills gained in different parts of the programme
- developing a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attributes essential for successful performance in working life and thereby enabling learners to make an immediate contribution to employment

- providing flexibility, knowledge, skills and motivation as a basis for future studies and career development in the environmental conservation and allied industries.

Mandatory curriculum

The mandatory curriculum will give learners the opportunity to build on previous attainment while allowing them to progress and study a selection of optional curriculum. It will display the following features:

- understand and apply business management, eg record keeping, and planning techniques; human resource management, roles and responsibilities; financial management and analysis of performance; resource management; health and safety management; legislative requirements and responsibilities; external factors; and marketing; use of sector-specific software packages for the management, collection, analysis and use of information; ICT skills used to obtain information from electronic sources and synthesise information
- use of project management; implement a project plan including evaluation and review; importance of communications and presentation in project management; importance of identifying various sources and types of information
- understand basic ecological principles, ecosystems and survey techniques; hydrological cycle; nutrient cycles, eg nitrogen, carbon; population dynamics; predator/prey relationships; succession; stability; climate; biodiversity and sustainability; relevant legislation; waste and pollution sources, effects and management
- understand plant structure and function; physiological processes; soil structure, properties and management; inter-relationships between plants and soils
- understand current UK land-use practices and management; relevant regulations and legislation and adjustment methodologies; sustainability
- use of basic statistical techniques to support a range of experimental and production situations: reinforcement of numeracy requirements to ensure accuracy and precision in production and survey management.

Optional curriculum

The optional curriculum will give learners the opportunity to explore selected specialised areas of study. It will display the following features:

- undertake real work experience within a business or organisation; practical health and safety; resource management; assist in aspects of supervisory and management practices overseeing various aspects of the working environment, eg financial management, production systems, customer care, environmental management
- understand basic evolution; classification methods; cell biology; anatomy and physiology of mammals, birds and fish; structure and physiology of plants; homeostasis
- understand reproductive strategies; nutrition; growth and development; homeostatic mechanisms; disease diagnosis and treatment; welfare requirements and relevant legislation
- develop and apply knowledge of the principles of sustainability; the development of international conventions regarding sustainability; governmental and industrial responses to international conventions; individual responses to the principles of sustainable development
- develop an understanding of world agricultural production; the development of global markets; the contribution of food production on the global economy; the effects of policies, issues and developments on global food productivity
- develop and apply knowledge of the management of grasslands, farm habitats, fish, game, wildlife and other agricultural land; assessment of the value of land for wildlife; requirements

of rural production systems relating to preparation, growing, harvesting and marketing rural produce; economics of production; relevant legislation; inter-relationships between agricultural production and wildlife; environmental health hazards and their management; urban habitat management; landscape history

- understand experimental design and application; understand market research techniques and analysis; apply basic statistical analysis to research results; sources of research material
- develop and apply knowledge of the range and ecology of habitats (rural and urban) found in the UK; methods used to assess and categorise landscapes and habitats; land use, its history in the UK and the reasons for its management; the methods used to manage and restore habitats in the UK including management of volunteers; sustainable management; relevant legislation; economics of habitat management and restoration including the use and sale of produce; health and safety; case studies
- develop and apply knowledge of the requirements and demands for countryside recreation and interpretation; major recreational uses of the countryside; methods used to interact with and manage visitors to the countryside; major providers of countryside recreation and interpretation; relevant legislation; health and safety; case studies; issues relating to countryside access
- develop and apply skills in manual and mechanical practical skills used in the management of rural and urban environments; maintenance and storage of tools and equipment; economics; safe working practices; health and safety; relevant legislation
- develop and apply knowledge of the reasons for planning legislation and policies; the government, planning authorities and the methods used to develop planning legislation and authorities; planning applications and the process of approval or rejection; planning and sustainable development; case studies.

Professional body recognition

Learners possessing an HNC/D in Biological Science and have had experience in responsible work in biological science or its application of at least five years subsequent or seven years prior to the award are eligible to apply for membership of the Institute of Biology.

Links to National Standards

There is the opportunity for the Edexcel BTEC HNC and HND Diplomas in Environmental Conservation to provide much of the underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to meet the requirements of National Occupational Standards in Environmental Conservation and Game and Wildlife Management.

Entry prerequisites

There are no particular entry requirements for these qualifications. Learners who enter with at least one of the following are likely to benefit more readily from these Higher National programmes:

- a BTEC National in Countryside Management or related subject
- a level 3 qualification in a related subject; at least one GCE A level pass in a relevant subject with supporting passes at GCSE would be advantageous for entry, as would appropriate, relevant work experience.

Higher Level Skills and Abilities

Learners will be expected to develop the following skills during the programme of study:

- analyse, synthesise and summarise information critically
- read and use appropriate literature with a full and critical understanding
- think independently, solve problems and devise innovative solutions
- take responsibility for their own learning and recognise their own learning style
- apply subject knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems
- design, plan, conduct and report on investigations
- use their knowledge, understanding and skills to evaluate and formulate evidence-based arguments critically and identify solutions to clearly defined problems of a general routine nature
- communicate the results of their study and other work accurately and reliably using a range of specialist techniques
- identify and address their own major learning needs within defined contexts and undertake guided further learning in new areas

Annexe B

National Occupational Standards

Mapping against the level 4 Work-based Diplomas in Environmental Conservation and Game and Wildlife Management

The grid below maps the knowledge covered in the level 4 Work-based Diplomas in Environmental Conservation and Game and Wildlife Management against the underpinning knowledge of the QCF Edexcel BTEC Higher Nationals in Environmental Conservation.

HNC/D titles Work-based Diploma Unit titles	Unit 1: Research Project	Unit 2: Project Management for Land-based Industries	Unit 3: Principles of Ecology	Unit 4: Biological Principles	Unit 5: Enterprise and Financial Management for Land-based Industries	Unit 6: Human Resource Management	Unit 7: Employability Skills	Unit 8: Genetics and their Application	Unit 9: Land Use Issues and Regulation	Unit 10: Environmental Management	Unit 11: Environmental Systems	Unit 12: Farmland Habitat Management	Unit 13: Animal Health and Welfare	Unit 14: Principles of Plant and Soil Science	Unit 15: Sustainable Development	Unit 16: Research Methods for Land-based Industries	Unit 17: Environmental Health Hazards	Unit 18: Habitat Management	Unit 19: Habitat Restoration and Repair	Unit 20: Countryside Recreation and Visitor Management	
Environmental Conservation										#											
Unit EC24 Produce site management plans																					
Unit EC23 Prepare, conduct and report on field surveys																					
Unit CU88 Manage habitats																				#	
Unit C7 Contribute to the selection of personnel for activities																					#

HNC/D titles	Unit 1: Research Project	Unit 2: Project Management for Land-based Industries	Unit 3: Principles of Ecology	Unit 4: Biological Principles	Unit 5: Enterprise and Financial Management for Land-based Industries	Unit 6: Human Resource Management	Unit 7: Employability Skills	Unit 8: Genetics and their Application	Unit 9: Land Use Issues and Regulation	Unit 10: Environmental Management	Unit 11: Environmental Systems	Unit 12: Farmland Habitat Management	Unit 13: Animal Health and Welfare	Unit 14: Principles of Plant and Soil Science	Unit 15: Sustainable Development	Unit 16: Research Methods for Land-based Industries	Unit 17: Environmental Health Hazards	Unit 18: Habitat Management	Unit 19: Habitat Restoration and Repair	Unit 20: Countryside Recreation and Visitor Management
Work-based Diploma																				
Unit titles																		#	#	#
Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management																		#	#	#
Standard CU18 Construct and maintain structures and surfaces																				
Standard Ga11 Maintain and improve game and wildlife habitat																				
Standard Ga24 Contribute to the management of heather burning																				
Standard CU18 Construct and maintain structures and surfaces																		#	#	#
Standard CU20 Maintain and repair structures and surfaces																		#	#	#
Standard CU26 Plan, monitor and evaluate the construction and maintenance of structures and surfaces																				

HNC/D titles	Unit titles	Unit 21: Rural Planning and Development	Unit 22: Working with Groups in Land-based Industries	Unit 23: Urban Habitat Management	Unit 24: Landscape Assessment and Management	Unit 25: Fish, Game and Wildlife Management	Unit 26: Rural Production Systems	Unit 27: Waste Management	Unit 28: Further Habitat Management	Unit 29: Landscape History and Development	Unit 30: Biodiversity and Conservation	Unit 31: Biological Survey Techniques	Unit 32: Environmental Law	Unit 33: Environmental Education and Interpretation	Unit 34: Establish a Game Shooting Programme	Unit 35: Control Shoot Day Activities	Unit 36: Develop a Wild Game Management Plan for a Wildlife Management Area	Unit 37: Monitor and Maintain Game Management Plans	Unit 38: Build and Maintain Effective Customer Relations	Unit 39: Develop a Game Bird Production Programme	Unit 40: Develop a Wild Deer Management Plan				
Work-based Diploma	Environmental Conservation																								
	Unit EC23 Prepare, conduct and report on field surveys			#																					
	Unit C7 Contribute to the selection of personnel for activities							#																	
	Unit EC23 Prepare, conduct and report on field surveys											#													
	Unit EC26 Prepare and deliver interpretive and educational activities													#											
	Unit 9 Give customers a positive impression of yourself and your organisation																			#		#			
	Unit 31 Resolve customer service problems																								

<p style="text-align: center;">HNC/D titles</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Work-based Diploma</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Unit titles</p> <p>Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management</p> <p>Standard Ga21 Contribute to the development of a sporting estate</p> <p>Standard Ga36 Support participants on a shoot day</p>	Unit 21: Rural Planning and Development			
	Unit 22: Working with Groups in Land-based Industries			
	Unit 23: Urban Habitat Management			
	Unit 24: Landscape Assessment and Management			
	Unit 25: Fish, Game and Wildlife Management	#		
	Unit 26: Rural Production Systems			
	Unit 27: Waste Management			
	Unit 28: Further Habitat Management			
	Unit 29: Landscape History and Development			
	Unit 30: Biodiversity and Conservation			
	Unit 31: Biological Survey Techniques			
	Unit 32: Environmental Law			
	Unit 33: Environmental Education and Interpretation			#
	Unit 34: Establish a Game Shooting Programme			
	Unit 35: Control Shoot Day Activities			
	Unit 36: Develop a Wild Game Management Plan for a Wildlife Management Area			
	Unit 37: Monitor and Maintain Game Management Plans			
	Unit 38: Build and Maintain Effective Customer Relations			
	Unit 39: Develop a Game Bird Production Programme			
	Unit 40: Develop a Wild Deer Management Plan			

HNC/D titles Work-based Diploma Unit titles	#	Standard CU49 Stalk and cull deer													
Unit 41: Manage Wild Deer Culls															
Unit 42: Business Environment															
Unit 43: Global Food Production															
Unit 44: Work-based Experience															
Unit 45: Small Business Enterprise															
Unit 46: Develop and Review a Marketing Policy															
Unit 47: Manage Emergencies and Incidents in the Land-based Sector															
Unit 48: Health and Safety in the Land-based Workplace															
Unit 49: Visitor Attraction Management															

Annexe C

Grade descriptors

Pass grade

A **pass grade** is achieved by meeting all the requirements defined in the assessment criteria for pass for each unit.

Merit grade

Merit descriptors	Exemplar indicative characteristics
	Centres can identify and use other relevant characteristics. This is NOT a tick list.
In order to achieve a merit the learner must:	The learner's evidence shows, for example:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify and apply strategies to find appropriate solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• effective judgements have been made• complex problems with more than one variable have been explored• an effective approach to study and research has been applied
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• select/design and apply appropriate methods/techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• relevant theories and techniques have been applied• a range of methods and techniques have been applied• a range of sources of information has been used• the selection of methods and techniques/sources has been justified• the design of methods/techniques has been justified• complex information/data has been synthesised and processed• appropriate learning methods/techniques have been applied
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• present and communicate appropriate findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the appropriate structure and approach has been used• coherent, logical development of principles/concepts for the intended audience• a range of methods of presentation have been used and technical language has been accurately used• communication has taken place in familiar and unfamiliar contexts• the communication is appropriate for familiar and unfamiliar audiences and appropriate media have been used.

Distinction grade

Distinction descriptors	Exemplar indicative characteristics
In order to achieve a distinction the learner must:	Centres can identify and use other relevant characteristics. This is NOT a tick list. The learner's evidence shows, for example:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use critical reflection to evaluate own work and justify valid conclusions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conclusions have been arrived at through synthesis of ideas and have been justified • the validity of results has been evaluated using defined criteria • self-criticism of approach has taken place • realistic improvements have been proposed against defined characteristics for success
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take responsibility for managing and organising activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • autonomy/independence has been demonstrated • substantial activities, projects or investigations have been planned, managed and organised • activities have been managed • the unforeseen has been accommodated • the importance of interdependence has been recognised and achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate convergent/lateral/creative thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideas have been generated and decisions taken • self-evaluation has taken place • convergent and lateral thinking have been applied • problems have been solved • innovation and creative thought have been applied • receptiveness to new ideas is evident • effective thinking has taken place in unfamiliar contexts.

Annexe D

Unit mapping overview

New QCF versions of the Edexcel BTEC Higher National units in Environmental Conservation (specification start date 01/09/2011) mapped against the NQF BTEC Higher National units in Environmental Conservation (specification end date 31/08/2010).

Unit number	QCF unit title	Maps to NQF unit number	Level of similarity between units
1	Research Project	2	F
2	Project Management for Land-based Industries	3	F
3	Principles of Ecology	4	F
4	Biological Principles	14	F
5	Enterprise and Financial Management for Land-based Industries	–	N
6	Human Resource Management	–	N
7	Employability Skills	–	N
8	Genetics and their Application		N
9	Land Use Issues and Regulation	6	F
10	Environmental Management	7	F
11	Environmental Systems	10	F
12	Farmland Habitat Management	11	F
13	Animal Health and Welfare	12	F
14	Principles of Plant and Soil Science	5	F
15	Sustainable Development	15	F
16	Research Methods for Land-based Industries	16	F
17	Environmental Health Hazards	17	F
18	Habitat Management	18	F
19	Habitat Restoration and Repair	19	F
20	Countryside Recreation and Visitor Management	21	F
21	Rural Planning and Development	22	F
22	Working with Groups in Land-based Industries	23	F
23	Urban Habitat Management	24	F
24	Landscape Assessment and Management	25	F
25	Fish, Game and Wildlife Management	26	F
26	Rural Production Systems	27	F

Unit number	QCF unit title	Maps to NQF unit number	Level of similarity between units
27	Waste Management	28	F
28	Further Habitat Management	29	F
29	Landscape History and Development	30	F
30	Biodiversity and Conservation	31	F
31	Biological Survey Techniques	32	F
32	Environmental Law	33	F
33	Environmental Education and Interpretation	34	F
34	Establish a Game Shooting Programme	–	N
35	Control Shoot Day Activities	–	N
36	Develop a Wild Game Management Plan for a Wildlife Management Area	–	N
37	Monitor and Maintain Game Management Plans	–	N
38	Build and Maintain Effective Customer Relations	–	N
39	Develop a Game Bird Production Programme	–	N
40	Develop a Wild Deer Management Plan	–	N
41	Manage Wild Deer Culls	–	N
42	Business Environment	1	P
43	Global Food Production	8	F
44	Work-based Experience	9	F
45	Small Business Enterprise	13	F
46	Develop and Review a Marketing Policy	–	N
47	Manage Emergencies and Incidents in the Land-based Sector	–	N
48	Health and Safety in the Land-based Workplace	–	N
49	Visitor Attraction Management	–	N
50	Arboriculture Management	–	N

KEY

P – Partial mapping (some topics from the old unit appear in the new unit)

F – Full mapping (topics in old unit match new unit exactly or almost exactly)

X – Full mapping + new (all the topics from the old unit appear in the new unit, but new unit also contains new topic(s))

N – New unit

Unit mapping in depth

New QCF versions of the Edexcel BTEC Higher National units in Environmental Conservation (specification start date 01/09/2011) mapped against the NQF BTEC Higher National units in Environmental Conservation (specification end date 31/08/2010).

New QCF units		NQF units		Mapping/comments (new topics in italics)
Number	Name	Number	Name	
1	Research Project	2	Investigative Project	<i>Understand how to formulate a research specification.</i> <i>Be able to implement the research project within agreed procedures and to specification.</i>
2	Project Management for Land-based Industries	3	Project Management for Land-based Industries	N/A
3	Principles of Ecology	4	Principles of Ecology	N/A
4	Biological Principles	14	Biological Principles	Unit takes a more in depth look at Biological principles. <i>Understand the relationship between cellular and tissue structure and their functions in plants and/or animals.</i> <i>Understand the organisation of cells and tissues into organ systems in plants and/or animals.</i> <i>Understand the importance and role of homeostasis to plants and/or animals living with continually changing internal and external environments.</i> <i>Be able to investigate fundamental biological principles in plants and/or animals.</i> <i>Understand basic biochemical principles in plant and/or animals.</i>

New QCF units		NQF units		Mapping/comments (new topics in italics)
Number	Name	Number	Name	
5	Enterprise and Financial Management for Land-based Industries	–		N/A
6	Human Resource Management	–		N/A
7	Employability Skills	–		N/A
8	Genetics and their Application	–		N/A
9	Land-use Issues and Regulation	6	Land-use Issues and Regulation	N/A
10	Environmental Management	7	Environmental Management	<i>Unit expanded to five Learning outcomes. Be able to devise environmental policy in a land-based sector.</i>
11	Environmental Systems	10	Environmental Systems	N/A
12	Farmland Habitat Management	11	Farmland Habitat Management	N/A
13	Animal Health and Welfare	12	Animal Health and Welfare	N/A
14	Principles of Plant and Soil Science	5	Principles of Plant and Soil Science	N/A
15	Sustainable Development	15	Sustainable Development	N/A
16	Research Methods for Land-based Industries	16	Research Methods for Land-based Industries	N/A
17	Environmental Health Hazards	17	Environmental Health Hazards	N/A
18	Habitat Management	18	Habitat Management	N/A
19	Habitat Restoration and Repair	19	Habitat Restoration and Repair	N/A

New QCF units		NQF units		Mapping/comments (new topics in italics)
Number	Name	Number	Name	
20	Countryside Recreation and Visitor Management	21	Countryside Recreation and Visitor Management	N/A
21	Rural Planning and Development	22	Rural Planning and Development	N/A
22	Working with Groups in Land-based Industries	23	Working with Groups in Land-based Industries	N/A
23	Urban Habitat Management	24	Urban Habitat Management	N/A
24	Landscape Assessment and Management	25	Landscape Assessment and Management	N/A
25	Fish, Game and Wildlife Management	26	Fish, Game and Wildlife Management	Learning Outcome One focuses more on the management of wildlife species. <i>Understand the management of exploited wildlife species.</i>
26	Rural Production Systems	27	Rural Production Systems	N/A
27	Waste Management	28	Waste Management	Unit has gone from four learning outcome to five with the addition of the topic: <i>Be able to establish and communicate a waste management policy.</i> Learning outcome Three also gets the students to look at the financial impacts of waste management not just the environmental impacts it creates, to create the new topic: <i>Understand the environmental and financial impacts of waste management.</i>

New QCF units		NQF units		Mapping/comments (new topics in italics)
Number	Name	Number	Name	
28	Further Habitat Management	29	Further Habitat Management	N/A
29	Landscape History and Development	30	Landscape History and Development	N/A
30	Biodiversity and Conservation	31	Biodiversity and Conservation	N/A
31	Biological Survey Techniques	32	Biological Survey Techniques	Learning Outcome One “Define the aims of biological surveys and the factors that influence them” has been split into two Learning outcomes. The unit now contains five Learning Outcomes. <i>Understand the aims of biological surveys.</i> <i>Understand the factors that influence biological surveys.</i>
32	Environmental Law	33	Environmental Law	N/A
33	Environmental Education and Interpretation	34	Environmental Education and Interpretation	N/A
34	Establish a Game Shooting Programme	–		N/A
35	Control Shoot Day Activities	–		N/A
36	Develop a Wild Game Management Plan for a Wildlife Management Area	–		N/A
37	Monitor and Maintain Game Management Plans	–		N/A

New QCF units		NQF units		Mapping/comments (new topics in italics)
Number	Name	Number	Name	
38	Build and Maintain Effective Customer Relations	–		N/A
39	Develop a Game Bird Production Programme	–		N/A
40	Develop a Wild Deer Management Plan	–		N/A
41	Manage Wild Deer Culls	–		N/A
42	Business Environment	1	Principles of Land-based Business	Unit focuses on the Business Environment rather than the principles involved in Land-based Business. <i>Understand the organisational purposes of businesses.</i> <i>Understand the nature of the national environment in which businesses operate.</i> <i>Understand the behaviour of organisations in their market environment.</i> <i>Be able to assess the significance of global factors that shape national business activities.</i>
43	Global Food Production	8	Global Food Production	N/A
44	Work-based Experience	9	Land-based Industry Experience	N/A
45	Small Business Enterprise	13	Small Business Enterprise	N/A

New QCF units		NQF units		Mapping/comments (new topics in italics)
Number	Name	Number	Name	
46	Develop and Review a Marketing Policy	—		N/A
47	Manage Emergencies and Incidents in the Land-based Sector	—		N/A
48	Health and Safety in the Land-based Workplace	—		N/A
49	Visitor Attraction Management	—		N/A
50	Arboriculture Management	—		N/A

Annexe E

Calculation of the qualification grade

Pass qualification grade

Learners who achieve the minimum eligible credit value specified by the rule of combination will achieve the qualification at pass grade (see section *Rules of combination for the Edexcel BTEC Levels 4 and 5 Higher National qualifications*).

Qualification grades above pass grade

Learners will be awarded a merit or distinction qualification grade by the aggregation of points gained through the successful achievement of individual units. **The graded section of both qualifications is based on the learner's best performance in units at the level or above of the qualification to the value of 75 credits.**

The number of points available is dependent on the unit grade achieved and the credit size of the unit (as shown in the 'Points available per credit at specified unit grades' table below).

Points available per credit at specified unit grades

Points per credit		
Pass	Merit	Distinction
0	1	2

Qualification grades

Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC

Points range	Grade	
0-74	Pass	P
75-149	Merit	M
150	Distinction	D

Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND

Points range	Grade	
0-74	Pass	P
75-149	Merit	M
150	Distinction	D

Examples of possible learner profiles of the best 75 credits at the level of the qualification or above. These tables fit both HNC and HND qualifications.

Unit grade	Credits achieved at each unit grade	Points per credit	Points scored
Pass	30	0	0
Merit	30	1	30
Distinction	15	2	30
		Total	60
		Qualification grade	Pass

Unit grade	Credits achieved at each unit grade	Points per credit	Points scored
Pass	15	0	0
Merit	45	1	45
Distinction	15	2	30
		Total	75
		Qualification grade	Merit

Unit grade	Credits achieved at each unit grade	Points per credit	Points scored
Pass	30	0	0
Merit	15	1	15
Distinction	30	2	60
		Total	75
		Qualification grade	Merit

Unit grade	Credits achieved at each unit grade	Points per credit	Points scored
Pass	0	0	0
Merit	15	1	15
Distinction	60	2	120
		Total	135
		Qualification grade	Merit

Unit grade	Credits achieved at each unit grade	Points per credit	Points scored
Pass	0	0	0
Merit	0	1	0
Distinction	75	2	150
		Total	150
		Qualification grade	Distinction

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION Specification

LEVEL

4

HNC

5

HND

Our most advanced specification to date

This new BTEC Higher Nationals specification has been completely revised and updated to bring it into line with the requirements of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), which comes into force from September 2010. All the units and qualifications covered in the specification have been reviewed by industry representatives and approved by the relevant Sector Skills Council. This means they are recognised as fit for purpose as high level vocational and work-related qualifications.

Each unit in the new specification is allocated a level and a credit value. Each unit in the specification has clearly stated learning outcomes and assessment criteria, so it is clear from the outset what learners must be able to do to achieve the unit.

BTEC Qualifications covered by this specification:

- Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Environmental Conservation
- Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Environmental Conservation

A copy of this specification can be found online at:
www.btec.co.uk

Acknowledgements

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References

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