

FAQs on English Language Requirements for Non-Native English Language Speakers for Admission onto 'New' Pearson BTEC Higher National Qualifications

Pearson's mission is to help people make more of their lives through learning. In order for students to be successful on Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications which are taught and assessed in English, it is critical that they have an appropriate level of English language skills.

The following clarifies the **requirements** for all centres when recruiting applicants onto **'NEW'**¹ Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications.

- E.g. new Pearson BTEC Higher National in Business for first teaching from September 2016.

All centres delivering the new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications must ensure that all students who are non-native English speakers and who have not undertaken their final two years of schooling in English, can demonstrate capability in English at a standard equivalent to the levels identified below, before being recruited to the programme **where the programme is both taught and assessed in English**.

- Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) level B2
- PTE 51
- IELTS 5.5; Reading and Writing must be at 5.5
- or equivalent

It is for the centre to determine what proof will be necessary to evidence individual student proficiency.

The following clarifies the requirements for all centres when recruiting applicants onto new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications which are taught in a language other than English, but are assessed in English.

All centres delivering the new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications **wholly or partially** in a language other than English, but who are assessed in English, must ensure that all students can demonstrate capability in English at a standard equivalent to the levels identified below, on completion of the programme.

- Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) level B2
- PTE 51
- IELTS 5.5; Reading and Writing must be at 5.5
- or equivalent

It is for the centre to determine what proof will be necessary to evidence individual student proficiency.

¹ On the regulated qualification framework (RQF)

The only exception to this requirement is for an applicant who is gifted. A gifted student is defined as someone who by virtue of their exceptional talent has potential for high performance in the subject area. Centres will be required to demonstrate how such applicants would benefit from study on a Pearson BTEC Higher National qualification.

This English language requirement is set out in your centre's programme approval terms and conditions, and will be monitored through the Pearson quality assurance processes.

FAQs relating to the English language entry requirements

1. Why are English language entry requirements being introduced?

Pearson is committed to supporting students to make more of their lives through learning. Our research and consultation identifies that for applicants to a '**NEW**' Pearson BTEC Higher National qualification who are non-native English speakers, to be successful on their programme of study they must have a minimum level of English language competency.

2. Who do the entry requirements apply to and from when?

The new English language entry requirements apply to all non-native English speakers in the UK and internationally being admitted to a new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualification where that programme is taught and assessed in English.

However, Pearson expects all Centres to recruit students on any Pearson BTEC Higher National qualification with a commensurate level of English language competency.

3. Will this requirement be applied retrospectively to Pearson BTEC Higher National students already on programme?

No, it will be applied as a requirement to those starting on the new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications.

4. Is it necessary for a student to have studied in English at a particular level in the final two years of school?

No. The requirement does not specify a particular level of study for the final two years of school. It would be for the Centre to satisfy itself that the student did complete the final two years of school in English and had the required English language competency.

5. The requirement refers to IELTS 5.5./ PTE 51 or equivalent. Can the requirement be met using other English language tests such as City & Guilds, Cambridge and ESOL etc.?

Yes. It is for the Centre to satisfy itself that the student's score is commensurate with IELTS 5.5 / PTE 51 / B2.

7. Are Centres still permitted to adopt their own English language test to judge whether students meet this requirement? Or, do we need to ask students to produce a valid IELTS certificate / PTE certificate (or equivalent)?

Yes, a Centre can adopt its own English language test. It is for the Centre to satisfy itself that the student's score is commensurate with this requirement.

8. Are West African Examination Council (WAEC) students exempt from the requirement?

If the West African Examination Council students study their final two years of school in English, then they will be exempt from the requirement.

9. If an applicant has attained a full BTEC Level 3 award(s), both taught and assessed in English, are they exempted from the requirement?

No, unless the subject was English language, a non-native English speaker or those who have not studied the final two years of school in English will be required to demonstrate capability in English at a standard commensurate to IELTS 5.5. / PTE 51 / B2.

10. Please can you provide some further guidance on the scores expected in each individual section for other English tests such as TOEFL, PTE and the Cambridge tests?

Please see the English language comparison tables that can be found here:

<http://pearsonpte.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/score1.jpg>

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/images/126130-cefr-diagram.pdf>

11. Will these changes apply to a non-native English speaker who has completed a GCSE level English or equivalent English test in their home country before settling in the UK?

Whether the requirement is met will depend on the results the student received. The result of the English language test is expected to be commensurate with/equivalent to IELTS 5.5. / PTE 51 / B2.

12. Will these changes apply to a non-native English speaker who has obtained further qualifications taught in English in the last two years?

The exemption only applies to non-native English speakers who have studied the final two years of school in English.

13. How will Pearson verify that our students meet the requirements?

These new requirements will form part of the Centre's terms and conditions for offering the new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications. Compliance will be monitored through the External Examiners.

14. Will the English language entry requirements apply to students being assessed in a language other than English?

No. These entry requirements only apply to students being taught and assessed in English. Centres can apply to Pearson to have their students assessed in a language other than English; please contact your local Pearson representative for more information.

15. Will all sectors be subject to these new requirements?

Yes, these requirements will apply to all new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications.