

## Additional Guidance: How we calculate grades for the BTEC Higher National Qualifications

This document gives additional guidance on how we calculate eligibility and overall grades for Pearson BTEC Level 4 HNC and Level 5 HND Diplomas. It shows worked examples for both qualifications.

We have issued this document as a result of feedback from centres. There is no change to existing rules.

### BTEC HNC Diplomas

To achieve a qualification a learner must:

- achieve 120 credits at or above the level of the qualification
- achieve a minimum of 65 credits at Level 4
- complete a valid combination of units.

The best valid combination of units is used to calculate the overall grade, e.g. if a learner has completed more than the minimum number of optional units the best performance from these will be used.

All learners will receive a Notification of Performance showing all unit grades whether or not they were included in the calculation for the overall grade.

### Calculation of the BTEC HNC qualification grade

The calculation of the qualification grade is based on the learner's best performance in units **at or above the level of the qualification** to the value of 75 credits:

- The best 75 credits must come from **a maximum of** 120 credits as a valid rule of combination.
- The units from which the 75 best credits are selected come from the whole qualification including the core/mandatory credit.

This means that credit from some mandatory units is likely to form part of the best 75 credits in most programmes.

It is the responsibility of a centre to ensure that a correct unit combination is adhered to.

### Qualification grades

Learners will be awarded a pass, merit or distinction qualification grade using the points gained through the 75 best credits based on unit achievement.

### Unit points available per credit for specified unit grades, for either Level 4 or level 5 units.

Unit Points per credit		
Pass	Merit	Distinction
0	1	2
Example for level 4 or level 5 Unit of 15 Credits		
Pass	Merit	Distinction
0	15	30

**Qualification grades**

Pearson BTEC Level 4 HNC		
Points range	Grade	
0-74	Pass	P
75-149	Merit	M
150	Distinction	D

These are some examples of how the HNC Diploma grades are calculated:

**Example 1: Achievement of a BTEC HNC Diploma with Pass grade**

		Level	Credit	Grade	Grade points	Points per unit (weighting × credit points)
Unit 1	Core unit	4	15	P	0	
Unit 2	Core unit	4	15	P	0	
Unit 3	Core unit	4	15	M	1	15
Unit 4	Core unit	4	15	M	1	15
Unit 15	specialist unit	5	15	P	0	
Unit 17	specialist unit	5	15	P	0	
Unit 18	specialist unit	4	15	M	1	15
Unit 12	specialist unit	4	15	M	1	15
Unit 14	specialist unit	4	10	D	2	20
	<b>Qualification total requirement-120</b>		<b>130</b>			<b>60</b>

• Unit 14 is not included as it is an additional unit

The learner can only include the points from the best 75 out of 120 credits in a valid combination.

**Example 2: Achievement of a BTEC HNC Diploma with Merit grade**

		Level	Credit	Grade	Grade points	Points per unit (weighting × credit points)
Unit 1	Core unit	4	15	M	1	15
Unit 2	Core unit	4	15	P	0	
Unit 3	Core unit	4	15	M	1	15
Unit 4	Core unit	4	15	P	0	
Unit 15	specialist unit	5	15	P	0	
Unit 9	specialist unit	4	15	M	1	15
Unit 18	specialist unit	4	15	M	1	15
Unit 12	specialist unit	4	15	M	1	15
	<b>Qualification total requirement-120</b>		<b>120</b>			<b>75</b>

The best 75 credits include both core and optional units.

The learner has sufficient points for a merit.

**Example 3: Achievement of an HNC Diploma with Distinction grade**

		Level	Credit	Grade	Grade points	Points per unit (weighting × credit points)
Unit 1	Core unit	4	15	M	1	(15)
Unit 2	Core unit	4	15	P	0	
Unit 3	Core unit	4	15	D	2	30
Unit 4	Core unit	4	15	P	0	
Unit 15	specialist unit	4	15	D	2	30
Unit 17	specialist unit	4	15	D	2	30
Unit 9	specialist unit	4	15	D	2	30
Unit 12	specialist unit	4	15	D	2	30
	<b>Qualification total requirement-120</b>		<b>120</b>			<b>150</b>

The learner has grade points in more than 75 credits. The best performance is used to calculate the grade. These can be level 4/5 for the HNC

The learner has enough points for a Distinction from 75 credits.

**BTEC HND Diplomas**

To achieve a qualification a learner must:

- achieve 240 credits from a valid combination of completed units
- achieve a minimum of 125 credits at Level 5

The best valid combination of units is used to calculate the overall grade, e.g. if a learner has completed more than the minimum number of optional units, the best performance from these will be used.

All learners will receive a Notification of Performance showing all unit grades whether or not they were included in the calculation for the overall grade.

**Calculation of the HND qualification grade**

The calculation of the qualification grade is based on the learner's best performance in units **at or above the level of the qualification** - i.e. **only units at level 5** can be counted towards the value of 75 credits:

- The best 75 credits must come from **a maximum of 240 credits** as a valid rule of combination.
- The units from which the 75 best credits are selected come from the whole qualification, including the core / mandatory units, but must be level 5 units.

This means that credit from some core / mandatory units is likely to form part of the best 75 credits in most programmes.

It is the responsibility of a centre to ensure that a correct unit combination is adhered to.

### Qualification grades

Learners will be awarded a pass, merit or distinction qualification grade dependant on the points gained through the successful achievement of individual units.

### Unit points available per credit for specified unit grades at level 5 only

Unit Points per credit		
Pass	Merit	Distinction
0	1	2

### Qualification grades

Pearson BTEC Level 5 HND		
Points range	Grade	
0-74	Pass	P
75-149	Merit	M
150	Distinction	D

### Worked Examples for the HND Diploma:

The tables below give examples of how the overall grade is determined.

**Only points from units at or above the level of the qualification can be counted towards the grade.**

**Examples used are for illustrative purposes only. Other unit combinations are possible.**

#### Example 1

#### Achievement of an HND Diploma with a pass grade

		Level	Credit	Grade	Grade points	Points per unit (weighting × credit points)
Unit 1	Core	4	15	P	X	
Unit 2	Core	4	15	M	X	
Unit 3	Core	4	15	M	X	
Unit 4	Core	4	15	M	X	
Unit 5	Core	4	15	M	X	
Unit 6	Core	5	15	P	0	
Unit 7	Core	5	15	M	1	15
Unit 8	Core	5	20	P	0	
Unit 20	specialist	5	15	M	1	15
Unit 21	specialist	5	15	P	0	
Unit 23	specialist	5	15	P	0	
Unit 25	specialist	4	15	P	X	
Unit 26	specialist	5	15	M	1	15
Unit 29	specialist	4	15	M	X	

- X these units are **below** level of the HND Diploma so not counted for grading
- only count the points from level 5 units for the best 75 credits

Unit 33	specialist	4	15	M	X	
Unit 35	specialist	5	15	M	1	15
<b>Qualification grade totals</b>		<b>Min 125 at level 5</b>	<b>245</b>			<b>60</b>

The learner has sufficient points for a pass grade.

**Example 2**

**Achievement of an HND Diploma with a merit grade**

		Level	Credit	Grade	Grade points	Points per unit (weighting x credit points)
Unit 1	Core	4	15	P	X	
Unit 2	Core	4	15	M	X	
Unit 3	Core	4	15	M	X	
Unit 4	Core	4	15	M	X	
Unit 5	Core	4	15	M	X	
Unit 6	Core	5	15	M	1	15
Unit 7	Core	5	15	D	2	30
Unit 8	Core	5	20	D	2	40
Unit 20	specialist	5	15	M	1	15
Unit 21	specialist	5	15	M	1	(15)
Unit 23	specialist	5	15	P	0	
Unit 25	specialist	4	15	P	X	
Unit 26	specialist	5	15	M	1	(15)
Unit 29	specialist	4	15	M	X	
Unit 33	specialist	4	15	M	X	
Unit 35	specialist	5	15	M	1	(15)
Unit 36	specialist	5	10	D	2	20
<b>Qualification grade totals</b>		<b>Min 125 at level 5</b>	<b>260</b>			<b>105</b>

The learner has sufficient points for a merit grade.

The learner can be considered for a merit:

- only count the points from **the best 75** credits from a valid combination of 240 credits
- X these units are **below** level of the qualification so **cannot** be counted for grading
- The best 75 credits include both core and optional units
- () these are not counted

**Example 3**

**Achievement of an HND Diploma with a distinction grade**

		Level	Credit	Grade	Grade points	Points per unit (weighting × credit points)
Unit 1	Core	4	15	P	X	
Unit 2	Core	4	15	M	X	
Unit 3	Core	4	15	D	X	
Unit 4	Core	4	15	D	X	
Unit 5	Core	4	15	M	X	
Unit 6	Core	5	15	D	2	30
Unit 7	Core	5	15	D	2	30
Unit 8	Core	5	20	D	2	<b>30</b>
Unit 20	specialist	5	15	D	2	30
Unit 21	specialist	5	15	D	2	30
Unit 23	specialist	5	15	P	0	
Unit 25	specialist	4	15	P	X	
Unit 26	specialist	5	15	M	1	(15)
Unit 29	specialist	4	15	M	X	
Unit 33	specialist	4	15	M	X	
Unit 35	specialist	5	15	M	1	(15)
<b>Qualification grade totals</b>		<b>Min 125 at level 5</b>	<b>245</b>			<b>150</b>

The learner can be considered for a distinction:

- only count the points from level 5 units for the best 75 credits from a valid combination of **240** credits
- ()not counted
- X not counted as **below the level** of the qualification.

The learner has sufficient points for a distinction grade.