

Pearson Higher Nationals in Agriculture

Qualification Guide

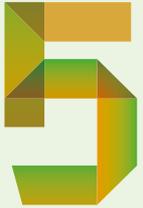
First Teaching from September 2018

First Certification from 2019

Issue 1



Level
BTEC
Higher
National
Certificate 

Level
BTEC
Higher
National
Diploma 

Introducing your new Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Agriculture

BTEC is the world's most successful and best-loved applied learning brand, engaging students in practical, interpersonal and thinking skills for more than thirty years.

Pearson BTECs are work-related qualifications for students taking their first steps into employment or those already in employment and seeking career development opportunities. Pearson BTECs provide progression into the workplace either directly or via study at university and are also designed to meet employer's needs. Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications are therefore widely recognized by industry and higher education as the principal technical professional qualification at Levels 4 and 5.

The Pearson BTEC Higher National Certificate (HNC) is at level 4 (the same as the first year of a UK honours degree).

The Pearson BTEC Higher National Diploma (HND) is at level 4 and level 5 (the same as the first two years of a UK honours degree).

A word from the Subject expert

“It's with great pleasure that I introduce the new BTEC Higher Nationals in Agriculture. Teaching for over 25 years gave me the opportunity to see firsthand the life changing opportunities education can provide, and we have worked very hard to ensure this new qualification offers the content and learning opportunities for our students to further their education and career goals.

The programme is more aligned to UKHE and new updated content will make it both a stimulating and exciting experience for students and teachers. Centre's can deliver with confidence a programme that will prepare and equip students for a sustainable career within the Agricultural Industry.

I am here to provide guidance, advice and support on every aspect of the programme and its implementation and will welcome your views and feedback. I will be posting news and updates on the HN Global forum so please get registered and join the online discussions.

I look forward to working with you. ”

Chris”



Professional courses developed collaboratively with subject experts

With input from industry, employers, professional bodies, tutors, students, and higher education institutions, your new Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals have been designed to better meet the needs of a changing market. The result is a qualification suite designed and developed to meet professional standards, recognized by employers and universities, which develop not only academic skills and abilities, but also work-readiness skills.

The objectives of the redevelopment of the BTEC Higher Nationals have been to ensure:

- employer engagement;
- work relatedness;
- opportunities for progression to further higher education;
- alignment with UK higher education expectations; and
- qualifications which are up to date with current professional practice and include professional accreditation and opportunities to gain vendor certification where possible.

What's new?

For your new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications, we are building on what you've told us you value most:

- **Essential subject knowledge** needed by students on agriculture programmes to successfully progress into the world of further study, or to the world of work or continued progression in employment with qualifications and pathways with a clearer occupational-focus
- **A simplified structure:** students undertake a substantial core of learning, required by all agriculture workers, with limited specialism in the Higher National Certificate, building on this in the Higher National Diploma, with further specialist and optional unit linked to their specialist area of study
- **Three specialist pathways** Plus one general and three specialist pathways at Level 4 and 5 so there is something to suit each student's preference for study and future progression plans;
- **Refreshed content** that is closely aligned with professional bodies', employers' and higher education needs for a skilled future workforce
- **Assessments that consider cognitive skills** (what students know) along with affective and psychomotor skills (what they can do and how they behave);
- **An assessment strategy** that supports progression to Level 6 studies and also allows Centre's to offer assessment relevant to the local employers, thereby accommodating and enhancing different learning styles;
- **Learning outcomes** mapped against professional body standards where appropriate;
- **Unit specific grading and Pearson-set assignments**
- **Robust quality assurance measures** that serve to ensure that all stakeholders (e.g. professional bodies, universities, colleges, Centre's employers, and students) can feel confident in the integrity and value of the qualification.

Flexible choice of subject areas and progression opportunities

The new HNC and HND qualifications in Agriculture offer a choice of one general Agricultural pathway and the choice of three specialist pathways (all pathways exist in both the HNC and HND):

Specialist Pathways

- Livestock Production
- Crop Production
- Rural Business Administration

Each Higher National unit has a clear purpose:

To cater for the increasing need for high quality professional and technical education pathways at levels 4 and 5, providing students with a clear line of sight to employment or progression to a degree at level 6.

The Higher National Certificate (HNC) is a Level 4 qualification made up of 120 credits. It is usually studied full-time over one year, or part-time over two years.

The Higher National Diploma (HND) is a Level 4 and Level 5 qualification made up of 240 credits. It is usually studied full-time over two years, or part-time over four years.

BTEC Higher Nationals consist of core units, specialist units and optional units:

- Core units are mandatory
- Specialist units are designed to provide a specific occupational focus to the qualification and are aligned to Professional Body standards Required combinations of optional units are clearly set out in the tables.
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Pearson BTEC Level 4 Higher National Certificate in Agriculture

Agriculture (General)
Mandatory Units
1 Business and the Business Environment
2 Management Accounting
3 Managing a Successful Project (Pearson-set)
Optional units
Plus FIVE Optional units

Agriculture (Livestock Production)
Mandatory Units
1 Business and the Business Environment
2 Management Accounting
3 Managing a Successful Project (Pearson-set)
4 Principles of Livestock Production
5 Animal Health and Welfare
6 Animal Nutrition
Optional units
Plus TWO Optional units

Agriculture (Crop Production)
Mandatory Units
1 Business and the Business Environment
2 Management Accounting
3 Managing a Successful Project (Pearson-set)
7 Principles of Crop Production
8 Plant and Soil Science
9 Land-based Machinery and Technology
Optional units
Plus TWO Optional units

Agriculture (Rural Business Administration)
Mandatory Units
1 Business and the Business Environment
2 Management Accounting
3 Managing a Successful Project (Pearson-set)
10 Rural Business Administration and Accounting
11 Human Resource Management
12 Marketing Essentials
Optional units
Plus TWO Optional units

Core Units
Specialist Units
Optional Units

Optional Level 4 Unit Bank
Specialist Units * (Specialist units also available as an Optional unit)
4 Principles of Livestock Production
5 Animal Health and Welfare
6 Animal Nutrition
7 Principles of Crop Production
8 Plant and Soil Science
9 Land-based Machinery and Technology
10 Rural Business Administration and Accounting
11 Human Resource Management
12 Marketing Essentials

Optional Level 4 Unit Bank
Optional Units
13 Plant and Crop Nutrition
14 Animal Anatomy and Physiology
15 Animal Husbandry
16 Protective Crop Production
17 Teaching in a Specialist Subject

*Note: The selection of level 4 Specialist Units must not exceed two units from the same pathway



Flexible choice of subject areas and progression opportunities

Pearson BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Agriculture

The level 5 Higher National Diploma consists of the appropriate Level 4 Higher National Certificate (above) plus an additional 120 credits at Level 5 delivered via the following pathways:

Agriculture (General)
All Level 4 mandatory units from Level 4 General pathway
Plus FIVE optional unit which can be selected from the Level 4 Specialist and Optional units
Mandatory Level 5 Units
18 Advance Financial Accounting
19 Research Project (Pearson-set)
Optional Level 5 Units
Plus an additional FIVE Optional units which can be selected from the Specialist and Optional units (see right)

Agriculture (Livestock Production)
All Level 4 mandatory units from Level 4 Livestock Production pathway
Plus TWO optional unit which can be selected from the Level 4 Specialist and Optional units
Mandatory Level 5 Units
18 Advance Financial Accounting
19 Research Project (Pearson-set)
20 Forage Production and Management
21 Animal Breeding and Genetics
Optional Level 5 Units
Plus an additional THREE Optional units which can be selected from the Specialist and Optional units (see right)

Optional Level 5 Unit Bank
Specialist Units * (Specialist units also available as an Optional unit)
20 Forage Production and Management
21 Animal Breeding and Genetics
22 Plant and Crop Health (Diseases, Pests and Weeds)
23 Plant Breeding and Genetics
24 Business Strategy
25 Diversification and Alternative Enterprises

*Note: The selection of Specialist Units must not exceed more than one unit from the Level 5 pathway.

Agriculture (Crop Production)
All Level 4 mandatory units from Level 4 Crop Production
Plus TWO optional unit which can be selected from the Level 4 Specialist and Optional units
Mandatory Level 5 Units
18 Advance Financial Accounting
19 Research Project (Pearson-set)
22 Plant and Crop Health (Diseases, Pests and Weeds)
23 Plant Breeding and Genetics
Optional Level 5 Units
Plus an additional THREE Optional units which can be selected from the Specialist and Optional units (see right)

Agriculture (Rural Business Administration)
All Level 4 mandatory units from Level 4 Rural Business Administration
Plus TWO optional unit which can be selected from the Level 4 Specialist and Optional units
Mandatory Level 5 Units
18 Advance Financial Accounting
19 Research Project (Pearson-set)
24 Business Strategy
25 Diversification and Alternative Enterprises
Optional Level 5 Units
Plus an additional THREE Optional units which can be selected from the Specialist and Optional units (see right)

Optional Level 5 Unit Bank
Optional Units
26 Management of Land-based Machinery and Technology
27 Global Business Environment
28 Product and Service Development
29 Identifying Entrepreneurial Opportunities
30 Sustainable Practices
31 Environmental Management and Conservation
32 Woodland Management
33 Work Experience

Progression opportunities:

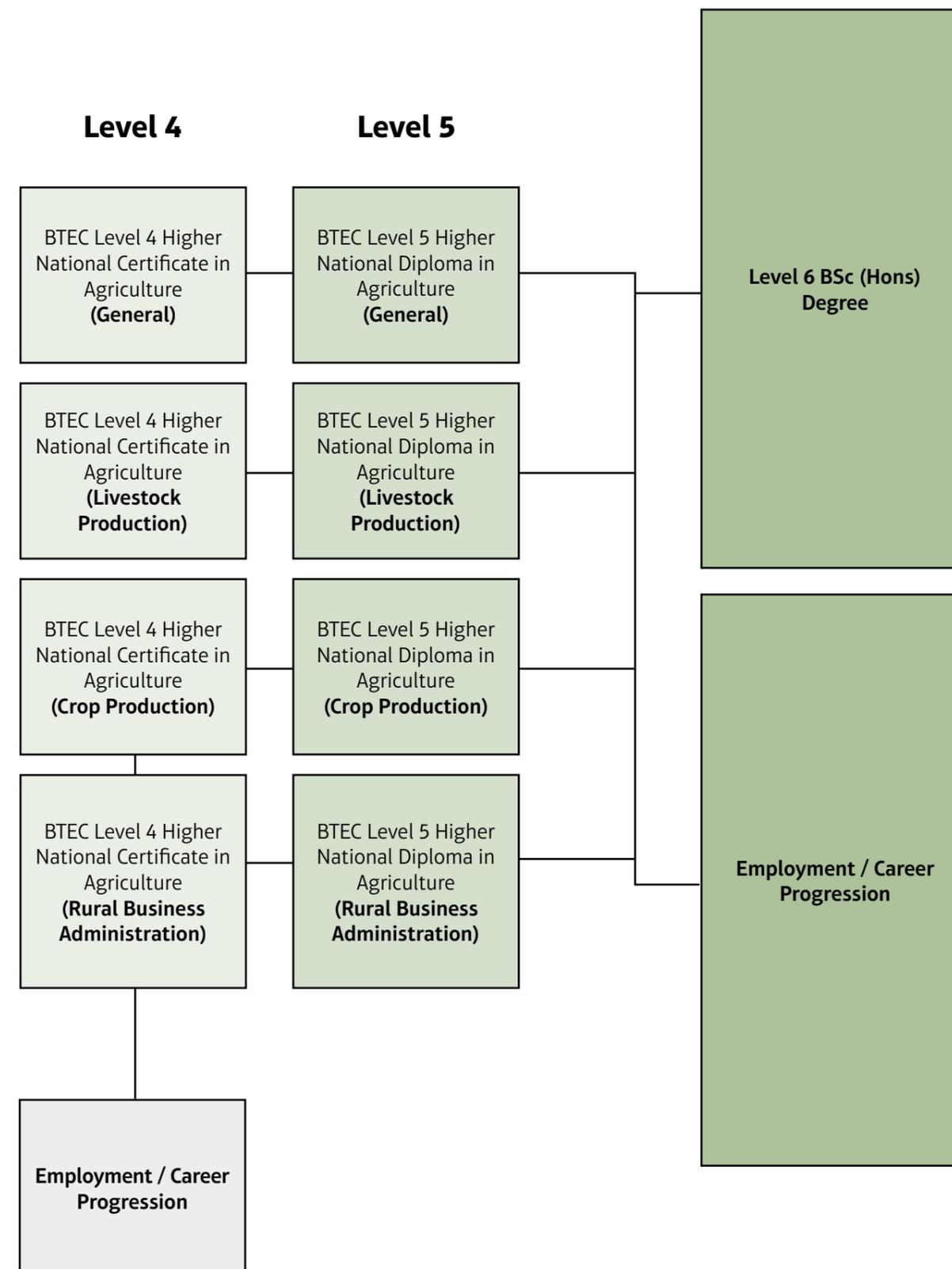
The purpose of Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Agriculture is to develop students as professional, self-reflecting individuals, able to meet the demands of employers in agriculture sector and adapt to a constantly changing world. The qualifications aim to widen access to higher education and enhance the career prospects of those who undertake them.

On successful completion of the Level 5 Higher National Diploma, students can develop their careers in the agriculture sector through:

- Entering employment;
- Continuing existing employment;
- Linking with the appropriate Professional Body;
- Committing to Continuing Professional Development (CPD);
- Progressing to university.

The Agriculture qualifications have been supported and validated by a number of industry members and associations such as the Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, etc. in making sure the content is relevant and complies with industry standards following an applied learning methodology. This ensures that successful students have the appropriate skills and knowledge to be fit-for-purpose for a career within the Agriculture Industry.

Educationists from Higher and Further Education have also supported and validated these qualifications in making sure they follow a clear progression route onto level 6 of a relevant degree programme.



Assessment Strategy

Pearson BTECs combine a student-centered approach with a flexible, unit-based structure. Students are required to apply their knowledge to a variety of assignments and activities, with a focus on the holistic development of practical, interpersonal and higher level thinking skills. Assessment reflects not only what the student knows but also what he or she can do to succeed in employment and higher education in an ethical manner.

Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals have always allowed for a variety of forms of assessment evidence to be used, provided they are suited to the type of learning outcomes being assessed. For many units, the practical demonstration of skills is necessary and, for others, students will need to carry out their own research and analysis, working independently or as part of a team.

Resources

We are providing a wealth of support to ensure that tutors and students have the best possible experience during their course. We have worked with students and tutors worldwide to create an effective and interactive community for our qualifications, called HN Global, an exciting new online platform created by Pearson to engage with Higher National students and tutors around the world.

Created in parallel with the development of the new BTEC Higher National qualifications, HN Global houses a great number of resources for students to get the most out of their BTEC Higher National experience.

Pearson also offer Study Skills units to all learners – an online toolkit accessed on HN Global that supports the delivery, assessment and quality assurance of BTECs in Centre's.

www.highernationals.com

Do you need centre approval?

Providers wishing to deliver the new Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications (Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Agriculture - first teaching September 2018) will be subject to a new qualification approval process, more aligned with that used in UK Higher Education. Email hnqa@pearson.com or visit qualifications.pearson.com/highernationals for more information about the process.

FAQs

- 1. If a provider is already delivering the existing Higher National qualifications do they still need to obtain approval for delivering the new qualification?**

Yes, existing providers would still be required to gain approval for delivering the new Higher National qualification but the process will be simplified for centres that meet the auto approval criteria. Approval will then be provisionally granted subject to the return of a signed declaration and payment of the approval fee. More details can be found in the support section of our website

(<http://qualifications.pearson.com/>).

- 2. How long will the approval process take?**

This will depend on whether the provider is eligible for auto approval. Once an existing provider has been notified of eligibility for auto approval, the approval will remain provisional until the provider returns the signed declaration and approval. If an existing provider is ineligible and requires a desk based review, the review cannot begin until the provider confirms its intention to proceed and the approval fee is paid. New providers will go through the standard provider approval process which currently takes about 20 days.

- 3. Is it possible for students to change their pathway at the end of their first year on the course programme?**

Yes it is. Providers will need to advise Pearson registrations team and they will be able to transfer the student's registration to the appropriate pathway.

- 4. If Pearson are providing Example Assessment Briefs, do providers still have to devise their own assignments and complete internal verification of assignments?**

Yes they do. Example Assessment Briefs are for guidance and support only and must be customised and amended according to localised needs and requirements. All assignments must still be moderated as per the internal verification process.

- 5. How will providers know what the accreditation requirements are for Professional Bodies and what students would need to do to claim Accreditation?**

There will be further details and guidance for providers available on the Pearson qualifications website (<http://qualifications.pearson.com/>).

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qualifications.pearson.com/higher-nationals