

Statement of Purpose

500/7713/2 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Applied Law (QCF)

The UK's legal services sector generates £23 billion a year – accounting for 1.8% of the UK's economy and employing nearly 350,000 people. The Legal Services Act 2007 allowed non-legal enterprises to offer legal services to individuals and business clients, which is bringing significant disruption to established legal services providers as new businesses compete with them on price, technology and breadth of service. Covering diverse niches, from property offences and consumer law to employment and family law, employers have identified skills shortages in leadership and management, technology and commercial acumen.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate (180 GLH) in Applied Law is part of a larger suite of Applied Law qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the legal sector at the appropriate level. This can follow either directly after achieving the qualification, or via the stepping stone of Higher Education (HE) in university or college. By studying a BTEC National, learners develop knowledge, understanding and skills required by the sector, including essential employability skills, and apply them in real work contexts. Learners can operate at a standard that can reasonably be expected of an 18 year old in full-time education.

Within this suite, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Applied Law (180 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to an AS level, which is designed to be taken alongside one or more substantial qualifications within a 16–19 study programme. The qualification provides learners with an element of sector specialism as part of their wider programme by developing a primary common core of knowledge in the sector through mandatory content. This common core covers the content, such as dispute solving in the legal system, that is regarded as most important by employers. It is therefore particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing to a career in the legal field, who want to pursue this via a principally academic route and take it alongside other qualifications, such as GCE A Level English Language or History, and/or a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Business. It is also appropriate for those aged 16 who are ready to start an element of level 3 vocational study while completing aspects of their level 2 programme.

The qualification was designed in collaboration with industry, so has the specific support of the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Skills for Justice. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Applied Law supports entry to a variety of HE courses in this sector and beyond, when taken in conjunction with other qualifications. This is confirmed by the specific support of a range of universities. In addition, the qualification carries UCAS points – see details published on the Pearson website here:

<http://www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/student/results/Pages/BTEC-equivalence.aspx>