

Qualifications overview

Science



Specialism	Entry Level/Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4/5
Applied Science	BTEC Firsts in Applied Science (2012) (for age 14+)	BTEC Firsts in Applied Science (2012) (for age 14+)	BTEC Level 3 Nationals Applied Science (QCF 2010) (for age 16+)*	Same level as University Year 1/2 (for age 18+)
	BTEC Level 1 Introductory Applied Science (2010) (for age 16+)	BTEC Level 2 Technical in Laboratory Science (2017) (for age 16+)*	BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Science (2016) (for age 16+)	BTEC Higher Nationals in Applied Biology (2010) (for age 18+)
		Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Pharmaceutical Science (for age 16+)	BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Human Biology (2018) (for age 16+)*	BTEC Higher Nationals in Applied Chemistry (2010) (for age 18+)
			BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Psychology (2018) (for age 16+)*	BTEC Higher Nationals in Biological Sciences for Industry (2010) (for age 18+)
			BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Pharmaceutical Science (2010) (for age 16+)	BTEC Higher Nationals in Chemical Science for Industry (2010) (for age 18+)
			BTEC Level 3 Nationals Forensic and Criminal Investigation (2017/2018) (for age 16+)*	
			BTEC Level 3 Nationals Dental Technology (2014) (for age 16+)	

NVQ qualifications

In addition to our BTEC qualifications, Pearson also offer a range of NVQ qualifications.

Please [see website for full details](#).

* Included in performance tables in England – see web site for full details.

(Dates in brackets denote first teaching date.)

BTEC Entry Level and Level 1 Introductory

Age 16+ learners

Purpose

Designed to offer skills-based learning for your Entry Level and Level 1 learners so they can build the essential personal, social and technical skills they will need in life and in the workplace.

These qualifications offer flexible delivery options including Personal and Social Development, sector specific study or wider vocational study where learners can experience working across several sectors.

Progression

- Further study at Level 1
- Level 2 qualifications such as Level 2 Technicals, Tech Awards or GCSEs.

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Awards

Age 14+ learners

Purpose

BTEC Tech Awards have been specially designed to be taught alongside GCSEs in schools as part of a Key Stage 4 study programme.

They offer your 14-16 year old vocational learners a glimpse into a professional sector and the opportunity to develop transferable skills through practical assignments and tasks.

Progression

- Further Level 2 technical study such as BTEC Level 2 Technicals
- A Levels
- Further vocational study at Level 3 e.g. BTEC Level 3 Nationals with a view to going on to employment, an apprenticeship or higher education.

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Firsts

Age 14-16+ learners

Purpose

Designed to offer your learners a vocational alternative to traditional qualifications such as GCSEs.

BTEC Firsts are available in a range of sizes across a variety of sectors and offer learners a broad introduction to their chosen specialism.

Progression

- Further Level 2 technical study such as BTEC Level 2 Technicals
- Level 3 study such as BTEC Level 3 Nationals or A Levels
- An apprenticeship
- Employment.

BTEC Level 2 Technicals

Age 16+ learners

Purpose

BTEC Level 2 Technicals are practical, hands-on qualifications designed to help your post-16 learners master the industry-specific skills, knowledge and professional behaviours they will need to start and succeed in their careers.

They can be taught as part of a full-time 16-19 study programme alongside other qualifications such as GCSEs or as the technical qualification within an apprenticeship or employment.

Progression

- Further technical study at Level 3 such as BTEC Level 3 Nationals
- Apprenticeship
- Employment

BTEC Nationals

Age 16+ learners

Purpose

BTEC Level 3 Nationals are career-based qualifications designed to give learners the skills and practical knowledge they need to move on to higher education or go straight into employment.

They can be taught alongside other level 3 qualifications as part of a wider programme of study or as the main focus of study over two years.

Progression

- Higher education
- Apprenticeship
- Employment

BTEC Higher Nationals

Age 18+ learners

Purpose

Level 4 BTEC Higher Nationals Certificates (HNCs) and Level 5 BTEC Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) are professional, technical higher education qualifications, and offer specialist vocational pathways.

They are designed to equip learners with the professional skills, techniques and personal attributes they will need for the future.

Progression

- Level 4 HNC students can progress to further study at Level 5
- Level 5 HND students could progress to a higher education degree course
- Employment