

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification

QAN: 601/7434/1

Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Applied Science (180 GLH)

Overview

The applied science sector

The applied science sector is diverse and wide-ranging, including, for example, biomedical, forensic, physical and chemical sciences. There are approximately 5.8 million people employed in applied science occupations in the UK. This equates to approximately 20% of the workforce. The applied science sector has a crucial role to play in delivering economic growth in the UK and allowing companies to compete in a rapidly enlarging global market.

Who is this qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Applied Science is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 students wanting to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education. The qualification is equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A level and is normally taken alongside other level 3 qualifications. It will be of particular value to students wishing to maintain an element of science in a broader study programme.

Students wishing to take this qualification will have successfully completed a level 2 programme of learning with GCSEs or vocational qualifications.

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education.

Everyone taking this qualification will study two mandatory units:

- Principles and Application of Science I
- Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?

Students who have completed this qualification in a year may progress to further learning at level 3, for example to a BTEC National Extended Certificate in a complementary sector, or to a larger size BTEC National in Applied Science.

In addition to the applied science sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean students experience some of the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both HE and employers. For example, when studying the practical scientific techniques unit, students will develop laboratory skills, including collaboration and team working, which support some of the skills students need to progress to higher education, employment, self-employment or training.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses, if taken alongside other level 3 qualifications as part of a programme of learning. Students will be able to choose a wide range of degree programmes to progress to, but these will depend on the other qualifications they have taken.

Students should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific HE providers.

Will the qualification lead to employment, if so, in which job role and at which level?

This qualification, when studied with other level 3 qualifications, is primarily designed to support progression to employment, after further study at university. It can also support progression into apprenticeships programmes in many sectors, depending on the other qualifications being studied alongside the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Applied Science.

If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should the student choose this one?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Applied Science** is the smallest qualification in the suite of BTEC Nationals in Applied Science, equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A level. It is intended to be studied by students who have chosen a study programme that may not be focused on science, but for whom an element of science would be complementary. It may act as a stepping stone to further applied science qualifications if desired.

The suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate** is equivalent in size to 1 A level. It is for students interested in learning about the sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of HE courses, but not necessarily in applied science.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Applied Science** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels and is for students looking for a one-year course of full-time study, or for those wishing to study it alongside another area of study that contrasts or complements the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Applied Science Foundation Diploma, as part of a two-year full-time study programme.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Applied Science** is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It typically makes up two-thirds of a 16–19 study programme, and is taken alongside other qualifications. The additional qualification(s) studied allow students either to give breadth to their study by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give their studies more focus by choosing a complementary subject.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Applied Science** is the largest qualification in the suite and is equivalent in size to 3 A levels. It is best suited to students wanting to progress to HE in the applied science sector.

For more detail of the other qualifications listed here, and the different progression opportunities they particularly support, please refer to their statements of purpose.

This qualification is supported by the following organisations**Higher education**

The University of Manchester
University of East Anglia
University of Huddersfield
Kingston University
University College Birmingham
Harper Adams University
University of the West of England

Professional and trade bodies

Royal Society of Chemistry

Employers

Feedwater