

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7436/5	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science (360 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 approx. 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 Extended 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, and ultimately to employment, possibly in the applied science sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A level and makes up a third of a typical study programme, normally alongside other A level or vocational qualifications at level 3.

Students wishing to take this qualification will have completed a level 2 programme of learning with GCSE 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. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted, in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate and consistent with current practice for students planning to enter employment directly in the applied science sector.

Everyone taking this qualification will study three mandatory units:

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

Students choose one option unit from a group, which has been designed to support choices in progression to applied science courses in HE. The option units cover content areas such as:

- physiology of human body systems
- biological molecules and metabolic pathways
- applications of inorganic chemistry
- electrical circuits and their application.

What could this qualification lead to?***Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?***

In addition to the applied science sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean students develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both HE and employers. For example, when studying the science investigative unit, learning how to plan investigations, collect, analyse, and present data and communicate results, thus supporting some of the skills students need to progress into 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 for many courses, if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning, including but not exclusively, those that are science-related.

The qualification can be taken as part of a diverse programme, leaving progression options fully open. It can also give context to subjects that would benefit from some scientific background. This will depend on the combination of qualifications chosen. For example, when taken alongside:

- A levels such as Maths, Physics and Design and Technology, to progress into engineering and related courses
- A level in Psychology and Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport, to progress into sport psychology courses
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care, to progress to nursing courses
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science, to progress to sport and exercise science courses.
- A levels in Geography and Computing, to progress to geography or environmental science courses.

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. However, it can also support students progressing to employment directly, or via an apprenticeship. It will give successful students the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills that will be an advantage when applying for a range of industry linked training programmes or apprenticeships in the applied science, or other sector of their choice.

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 Extended Certificate in Applied Science** 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 suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Applied Science** is 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 **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 of BTEC Nationals in Applied Science 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