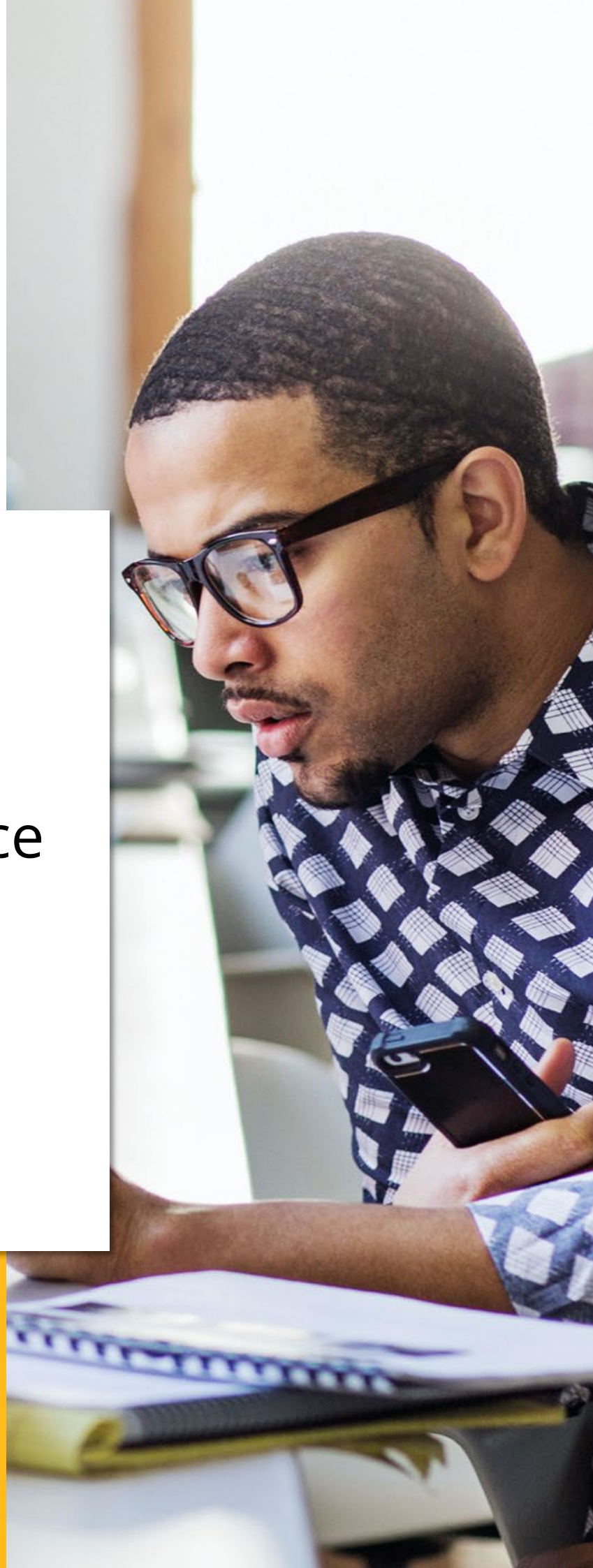




Pearson

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Science and Forensic and Criminal Investigation

Last updated 07 July 2021



Changes to Unit 3 31619H assessment

The following qualifications are affected by changes to the assessment:

- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science (360 GLH)
- BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Applied Science (510 GLH)
- BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Applied Science (720GLH)
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Applied Science (1080 GLH)
- BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Forensic Investigation (510 GLH)

- BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation (720GLH)
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Forensic and Criminal Investigation (1080GLH)

This guidance includes the following topics:

- **Summary of changes to 31619H Unit 3 Assessment**
- **Training Events**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**

Summary of changes to 31619H Unit 3 Assessment

BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF) in Applied Science BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF) Forensic and Criminal Investigation		
Assessment windows	Amendment	Comments
January and June series	<p>To provide learners with an experimental method and data before completing the Part B assessment.</p> <p>Learners will be given a 45-minute reading period before completing Part B to understand the scientific method and experimental data.</p>	<p>The requirement for learners to complete a controlled laboratory practical in a 10-day window, so they could generate experimental data which was used in the Part B exam is removed.</p> <p>There are no changes to the unit content or the type of practical's that learners are expected to be familiar with.</p> <p>Part B will continue to consist of two sections, 5 questions and be worth a total of 60 marks.</p> <p>The Part B examination will be comparable with previous series because the experimental data will be generated from a topic listed in the Unit 3 specification.</p>

Prior to January 2021, learners were required to undertake a three-hour Part A laboratory investigation to generate data that was used in the Part B exam. The Part A investigation was delivered in a 10-day window set by Pearson, the purpose of which was for learners to follow a given scientific method to generate data and make observations, which they were then expected to demonstrate they understood in Part B.

What has changed?

Before learners complete Part B, they will be given a 45-minute reading period to understand and review a scientific method and experimental data that was generated from the method. Learners will then complete Part B which will remain unchanged in structure and format, consisting of two Sections, five questions, and worth a total of 60

marks. The focus of the questions will remain the same as in previous series.

This adaptation will reduce disruption associated with the planning, testing and delivery of the Part A practical and will give learners longer to prepare for Part B.

We have produced a Sample Assessment which is available on the BTEC website [here](#).

The adapted assessment used in January 2021, as an adaptation for the Covid-19 pandemic follows the same format, and can be used as Additional Sample Assessment material, which is available on the BTEC website [here](#).

Specifications have been updated to reflect the changes to unit 3 assessment and can be found on the BTEC website using the links below:

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- [BTEC Nationals Applied Science \(2016\)](#)
- [BTEC Nationals Forensic and Criminal Investigation \(2016\)](#)

Training Events

Support Events will be held on the following dates in the Autumn term, please sign up [here](#) to attend the training session.

- 28th September 4PM-5.30PM
- 29th September 4PM-5.30PM

Frequently Asked Questions

Will there be any Part A practical task to complete at all?

No. Part A will become a pre-release document that is issued at the start of the examination. Learners will have 45 minutes to review the experimental method and data contained in Part A. Learners must however continue to complete the full range of scientific practical's associated with specification content areas D, E, F, G, and H during the teaching and learning of Unit 3 so they are familiar with the experimental method presented in Part A.

Will the Part B be the same as previous exam sessions in terms of marks, time and layout of the paper?

Yes. Part B will remain a total of 60 marks. Section 1 will be worth a total of 40 marks and Section 2 worth 20 marks. The layout of the paper will be consistent i.e. Section 1 will have 3 questions and Section 2 will have 2 questions.

Why have you made these changes?

We have made these changes because of the problems centres faced planning and scheduling the Part A laboratory practical during the current health crisis. Centres have told us this format of assessment, is more manageable and wanted the adaptation to remain in place for future assessments.

Have you made changes to the timetable to reflect the Unit 3 changes?

Yes. We have removed the Part A 10-day window for learners to complete the practical investigation and added a 45-minute reading period at the start of the examination.

Will learners be provided with experimental data and observations to complete Part B Section 1?

Yes. Learners will be provided with a Part A document that includes the experimental method and data/observations. They will use the Part A to answer Questions 1, 2 and 3 in Part B Section 1.

Is there a new administration guide that we can refer to that takes into consideration the new arrangements of Unit 3?

Yes. We will be issuing an updated Administrative Support Guide to reflect the changes to the Part A document that is released before the start of the Part B examination.

Can you confirm the supervision and control for Unit 3 Part A and Part B?

Part A and Part B must be conducted under high-control supervision. Full details of high control supervision can be found in [our Instructions for Conducting External Assessments \(ICEA\) document](#).

Will learners be disadvantaged compared to previous learners if they have no idea of the Part A practical topic prior to completing Part B?

No. Learners have always been expected to be taught and become familiar with practical's related to the following Unit 3 specification unit content: D: Enzymes in Action, E: Diffusion of molecules, F: Plants and their environment, G: Energy content of fuels and H: Electrical circuits. The focus of the Unit 3 assessment continues to focus on learners' ability to use and interpret the data from these unit content areas.

Past assessments are available on the [BTEC Applied Science website](#) that provide examples of investigations learners should be familiar with. We will not release the focus of the practical ahead of learners receiving the Part A at the start of the Part B examination.

What is permitted in the 45-minute reading period at the start of the Unit 3 exam? Can students discuss and ask questions etc?

Learners are not allowed to discuss the Part A document and tutors/ teachers/ invigilators cannot give learners any support or guidance during the Part A period. The Part A reading period must be conducted under the same level of high control as the Part B.

Should Part A and Part B be given to students at the same time?

No. Part A is given first. After the Part A 45-minute reading period has ended Part B is then given to learners.

Should we retain Part A at our centre? If so, for how long?

Yes. Centres must retain each learner's Part A document and keep it securely until the end of the Review of Marking and Moderation period. The Part A document must not be returned to Pearson with the Part B document.