

Statement of Purpose

500/8156/1 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Engineering (QCF)

The engineering sector offers huge potential for learners interested in the sector. The UK is currently regarded as a world leader in sectors including renewable energy, space, low carbon, aerospace, creative industries, utilities, automotive, agri-food and bioscience. Between 2010 and 2020 Engineering enterprises are projected to have 2.74 million job openings, including over 400,000 technician roles where the predominantly ageing workforce is expected to retire over the next 10 years.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate (180 GLH) in Engineering is part of a larger suite of BTEC qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the Engineering 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 Engineering (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 Health and Safety in the Engineering Workplace that is regarded as most important by employers. Learners have some opportunity to study more in-depth an optional unit of their choice such as Electrical and Electronic Principles. It is therefore particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing to a career in an Engineering related field, who want to pursue this via a principally academic route and take it alongside other qualifications, such as business, IT, maths, English or physics. 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, SEMTA. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Engineering 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>