



## Purpose Statement

### Name of regulated qualification

QAN: 603/1214/2

Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Horticulture (360 GLH)

### Overview

#### The horticulture sector

Throughout the UK, there are currently more than 235,500 people working in the horticulture industry and it is expected that between now and 2020 the industry will need around 120,000 new entrants. Horticulture is a diverse industry offering a wide range of progression and job opportunities, including roles such as greenkeeper, gardener, landscaper, park ranger, garden centre manager, garden designer, nursery grower and sports turf manager.

#### Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Horticulture** is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 1 A Level and, as such, is designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure, if studied alongside level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This size of qualification allows you to study related and complementary qualifications without duplication of content and prepares you for certain roles in the horticulture sector. It provides good preparation for those who are considering an apprenticeship in the horticulture sector. As well as direct entry to employment, when taken alongside further level 3 qualifications it also supports access to a range of higher education courses in the horticulture sector.

No prior study of the sector is needed, but you should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, including English, mathematics and science.

#### What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies to ensure that it is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. In addition, higher education representatives have been involved to ensure that it fully supports progression to higher study.

There are four mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of horticulture:

- professional working responsibilities
- work experience in the land-based sectors
- identification, planting and care of plants
- plant propagation activities.

You will be able to add one optional unit to the mandatory content. The optional units have been designed to support progression to a range of employment opportunities in the horticulture sector, and to inform progression to a range of higher education courses. Optional units introduce you to a sector specialist area of your choice, including working in particular environments, and link with relevant occupational areas. The optional units cover areas such as:

- tree and shrub pruning
- nursery stock production
- sports and amenity turf areas.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 75 hours of work experience with an employer in the sector, where you will be given opportunities to develop practical skills in preparation for employment.

## What could this qualification lead to?

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

This qualification is designed primarily to support progression to employment in entry-level roles such as:

- landscaper operative
- ground maintenance operative
- trainee groundsperson
- trainee groundskeeper.

If you have taken additional level 3 qualifications, you could increase your professional industry skills and competencies, and have increased responsibilities in the above job roles. Additional qualifications include:

- RHS Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture
- RHS Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Plant Growth, Health and Applied Propagation
- RHS Level 3 Certificate in Principles of Garden Planning, Construction and Planting
- RHS Level 3 Diploma in Principles and Practices in Horticulture.

If you are seeking direct employment, other qualifications that complement this qualification are the:

- Advanced Certificate in Horticulture (Crops)
- Advanced Certificate in Horticulture (Grounds Maintenance).

### Will the qualification lead to further learning?

Because the **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Horticulture** is generally taken alongside other level 3 qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning, you will be able to choose to progress to a range of specialist degree programmes.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. For example, if taken alongside A Levels in Biology and Chemistry, or a BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in a relevant field of study, such as Applied Science or Business, it could lead to a:

- BSc in Horticulture
- BSc (Hons) in Horticulture Landscape Management
- FdSc in Garden Management.

You should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific higher education providers.

You may also progress to a higher apprenticeship.

### Why choose this size of qualification?

#### If there are larger and/or smaller versions of this qualification, or it is available at different skills levels, why should you take this particular one?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Horticulture** is the smallest qualification in the suite and is equivalent in size to 1 A Level. It is ideal for you if you are interested in learning about the horticulture sector, with supplementing fields of study.

It is intended that the suite will also include the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Horticulture**, which is equivalent in size to 1.5 A Levels. It is ideal for you if you are looking for a one-year course of full-time study, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, and are intending to gain employment directly, or to progress to an apprenticeship in horticulture. It may also be taken alongside another area of study that contrasts or complements the Foundation Diploma in Horticulture over a two-year full-time study programme.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Horticulture**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A Levels. It is ideal for you if you want to progress directly into employment in the horticulture sector. Its size means there is time in a study programme to take an additional level 3 qualification to support progression to more specialist employment or to higher level study.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Horticulture**, which is equivalent in size to 3 A Levels. It is ideal for you if you know you want to work in the horticulture sector, either directly or following a sector-related degree.

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

## Who supports this qualification?

### Professional or trade bodies

British Growers Association

The Institute of Groundsmanship

### Employers

Beckworth Emporium Ltd

Ground Control

Oak View Landscapes

### Higher Education

Myerscough College

University of Central Lancashire

University of the West of England