



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 603/2679/7	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Horticulture

Overview
<p>The horticulture sector</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Who is this qualification for?</p> <p>The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Horticulture, which is 1080 GLH, is intended as a Tech Level qualification, equivalent in size to 3 A levels and, as such, is designed to meet the Tech Bacc measure, if you study it alongside level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Outside the Tech Bacc, it will normally be your only qualification in a two-year study programme, and is ideal for you if you are looking for a full-time course specialising in the horticulture sector, and you have a firm intention of progressing to employment in one of the wide variety of roles available.</p> <p>As well as direct entry to employment, this qualification will prepare you for higher study of a specialist degree or BTEC Higher National Diploma. This route gives you the opportunity to enter the sector at a higher level, or in a more specialist role.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>What does the qualification cover?</p> <p>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.</p>

In addition, higher education representatives have been involved to ensure that it fully supports entry to the relevant range of specialist degrees.

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

- professional working responsibilities
- plant and soil science
- contemporary issues in the land-based sectors
- work experience in the land-based sectors
- identification, planting and care of plants
- routine plant management
- plant propagation activities
- trees and shrub pruning and maintenance
- horticultural activities in events
- planning horticultural activities for events.

You will be able to add five optional units to the mandatory content. These have been designed to support your progression to a range of employment opportunities in the horticulture sector, and to a range of higher education courses. Optional units will 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 the following areas:

- estate skills
- land-based machinery operations
- nursery stock production
- maintenance of sports and amenity turf areas
- pests and disease in plants
- identification, planting and care of trees
- developing a land-based enterprise
- landscape and garden history
- landscape and garden design
- zoological horticulture
- maintaining the health and quality of turf in parks and gardens
- constructing decorative landscape features
- indoor production techniques
- outdoor horticultural crop production
- computer-aided design.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, including 300 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 will prepare you for direct employment in the horticulture sector, and is suitable if you wish to enter a particular specialist area of work, in roles such as:

- horticultural commercial supervisor
- landscape site supervisor
- head gardener
- head groundsperson
- horticultural contract supervisor
- horticultural sales supervisor
- greenkeeper supervisor
- nursery assistant manager.

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

There are many roles in this sector where recruitment is at graduate level. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses, for example a:

- BSc (Hons) 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.

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 Diploma in Horticulture** is equivalent in size to 3 A levels and introduces a greater amount of science content. It is ideal for you if you know you want to work in the horticulture sector, either directly or following a sector-related degree.

The suite also includes the following qualifications:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Horticulture**, which is the smallest qualification in the suite of BTEC Nationals in Horticulture 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.

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, perhaps after taking further level 2 qualifications, and are intending to gain employment directly, or to progress to an apprenticeship in horticulture.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Horticulture**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. Its size and specialist mandatory and optional units mean there is time in a study programme for you to take an additional level 3 qualification to support progression to more specialist employment.

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 bodies

British Growers Association

The Institute of Groundsmanship

Employers

Beckworth Emporium Ltd

Ground Control

Oak View Landscapes

Further and Higher Education

Myerscough College

University of Central Lancashire

University of the West of England