

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7575/8	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Information Technology (360 GLH)

Overview

Information Technology

Information Technology (IT) involves the use of computers in industry, commerce, the arts and elsewhere. IT includes aspects of IT systems architecture, human factors, project management and the general ability to use computers. Increasingly businesses are implementing IT strategies to manage and process data both to support many business processes and to deliver new opportunities.

IT is a high growth area of the service sector, estimated in the Technology Insights 2012 report to contribute 8 per cent of the UK economy GVA (gross value added), and predicted to generate an additional £47 billion over the next 7 years.

Ongoing developments in the sector include the Government Digital Inclusion strategy (2014) to increase SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) transactions online, with the aim of reaching 1.6 million businesses by 2018.

Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology** is intended as an Applied General qualification covering 360 guided learning hours, and is equivalent in size to 1 A level. It makes up a third of a typical study programme, and is normally taken alongside other level 3 qualifications. It is designed for students interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information, alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, but not necessarily in IT.

Students wishing to take this qualification should have successfully completed a level 2 programme of learning, with GCSE or vocational qualifications.

What does the qualification cover?

This content has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it incorporates the most up-to-date knowledge and skills to enable progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been consulted on the content development to confirm its relevance to current industry practice used in IT and related occupational disciplines.

Students study the relationship between hardware and software and managing and communicating information and data across three mandatory units:

- Information Technology Systems
- Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Using Social Media in Business.

Students select an additional unit of study on either data modelling or website development to complete the qualification.

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

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to the admission requirements to a wide range of degree courses, if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning.

The qualification can be taken as part of a broad study programme, leaving progression options fully open. It can also give context to subjects that would benefit from some IT background. When studied with other level 3 qualifications in complementary or contrasting subjects, such as Mathematics, Physics, Science, Arts, Business or Technology, the qualification provides an opportunity for students to progress into higher education on a diverse range of degree courses, depending on the other subjects studied. For students wanting to study for an IT-related degree, opportunities would include:

- HND in Business, when taken alongside an A level in Business
- BA (Hons) in Computer Arts, when taken alongside A Level Mathematics and Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Art and Design
- BSc (Hons) Fashion Buying Management, when taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Fashion Clothing and Production
- BSc (Hons) Software Development for Animation, when taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Games Design and Development.

Some university courses may require the achievement of specific units and 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?

The qualification, when studied with other level 3 qualifications, is aimed at progression to higher education. However, it also enables students to develop the knowledge and skills needed for entry level roles related to IT, including vocational apprenticeship roles and trainee/entry level roles such as a social media specialist, content developer, web developer or business analyst.

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 Information Technology** 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 IT.

The suite also includes the following qualifications:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Information Technology** is the smallest qualification in the suite and 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 IT, but for whom an element of software and computing systems knowledge would be complementary.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Information Technology** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels. It is aimed at 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 this Foundation Diploma, as part of a two-year full-time study programme.

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

University of Sheffield
University of Exeter
University of East Anglia
University of Huddersfield
University of Chichester
Kingston University
Southampton Solent University
University of the West of England