



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 603/1233/6	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sound Engineering (360 GLH)

Overview

The sound engineering sector

Sound engineering is part of the creative and music industries. These are global industries that outgrew the rest of the economy, generating £84.1 billion of value for the country during 2014. Approximately 1.8 million people are employed in creative industries occupations in the UK, of which sound engineering plays an important part. Sound engineering skills are required in diverse areas of the industry, from chart-topping audio recordings to live performances and television shows.

Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sound Engineering** 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 you study it 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. It provides good preparation if you are considering an apprenticeship in sound engineering. When taken alongside further level 3 qualifications, it also supports access to a range of higher education courses in sound engineering and the wider music industry.

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.

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 entry to the relevant range of specialist degrees.

There are two mandatory units, which cover the following aspects of sound engineering:

- studio recording techniques
- digital audio workstation (DAW) production.

You will be able to add three optional units, from a choice of four, to the mandatory content. These have been designed to support your progression to a range of employment opportunities in sound engineering, and to a range of higher education courses. Optional units will introduce you to sector specialist areas of your choice, including working in particular environments, and link with relevant technical roles. The optional units cover areas such as:

- live sound
- mixing and mastering techniques
- studio design and acoustics
- working and developing as a production team.

While taking this qualification, you will be required to engage with sector employers as part of your course, 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 sound engineering sector, and is suitable if you wish to work in entry level roles such as:

- live music assistant
- assistant sound engineer
- audiovisual technician/broadcast assistant.

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 could include:

- AS/A Level Mathematics
- AS/A Level Physics
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production.

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 contributing to

meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. For example, if taken alongside A levels in mathematics and physics, or a BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in a relevant field of study, such as music technology or sound production, it could lead to a:

- BSc (Hons) in Sound Engineering and Production
- BSc (Hons) in Live Sound Technology
- BEng (Hons) in Audio Acoustics.

You may also progress to a higher or degree apprenticeship.

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 Certificate in Sound Engineering** is equivalent in size to 1 A Level. It will prepare you for an entry-level role in the sound engineering sector. If you take it alongside other level 3 qualifications, it may prepare you for a higher/degree apprenticeship, or, alternatively, it may enable you to progress to a sector-related degree before entering the sound engineering sector at a higher level.

The suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Music Technology**, 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 if you are intending to gain employment directly, or to progress to an apprenticeship in the music and creative industries.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Music Technology**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A Levels. It is ideal for you if you want to progress directly into work as an assistant sound designer, studio assistant or trainee sound engineer. Its size means there is time in a study programme to take an additional level 3 qualification to support progression to more specialist employment.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Music Technology**, which is equivalent in size to 3 A Levels and has additional mandatory and optional technical content. It is ideal for you if you know you want to work in the music technology 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

JAMES (Joint Audio Media Education Support)

Music Education Council

Employers

Charanga

Soul Jazz Records