



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 603/2688/8	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Music Technology

Overview

The creative sector

The UK music industry helps to drive economic growth by creating jobs and opportunities for young people. The 2015 UK music survey 'Measuring Music' identified that the music industry supported more than 117,000 full-time jobs in the UK, of which 69,300 were professional musicians. The music industry contributed £4.1 billion to the UK economy, outpacing the overall growth of the economy by 2.5 per cent. In 2016, live music alone created £3.7 billion in direct and indirect income for the UK.

Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Music Technology**, which is 180 GLH, is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 students who want to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the music industry. The qualification is equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A level. It is an ideal qualification for you if you are interested in music technology and want to study a broad programme of qualifications, sectors and subjects to support progression to higher education. It will be of particular interest to you if you want to study sectors such as digital media or digital games development, where technical digital audio skills are important. It would also complement an A level or BTEC National in Music by improving the skills you need to produce and record music in a digital audio workstation.

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.

What does the qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice.

The qualification provides the knowledge, understanding and skills that will prepare you for further study or training. It consists of two units, one of which is mandatory.

You will explore the features of a digital audio workstation (DAW) in order to create and develop your own music, and learn some of the background principles of how a DAW works, along with the associated specialist and technical terms. As well as its creative musical possibilities, a DAW can also be used for audio restoration and repair, and for a wide range of multimedia sound work.

The optional units have been designed to complement the knowledge and skills developed in DAW production and support progression to more specialist creative courses in higher education. They also link with relevant occupational areas. The optional units cover the following areas:

- studio recording techniques
- music and sound for media
- mixing and mastering techniques.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

If you complete this qualification in a year, you may wish to progress to a larger-size BTEC National in the Music Technology suite, such as the Extended Certificate in Sound Engineering or the Extended Certificate in Digital Music Production.

In addition to the content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification mean that you will develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers. For example, DAW production will give you the confidence to create, express and communicate your creative intentions in order to meet a client brief.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to entry requirements to many courses. When combined with other qualifications within a two-year study programme, such as AS/A levels and/or other BTEC National qualifications, you can progress to higher education, for example to a(n):

- FdA in Broadcast Production, when taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production
- BTEC Higher National in Performing Arts, when taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Diploma in Performing Arts
- BSc in Audio Engineering, when taken alongside A Level Physics and a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Engineering.

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

education providers.

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 following further study at university. However, the practical skills developed in DAW production will be of value if you choose to progress directly to employment.

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?

This **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Music Technology** is equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A level. It is ideal for you if you would like to learn how to use a digital audio workstation (DAW) and its related skills as part of a study programme. It will complement a range of qualifications in which the recording and production of digital audio is important, such as Music, Media and Broadcasting, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, but not necessarily in music technology.

The suite also includes the following qualifications. These are Tech Level qualifications and, as such, are designed to meet the requirements of the Tech Bacc, when studied alongside Level 3 mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ):

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sound Engineering**, which is equivalent in size to 1 A level. It is ideal for you if you are interested in learning about the sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of opportunities, but not necessarily in music technology.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Digital Music Production**, which is equivalent in size to 1 A level. It is ideal for you if you are interested in learning about the sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of opportunities, but not necessarily in music technology.

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, or as a qualification to take alongside another area of study that contrasts or complements the qualification, over a two-year full-time study programme.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Music Technology**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It typically makes up two-thirds of a 16–19 study programme, and is normally taken alongside other qualifications. The additional qualification(s) studied allow you either to give breadth to your study by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give your studies more focus by choosing a complementary subject.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Music Technology**, which is equivalent in size to 3 A levels and is typically the major qualification in a full two-year 16–19 study programme. It allows you to focus your study on this sector with a view to progression into employment, or further training for the creative industries.

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?

Further and Higher Education

Bournemouth University

Edge Hill University

Kingston University

Leeds Beckett University

Southampton Solent University

University of Central Lancashire

University of Chichester

University of Huddersfield

University of Portsmouth

University of South Wales

University of the West of England

Wrexham Glyndwr University