

Statement of Purpose

500/6920/2 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Performing Arts (QCF)

The Performing Arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. It is the second largest sector after Design. Overall, the industry contributes £3.5 billion to the UK economy. The performing arts industry employs 148,030, with actors and entertainers accounting for 23 per cent of this total workforce. There are 5,480 businesses and 101,593 people working in the performing arts sector. The UK's creative industries have been identified as a strategic growth sector by the government.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate (180 GLH) in Performing Arts is part of a larger suite of Performing Arts qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the performing arts sector at the appropriate level. This can follow either directly after achieving the qualification, or via the stepping stone of Higher Education (HE) in university or college. By studying a BTEC National, learners develop knowledge, understanding and skills required by the sector, including essential employability skills, and apply them in real work contexts. Learners can operate at a standard that can reasonably be expected of an 18 year old in full-time education.

Within this suite, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Performing Arts (180 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to an AS level, which is designed to be taken alongside one or more substantial qualifications within a 16 to 19 study programme. The qualification provides learners with an element of sector specialism as part of their wider programme by developing a primary core of knowledge in the sector through distinctive mandatory content in each pathway.

The qualification consists of the following pathways: Unendorsed, Acting, Dance, Musical Theatre and Physical Theatre, which introduce and underpin the knowledge and skills that are regarded as most important by employers in each pathway within the sector. Each pathway has its own distinctive mandatory unit covering performing skills, the key principles of acting, dance techniques, different styles of physical theatre and musical theatre performance. It also offers some opportunity for learners to focus their study on the aspects that will be of greatest value to them through a limited choice from the full range of options.

It is therefore particularly appropriate for those with an interest in progressing to a career in the performing arts related fields, who want to pursue this via a principally academic route and take it alongside other qualifications, such as A levels in English Language and Literature and an additional Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Personal and Business Finance. It is also appropriate for those aged 16 who are ready to start an element of level 3 vocational study while completing aspects of their level 2 programme.

The qualification was designed in collaboration with industry, so has the specific support of the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Creative and Cultural Skills. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Performing Arts supports entry to a variety of HE courses in this sector and beyond, when taken in conjunction with other qualifications. This is confirmed by the specific support of a range of universities. In addition, the qualification carries UCAS points – see details published on the Pearson website here:

<http://www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/student/results/Pages/BTEC-equivalence.aspx>