

**Purpose Statement**

Name of regulated qualification	
<b>QAN: 601/7232/0</b>	<b>Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Performing Arts (720 GLH)</b>

**Overview*****The performing arts sector***

The performing arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. Overall, the industry contributes approximately £4 billion to the UK economy and is a major employer.

The UK's performing arts sector is vibrant, varied and hugely successful. It is a growth industry that offers diverse employment opportunities, for example in dance, drama, music, theatre, film, puppetry, costume design, directing, set design, make-up or special effects, as well as in the support functions and roles that bring these art forms to the fore.

***Who is this qualification for?***

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Performing Arts 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 performing arts sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to 2 A Levels, and it has been designed as part of a two-year programme, normally alongside a further Level 3 qualification. Students wishing to take this BTEC will have successfully completed a Level 2 programme of learning, with GCSEs or vocational learning.

***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 also appropriate and consistent with current practice.

Students will study six mandatory units, covering the following:

- Investigating Practitioners' Work
- Group Performance Workshop
- Individual Performance Commission
- Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
- Performing Arts in the Community
- Final Live Performance to an Audience.

Students choose two optional units, which have been designed to support progression to the range of sector-related courses in HE, and also to link with relevant occupational areas. The optional units cover content areas such as:

- acting
- dance
- musical theatre.

This qualification enables students to acquire substantial cross-sector knowledge, as well as practical skills.

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

In addition to the performing arts sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean students develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both HE and employers.

For example, in the *Final Live Performance to an Audience* unit, students acquire transferable skills such as teamwork, collaboration, planning, time management, communication, self-motivation, decision making, self-awareness and interpersonal skills.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to admission requirements to many relevant courses. Performing arts combines well with many other subjects, and when taken alongside another Level 3 qualification, the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Performing Arts will offer the opportunity to progress to a range of degree programmes, depending on the additional subject(s) studied. This can include many related to performing arts.

Potential degree courses include:

- BA (Hons) in Music, Theatre and Entertainment Management, if taken alongside a BTEC National in Business
- BA (Hons) in Theatre and Screen: Theatre Design, if taken alongside a BTEC National in Art and Design
- BA (Hons) in Drama and Event Management, if taken alongside a BTEC National in Creative Digital Media Production
- BA (Hons) in Creative Writing/Dance, Scriptwriting and Performance, if taken alongside an A Level in English Literature
- BA (Hons) in Dance and Movement Studies and History, if taken alongside an A Level in History.

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?***

This qualification is primarily designed to support progression to study at university. However, it also supports students choosing to progress directly to employment, as the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills will give students an advantage when applying for a range of entry-level roles in occupational areas, such as acting, dance, musical theatre, teaching and education, health, creative arts and charities and voluntary work.

***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 Diploma in Performing Arts** is equivalent in size to 2 A Levels. It is an ideal qualification to take where performing arts is the student's main interest in order to progress to a Foundation Degree or Higher National Diploma, or alternatively, to a full degree if taken with another Level 3 qualification.

The suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Performing Arts** is equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A Level. It is for students who would like an element of performing arts in a study programme that has a range of qualifications in other areas.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts** is equivalent in size to one 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 performing arts.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Performing Arts** is equivalent in size to 1.5 A Levels and is for students looking for a one-year course of full-time study, or alongside another area of study that contrasts or complements the Foundation Diploma in Performing Arts over a two-year, full-time study programme.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts** is equivalent in size to 3 A Levels and typically makes up the full two-year, 16–19 study programme. It is aimed at students wishing to focus their studies in this sector ahead of progressing to higher education.

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 Exeter  
 University of Huddersfield  
 University of Chichester  
 Kingston University  
 Southampton Solent University  
 University of the West of England

##### **Professional and trade bodies**

Equity

##### **Employers**

The Royal Ballet School  
 JumpStartMove  
 Living The Dream  
 Vibrant Networks  
 Act On It  
 Gate Theatre Notting Hill  
 AKA