

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7231/9	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Performing Arts (180 GLH)

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 Certificate in Performing Arts aims to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction to study of the sector. It is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 students, with an interest in performing arts, who want to continue their education through applied learning. It aims to equip students with transferable knowledge and skills in order to progress to higher education.

The qualification is equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A Level and forms part of a study programme alongside other vocational and/or academic 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.

All the content of this qualification is mandatory, with two units that focus on:

- practical skills and techniques in a range of performing arts disciplines – *Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance*.
- critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of practitioners work – *Investigating Practitioners' Work*.

Students will gain a taste and an appreciation of performing arts through the knowledge and experience of the performance process, and will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, techniques and personal attributes that will be valuable across all areas of future study and work.

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

Students who have completed this qualification in one year may progress to a larger size BTEC National in the performing arts sector.

In addition to the performing arts sector-specific content, the requirements of the qualification will mean that students develop transferable skills, such as self-confidence, self-presentation, personal discipline, time management and organisational skills, which are

highly regarded by both higher education and employers. An example is the *Investigating Practitioners' Work* unit, where students develop skills essential for further study, including research, independent learning, extended writing, sourcing, evaluating information and drawing conclusions from it, as well as in-depth knowledge of a particular practitioner in the performing arts sector.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to admission requirements for degree courses when taken alongside other Level 3 qualifications. Students will be able to choose a wide range of degree programmes to progress to, depending on the other qualifications they have taken. Progression can be direct to an honours degree, to a BTEC Higher National or a Foundation Degree, or to a Higher Apprenticeship. The qualification will particularly support entry to degrees where knowledge of the sector is relevant.

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, when studied with other Level 3 qualifications, is designed primarily to support progression to employment after further study at university.

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 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 suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts** 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 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 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 BTEC Higher National Diploma, or alternatively, a full degree if taken with another Level 3 qualification.

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 study 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