

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7233/2	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (360 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 £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 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts is intended as an Applied General qualification, and is designed for post-16 students, with an interest in performing arts, who want to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education.

The qualification is equivalent in size to 1 A Level and is designed to occupy one-third of a typical study programme, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications, such as another BTEC National or A Levels.

This qualification gives a broad introduction to the performing arts sector, with an emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental skills that are transferable across other sectors (including communication, presentation, physical and creative skills).

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 for students choosing to enter employment.

The three mandatory units focus on:

- research – critical analysis and extended writing skills that aim to support students' progress to higher education. As possible performing arts practitioners, students will gain a good understanding of the work of influential practitioners to inform their own work and practice (Unit – *Investigating Practitioners' Work*)
- an induction into the performing arts – where students will develop the appropriate skills and techniques in various performance disciplines such as acting, dance, musical theatre and physical theatre (Unit – *Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance*)
- group performance – students will develop the essential psychomotor and affective skills essential for the performing arts. They will develop physical techniques, as well as wider transferable skills such as being able to work collaboratively, personal management and organisation (rehearsals, time management), being able to give and take direction, confidence in front of an audience, problem solving (refining the

process) and team work (essential when dancing as a group). (Unit – *Group Performance Workshop*).

Students will understand different audiences in different environments and will learn to adapt a performance to engage the target audience.

Students select one optional unit to support choices in progression to performing arts and other courses in HE, and also cover acting, dance and musical theatre topics.

Examples of the optional units include: classical ballet technique, street dance technique, acting styles, developing the voice for performance, and variety performance.

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, the requirements of the qualification will mean students develop the transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by both HE and employers. It will provide students with transferable knowledge, understanding and broad skills, such as:

- communication skills – performing, communicating and presenting ideas to an audience
- collaborative skills – with a focus on self-management and teamwork and participation in group performance which develops collaborative skills and confidence building.

All of the content in the qualification will help prepare learners for further study.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning. It combines well with a large number of subjects and so will support entry to HE courses in a very wide range of disciplines. Depending on the subjects taken alongside, opportunities include:

- BA (Hons) in Performing Arts
- BA (Hons) in Media Studies with Theatre
- BA (Hons) in Psychology
- BA (Hons) in English Studies
- BA (Hons) in Business Studies.

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.

The skills developed will give students an advantage when looking to enter employment directly in the sector, and it can offer students potential careers that utilise academic knowledge and practical skills. Most roles will require further training, and for many jobs in the performing arts industry students will need a degree.

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 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. It is a good qualification to study if the intended progression is to a combined HE programme, or where the skills learned will be applied in future employment.

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 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 who wish 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