

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QAN: 601/7234/4	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (1080 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 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. The aim of the qualification is to prepare learners for entry to a range of sector-related degrees that can lead to employment, potentially in the sector.

The qualification is equivalent in size to 3 A Levels and it has been designed as a full two-year programme. Students wishing to take this BTEC will have successfully completed a Level 2 programme of learning with GCSEs and, potentially, some vocational qualifications.

It provides students with the opportunity to focus on a particular aspect of the performing arts sector through the extensive common core followed by a selection of option units.

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.

This qualification includes seven 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.
- Employment Opportunities in the Performing Arts.

As the mandatory content is equivalent in size to 2 A Levels, HE representatives have confirmed that it is appropriate to allow students to choose their six optional units from a wide range, so that they can explore their own choice of disciplines for further study.

The disciplines covered are:

- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (Dance) – optional units cover different types of dance, including ballet, tap and street dance, as well as the health issues specific to dancers
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting) – optional units cover directing, acting styles, improvisation and audio performance
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) – optional units cover singing techniques, dance, acting styles and musical theatre techniques.

Students can also choose options across the disciplines, rather than focus on a particular one, and achieve the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts. Whichever route is chosen, the same range of progression routes remains open to students; the title gives an indication of the nature of the option units studied.

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 all-round performance skills and the transferable skills, such as self-confidence, self-presentation, personal discipline, time management and organisational skills that are highly regarded by HE and employers.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses.

The pathways allow students to focus on particular disciplines in performing arts, and their aim is to indicate to end users what that focus has been – but are not intended to restrict future progression. This Pearson BTEC National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts meets entry requirements for higher education courses in the sector, for example:

Honours degrees in:

- performance
- theatre studies
- dance
- drama
- dance culture and choreography
- acting.

HNC/HNDs in:

- performing arts
- acting

- performance
- dance
- contemporary dance
- performing arts.

Foundation degrees in:

- performance
- ballet
- professional dance
- professional acting
- acting and performance.

Further specialised vocational qualifications at conservatoires and drama schools, for example:

- LAMDA, RADA, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts
- ballet schools in professional dance.

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?

Most of the recruitment in this sector is after further education or training. This qualification is designed primarily to support progression to employment after further study at university. However, it also supports students choosing to progress directly to employment, as the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills will give successful students an advantage when applying for a range of entry-level industry training programmes. However, for most jobs in the performing arts industry, students will need a degree and further training.

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 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.

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 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.

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