

**Purpose Statement****Name of regulated qualification****QAN: 601/7235/6****Title: BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Performing Arts (510 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 Foundation 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 employment, possibly in the performing arts sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to 1.5 A Levels, and it has been designed as a one-year, full-time study programme, or a full two-year programme when studied alongside further Level 3 qualifications. Students wishing to take this BTEC will have successfully completed a Level 2 programme of learning with GCSEs or vocational 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 or training. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate for those who may be interested in employment in the sector after further training, or completing a degree.

The mandatory content consists of four units, covering the following.

- 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 teamwork (essential when dancing as a group). (Unit – *Group Performance Workshop*).
- Performing arts in the community – students participate in community projects in order to enhance creative knowledge. (Unit – *Performing Arts in the Community*).
- Research, critical analysis and extended writing skills – 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*).
- Unit – *Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance*.

Students can choose two optional units that 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
- physical theatre

### **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 a year may progress to further learning at Level 3, for example a second Foundation Diploma in a complementary sector, or to a larger size BTEC National in the performing arts sector.

In addition to the performing arts sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean that the student develops transferable skills, such as self-confidence, self-presentation, personal discipline, time management and organisational skills, which are highly regarded by both HE and employers.

For example, the study of practitioners unit requires students to develop the 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 within the performing arts.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by HE providers as contributing to admission requirements to many relevant courses. On its own, it can provide progression to Foundation Degrees and BTEC Higher Nationals, for example:

- FdA Business
- HND Performing Arts (Dance)
- HNC Performance and teaching.

When combined with other qualifications in a two-year study programme, such as AS/A Levels or another BTEC National Foundation Diploma, students can progress to higher education on full degree, single or combined, courses. For example:

- if taken alongside AS/A Levels in English Literature and Psychology, it could lead to a BA (Hons) in Acting
- if taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Business, it could lead to a BA (Hons) in Music, Theatre and Entertainment Management.

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 if looking to enter employment directly in the sector, and it can offer students potential careers that utilise academic knowledge and

practical skills. Most roles in performing arts will require further training first, 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?***

This **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 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 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