



Pearson

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification

QAN: 603/0260/4

Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Production Arts (510GLH)

Overview

The production arts sector

The production arts are a key part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. Production arts cover set design and construction, costume, make-up, sound, lighting, stage management, production management, arts administration and multimedia.

Who is this qualification for?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Production Arts** is intended to be an Applied General qualification. It is designed 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 production arts sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels, and it is designed to be taken as a one-year full-time study programme, or as a two-year full-time programme, when studied alongside further level 3 qualifications.

No prior study of the sector is needed, but students should normally have a range of achievement at level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent 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. 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.

The qualification provides the knowledge, understanding and skills that will prepare students for further study or training.

Everyone taking this qualification will study four mandatory units, covering the following content areas:

- production design and realisation – learners will be introduced to the purpose of design in live productions, and will design a production element to meet the requirements of a design brief.
- production management – learners will develop an understanding of the different roles involved in the management of a live production
- research – learners will develop critical analysis and extended writing skills to support their progression to higher education. As possible future practitioners, learners will gain a good understanding of the work of influential practitioners to inform their own work and practice
- production skills and techniques – where learners will develop the appropriate backstage production skills and techniques needed when supporting a live performance.

Students select two option units to support their progression to production arts and other courses in higher education. The option units cover content areas such as:

- stage management operations
- costume making for performance
- programming and operating live sound for performance
- design planning process
- scenic construction for performance.

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 Production Arts.

In addition to the production arts sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean that students develop transferable and higher-order skills that are highly regarded by higher education and employers. For example, when studying the 'Investigating Production Arts Practitioners' Work' unit students will develop the skills essential for further study, including research, independent learning, extended writing, sourcing, evaluating information and drawing conclusions.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to admission requirements to many relevant production arts courses. When combined with other qualifications within a two-year study programme, such as AS/A levels or another BTEC National Foundation Diploma, students can progress into higher education, for example:

- BA (Hons) in Design, if taken alongside AS/A Levels in English Literature and Art
- BA (Hons) in Theatre and Entertainment Management, if taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Business.

Students should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes at specific higher education providers.

Will the qualification lead to employment, if so, in which job role and at which level?

This qualification is designed primarily to support progression to employment following further study at university, but the skills developed will also support progression to entry level roles such as set construction assistant and backstage assistant.

Why choose this size of qualification?

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 Foundation Diploma in Production 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 qualification over a two-year full-time study programme.

The suite also includes the following qualifications.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Production Arts**, which 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 degree courses, not necessarily in production arts.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Production Arts**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It typically makes up two-thirds of a two-year full-time 16–19 study programme, and is normally taken alongside other qualifications. The additional qualification(s) studied allow students either to give breadth to their study by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give their studies more focus by choosing a complementary subject.

The **Pearson BTEC Level National Extended Diploma in Production Arts**, which is equivalent to 3 A levels and is typically the major qualification in a two-year full-time 16–19 study programme. It allows students to focus their study on this sector with a view to progression to a production arts degree, or directly into the production arts sector.

For more detail about 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

Leeds Beckett University

University College Birmingham

University of Huddersfield