



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 601/7218/6	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

Overview
The sport sector The sport industry contributes billions of pounds each year to the UK economy and is a continuously growing sector. The industry employs more than 400,000 people and offers many career openings in a range of areas, including management, fitness, leisure, recreation, outdoors, well-being, elite performance, coaching and teaching. The professional body for the sector is the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA), and all industry professionals are encouraged to become members. Who is this qualification for? The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport, which is 360 GLH, is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 students wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the sports sector. The qualification is equivalent in size to 1 A level and aims to provide the fundamentals of the study of the sport sector at this level. No prior study of the sector is needed, but you 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, through the development of knowledge and skills, to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice should you choose to enter employment directly in the sports sector.

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

- anatomy and physiology
- fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being
- professional development in the sports industry.

In addition, you can choose one optional unit that has been designed to differentiate progression needs. They cover the following content areas:

- application of fitness testing
- sports psychology
- practical sports performance
- sports leadership.

What could this qualification lead to?

Will the qualification lead to further learning?

In addition to the sport sector-specific content outlined above, the requirements of the qualification will mean that you develop the transferable skills that are highly regarded by both higher education and employers; for example, communication, team working and organisation skills. The qualification is suitable for progression to larger sizes of BTEC Sport qualifications.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education 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 also combines well with a large number of subjects. It will support entry to higher education courses in a very wide range of disciplines, depending on the subjects taken alongside. The following are sports-related degree programmes with some examples of qualifications that you could take with the BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport to prepare you well for those programmes:

- BA (Hons) in Sport Studies and Business, if taken alongside A levels in Business and Mathematics
- BSC (Hons) in Sport Psychology, if taken alongside Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science and an A level in Psychology
- BA (Hons) in Sports Education and Special and Inclusive Education, if taken alongside an A Level in English Language and a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts
- BA (Hons) in Sport and Exercise Science, if taken alongside a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Applied Science.

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

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 you take this particular one?

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport** is equivalent in size to 1 A level. It is ideal for you if you are interested in covering the fundamentals of the sports sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a sport-related degree programme or to one of a wide range of other higher education courses.

The suite also includes the following qualifications:

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Sport**, which is equivalent in size to 0.5 of an A level. It is ideal for you if you are interested in an introduction to the sports sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to one of a wide range of higher education courses.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Sport**, which is equivalent in size to 1.5 A levels, offers extended coverage of the sector. It is ideal for you if you are looking for a one-year course of full-time study, or for a qualification that runs alongside another area of study that contrasts or complements the qualification, over a two-year full-time study programme. You may progress to a degree programme in a subject related to sport or in your complementary subject, or alternatively to a degree programme combining both subject areas.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport**, which is equivalent in size to 2 A levels. The qualification provides you with a wide and detailed scope of the sector. It typically makes up two-thirds of a 16–19 study programme, and is normally taken alongside another level 3 qualification. It will enable you to focus the main part of your study on this sector, with a view to progressing to a degree subject related to sport or possibly to a complementary subject area. The additional qualification studied will allow you either to give breadth to your study by choosing a contrasting subject, or to give your studies more focus by choosing a complementary subject.

The **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport**, which is equivalent in size to 3 A levels and is typically the sole qualification in a full, two-year 16–19 study programme. This qualification provides you with a comprehensive coverage of the sector, allowing you to progress to a range of sport-related courses in higher education.

Additionally, the **Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Fitness Services** is a Tech Level qualification aimed at students who want to progress to work in the fitness sector. It is equivalent in size to 2 A levels, which means there is time in the study programme to take additional qualifications.

For more detail about the other qualifications listed here, and the different progression opportunities they particularly support, please refer to their statements of purpose.

Who supports this qualification?
Professional body CIMSPA (Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity)
Higher Education Bournemouth University University College Birmingham Sheffield Hallam University Wrexham Glyndwr University