



BTEC Level 3 National Certificate (180 GLH) in Applied Psychology: timetabling and sample one year delivery plan

Audience

This document is aimed at supporting teachers and those delivering the BTEC National Certificate in Applied Psychology qualification from September 2018.

Introduction

Clear unit planning and understanding of key deadlines are essential for a successful delivery programme. We have produced a sample delivery plan showing how the BTEC National Certificate in Applied Psychology could be delivered over one year, highlighting assessment milestones and indicating where you can teach units holistically.

Key sections

The document focuses on key dates to plan around and an example of how the Certificate can be structured, which is set out in the three sections below:

Section 1: Guide to key dates

Setting out the key activities and requirements for course delivery, alongside dates and links to further information.

Section 2: Sample one year plan – delivery chart

A chart setting out the key deliverables against chosen units for the year.

Section 3: Sample one year plan – detailed rationale

An in-depth rationale and explanation as to how the suggested plan was structured.

Further support can be found within the relevant specification on our website.



Below is an overview of how wider support also links to this document:

Support	Purpose
Delivery Guides	A companion to your BTEC Level 3 National specifications, Authorised Assignment Briefs (AABs) and Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs). The Delivery Guides contain ideas for teaching and learning, including practical activities, realistic scenarios, ways of involving employers in delivery, ways of managing independent learning and how to approach assessments. The aim of these guides is to show how the specification content might work in practice and to inspire you to start thinking about different ways to deliver your course.
Authorised Assignment Briefs	Provide scenarios and assignment tasks for each internally assessed unit, to be used either as they are set out, or to inform your own planning.
Schemes of Work	Demonstrate how the unit content can be covered in the GLH while providing lesson ideas and highlighting links to other units to help you plan your teaching.
Sample Assessment Materials	Examples of how an externally assessed unit may be presented, with an accompanying mark scheme. These sample assessment materials have been developed to support this qualification and will be used as the benchmark to develop the assessment that students will take. These cover both exams and tasks.



Section 1: Guide to key dates

Setting out the key activities and requirements for course delivery, alongside dates and links to further information.

Date	Action	Description	Resource/reference
August–October	OSCA (Online Support for Centre Assessors)	Centres need to register a Lead Internal Verifier (LIV) for each principle BTEC Subject Area. The LIV must download the OSCA materials and use it to standardise the assessment and delivery team for the programme.	Edexcel Online. Your Exams Officer can provide a login.
August/September	Assessment plan(s)	An assessment plan(s) must be in place to demonstrate that sufficient time is available to deliver and assess all the required units in a timely manner. More than one plan may be required if there are different groups working at different speeds.	Assessment plans are available here
August/September	Assignment briefs	Assignment briefs should be internally verified to ensure they are fit for purpose and the equipment, resources and staff expertise will be available.	
September	Learner induction	A short period of induction is strongly recommended to ensure learners are familiar with the programme and its requirements. Plagiarism, referencing, time management skills, importance of meeting deadlines and centre policies should be covered.	
October	Register your learners	Learner registrations need to be made by 31 st October. This will trigger the allocation of a Standards Verifier and support for your centre.	Edexcel Online
October	Ex Entries	Unit 1 – External assessment entries – January sitting (post 2019 only).	Edexcel Online



December–February	Allocation of Standards Verifier	The Standards Verifier should cover QCF and NQF programmes. They will need to see the assessment plan(s) and will agree a sampling schedule with the centre. They are available to provide support and guidance.	The details of the Standards Verifier will be emailed to the Quality Nominee at the centre. Please ensure the Quality Nominee details registered with Pearson are accurate.
January	External assessment	January sitting – post 2019 only.	ICEA document is available here
February/March	External assessment entries	Unit 1 External assessment entries – summer sitting.	Edexcel Online
May/June	Unit 1	Unit 1 External assessment – summer sitting.	
Mid May–30 th May	Internally assessed unit completed	Internally assessed unit needs to have been sampled and reported by 30 th May.	A guide to Standards is available here
30 th June	Second sampling completed	Second sampling of internally assessed units that were not released for certification must be complete.	
5th July	Certification claims made	The final date for certification claims to be made via Edexcel online for summer 2019.	
January	Unit 1	First January sitting of Unit 1 external assessment.	



Section 2: Sample one year plan – delivery chart

This plan is intended to be used as guidance.

Key

R = Revision for external assessment

EXT = External assessment

SA = Summative assessment

LA = Learning aim

BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Applied Psychology (180 GLH)

Clear unit planning and understanding of key deadlines are essential for a successful delivery programme. We have produced a sample delivery plan showing how the BTEC National Certificate in Applied Psychology could be delivered in one year, highlighting assessment milestones and indicating where you can teach units holistically.

The Level 3 National Certificate in Applied Psychology suggests 180 guided learning hours (GLH), consisting of two mandatory units (1 internal and 1 external unit). Learners must complete and achieve a pass or above in the internal unit; in the external unit a 'near miss' (N grade) is available for those that do not achieve the marks for a pass.

There is no mandatory requirement for a work experience placement within the qualification. However, learners may significantly benefit from access to local employers, health practitioners and occupational psychologists when completing both units, but in particular undertaking psychological research where access to individuals who have completed research would be preferable. Guest seminars and case studies, especially for Unit 1, will also be advisable. It is also worth taking advantage of collaboration on line such as commercial audio projects, competitions, etc.

Unit 1: Psychological Approaches and Applications: Learners are expected to learn and show their understanding of five psychological approaches that have been an integral part in the development of psychology as a discipline, and apply these approaches to three different contemporary issues within society; gender identity, media, and use in business, i.e. advertising. It is at this point that visiting speakers within media and advertising will aid understanding of this contemporary issue. It is advised that at least four weeks is left at the end of the course for revision and preparation for the external assessment in June.

Unit 2: Conducting Psychological Research means that learners will need the time to undertake small scale research within their college or school or, in some occasions, within their local area.



YEAR 1					Term 1														
Unit	Unit title	Guided learning hours	Hours per week	Assessment method	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Psychological Approaches and Applications	90	2.6	External															
2	Conducting Psychological Research	90	2.6	Internal							SA	SA	SA						

YEAR 1					Term 2											
Unit	Unit title	Guided learning hours	Hours per week	Assessment method	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
1	Psychological Approaches and Applications	90	2.6	External												
2	Conducting Psychological Research	90	2.6	Internal		SA	SA	SA				SA	SA	SA	SA	



YEAR 1					Term 3									
Unit	Unit title	Guided learning hours	Hours per week	Assessment method	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
1	Psychological Approaches and Applications	90	2.6	External				R	R	R	R	EXT		
2	Conducting Psychological Research	90	2.6	Internal	SA	SA	SA							



Section 3: Sample one year plan – detailed rationale

Overview

This is a suggested plan for the **BTEC National Certificate in Applied Psychology** qualification with 180 GLH. The plan is structured to allow for learners to complete a 180 GLH Certificate in the first year, before transferring to the Extended Certificate in the second year, if appropriate.

There is no mandatory requirement for a work experience placement within the qualification. Access, however, to local employers through guest speakers or case studies would help learners understand the unit content in vocational settings.

Involving employers in the assessment/delivery

There will be a greater opportunity for employer development if learners transfer onto the Extended Certificate. However, there is a possibility, especially during the research methods unit, that visiting speakers can aid understanding of research methodology, and how to conduct research. These guest speakers could be local health care practitioners, occupational or chartered psychologists who can talk about the different areas within psychology and progression, if learners want to go on to careers within psychology, or could be speakers from local universities.

Which unit is externally assessed?

Unit 1: Psychological Approaches and Applications is an externally assessed unit assessed through a series of short and long answer questions, worth 72 marks. In 2019, this exam will be available just in June in the first instance, and then in January and June from 2020. Before the assessment, learners will be expected to gain experience at answering short and longer questions based on their knowledge of five different approaches, alongside how these approaches can be applied to contemporary issues in society such as aggression, and gender identity. Preparation for this unit should incorporate both written and practical activities in order to engage learners with the material and formative assessments based on key concepts and approaches are also recommended. Learners will be expected, at times, to apply their knowledge to unique case studies, and stimulus material, therefore allowing learners experience both with real life, and 'made up' scenarios is essential.

Internal mandatory unit

Unit 2: Conducting Psychological Research is the mandatory internally assessed unit in the qualification. This unit allows learners to prepare and carry out a piece of practical research based on their knowledge of research methodology, as well as its relationship to policy and practice, reviewing its success, or limitations, after completion of the task.



Delivering the units

The natural place to start is with Unit 1: Psychological Approaches and Applications, as this will give learners the basic concepts needed to complete the external assessment for Unit 1. This will then apply to their practical activity within Unit 2 which, in turn, has to be applied to one of the five approaches within Unit 1. Once the external unit is offered in January and June it may be beneficial for learners to be entered into the Unit 1 exam in January, leaving the internal assessment for Unit 2 for the second part of the first year. It is important though, that the content of Unit 2 is taught as early as possible in the year, so as to allow time to complete their research study by mid-May. If learners are to be entered for the Unit 1 external assessment in June, then it may be beneficial for both units to run consecutively, as they do complement each other well. This will allow sufficient time for learners to complete their research study in time to meet the mid-May deadline for SV sampling.

It is not recommended that learners complete the Unit 2 research methods unit first. This is because learners will need knowledge of the five approaches to make an informed decision about the topic area they are going to focus on in their practical activity, and this will only come from completion of the first unit.

Whichever way the units are completed, centres are encouraged to timetable a period of induction for learners at the start of the programme, or at least at the start of each unit. This should include information on topics such as; the structure of the units, how to use an assignment brief, importance of command words, how to work to meet deadlines, consequences of not meeting deadlines, how to reference work and the importance of evidence submitted for assessment being independently produced, valid and authentic. Centre policies on malpractice and plagiarism should also be explained.

Pearson has provided a set of *Skills for Learning and Work* activity sheets you may wish to use during induction.