

Mark Anderson
Managing Director
Pearson UK
One90 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7BH

July 28 2015

Dear Mr Anderson,

RE: Letter of support for the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Computing

As the professional body for IT in the UK we recognise the following qualifications as being fit for purpose with regard to progression towards a professional career in IT or towards further education in information technology. With respect to information technology, we believe these qualifications provide an appropriate level of knowledge and skills, meeting a broad range of business needs and of the individual, and ensuring employees are appropriately skilled and able to deliver to the standard the sector expects for a wide range of roles. The qualifications will also support learners to progress to a range of university IT related degree programmes that lead to professional careers.

We believe external assessment to be an important component of assessment and the inclusion of an extensive core body of knowledge to be essential. Information technology is a key driver of growth in the economy and so inclusion of suitable preparation for work is also important. In particular, we note the following.

For progression towards roles such as business IT consultant, technical service support or systems administration, the following suite of qualifications have an appropriate mandatory core and range of optional units:

- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Computing
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Computing
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Computing

For progression towards more specialist roles such as software developer, systems manager, or project manager the following suite of qualifications have an appropriate mandatory core and range of optional units:

- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Computer Science
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Computer Systems and Network Support
- Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Business Information Systems

Based on our knowledge of the industry, we believe employers will recruit and train professionals with BTEC Computing qualifications for roles that are likely to be at Registered IT Technician level based on the content included and their past willingness to recruit professionals with BTEC IT qualifications similar to those listed above.

We are happy for Pearson to use this letter in support of its work with government and its agencies, to ensure that this valuable qualification can continue to be recognised for college performance tables and 19+ funding and we are happy for this letter to be made public on the Pearson websites to confirm our support for the qualifications.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill Mitchell'.

Dr Bill Mitchell
Director of Education
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT