Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification
**BTEC National in**

L3

# Construction and the Built Environment (Extended Certificate)

## Transition Guide

*First teaching from September 2025*
*First certification from 2027*

Qualification Number: 610/3959/7

Pearson BTEC

# Nationals 2025

L3

**This document is for centres/practitioners moving (transitioning) from** Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment to the **Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Construction and the Built Environment (Extended Certificate)**

Pearson BTEC
# Nationals 2025

L3

## Content

# Introducing the BTEC Level 3 Nationals from 2025 (AAQs)

The BTEC Nationals from 2025 qualifications provide students with meaningful and practical learning experiences across a range of career sectors. They equip students with the applied knowledge, skills and personal attributes they need to enter and thrive in higher education and meet the demands of future employment in our fast-changing world.

BTEC Nationals from 2025 (AAQ) are:

- **Engaging and future-focused -** providing opportunities for students to learn in real, relatable and practical ways and designed to ensure that they develop critical knowledge and transferable skills to navigate the future.
- **Accessible and fair for students, balanced with the demands of progression to the next stage of learning -** the use of the N Grade and our holistic approach to designing assessment criteria means that qualifications are attainable for students whilst ensuring that they have a solid foundation of skills and knowledge, and the confidence to progress.
- **Accepted and supported by universities -** developed in collaboration with educators and universities to ensure students have the right combination of skills and knowledge for success in higher education. Over 100 letters of support from universities.
- **Well supported and straightforward to deliver and administer -** simple structure making unit combination more straightforward; uniformed format of external assessment across subjects to streamline administration; Pearson-Set Assignment Briefs (PSABs) removing the need for centres to plan their own assignments, and wide range of training and support.

## What is new?

### *Preparing students for their future*

Our new BTEC Level 3 Nationals from 2025 (AAQ) qualifications are designed with a clear focus on the future.

Our aim is to ensure that students are given every opportunity to develop the new knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they need to navigate and thrive through the uncertainty and to shape their world. We have identified three critical skill areas for the future – ***transferable skills, digital skills and sustainability*** – and have designed our new BTEC qualifications with these areas at the heart. Join us on the journey as we prepare young people to be the best versions of themselves for the future.

Read our brochure.

Click on the infographic to see further information.

## What makes it easy to transition to the new BTEC National from 2025 (AAQ)?

- **Auto approval** - if you are currently approved to deliver BTEC Nationals you will receive automatically approval for the new qualification.*
- **Refreshed and updated content and assessments** – to ensure your learners continue to progress to popular progression routes into HEIs and beyond.
- **Simple, manageable and flexible structure** – you can continue to structure your delivery of teaching, learning and assessment when it best suits you and your learners.
- **Unchanged Quality Assurance** process with Standards Verification at the heart.
- **Assessments** - Externally Assessed Exams available twice a year, and Internally Assessed units, Assessments set by Pearson, and taken by learners when they are ready.
- Familiar retake and resubmission rules.
- **Grading, marking and assessment methodologies unchanged** - you can continue to teach and assess with confidence.
- **Dedicated support** - our Subject Advisors and assessments teams are here to support you every step of the way.

*You must be approved in the relevant sector to receive automatic approval.

# Support offer

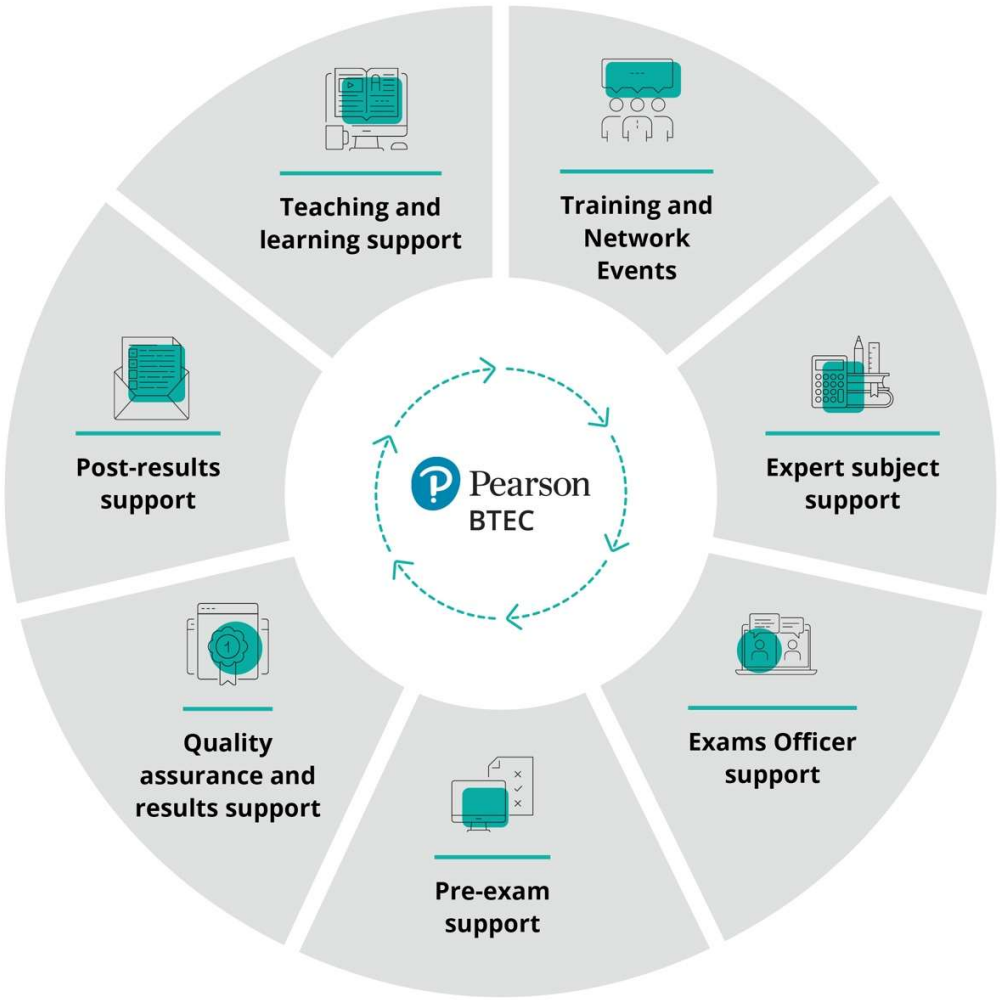
## Complimentary resources and services

- **BTEC National Teacher Guide –** a comprehensive guide to support preparation for delivery of your new BTEC National AAQ.
- **Sample Assessment Materials -** showing how tasks, questions and marking will be applied, which can be used as sample papers/tasks to prepare learners.
- Exam Wizard - an online resource containing a bank of past paper questions and support materials to help you create your own mock exams and tests.
- Results Plus - a free online results analysis tool for teachers that gives you a detailed breakdown of your students' performance in BTEC external assessments.
- Training **and standardisation –** Getting Started and Preparing to Assess training events and recorded sessions will be available from July 2024 onwards.
- Network events – an opportunity to hear about the latest developments from subject experts within Pearson and to share good practice with fellow centres.
- **Dedicated** Subject Advisor available throughout the year so please do get in touch if you would like any support or guidance with:
    - Planning your courses
    - Overview of BTEC quality assurance processes
    - Suggested resources
    - Teaching and Assessment of internal units and components
    - Teaching external units and components
    - The training and support materials we have available.

## Comprehensive Package of Paid resources

- **Student Books** – provide concise yet complete coverage of each sector, with ample student activities and assessment practice, covering all mandatory and optional units. Available in print and e-book formats.
- **Teacher Packs** – provide further supporting teacher resources for each sector. Designed to help students excel, including a front-of-class version of the e-book, activity sheets, fact sheets, videos and interactive knowledge check quizzes. Available as a bundle of units for each sector or as single unit packs.

Click on the infographic
to see further information.



## Qualification Structure

| Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Unit number** | **Unit title** | **GLH** | **How assessed** |
| **Mandatory units group A – learners complete and achieve all units** | | | |
| **1** | Construction Principles | 120 | External |
| **2** | Construction Design | 120 | External |
| **Mandatory units group B – learners complete all units** | | | |
| **5** | Construction Technology | 60 | Internal |
| **6** | Health and Safety in Construction | 60 | Internal |

| Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Construction and the Built Environment (Extended Certificate) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Unit number** | **Unit title** | **GLH** | **How assessed** |
| Mandatory Units, learners complete all units | | | |
| **1** | Construction Principles | 120 | External |
| **2** | Construction Technology | 60 | External |
| **3** | Design for Construction and the Built Environment | 60 | Internal |
| **Optional Units – learners complete 2 units** | | | |
| **4** | Construction Commercial Management | 60 | Internal |
| **5** | Retrofit in Construction and the Built Environment | 60 | Internal |
| **6** | Modelling in Construction | 60 | Internal |

## Summary of key similarities and differences

- **Continued vocational approach to the qualification** ensuring practical application and skill development important for progression into higher education.
- **Established and well-recognised grade profiles** inclusive of Pass, Merit and Distinction.
- **Similar maths and science mandatory** externally assessed unit in 'Construction Principles'.
- **Construction Design techniques and principles remain key features** throughout the new qualification, such as in responding to client briefs and demonstrating skills in CAD or BIM.
- **The most relevant optional unit content** from the 2017 BTEC National suite has been retained, such as commercial understanding, project management and sustainability and more advanced design techniques and technologies, such as using software to visualise and model design solutions, have been given greater prominence.
- **Health and Safety remains core in the qualification** but is now embedded, rather than being a separate mandatory unit which learners may find more engaging. Some of this understanding is assessed in a practical way, such as proposing safe systems of work for a project, other knowledge is embedded for example in unit 2 'Construction Technology'.

## Assessment Structure

Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Construction and the Built Environment (Extended Certificate)

| Mandatory units, learners complete all units | | | | Assessments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Construction Principles | 120 GLH | External | • An external examination set and marked by Pearson.<br>• 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks<br>• Assessment Availability: January and June<br>• First assessment June 2026 |
| **2** | Construction Technology | 60 GLH | External | • An external examination set and marked by Pearson.<br>• 1 hour 45 minutes, 70 marks<br>• Available January and June<br>• First assessment June 2026 |
| **3** | Design for Construction and the Built Environment | 60 GLH | Internal | • Pearson sets the assignment for the assessment of this unit.<br>• The PSAB will take approximately 15 hours to complete and consists of 3 tasks, one of which will be under supervision.<br>• The PSAB will be marked by centres and verified by Pearson.<br>• You will make assessment decisions for the PSAB using the assessment criteria provided in the specification.<br>• The PSAB brief will change each series. |
| **4** | Construction Commercial Management | 60 GLH | Internal | • Pearson sets the assignment for the assessment of this unit.<br>• The PSAB will take approximately 15 hours to complete and consists of 2 tasks, one of which will be under supervision.<br>• The PSAB will be marked by centres and verified by Pearson.<br>• You will make assessment decisions for the PSAB using the assessment criteria provided in the specification.<br>• The PSAB brief will change each series |
| **5** | Retrofit in Construction and the Built Environment | 60 GLH | Internal | • Pearson sets the assignment for the assessment of this unit.<br>• The PSAB will take approximately 9.5 hours to complete and consists of 2 tasks, one of which will be under supervision.<br>• The PSAB will be marked by centres and verified by Pearson.<br>• You will make assessment decisions for the PSAB using the assessment criteria provided in the specification.<br>• The PSAB brief will remain the same for the lifetime of the qualification. |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6** | Modelling in Construction | 60 GLH | Internal | • Pearson sets the assignment for the assessment of this unit.<br>• The PSAB will take approximately 12 hours to complete and consists of 2 tasks, one of which will be under supervision.<br>• The PSAB will be marked by centres and verified by Pearson.<br>• You will make assessment decisions for the PSAB using the assessment criteria provided in the specification.<br>• The PSAB brief will change each series. |

## Pearson Set Assignment Briefs (PSAB)

Internally assessed units are assessed using a Pearson Set Assignment Brief (PSAB), which is set by Pearson, marked by you and subject to external standards verification. The PSAB will be valid for the lifetime of this qualification, with clear guidance on how to deliver for each new **cohort**.

# Mapping Guide

Mapping of Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Construction and the Built Environment (Extended Certificate) to the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment specification.

| Title: **Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Construction and the Built Environment (Extended Certificate)** | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| **Unit 1: Construction Principles (120 GLH) External** | **Unit 1: Construction Principles (120 GLH) External** | |
| **Assessment outcomes:**<br>**AO1** Recall knowledge of construction materials<br>**AO2** Demonstrate understanding of the principles of construction<br>**AO3** Apply knowledge and understanding of the principles of construction in given contexts<br>**AO4** Analyse information about heat, acoustic and lighting comfort<br>**AO5** Perform mathematical procedures used in solving construction problems | **Assessment outcomes:**<br>**AO1** Demonstrate knowledge of construction terms, standards, concepts, methods and processes<br>**AO2** Demonstrate understanding of construction standards, concepts, methods and processes in context, in order to find solutions to real-life construction problems<br>**AO3** Analyse and evaluate information in order to recommend and justify the use of technologies and methodologies to solve construction problems in context<br>**AO4** Make connections between information, technologies and methodologies to resolve construction problems | This unit remains very similar to the unit in the current BTEC National.<br><br>Basic calculus techniques have been added to this unit following feedback from HE stakeholders, and to account for the lack of specific further maths unit in this qualification. Calculus is always assessed in the context of solving construction problems, for example in civil engineering, structural analysis or surveying, and is never assessed in an abstract manner.<br><br>There is added emphasis on the sustainability of construction materials in the materials properties section.<br><br>The human comfort section now has fewer calculation requirements, such as determining precise illumination requirements<br><br>Structural calculations are now limited to point-loaded simply supported beams |

| Unit 2: Construction Technology (60 GLH External) | Unit 4: Construction Technology | |
|---|---|---|
| **Assessment Outcomes**<br>**AO1**Recall knowledge of construction technology and sustainable construction<br>**AO2** Demonstrate understanding of construction technology and sustainable construction<br>**AO3** Apply knowledge and understanding of construction technology and sustainable construction when considering different construction scenarios and construction details in the context of low-rise construction.<br>**AO4** Analyse information about construction technology and sustainable construction when considering different construction scenarios in the context of low-rise construction. | **A** Understand common forms of low-rise construction<br>**B** Examine foundation design and construction<br>**C** Examine superstructure design and construction<br>**D** Examine external works associated with construction projects (partial map: only Sustainable Urban Drainage element of 2017 national is covered in the new AAQ unit 4) | This is a similar unit to the BTEC National Construction 2017.<br><br>There are a few changes for example the section on fire safety has increased in prominence, section A2 in the new unit.<br><br>There is greater emphasis on sustainability in the new unit, for example content now include sustainable design and sustainable site practice |
| **Unit 3: Design for Construction and the Built Environment (60 GLH Internal)** | **Various (see below)** | |
| **A** Explore how construction design and building concepts and processes contribute to a building's fitness for purpose<br>**B** Produce a building design to meet requirements of a specific client/end user brief<br>**C** Review the success of own building design in meeting requirements of a specific client/end user brief. | **Unit 2: Construction Design**<br>**AO1** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of construction design and build concepts and processes<br>**AO2** Apply knowledge and understanding of construction design and build concepts and processes to design a building to meet an initial project brief<br>**AO3** Analyse site, client and construction information to make decisions in order to produce a building design to meet an initial project brief<br>**AO4** Be able to develop a reasoned design solution for a building to meet an initial project brief<br><br>**Unit 41: Renewable Energy for Housing**<br>(only available in Diploma 720 size+) (partial map)<br>**Learning aim**<br>**A:** Explore how renewable energy systems provide sustainable solutions for housing | The new unit remains very similar to the unit in the 2017 BTEC Nationals as the focus is on developing and applying design techniques and communicating designs in response to a brief.<br><br>Content area C in the 2017 BTEC National unit 'Construction methods and techniques' is removed from the new unit, as it is already covered in the 'Construction Technology' unit.<br><br>There is an added section of content in the new unit to reflect the requirements of the task in the assessment, covering post-design handover/ use phase considerations and carrying out a review of the success of the design |

| Unit 4: Construction Commercial Management (60 GLH Internal) | No direct equivalent from current units in 2017 BTEC Nationals, however the following units available in the wider suite relate: | |
|---|---|---|
| **A** Examine what constitutes a legal contract for a construction project.<br>**B** Understand methods of procurement for a construction project.<br>**C** Apply methods for controlling cost during the completion of a construction project. | **Unit 3: Tendering and Estimating**<br>(only available in Extended Diploma 1080 size)<br>**AO1** Apply knowledge and understanding of the tendering and estimating process and techniques to determine estimated costs.<br>**AO2** Analyse information to determine tendering and estimating outcomes in order to make evaluative judgements and commercial decisions in context.<br>**AO3** Be able to apply the tendering and estimating process, techniques and outcomes in order to produce a justified tender submission relative to the scenario.<br><br>**Unit 9: Management of a construction project**<br>(only available in Foundation Diploma 540 size +) (Partial map)<br>**B** Understand purchasing and cost management techniques.<br><br>**Unit 19: Quantity Surveying**<br>(only available in Foundation Diploma 540 size +)<br>(Partial map)<br>**B** Undertake the production of bills of quantities for a project C Undertake the production of a final account for a project.<br><br>**Unit 22: Economics and Finance in Construction** (only available in Extended Diploma 1080 size +)<br>**C** Explore how to plan and control construction costs. | This unit is not a direct replacement for any unit in the 2017 BTEC Nationals, however content relates to a variety of units in the 2017 suite.<br><br>Understanding the principles of contracts, carrying out estimating and cost control techniques is covered for example in unit 3 'Tendering and Estimating' and unit 19 ' Quantity Surveying unit 19'.<br><br>As there is an emphasis on commercial practices, related content can also be found in unit 22 'Economics and Finance in Construction'.<br><br>Concepts are introduced as concepts in Project Management, e.g. cost control, risk management, dealing with disputes, variations as the project progresses, so content is similar to that covered in unit 9 'Management of a Construction Project' |

| Unit 5: Retrofit in Construction and the Built Environment | Various (see below) | |
|---|---|---|
| **A** Examine retrofit solutions applied to buildings<br>**B** Propose retrofit solutions to an existing building to meet end user needs<br>**C** Review retrofit solutions to meet end user needs. | **Unit 9: Management of a construction project**<br>(only available in Foundation Diploma 540 size +) (Partial map)<br>**C** Develop a programme of activities for construction works<br><br>**Unit 10: Building Surveying in Construction**<br>(only available in Foundation Diploma 540 size+ (partial map)<br>**C** Undertake a building survey of a low-rise residential property<br><br>**Unit 26: Conversion, Adaptation and Maintenance of Buildings**<br>(only available in Diploma 540 size +) (Partial map)<br>**A** Examine the need for conversion, adaptation and retrofit of a property (partial map, where relating to retrofit)<br>**C** Develop a scheme design and specification for the conversion, adaptation or retrofit of a property (partial map, where relating to retrofit)<br><br>**Unit 41: Renewable Energy for Housing**<br>(only available in Diploma 540 size +) (Partial map)<br>**A** Explore how renewable energy systems provide sustainable solutions for housing<br>**B** Investigate stakeholder needs, energy use and the efficiency of an existing domestic building<br>**C** Develop a plan for a renewable energy upgrade to an existing domestic building. | This unit is not a direct replacement for any unit in the 2017 BTEC Nationals, however content relates most closely to Units 26 and 41 in that they will learn about retrofit measures to improve energy efficiency of property.<br><br>The new unit has a hands-on focus and takes the practical elements of several units from the 2017 BTEC Nationals, as the assignment requires a real survey to be carried out, a programme of work and retrofit solution to be recommended for that property.<br><br>Health and Safety is embedded in developing a safe system of work for the project. Understanding construction technologies relevant to the building, is also required when considering the range of retrofit options possible for a given building. |

| Unit 6: Modelling in Construction | Various (see below) | |
|---|---|---|
| **A** Understand how models and digital data contribute to a collaborative design process in the built environment<br>**B** Carry out modelling techniques to design a structure in the built environment for a given client brief<br>**C** Communicate a design proposal using digital technology. | **Unit 18: Building Information Modelling**<br>(only available in Diploma 720 size +) (Partial map)<br>**B** Examine the construction information management environment<br>**C** Investigate the contribution of information management technologies in a BIM-enabled design and construct project<br><br>**Unit 2: Construction Design**<br>(Partial map)<br>**AO2** Apply knowledge and understanding of construction design and build concepts and processes to design a building to meet an initial project brief<br>**AO3** Analyse site, client and construction information to make decisions in order to produce a building design to meet an initial project brief<br>**AO4** Be able to develop a reasoned design solution for a building to meet an initial project brief | This unit is not a direct replacement for any unit in the 2017 BTEC Nationals, however content relates most closely to unit 18 ' Building Information Modelling'.<br><br>This unit however has more of a practical focus than the theoretical focus of unit 18, by using techniques to respond to a comparatively open brief.<br><br>It is intended for learners who wish to use advanced techniques and they are encouraged to show creativity in design, exploiting the capabilities of more advanced software to model from data, to visualise, manipulate to communicate design solutions to clients. |