

# Amendment to Level 3 BTEC National (from 2016) Specifications

April 2018

We are updating our specifications to reflect the introduction of the Near Pass (N) grade for externally assessed units. Until the updated specifications are available, this section replaces the existing *Section 9 Understanding the qualification* grade in all BTEC National (from 2016) specifications, changes have been highlighted in the text.

Unit numbers used in this document are illustrative only. Note that structures vary between qualifications and current versions of specifications should be consulted to ensure that learners complete the correct unit combination.

Learners may be eligible for a final certificate provided they have achieved N grade (or higher) in each of their external units, and met all other eligibility requirements. (See below for exceptions)\*

These changes take immediate effect and will be retrospectively applied for assessments already taken. See further information on the website.

\* exceptions are as follows:

The following qualifications will report N grades in externally assessed units but there will be no changes to eligibility rules owing sector-specific requirements:

- BTEC National Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development (2016) (EYE)
- BTEC National Extended Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development (2016)(EYE)

The Following qualification will report N grades in externally assessed units but different eligibility rules apply.

- BTEC National Foundation Diploma in Music (2018)

## 9 Understanding the qualification grade

### Awarding and reporting for the qualification

This section explains the rules that we apply in awarding a qualification and in providing an overall qualification grade for each learner. It shows how all the qualifications in this sector are graded.

The awarding and certification of these qualifications will comply with regulatory requirements.

### Eligibility for an award

In order to be awarded a qualification, a learner must complete all units, achieve a near pass (N) or above in all external units and a pass or above in all mandatory units unless otherwise specified. Refer to the structure in *Section 2*.

To achieve any qualification grade, learners must:

- complete and **have an outcome** (D, M, P, N or U) for all units within a valid combination
- achieve the **required units at pass or above** shown in *Section 2 of each specification*, and where applicable achieve the minimum GLH **at pass or above**
- achieve the **minimum number of points** at a grade threshold.

It is the responsibility of a centre to ensure that a correct unit combination is adhered to.

**Learners who do not achieve the required minimum grade (N or P) in units shown in the structure will not achieve a qualification.**

Learners who do not achieve sufficient points for a qualification or who do not achieve all the required units may be eligible to achieve a smaller qualification in the same suite provided they have completed and achieved the correct combination of units and met the appropriate qualification grade points threshold.

### Calculation of the qualification grade

The final grade awarded for a qualification represents an aggregation of a learner's performance across the qualification. As the qualification grade is an aggregate of the total performance, there is some element of compensation in that a higher performance in some units may be balanced by a lower outcome in others.

In the event that a learner achieves more than the required number of optional units, the mandatory units along with the optional units with the highest grades will be used to calculate the overall result, subject to the eligibility requirements for that particular qualification title.

BTEC Nationals are Level 3 qualifications and are awarded at the grade ranges shown in the table below.

Qualification	Available grade range
Certificate, Extended Certificate, Foundation Diploma	P to D*
Diploma	PP to D*D*
Extended Diploma	PPP to D*D*D*

The *Calculation of Qualification Grade* table, shown further on in this section, shows the minimum thresholds for calculating these grades. The table will be kept under review over the lifetime of the qualification. In the event of any change, centres will be informed before the start of teaching for the relevant cohort and an updated table will be issued on our website.

Learners who do not meet the minimum requirements for a qualification grade to be awarded will be recorded as Unclassified (U) and will not be certificated. They may receive a Notification of Performance for individual units. The *Information Manual* gives full information.

### Points available for internal units

The table below shows the number of **points** available for internal units. For each internal unit, points are allocated depending on the grade awarded.

	Unit size	
	60 GLH	90 GLH
U	0	0
Pass	6	9
Merit	10	15
Distinction	16	24

### Points available for external units

Raw marks from the external units will be awarded **points** based on performance in the assessment. The points scores available for each external unit at grade boundaries are as follows.

	Unit size	
	90 GLH	120 GLH
U	0-5	0-7
Near Pass	6-8	8-11
Pass	9-14	12-19
Merit	15-23	20-31
Distinction	24	32

Pearson will automatically calculate the points for each external unit once the external assessment has been marked and grade boundaries have been set. For more details about how we set grade boundaries in the external assessment please go to our website.

### Claiming the qualification grade

Subject to eligibility, Pearson will automatically calculate the qualification grade for your learners when the internal unit grades are submitted and the qualification claim is made. Learners will be awarded qualification grades for achieving the sufficient number of points within the ranges shown in the relevant *Calculation of Qualification Grade* table for the cohort.

## Calculation of qualification grade

Applicable for registration from 1 September 2016.

Certificate		Extended Certificate		Foundation Diploma		Foundation Diploma		Diploma		Extended Diploma	
180 GLH		360 GLH		510 GLH		540 GLH		720 GLH		1080 GLH	
Grade	Points threshold	Grade	Points threshold	Grade	Points threshold	Grade	Points threshold	Grade	Points threshold	Grade	Points threshold
U	0	U	0	U	0	U	0	U	0	U	0
Pass	18	P	36	P	51	P	54	PP	72	PPP	108
								MP	88	MPP	124
Merit	26	M	52	M	73	M	78	MM	104	MMM	156
								DM	124	DMM	176
										DDM	196
Distinction	42	D	74	D	104	D	108	DD	144	DDD	216
								D*D	162	D*DD	234
										D*D*D	252
Distinction*	48	D*	90	D*	130	D*	138	D*D*	180	D*D*D*	270

The table is subject to review over the lifetime of the qualification. The most up-to-date version will be issued on our website.

**Examples of grade calculations based on table applicable to registrations from September 2016**

**Example 1: Achievement of a Certificate with a P grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	90	Ext	Pass	9
Unit 2	90	Int	Merit	15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>180</b>		<b>P</b>	<b>24</b>

The learner has sufficient points for a P grade.

**Example 2: Achievement of a Certificate with an M grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	90	Ext	Near Pass	6
Unit 2	90	Int	Distinction	24
<b>Totals</b>	<b>180</b>		<b>M</b>	<b>30</b>

The learner has sufficient points for an M grade.

**Example 3: An Unclassified result for a Certificate**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	90	Ext	U	0
Unit 2	90	Int	Distinction	24
<b>Totals</b>	<b>180</b>		<b>U</b>	<b>24</b>

The learner has a U in Unit 1.

The learner has sufficient points for a P grade but has not met the minimum requirement for an N grade or higher in unit 1

**Examples of grade calculations based on table applicable to registrations from September 2016**

**Example 1: Achievement of an Extended Certificate with a P grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 2	90	Ext	Pass	9
Unit 3	90	Int	Merit	15
Unit 4	60	Int	Unclassified	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>360</b>		<b>P</b>	<b>36</b>

The learner has achieved N or higher in Units 1 and 2 and P or higher in Unit 3.

The learner has sufficient points for a P grade.

**Example 2: Achievement of an Extended Certificate with an M grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Near Pass	8
Unit 2	90	Ext	Merit	15
Unit 3	90	Int	Distinction	24
Unit 4	60	Int	Distinction	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>360</b>		<b>M</b>	<b>63</b>

The learner has sufficient points for an M grade.

**Example 3: An Unclassified Result for an Extended Certificate**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Merit	20
Unit 2	90	Ext	Unclassified	0
Unit 3	90	Int	Distinction	24
Unit 4	60	Int	Merit	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>360</b>		<b>U</b>	<b>54</b>

The learner has a U in Unit 2.

The learner has sufficient points for an M grade but has not met the minimum requirement for an N or higher in Units 1 and 2 and P or higher in Unit 3.

**Tables are illustrative only, see structures in specification for valid unit combinations**

**Examples of grade calculations based on table applicable to registrations from September 2016**

**Example 1: Achievement of a Foundation Diploma (510glh) with a P grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 2	90	Ext	Pass	9
Unit 3	90	Int	Pass	9
Unit 4	90	Int	Pass	9
Unit 5	60	Int	Unclassified	0
Unit 6	60	Int	Distinction	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>510</b>		<b>P</b>	<b>55</b>

The learner has achieved N or higher in Units 1 and 2, and P or higher in Units 3 and 4.

The learner has sufficient points for a P grade.

**Example 2: Achievement of a Foundation Diploma (510glh) with M grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Near Pass	8
Unit 2	90	Ext	Distinction	24
Unit 3	90	Int	Merit	15
Unit 4	90	Int	Distinction	24
Unit 5	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 6	60	Int	Merit	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>510</b>		<b>M</b>	<b>97</b>

The learner has sufficient points for an M grade.

**Example 3: An Unclassified result for a Foundation Diploma (510glh)**

	<b>GLH</b>	<b>Type (Int/Ext)</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Unit points</b>
Unit 1	120	Ext	Merit	20
Unit 2	90	Ext	U	0
Unit 3	90	Int	Pass	9
Unit 4	90	Int	Distinction	24
Unit 5	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 6	60	Int	Pass	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>510</b>		<b>U</b>	<b>75</b>

The learner has a U in Unit 2.

The learner has sufficient points for an M grade but has not met the minimum requirement for N or higher in Units 1 and 2, and P or higher in Units 3 and 4.



**Examples of grade calculations based on table applicable to registrations from September 2016**

**Example 1: Achievement of a Foundation Diploma (540glh) with a P grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 2	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 3	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 4	60	Int	Pass	6
Unit 5	60	Int	Pass	6
Unit 6	60	Int	Unclassified	0
Unit 7	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 12	60	Int	Merit	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>540</b>		<b>P</b>	<b>62</b>

The learner has achieved N or higher in Units 2, and 3 and P or higher in Unit 4.

The learner has sufficient points for a P grade.

**Example 2: Achievement of a Foundation Diploma (540glh) with an M grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 2	120	Ext	Near Pass	8
Unit 3	120	Ext	Distinction	32
Unit 4	60	Int	Merit	10
Unit 5	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 6	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 7	60	Int	Merit	10
Unit 12	60	Int	Merit	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>540</b>		<b>M</b>	<b>102</b>

The learner has sufficient points for an M grade.

**Example 3: An Unclassified result for a Foundation Diploma (540glh)**

	<b>GLH</b>	<b>Type (Int/Ext)</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Unit points</b>
Unit 2	120	Ext	Merit	20
Unit 3	120	Ext	U	0
Unit 4	60	Int	Pass	6
Unit 5	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 6	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 7	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 12	60	Int	Pass	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>540</b>		<b>U</b>	<b>80</b>

The learner has a U in Unit 3.

The learner has sufficient points for an M grade but has not met the minimum requirement for N or higher in Units 2, and 3 and P or higher in Unit 4.

**Examples of grade calculations based on table applicable to registrations from September 2016**

**Example 1: Achievement of a Diploma with a PP grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 2	90	Ext	Pass	9
Unit 3	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 4	90	Int	Pass	9
Unit 5	90	Int	Pass	9
Unit 6	90	Int	Merit	15
Unit 7	60	Int	U	0
Unit 8	60	Int	Merit	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>720</b>		<b>PP</b>	<b>76</b>

The learner has achieved N or higher in Units 1, 2, 3, and P or higher in Units 4, 5, and 6.

The learner has sufficient points for a PP grade.

**Example 2: Achievement of a Diploma with a DM grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Near Pass	8
Unit 2	90	Ext	Merit	15
Unit 3	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 4	90	Int	Distinction	24
Unit 5	90	Int	Distinction	24
Unit 6	90	Int	Merit	15
Unit 7	60	Int	Merit	10
Unit 8	60	Int	Distinction	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>720</b>		<b>DM</b>	<b>124</b>

The learner has sufficient points for a DM grade.

**Example 3: An Unclassified result for a Diploma**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 2	90	Ext	U	0
Unit 3	120	Ext	U	0
Unit 4	90	Int	Pass	9
Unit 5	90	Int	Distinction	24
Unit 6	90	Int	Merit	15
Unit 7	60	Int	Pass	6
Unit 8	60	Int	Merit	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>720</b>		<b>U</b>	<b>76</b>

The learner has a U in Units 2 and 3.

The learner has sufficient points for a PP grade but has not met the minimum requirement for N or higher in Units 1, 2, 3, and P or higher in Units 4, 5, and 6.

**Examples of grade calculations based on table applicable to registrations from September 2016**

**Example 1: Achievement of an Extended Diploma with a PPP grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 2	90	Ext	Pass	9
Unit 3	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 4	120	Ext	Merit	20
Unit 5	90	Int	Pass	9
Unit 6	90	Int	Pass	9
Unit 7	90	Int	Merit	15
Unit 8	60	Int	U	0
Unit 9	60	Int	Pass	6
Unit 10	60	Int	Merit	10
Unit 11	60	Int	Pass	6
Unit 12	60	Int	Pass	6
Unit 13	60	Int	Pass	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1080</b>		<b>PPP</b>	<b>120</b>

The learner has achieved N or higher in Units 1, 2, 3, and 4 and P or higher in Units 5, 6 and 7.

The learner has sufficient points for a PPP grade.

**Example 2: Achievement of an Extended Diploma with a DDM grade**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Near Pass	8
Unit 2	90	Ext	Pass	9
Unit 3	120	Ext	Distinction	32
Unit 4	120	Ext	Merit	20
Unit 5	90	Int	Distinction	24
Unit 6	90	Int	Distinction	24
Unit 7	90	Int	Merit	15
Unit 8	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 9	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 10	60	Int	Merit	10
Unit 11	60	Int	Merit	10
Unit 12	60	Int	Distinction	16
Unit 13	60	Int	Pass	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1080</b>		<b>DDM</b>	<b>206</b>

The learner has sufficient points for a DDM grade.

**Example 3: An Unclassified result for an Extended Diploma**

	GLH	Type (Int/Ext)	Grade	Unit points
Unit 1	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 2	90	Ext	Merit	15
Unit 3	120	Ext	Pass	12
Unit 4	120	Ext	Merit	20
Unit 5	90	Int	Pass	9
Unit 6	90	Int	Merit	15
Unit 7	90	Int	Distinction	24
Unit 8	60	Int	Merit	10
Unit 9	60	Int	Unclassified	0
Unit 10	60	Int	Merit	10
Unit 11	60	Int	Unclassified	0
Unit 12	60	Int	Unclassified	0
Unit 13	60	Int	Unclassified	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1080</b>		<b>U</b>	<b>127</b>

The learner has 240 GLH at U.

The learner has sufficient points for a MPP and has achieved N or higher in Units 1, 2, 3, and 4 and P or higher in Units 5, 6 and 7 but has not met the minimum requirement for 900 GLH at Pass or above.