

September 2010

## BTEC Award in Mathematical Applications (Levels 1&2) - Availability from September 2010

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On 3 September 2010 Edexcel was informed that the Department for Education will not approve Section 96 listing for BTEC Award in Mathematical Applications (BTEC Maths) in either its pilot or QCF format for any learners registering on the qualification from 1 September 2010. We have compiled some questions and answers below to assist you in managing the impact of this decision in your centre.

### What does this decision mean?

In England, BTEC Maths (in either its pilot or new QCF format) will not be listed on [Section 96](#) and will therefore not attract any school and college achievement and attainment table points (SCAAT points) or funding, for learners registering on the qualifications from September 2010 onwards.

### What does this mean if I am a pilot centre which already has learners registered on the pilot specification?

Learners who were registered with Edexcel before the original end of the pilot (31 August 2010) are able to complete these qualifications this academic year. Those learners will receive SCAAT points if they achieve the qualification by the certification end date of 31 August 2011 and their qualifications will be fully fundable during this academic year. Please read on for the impacts of this decision for any new cohorts commencing the qualification this year. Please also note, it is not possible to backdate a registration to the pilot qualification i.e. to before 31 August 2010.

### Can my learners start this qualification this September?

In England, for most centres the answer is essentially no. The qualifications are not included in the list of approved qualifications in Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act of 2000, and therefore do not count towards SCAATs and are not eligible for funding.

### I understand we will not receive SCAAT points and/or funding for this qualification in 2010/11, but we still wish to offer it. Is it still a valid qualification?

Whilst Edexcel will accept registrations from any approved centres, guidance from the Department for Education states that schools should only offer qualifications listed on Section 96. For learners aged 16-18 and 19+, these qualifications will not be fundable. However, these qualifications are accredited by Ofqual and appear on the [National Database of Accredited Qualifications](#) (NDAQ), any centres operating outside of the above parameters (i.e. not a state school, or requiring public funding for qualifications) may wish to offer these qualifications, and learners will receive a certificate on

successful completion. This applies to centres based in England only, please see below for further information for centres in Wales and Northern Ireland.

**We are an independent centre intending to offer BTEC Maths, and understand we won't get SCAAT points or funding. Which specification should we offer?**

Any new cohorts starting BTEC Maths this year should follow the new QCF qualification. The specification is available in electronic format currently, and available on our website [here](#).

**We have checked on NDAQ, the pilot qualification is showing as accredited until August 2011, but you are saying it is no longer available - can you explain this?**

In August we requested an extension to the pilot from Ofqual for an additional year in the hope that we could secure Section 96 listing for the pilot for one more year to allow time to discuss the arrangements for the new qualification with the Department. Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain Section 96 listing for the additional pilot year, so for this reason we will not be accepting any new registrations on the pilot qualifications. Any new cohorts commencing this year, will have to follow the new QCF specification as outlined above.

**What is the impact for centres located in Wales or Northern Ireland, can we offer BTEC Maths?**

**In Wales:** Yes - Edexcel has been informed that the QCF qualification will be listed on [www.daqw.org.uk](http://www.daqw.org.uk) and so is eligible for funding and attracts school performance points in Wales.

**In Northern Ireland:** We have contacted the relevant bodies and are currently awaiting an update on the position. We will update those centres affected in due course.

**Will the qualification receive Section 96 listing in the future?**

Once we have received formal feedback from the Department detailing their decision we will decide on the appropriate next steps. As soon as we have further information, we will communicate that to you. For the time being, our advice is to assume BTEC Maths will not achieve Section 96 listing this academic year.

**Where can we go for further information?**

For further information on any of the points raised here, please contact [btecmaths@edexcel.com](mailto:btecmaths@edexcel.com) and we will respond to your question as soon as possible.