

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Business Improvement Techniques (QCF)**Qualification Number: 501/0584/X****What is the purpose of this qualification?**

This qualification is aimed at individuals who are employed in a supervisory or management capacity within an manufacturing or engineering environment who have a responsibility for continuous improvement. This qualification will provide an individual with the ability to prove their occupational competence in carrying out continuous improvement projects over a period of time and be able to introduce correct tools, techniques and processes to be able to define the project/problem, analyse the data and implement a solution.

What does this qualification cover?

This qualification is based on the National Occupational Standards for the Engineering and Manufacturing industry as defined by SEMTA, the Sector Skills Council.

Learners will complete mandatory units in leading effective teams and complying with statutory regulations and organisational safety requirements. Individuals then have an option to follow a process or quality improvement pathway. Depending on the pathway chosen, individuals will have to complete further mandatory units relevant to their chosen pathway which include applying organisational workplace techniques, applying continuous improvement techniques (kaizen) and development visual management systems in the process improvement pathway and applying six sigma methodology to projects, carrying out six sigma processing mapping, applying basic statistical analysis and applying failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA) in the quality improvement pathway.

Individuals will then depending on their job role, situation or interest, they will choose from specialist business improvement units from a bank of optional units. The units that can be completed include Kaizen, Visual Management Systems, Lead Time Analysis, application of problem solving techniques, creating Standard Operating Procedures, Six Sigma methodology, Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA) and mistakes/error proofing (Poka Yoke).

Who could take this qualification?

This qualification is for all learners aged 16 and above who are capable of reaching the required standards. Learners do not need any prior qualifications, knowledge or experience before starting the qualification. They will be employed in a supervisory or management capacity and looking to develop their skills and knowledge in leading continuous improvement activities within their organisation.

Although this qualification is part of the Advanced Apprenticeship for Improving Operational Performance, some learners may need or wish to take the qualification on its own, for example, learners who work on a part-time or voluntary basis or those who are not yet employed in the industry but wish to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in preparation for working as a Business Improvement Supervisor.

What could this qualification lead to?

This qualification allows learners to demonstrate competence in continuous improvement at a level required by the engineering industry. Learners can progress across the level and size of the engineering competence and knowledge qualifications and into other occupational areas such as mechanical or electrical engineering.

Learners could progress on to engineering industry qualifications at level 4 and above such as the following:

Pearson Edexcel Level 4 NVQ Diploma in Business Improvement Techniques (QCF)

Potential job roles for those working towards this qualification are:

Cell leader

Continuous Improvement
Operative

Business Improvement
Operative

Team Leader

Supervisor

Departmental Manager

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is valued by the Society of Operations Engineers (SOE) as enabling learners to develop and demonstrate the manufacturing industry required skills and knowledge to progress within the workforce and to further education as required.