

May 2014

**Important, please read:
English language requirements for students on BTEC Level 4 to 7 programmes
that are assessed in English**

Dear Head of Centre

Pearson's mission is to help people make more of their lives through learning. In order for students to be successful at BTEC higher level programmes that are assessed in English, it is critical that they have an appropriate level of language skills.

We require all centres to recruit learners with integrity. This means that we expect **International centres** delivering BTEC Level 4 to 7 programmes to ensure that all students who are non-native English speakers, and those who have not studied the final two years of school in English, to be able to demonstrate advanced levels of knowledge and understanding in English.

For **UK centres**, these requirements have been aligned to the [Common European Framework of Reference \(CEFR\)](#) levels identified below:

- Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) level B1 for a level 4 or 5 BTEC qualification, *and*
- Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) level B2 for a level 6 or 7 BTEC qualification.

To determine the level of English requirements for your centre, please refer to the requirements for UK centres and align your requirements for the level of English to these standards.

Our International Standards Verifiers will expect you to demonstrate that your students have a level of English comparable to these requirements. This will be evidenced in the standard of written English used by the student when producing evidence for assessment on BTEC Level 4 to 7 programmes.

If the International Standards Verifier reviews any student work that does not demonstrate advanced levels of knowledge and understanding in an appropriate level of English then he/she will work with you to find a solution.

If students are recruited without a high level of English then it is possible for them to be assessed in their native language. Their certificate will then include the statement, "Assessed in a Language Other than English". If this is appropriate for your students then you must notify your Pearson local office before the start of the programme so that this can be arranged.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Harvey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Geoffrey Harvey
Head of Vocational Assessment
Pearson Qualification Services