

Grade Boundaries

January 2026

External Assessments for BTEC Level 3 Nationals

Understanding external assessment grade boundaries for BTEC Level 3 Nationals

This document shows the grade boundaries for our BTEC externally assessed assessments. For each set of grade boundaries, the maximum number of available marks and the size of the unit in Guided Learning Hours (GLH) is also shown.

Definition of terms

All of the grade boundaries for our BTEC externally assessed units are given in 'raw' marks. A raw mark is the actual mark awarded by our examiners for an assessment. Raw mark scores can be downloaded by Exams Officers from Edexcel Online.

A grade boundary is the minimum mark at which a grade can be achieved. For example, if the grade boundary for a Distinction is 29, then 29 is the minimum mark at which a Distinction can be achieved. A mark of 28 would therefore be a Merit.

In order to calculate the overall qualification grade, unit results are combined by converting unit grades into points scores.

You can find out more about raw marks and points scores at [Results and certification - Understanding marks and grades](#).

Converting marks to points

Unit results for BTEC Level 3 National qualifications are reported on a 5-point grade scale: Distinction (D), Merit (M), Pass (P), Near Pass (N) and Unclassified (U). Raw marks from the external units are converted into points based on performance in the assessment. The points score available for each external unit at grade boundaries are as follows:

	Unit Size	
	90 GLH	120 GLH
Unclassified	0	0
Near Pass	6	8
Pass	9	12
Merit	15	20
Distinction	24	32

Points are awarded on a sliding scale between the grade boundaries based on the number of raw marks achieved by each learner. For more information on calculating qualification results please see section 9 of your BTEC Nationals specification.

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BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Aerospace and Aviation Engineering	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31706X - Unit 1: Engineering Principles	120	80	64	43	22		0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Agriculture	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
20065K - Unit 1: Professional Working Responsibilities	120	60	46	31	17	8	0
20066K - Unit 2: Plant and Soil Science	120	80	58	38	19	9	0
21321L - Unit 3 Contemporary Issues in the Land-based Sectors	120	64	44	30	17	8	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Animal Management	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31644H - Unit 1: Animal Breeding and Genetics	120	80	53	39	25	12	0
31645H - Unit 2: Animal Biology	120	80	49	32	15	7	0
31646H - Unit 3: Animal Welfare and Ethics	120	60	40	30	21	12	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Human Biology	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
21325L - Unit 1: Principles of Applied Human Biology	90	80	49	33	18	9	0
21327L - Unit 3: Human Biology and Health Issues	120	60	42	31	21	11	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Law	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
20168K - Unit 1: Dispute Solving in Civil Law	90	60	39	28	17	8	0
20170K - Unit 3: Applying the Law	120	72	57	43	30	17	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Psychology	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
21331L - Unit 1: Psychological Approaches and Applications	90	72	45	34	23	12	0
21333L - Unit 3: Health Psychology	120	70	43	32	22	12	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Science	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31617HB - Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I - Biology	90	90	54	38	22	11	0
31617HC - Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I - Chemistry	90	90	54	38	22	11	0
31617HP - Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I - Physics	90	90	54	38	22	11	0
31619H - Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills	120	60	38	27	16	8	0
31627HB - Unit 5: Principles and Applications of Science II - Biology	120	120	73	50	28	14	0
31627HC - Unit 5: Principles and Applications of Science II - Chemistry	120	120	73	50	28	14	0
31627HP - Unit 5: Principles and Applications of Science II - Physics	120	120	73	50	28	14	0
31629H - Unit 7: Contemporary Issues in Science	120	50	34	25	16	8	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Art and Design	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31828H - Unit 2: Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design	90	60	48	34	20	10	0
31832H - Unit 6: Managing a Client Brief	120	60	37	25	14	7	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Business	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31463H - Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance	120	80	41	29	18	9	0
31489H - Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign	90	70	55	43	31	19	0
31588H - Unit 6: Principles of Management	120	88	65	49	33	17	0
31589H - Unit 7: Business Decision Making	120	70	52	38	24	12	0
51101N - Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (W)	90	70	55	43	31	19	0
51102N - Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (W)	120	80	41	29	18	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Computing	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31768H - Unit 1: Principles of Computer Science	120	90	50	34	19	9	0
31769H - Unit 2: Fundamentals of Computer Systems	90	80	47	34	22	11	0
31770H - Unit 3: Planning and Management of Computing Projects	120	66	40	30	20	10	0
31771H - Unit 4: Software Design and Development Project	120	68	52	38	25	12	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Construction and the Built Environment	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
20075K - Unit 1: Construction Principles	120	75	49	35	22	11	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Countryside	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
20065K - Unit 1: Professional Working Responsibilities	120	60	46	31	17	8	0
20066K - Unit 2: Plant and Soil Science	120	80	58	38	19	9	0
21321L - Unit 3 Contemporary Issues in the Land-based Sectors	120	64	44	30	17	8	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in CPLD – Non EYE	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31597H – Unit 1: Children's Development	120	90	62	49	36	23	0
31598H – Unit 2: Development of Children's Communication, Literacy and Numeracy Skills	120	68	46	36	27	18	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in CPLD – EYE	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31597X – Unit 1: Children's Development	120	90	62	49	36		0
31598X – Unit 2: Development of Children's Communication, Literacy and Numeracy Skills	120	68	46	36	27		0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Creative Digital Media Production	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31668H – Unit 1: Media Representations	90	80	45	31	17	8	0
31672H – Unit 5: Specialist Subject Investigation	120	65	46	34	22	11	0
31674H – Unit 8: Responding to a Commission	120	72	48	35	22	11	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Engineering	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31706H – Unit 1: Engineering Principles	120	80	64	43	22	11	0
31708H – Unit 3: Engineering Product Design and Manufacture	120	60	41	32	23	14	0
31725H – Unit 6: Microcontroller Systems for Engineers	120	80	52	37	22	11	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31463H - Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance	120	80	41	29	18	9	0
31489H - Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign	90	70	55	43	31	19	0
31588H - Unit 12: Principles of Management	120	88	65	49	33	17	0
31589H - Unit 6: Business Decision Making	120	70	52	38	24	12	0
51101N - Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (W)	90	70	55	43	31	19	0
51102N - Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (W)	120	80	41	29	18	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Equine Management	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
20108K - Unit 1: Equine Structure, Form and Function	120	80	53	38	23	11	0
20109K - Unit 2: Equine Diet and Nutrition	120	60	42	33	24	15	0
20110K - Unit 3: Managing Equine Disease	120	66	45	35	26	17	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Forensic and Criminal Investigation	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
20149K - Unit 5: Applications of Criminology	120	60	33	24	15	7	0
20151K - Unit 7: Applications of Criminal and Forensic Psychology	120	60	30	21	13	6	0
31617HB - Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I - Biology	90	90	54	38	22	11	0
31617HC - Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I - Chemistry	90	90	54	38	22	11	0
31617HP - Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I - Physics	90	90	55	38	22	11	0
31619H - Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills	120	60	38	27	16	8	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Health and Social Care	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31490H - Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development	90	90	53	40	28	16	0
31491H - Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care	120	80	49	37	25	13	0
31493H - Unit 3: Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care	120	90	49	34	20	10	0
31494H - Unit 4: Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care	120	65	43	30	18	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Horticulture	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
20065K - Unit 1: Professional Working Responsibilities	120	60	46	31	17	8	0
20066K - Unit 2: Plant and Soil Science	120	80	58	38	19	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in IT	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
20158K - Unit 11: Cyber Security and Incident Management	120	80	59	43	28	14	0
20161K - Unit 14: IT Service Delivery	120	68	44	32	21	10	0
31760H - Unit 1: Information Technology Systems	120	90	47	34	21	10	0
31761H - Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information	90	66	43	31	20	10	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Marketing	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
50234N - Unit 2: Marketing Principles	120	70	50	38	27	16	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Music Performance	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
20177K - Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry	90	70	53	37	22	11	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Music Technology	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31811H - Unit 5: Music Technology in Context	120	65	46	32	19	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Performing Arts	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31555H - Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners' Work	90	60	38	27	17	8	0
31561H - Unit 7: Employment Opportunities in the Performing Arts	120	60	44	33	22	11	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
21405J - Unit 22: Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry	90	64	44	33	22	11	0
31524H - Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology	120	80	63	43	24	12	0
31525H - Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-Being	120	60	48	36	25	14	0
31542H - Unit 19: Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity	120	60	53	39	25	12	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport and Exercise Science	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
31813H - Unit 1: Sport and Exercise Physiology	120	70	46	35	24	13	0
31814H - Unit 2: Functional Anatomy	90	60	46	35	24	13	0
31815H - Unit 3: Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology	120	60	43	31	19	9	0
31824H - Unit 13: Nutrition for Sport and Exercise Performance	120	50	43	34	25	16	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Travel and Tourism	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
20207K - Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism	90	75	45	34	24	14	0
20208K - Unit 2: Global Destinations	120	60	42	33	25	17	0
51103N - Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism (W)	90	75	45	34	24	14	0
51104N - Unit 2: Global Destinations (W)	120	60	42	33	25	17	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Uniformed Protective Services	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
40888M - Unit 2: Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Protective Services	120	80	51	43	36	29	0
40892M - Unit 6: Government and the Protective Services	90	70	42	34	27	20	0
51105N - Unit 2: Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Protective Services (W)	120	80	51	43	36	29	0
51106N - Unit 6: Government and the Protective Services (W)	90	70	42	34	27	20	0

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