

Grade Boundaries

June 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
Unit 1: Engineering Principles (31706X)	120	80	63	40	18		0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Agriculture	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Professional Working Responsibilities (20065K)	120	60	39	28	17	8	0
Unit 2: Plant and Soil Science (20066K)	120	80	51	35	20	10	0
Unit 3 Contemporary Issues in the Land-based Sectors (21321L)	120	64	47	32	18	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Animal Management	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Animal Breeding and Genetics (31644H)	120	80	54	37	21	10	0
Unit 2: Animal Biology (31645H)	120	80	49	33	18	9	0
Unit 3: Animal Welfare and Ethics (31646H)	120	60	37	28	19	10	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Human Biology	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Principles of Applied Human Biology (21325L)	90	80	52	37	22	11	0
Unit 3: Human Biology and Health Issues (21327L)	120	60	40	30	20	10	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Law	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Dispute Solving in Civil Law (20168K)	90	60	42	30	19	9	0
Applying the Law (20170K)	120	72	55	41	28	15	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Psychology	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Psychological Approaches and Applications (21331L)	90	72	44	34	24	14	0
Unit 3: Health Psychology (21333L)	120	70	41	32	23	14	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Science	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I – Biology (31617HB)	90	90	56	38	20	10	0
Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I – Chemistry (31617HC)	90	90	56	38	20	10	0
Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I – Physics (31617HP)	90	90	56	38	20	10	0
Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills (31619H)	120	60	39	27	15	7	0
Unit 5: Principles and Applications of Science II – Biology (31627HB)	120	120	67	47	28	14	0
Unit 5: Principles and Applications of Science II – Chemistry (31627HC)	120	120	67	47	28	14	0
Unit 5: Principles and Applications of Science II – Physics (31627HP)	120	120	67	47	28	14	0
Unit 7: Contemporary Issues in Science (31629H)	120	50	36	27	18	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Art and Design	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Visual Recording and Communication (31827H)	120	60	41	28	15	7	0
Unit 2: Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design (31828H)	90	60	42	30	19	9	0
Unit 6: Managing a Client Brief (31832H)	120	60	38	26	14	7	0
Unit 7: Developing and Realising Creative Intentions (31832H)	120	60	41	27	14	7	0

EC Level 3 Nationals in Business	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (31463H)	120	80	46	34	22	11	0
Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (31489H)	90	70	55	45	35	25	0
Unit 6: Principles of Management (31588H)	120	88	64	49	34	19	0
Unit 7: Business Decision Making (31589H)	120	70	50	37	25	13	0
Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (W) (51101N)	90	70	55	45	35	25	0
Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (W) (51102N)	120	80	46	34	22	11	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Computing	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Principles of Computer Science (31768H)	120	90	48	32	17	8	0
Unit 2: Fundamentals of Computer Systems (31769H)	90	80	47	32	18	9	0
Unit 3: Planning and Management of Computing Projects (31770H)	120	66	41	30	20	10	0
Unit 4: Software Design and Development Project (31771H)	120	68	55	41	27	13	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Construction and the Built Environment	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Construction Principles (20075K)	120	75	51	36	22	11	0
Unit 2: Construction Design (20076K)	120	63	45	38	31	24	0
Unit 3: Tendering and Estimating (20077K)	120	63	52	42	32	22	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Countryside	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Professional Working Responsibilities (20065K)	120	60	39	28	17	8	0
Unit 2: Plant and Soil Science (20066K)	120	80	51	35	20	10	0
Unit 3 Contemporary Issues in the Land-based Sectors (21321L)	120	64	47	32	18	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in CPLD - Non EYE	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Children's Development (31597H)	120	90	63	48	34	20	0
Unit 2: Development of Children's Communication, Literacy and Numeracy Skills (31598H)	120	68	50	40	30	20	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in CPLD - EYE	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Children's Development (31597X)	120	90	63	48	34		0
Unit 2: Development of Children's Communication, Literacy and Numeracy Skills (31598X)	120	68	50	40	30		0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Creative Digital Media Production	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Media Representations (31668H)	90	80	50	36	22	11	0
Unit 3: Digital Media Skills (31670H)	120	60	48	36	24	12	0
Unit 5: Specialist Subject Investigation (31672H)	120	65	44	32	20	10	0
Unit 8: Responding to a Commission (31674H)	120	72	48	36	24	12	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Engineering	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Engineering Principles (31706H)	120	80	63	40	18	9	0
Unit 3: Engineering Product Design and Manufacture (31708H)	120	60	37	29	21	13	0
Unit 6: Microcontroller Systems for Engineers (31725H)	120	80	52	37	22	11	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (31463H)	120	80	46	34	22	11	0
Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (31489H)	90	70	55	45	35	25	0
Unit 12: Principles of Management (31588H)	120	88	64	49	34	19	0
Unit 6: Business Decision Making (31589H)	120	70	50	37	25	13	0
Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (W) (51101N)	90	70	55	45	35	25	0
Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (W) (51102N)	120	80	46	34	22	11	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Equine Management	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Equine Structure, Form and Function (20108K)	120	80	49	34	20	10	0
Unit 2: Equine Diet and Nutrition (20109K)	120	60	44	34	24	14	0
Unit 3: Managing Equine Disease (20110K)	120	66	42	32	23	14	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Forensic and Criminal Investigation	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 5: Applications of Criminology (20149K)	120	60	36	26	16	8	0
Unit 7: Applications of Criminal and Forensic Psychology (20151K)	120	60	30	21	13	6	0
Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I – Biology (31617HB)	90	90	56	38	20	10	0
Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I – Chemistry (31617HC)	90	90	56	38	20	10	0
Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I – Physics (31617HP)	90	90	56	38	20	10	0
Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills (31619H)	120	60	39	27	15	7	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Health and Social Care	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (31490H)	90	90	54	42	30	18	0
Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care (31491H)	120	80	46	35	24	13	0
Unit 3: Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care (31493H)	120	90	47	32	17	8	0
Unit 4: Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care (31494H)	120	65	39	28	18	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Horticulture	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Professional Working Responsibilities (20065K)	120	60	39	28	17	8	0
Unit 2: Plant and Soil Science (20066K)	120	80	51	35	20	10	0
Unit 3: Contemporary Issues in the Land-based Sectors (21321L)	120	64	47	32	18	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in IT	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 11: Cyber Security and Incident Management (20158K)	120	80	59	43	28	14	0
Unit 14: IT Service Delivery (20161K)	120	68	42	31	20	10	0
Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (31760H)	120	90	39	27	15	7	0
Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information (31761H)	90	66	42	30	18	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Marketing	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 2: Marketing Principles (50234N)	120	70	51	41	32	23	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Music Performance	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance (20175K)	120	80	63	48	33	18	0
Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry (20177K)	90	70	54	38	23	11	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Music Technology	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 7: Music Technology Enterprise Opportunities (31811H)	120	65	48	37	27	17	0
Unit 6: Music Technology Daw Production (31810H)	120	60	51	39	28	17	0
Unit 5: Music Technology in Context (31811H)	120	65	44	31	18	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Performing Arts	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners' Work (31555H)	90	60	41	31	21	11	0
Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop (31557H)	120	60	44	32	20	10	0
Unit 5: Individual Performance Commission (31559H)	120	60	48	37	27	17	0
Unit 7: Employment Opportunities in the Performing Arts (31561H)	120	60	42	30	19	9	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 22: Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry (21405J)	90	64	42	31	20	10	0
Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology (31524H)	120	80	63	47	31	15	0
Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-Being (31525H)	120	60	47	35	23	11	0
Unit 19: Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity (31542H)	120	60	53	40	28	16	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport and Exercise Science	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: Sport and Exercise Physiology (31813H)	120	70	50	37	24	12	0
Unit 2: Functional Anatomy (31814H)	90	60	48	36	24	12	0
Unit 3: Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology (31815H)	120	60	49	38	28	18	0
Unit 13: Nutrition for Sport and Exercise Performance (31824H)	120	50	43	35	28	21	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Travel and Tourism	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism (20207K)	90	75	38	30	23	16	0
Unit 2: Global Destinations (20208K)	120	60	38	30	23	16	0
Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism (W) (51103N)	90	75	38	30	23	16	0
Unit 2: Global Destinations (W) (51104N)	120	60	38	30	23	16	0

BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Uniformed Protective Services	GLH	Max Mark	D	M	P	N	U
Unit 2: Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Protective Services (40888M)	120	80	45	36	28	20	0
Unit 6: Government and the Protective Services (40892M)	90	70	41	33	25	17	0
Unit 2: Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Protective Services (W) (51105N)	120	80	45	36	28	20	0
Unit 6: Government and the Protective Services (W) (51106N)	90	70	41	33	25	17	0

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