

Pearson BTEC Entry Level 9-credit Award in Workskills (QCF)

Qualification number: 601/0691/8

Qualification overview

The Pearson BTEC Entry Level 9-credit Award in Workskills is a flexible qualification and the content can be adapted to the individual needs of the learner. There are no core units. All of the units are optional. The qualification is available to learners aged 14+, including adult learners. It is primarily designed for learners who are not currently in work, and who are undertaking short employability programmes. This includes two distinct groups:

- Those currently out of work who are looking to enter the workplace or a traineeship.
- Learners currently on other programmes, for example, a study programme at school or college.

There are no requirements of prior achievement for this qualification: it is open to everyone.

The Workskills qualifications are available in a variety of sizes, which allows employability programmes to be tailored to the needs of the individual. This enables learners to develop the skills they need while allowing them to enter the workplace, or their next step, in the time and at a pace that best suits their particular learning needs.

Primary outcome

The primary outcome of the Pearson BTEC Entry Level 9-credit Award in Workskills is to provide targeted support to help learners break down any barriers that are preventing them engaging in work. These barriers can include:

- The need for skills development to gain employment.
- A lack of confidence, and an inability to see how existing strengths and skills can be used to secure employment.

The Pearson BTEC Entry Level 9-credit Award in Workskills provides a programme which includes self assessment, support with job applications and the interview process, and skills to use at work, in order to support learners back into work.

What the qualification leads to

The Pearson BTEC Entry 3 9-credit Award in Workskills will enable learners to secure employment or a traineeship as generic skills will be developed and barriers to work broken down. It will also enable learners to progress to level 1 during their programme which will prepare learners to access a vocational qualification at that level.

Why a learner would take this qualification

There are a range of different sized qualifications available at Entry Level:

- Workskills Awards (at 3, 6 and 9 credits).

- Workskills Certificate (At 18 credits)

The range of sizes available mean the learner is able to choose a qualification which meets their individual employability skills needs, and gives them the best possible chance of re-entering the workplace.

Why take the Entry Level 9-credit Award?

The Entry Level 9-credit Award is suitable for learners who need a short programme of support to develop their employability skills in order to:

- Gain and stay in employment or a traineeship.
- Progress from Entry 3 to level 1.

Employment and traineeships

If an individual has been out of work for a while then they may need support in gaining employment or a traineeship, and with the skills needed to succeed at work or in a traineeship.

- The 9-credit Award has the potential for both aspects to be developed. This size Award can include self assessment, searching for a job, interview skills, applying for a job to gain employment but also solving work related problems, self management skills and money management.
- The smaller 6-credit Award will not be able to do this in the time available, it will concentrate on either gaining or succeeding at work.
- The Certificate-sized qualification on the other hand is appropriate for learners who need a wider range of employability skills to obtain and succeed at work and have the opportunity to undertake a longer programme.

Progression from Entry 3 to level 1

Learners are able to take level 1 units in the second half of their course. The programme can be designed to start with a core of units, perhaps amounting to 6 credits at Entry 3, to gain confidence before the remaining 3 credits are completed at level 1. The 6-credit Award is not sufficient to provide progression in this way.

Who supports the qualification?

The Pearson BTEC Entry Level 9-credit Award in Workskills is widely supported and it is used by a number of centres to support learners into employment. The following centres have indicated their support:

- Intraining
- Leicester College
- SPS Training Solutions