

Pearson BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Workskills (QCF)

Qualification Number: 600/2382/X

Qualification Overview

The qualification is flexible and the content can adapt to the individual needs of the learner. There is no core and 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 need a programme of significant length to enable them to enter or re enter the workplace. This includes one main group of individuals, people who have either been unemployed for a long period of time, or those who have significant barriers to re entering the workplace. There are no requirements of prior achievement for this qualification, it is open to everyone.

The primary outcome of the Pearson BTEC Diploma in Workskills is to **Break down barriers to engagement with work**

In terms of breaking down barriers to work the diploma-sized qualification works in three specific ways. Firstly it supports learners to break down the complex barriers that they have; secondly it supports learners to gain employment once they are ready and thirdly supports learners to succeed in the workplace in the longer term. The diploma-sized qualification allows for a programme of significant length that can cover all three areas.

Breaking down complex barriers – learners who have been out of work for some time will often need significant support to make them work ready. The workskills qualification allows for innovative programmes developing a wide range of skills for work, including practising team work and problem solving.

Gaining Employment – Once learners are ready to look for work they often require support to understand the strengths and skills that they have that will help them to gain employment. Therefore a diploma-sized programme will include self assessment, support with the job application and interview process to overcome this. There are two units included that help learners with interviews, which is often something that people find difficult, particularly those who are long term unemployed.

Succeeding in the Workplace – When the learner starts their new job they need to have the generic and transferable skills to perform with confidence in the workplace. The programme will therefore include positive attitudes at work, solving work-related problems, self-management skills, managing your health at work and money management to support the learner in preparation for the reality of being at work. Stable employment will also include future progression into different jobs. Therefore the learner can potentially develop leadership skills, numeracy and literacy and skills in customer relations to support this.

What the qualification leads to

The Pearson BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Workskills leads to learners being able to secure employment or an apprenticeship as generic skills have been developed and barriers to work broken down.

Why a learner would take this qualification

There are a range of different sized qualifications available at this level: Awards (3, 6 and 9 credits), a certificate, an extended certificate and a diploma. The range of sizes mean that the learner is able to access a qualification which meets their individual employability skills needs and gives the best possible chance of re-entering the workplace.

The diploma-sized qualification is suitable for a learner who requires a longer, substantial programme in order to break down their complex barriers to work. Most learners' needs are met by a smaller qualification, but there are some learners who require this level of input.

Who supports the qualification

The Pearson BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Workskills is a well used qualification by centres offering long programmes for the unemployed.

The following centres have indicated their support to the SFA to ensure that the qualification is funded:

Intraining
Foundation of Light
Sheffield College