

2015 Key Stage 4 performance tables: Inclusion of non-GCSE/iGCSE qualifications

Please note, this guidance applies to centres in England only

1st February 2013 (Version 2)

On 20th November 2012, the DfE published their approved list of non-GCSE qualifications that will count in school headline measures from 2015. This affects current Year 9 learners and Year 10s starting in September 2013

We have provided this initial set of FAQs to support you in answering some of the key questions you might have.

1. Where can I find the complete list of qualifications that will count in 2015 headline measures.

The complete list as published by the DfE on 20th November 2012 can be found on the DfE website at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/qualifications/otherqualifications/a00217137/14-16-performance-tables-2015>

2. I currently have Year 9 learners registered onto a QCF BTEC First in XXX. Now that I know that the equivalent next generation BTEC is going to count in 2015 headline measures I would like to transfer these learners over. How can I do this and is it going to cost me anything to do so?

The following table outlines the situation re: charges/refunds for centres looking to move between QCF and NQF qualifications.

		TRANSFERRING TO.....		
		NQF BTEC First Award 120GLH £47.15	NQF BTEC First Certificate 240GLH £77.00	NQF BTEC First Ext Cert 360GLH £101.50
TRANSFERRING FROM.....	QCF BTEC First Certificate 90GLH £47.15	Free transfer. No additional charges and no admin fee.	Invoice for balance will be raised. Standard admin fee.	Invoice for balance will be raised. Standard admin fee.
	QCF BTEC First Extended Certificate 180 GLH £77.00	Refund for balance minus the standard admin fee	Free transfer. No additional charges and no admin fee.	Invoice for balance will be raised. Standard admin fee.
	QCF BTEC Firsts Diploma 360 GLH £123.20	Refund for balance minus the standard admin fee.	Refund for balance and minus the standard admin fee	Refund for balance No admin fee.

- For advice on transfer and admin fees see the Vocational Price Guide 2012-13 at www.edexcel.com/2012vocationalfees.

If you require any additional support in making transfers, please contact our Service Operations team at serviceoperations@pearson.com

3. How do I know which size qualification to register my learners onto?

It is important that you register your learners on the size of qualification that best meets their needs in terms of ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum, and aiding progression to the next stage of their education.

Other important factors you will need to consider are the number, type and availability of external assessments, and available curriculum time. As a reminder, the different sizes are as follows:

NQF 'next generation' BTEC Firsts

Award (120glh) - includes 1 x 30glh externally assessed unit

Certificate (240glh) - includes 2 x 30glh externally assessed units

Extended Certificate (360glh) - includes 2 x 30glh externally assessed units

For centres where Headline Measures are important, please note that - whichever size you choose - listed qualifications will only count as 1 in Headline Measures.

4. When are the first external assessment windows for the next generation BTEC qualifications that are on the List?

Subject	Assessment opportunities	First external assessment	Teaching from	First External Assessment Type
Applied Science: Principles of Applied Science	November, March, June	June 2013	September 2012	1 hour paper-based exam
Applied Science: Application of Science	November, March, June	March 2014	September 2012	1 hour 15 mins paper-based exam
Health & Social Care	January & June	January 2014	September 2012	1 hour paper-based exam
I & CT	On demand	From June 2013, then on demand	September 2012	1 hour on-screen test, on demand
Engineering	On demand	From November 2013, then on demand	September 2012	1 hour on screen test, on demand
Construction	January and June	June 2014	January 2013 (tbc)	1 hour paper-based exam

Performing Arts	June	June 2013 (pre-release paper from Sept 2012)	September 2012	Pre-release paper; production of final outcomes under controlled conditions
Art & Design	June	June 2013 (task available from January 2013)	September 2012	Moderation visit
Creative Digital Media Production	January and June	June 2014	Jan 2013 (tbc)	1 hour paper-based exam
Music (First Award)	January and June	June 2014	Jan 2013 (tbc)	1 hour paper-based exam
Sport	On demand	From June 2013, then on demand	September 2012	1 hour on screen test, on demand
Business	On demand	From November 2013, then on demand	September 2012	1 hour on screen test, on demand
Hospitality	January and June	June 2014	Jan 2013 (tbc)	1 hour 15 mins paper-based exam
Travel & Tourism	January and June	June 2014	Jan 2013 (tbc)	1 hour paper-based exam
CPLD (First Award)	January and June	June 2014	Jan 2013 (tbc)	1 hour paper-based exam

Please note:

- All the initial windows above refer to the associated 'Award-sized' external assessment. The larger sizes (Cert/Ext Cert) will have a second external assessment that will have a different (later) first assessment date.
- The original proposed start date for the highlighted qualifications was September 2013, however in response to customer queries, and following the List publication we are looking to try and bring this start date forward to 1st January 2013 (see Q12 below)
- These are Level 1/2 qualifications developed for Level 2 learners, and we would ask you to consider their appropriateness for your Year 9s when registering - in particular, when they are likely to be ready for the external assessments.

5. Are there any options on this List that would mean my learners wouldn't have to take an external assessment?

No. A pre-requisite for any non-GCSE qualification to be considered for headline measures recognition is that it contains external assessment of the qualification's content (between 17 and 20% of the content will be assessed this way depending on the size of the qualification). This doesn't necessarily mean an exam however, as the assessment type has been selected to best suit the subject and content. See response to Question 4 above for details of the individual assessment types.

6. If I have Year 9 learners already working on a QCF BTEC in X and want to transfer them to this new qualification will their completed internal assessments still be valid?

We regret that this is not possible. However, it is possible that elements of the work undertaken for the QCF BTECs might constitute valid evidence for part of the new qualification, although in this case the work would need to be re-assessed against the new criteria. If you have any further queries on this you may wish to speak to your Regional Quality Manager who will be able to advise further.

7. I have been waiting for this List to publish before registering my Year 9 learners onto anything. I know that you have a late fees policy. Am I going to incur charges if I register now?

Through our conversations with centres during the registration period this year, we've become aware of a number of issues making it difficult for schools to make their entries. In view of this, we will be waiving late fees on any registrations made between 1st November and 23rd December 2012 for the following:

- All BTEC Level 2 First (QCF) qualifications
- All next generation BTEC First (NQF) qualifications
- All sizes of Digital Applications qualifications (AiDA, CiDA, CiDA+, DiDA), including the next generation CiDA.

We have also recently (30th November) extended this waiver to include:

- All Level 1 qualifications that are on the 2015 headline measures list

This basically means that any of our qualifications on the 2015 headline measures list carries a waiver of late fees on any registrations before 23rd December 2012.

8. I am currently teaching my Year 9s the next generation BTEC in XY, and was planning on registering them in September 2013. Is there any benefit to me registering them now?

Yes. By registering now you will:

- Be allocated your Standards Verifier and be included in all our critical Quality and Assessment processes and communications.
- Have access to all the support offered alongside the next generation BTEC Firsts.

We would strongly recommend that if you are already teaching the qualification you register your learners as soon as possible so that you have access to the full Quality and Assessment processes and support.

9. Why are there QCF BTEC Level 1 Certificate qualifications on the List, that don't meet the size criteria (minimum 120 GLH)?

In their technical guidance for the 2015 headline measures list the DfE specified that a Qualification is eligible for inclusion if:

- The qualification is at Level 1 and has a direct link to a Level 2 qualification that will be included in the 2015 performance tables.

10. In which performance tables are learners' achievements recognised, and therefore which List should I be referring to?

Learners' achievements are recognised in the performance tables for the academic year in which they turn 16 (not in the year in which they complete the qualification). You may find the table below helpful in clarifying this.

	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Start Sept 2012 (Now)	2015 perf tables (2015 HM List published Nov 2012)	2014 perf tables (2014 HM List published March 2012)	2013 perf tables (No List – last year of existing measures)
Start Sept 2013 (Next year)	2016 perf tables (2016 HM List due Nov 2013)	2015 perf tables (2015 HM List published Nov 2012)	2014 perf tables (2014 HM List published March 2012)

11. What is the relationship of this List to the 2014 List? How often is the headline measures List updated?

Each List stands alone and schools should always refer to the one that applies to the end of the academic year in which their learners turn 16. Following the publication of the first list in March 2012 (relating to the 2014 performance tables) the DfE committed to publishing these annually, in November. This means

2015 headline measures List: published in November 2012

2016 headline measures List: publishing in November 2013

12. When can I start transferring/registering my Year 9 learners onto the Phase 2 next generation BTEC Firsts (Construction; Creative digital media production; Music; Hospitality; Travel & Tourism; CPLD) that are on the List.

We are currently working with Ofqual to change the start date of these qualifications from the original one proposed (September 2013) to 1st January 2013. Once approval for this is in place, centres will be able to make registrations against these qualifications. They will also be able to implement transfers from related QCF qualifications too (please refer to Qus 2 and 6 above). However because we are bringing forward the start date

for these qualifications to respond to customer need, it is important that you are aware that we won't have the full support package in place for all these qualifications from Day One.

As soon as Ofqual have approved this start date amendment we will let you know.