

Questions and Answers: BTEC 2012 for Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland

On 31st January 2012 the DfE published the *Key Stage 4 performance tables: Inclusion of 14-16 Qualifications from 2014*. This confirmed the list of non-GCSE qualifications that will count in school headline measures from 2014.

To help you understand the implications of this for you and your learners we have collated some common questions we have received, specifically in regard to Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, with their answers.

1: Should schools and colleges in Wales switch to the new Level 2 BTECs, or continue to deliver the existing QCF, 2010 Level 2 BTECs?

A: Schools and colleges in Wales can either switch to the new 2012 NQF BTECs, or continue to deliver the existing 2010 QCF BTECs. Initially there will be no Welsh language option for the 2012 BTECs. If centres want a Welsh language option they should offer the 2010 versions. We will make Welsh language options available for the new BTECs, should the demand prove large enough.

2: Should schools and colleges in Northern Ireland switch to the new Level 2 BTECs, or continue to deliver the existing QCF, 2010 Level 2 BTECs?

A: Schools and colleges in Northern Ireland may continue to use the existing QCF, 2010 BTECs as an appropriate vocational qualification to meet the Entitlement Framework. Currently at Level 2 both the Extended Certificate and Diploma fit the minimum GLH, and at Level 3 the Subsidiary Diploma, Diploma and Extended Diploma fit. Schools may seek guidance from DENI directly regarding the eligibility of our Level 1 qualifications.

3: Should schools and colleges in Scotland switch to the new Level 2 BTECs, or continue to deliver the existing QCF, 2010 Level 2 BTECs?

A: Colleges in Scotland can either switch to the new 2012 NQF BTECs, or continue to deliver the existing 2010 QCF BTECs.