

Key Stage 4 performance tables: Inclusion of 14-16 Qualifications from 2014.

Please note, this guidance applies to centres in England only

Questions and Answers

On 16th March 2012, the DfE published an update to their approved list of non-GCSE qualifications that will count in school headline measures from 2014.

For ease of reference we have listed below all the BTEC qualifications that are included. We have also provided some specific questions and answers around our new next generation qualifications and the 2014 headline measures inclusion to help support your planning for September 2012 and beyond.

Qualifications for level 2 learners	Qualifications for level 1 learners
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Applied Science (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Applied Science (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Applied Science (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Applied Science (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Art and Design (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Art and Design (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Art and Design (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Art and Design (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Business (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Business Administration (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Business (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Business Administration (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Construction (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Construction (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Construction (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Construction (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Creative Media Production (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Creative Media Production (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Creative Media Production (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Creative Media Production (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Engineering (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Engineering (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Engineering (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Engineering (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Health and Social Care (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Hospitality (QCF)*	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Introduction to the Travel and Tourism Industry (QCF)

Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in IT (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Introduction to the Travel and Tourism Industry (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in IT (QCF)	
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Music (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Performing Arts (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Music (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Performing Arts (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Certificate in Sport and Active Leisure (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts (QCF)	Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure (QCF)
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Sport (QCF)	
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Sport (QCF)	
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism (QCF)	
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Travel and Tourism (QCF)	
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 First Certificate in Children's Care, Learning and Development	
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1. The next generation BTEC First Awards were all accredited by Ofqual at the beginning of March. Can you confirm which have been approved for 2014 headline measures inclusion?

Included:

BTEC First Award in Applied Science: Principles of Science (120glh)

BTEC First Award in Applied Science: Application of Science (120glh)

BTEC First Award in Performing Arts (120glh)

Not Included:

BTEC First Award in Art and Design (120glh)

BTEC First Award in Business (120glh)

BTEC First Award in Engineering (120glh)

BTEC First Award in Health and Social Care (120glh)

BTEC First Award in Information and Creative Technology (120glh)

BTEC First Award in Sport (120glh)

2. Why aren't all the accredited next generation BTEC qualifications on the 2014 headline measures list?

These new qualifications have all been accredited by Ofqual. In addition, they meet all the characteristics required of high quality vocational qualifications for 14-16 year olds under the guidance laid down by the Wolf Report. They have also been enthusiastically received by hundreds of you attending our recent launch events.

We were therefore surprised not to see them on the updated list.

We believe this to be a result of a technicality and we are in active discussions with the DfE as to how this can be resolved as quickly as possible. We won't know the outcome of these discussions for a couple of weeks, but in the meantime want to stress that you still have a number of options to deliver BTEC qualifications and get them recognised appropriately in the 2014 headline measures and performance tables generally. (See list above and Question 12 below).

3. Are you appealing the decision, and if so, when will you know if the appeal has been successful?

Yes, we are appealing the decision - in all 6 cases. We are in discussion with the DfE about how the appeals process will work and would expect to hear news after Easter. However what they have made clear is that there will be no further revisions to the 2014 headline measures list. That is now closed. Any successful appeal would result in the addition of these qualifications to the next list.

4. Will all the next generation BTEC Awards not approved on the 2014 headline measures list get onto the next list?

We are confident that this will be the case, however this is subject to our appeal and ongoing discussions with the DfE so we cannot confirm this unequivocally at this time. We will update you as soon as we hear the outcome of our appeal. We expect this to be after Easter.

5. What does this mean for BTECs going forward?

BTEC is the most widely represented qualification on the 2014 headline measures list and we've had 9 next generation qualifications accredited by Ofqual – significantly more than any other Awarding Organisation. This clearly indicates their importance in a broad and balanced curriculum at KS4. The 3 next generation BTEC Awards that are on the list also highlight broad approval by the DfE of the changes we have made in redeveloping the next generation qualifications. The absence of the remaining 6 qualifications should not be taken out of context – as mentioned above, it is we believe down to a technicality and one which we have already addressed. We remain optimistic that the appeals process will enable us to get these onto the next list.

In the meantime, centres are still able to choose BTECs in non-listed subjects for their 2012 starters, since all QCF BTECs remain deliverable in schools, with the 180glh Extended Certificates and 360glh Diplomas confirmed as counting for headline measures in the majority of subjects for 2014.

For Applied Science and Performing Arts

6. We are planning to offer BTEC Applied Science in September 2012, do you advise us moving over to the next generation BTEC First Award (NQF), or should we continue for another year on the QCF qualifications?

As ever, this depends on each centre's individual circumstances. Many of you will have two slots for science in the timetable and so, if headline measures recognition is important, you can transition to delivering two BTEC NG Awards from September 2012. This also allows you to consider running a set of pathways, each of which should ensure full access to recognition in headline measures 2 or 3 GCSEs in Sciences (for academic learners looking at completing EBacc subjects)

- GCSE Science Y10 and Application of Science Y11 (for learners wishing to move to vocational learning during Key Stage 4)
- GCSE Science Y10 and then Principles of Applied Science Y11 (for learners who need to be re-engaged in learning the key stage 4 programme of study)
- Principles of Applied Science Y10 followed by Application of Science Y11 (for learners where vocational learning is clearly appropriate from the beginning of Year 10)

For those where short term planning or budget restraints are an issue, our advice would be to continue to deliver the QCF BTEC Extended Certificate (180 GLH) or Diploma. These will be recognised as '1' in 2014 headline measures and are still a very good grounding in vocational applied science.

Centres considering using Principles of Applied Science in Year 9 before choosing vocational or academic pathways for students in Year 10 will need to ensure the student in Year 9 is mature enough to perform well in an exam.

7. We are planning to offer BTEC Performing Arts in September 2012, do you advise us moving over to the next generation BTEC First Award (NQF), or should we continue for another year on the QCF qualifications?

This depends on each centre's individual circumstances. For those of you where headline measures recognition is important, and timetable congestion is a particular issue, our advice would be to

transition to the next generation BTEC First Award (120 GLH) from September 2012. For those who would prefer taking longer over the transition and can find ways of accommodating a slightly larger qualification, our advice would be to deliver the QCF BTEC Extended Certificate (180 GLH) from September 2012.

8. When can we start transitioning our current Year 9 learners to the new BTEC First Awards? What do we need to do to transition and will there be additional costs?

Centres can transition their current Year 9 learners onto the new BTEC Awards in Applied Science and Performing Arts from April 1 2012. We are making it as easy as possible for customers to do this; tailored instructions are currently in development and will be posted on our website by the 1st April. If you are moving your learners from a current 90 GLH QCF Qualification to the 120 GLH next generation BTEC First Award we can confirm there will be no additional charges.

9. For Applied Science, will Principles and Application count as '2' in 2014 headline measures?

We are still seeking clarification from the DfE on this, however it has been indicated that this should follow the same rules as GCSEs, which would mean they would count as '2'.

10. What support will be available to help us transition from the current QCF qualifications to the next generation NQF qualifications?

We are currently producing detailed content matching charts which should be available at the end of March. They will go up onto our website as soon as they are completed. In addition, following our launch events this term, our free training programme for the next generation BTEC qualifications starts after Easter. Please visit our website to book your place as soon as possible [insert link].

11. When do we expect the specifications for the larger sizes of these qualifications to be accredited?

We aim to submit the Performing Arts Extended Certificate (240 GLH) and Diploma (360 GLH), and Applied Science Diploma (360 GLH) to Ofqual by the end of March, and the draft specifications will go online as soon after that as possible. Based on Ofqual's agreed accreditation timelines we would anticipate hearing about accreditation by the end of May and will of course keep you posted on this.

[For Art & Design, Business, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Information & Creative Technology and Sport](#)

12. What are the options for our centres that were planning to teach the next generation BTEC Awards in one of the unlisted 6 subject areas from September 2012?

The full range of QCF BTECs, in all sizes, remains deliverable in schools from September 2012. For centres where headline measures recognition is important Level 2 BTECs in 14 subjects and up to 2 sizes are on the 2014 headline measures list published by the DfE on 16th March. Obviously centres who choose to teach the larger sized qualifications from September are continuing with a qualification for which they already have the administration and planning in place. This may also be a preferable solution for those who would prefer more time to make the transition to the new qualifications.

We anticipate that all the accredited next generation BTEC First Awards will go onto Section 96 and be deliverable in schools from September 2012, however these will not be recognised in headline measures in 2014.

13. What are the options for centres with Year 9 starters planned on one of the unlisted subject areas from September 2012.

We anticipate that, following our appeal, we will be able to confirm that these 6 next generation qualifications are included on the 2015 List. In this case all Year 9s starting in Sept 2012 (whose achievements will be recognised in 2015) will be able to take the new qualifications and their achievements will count in 2015 headline measures.

14. If centres want to start teaching these qualifications from September 2012, regardless of the List situation, can they?

We anticipate that all the accredited next generation BTEC First Awards will go onto Section 96 and be deliverable in schools from September 2012. This means that schools will be able to deliver them regardless of whether they are on the 2014 headline measures list.

Other questions

15. What is the status of the DiDA suite of qualifications? Are you resubmitting for accreditation?

Yes we are. DiDA remains an important part of our vocational offering in schools. The current DiDA and CiDA qualifications are on the 2014 headline measures list. We are re-developing the successor qualifications and hope to have these accredited and ready for first teaching by September 2012.

16. When will section 96 be re-opened?

We have been given no official notice of this. What the DfE have said is that they are committed to opening up Section 96, and the latest indication we have been given is that this will be addressed after Easter.

We anticipate that our new qualifications will be added to section 96 as soon as it is unfrozen.

17. Have the DfE confirmed how non-GCSE qualifications will be counted in wider performance measures?

We have raised the issue of wider performance measures, and in particular the 'Best 8' measure, with DfE and they have committed to addressing this.

To confirm, Question 11 in the DfE FAQs around this recent List publication reads:

"A maximum of two qualifications which are not full course GCSEs, established iGCSEs and AS levels will count for pupils in the 5A-C including English and Maths headline measure.*

We are currently reviewing how non-GCSE/iGCSE qualifications will count towards other performance measures."

18. Will this latest news have any impact on the Phase 2 BTEC redevelopment plans?

We are delighted to say that we have won our appeal for Hospitality (360 GLH Diploma) which has been added to the 2014 headline measures list and as a result will now be added to the Phase 2

development list. We also won our appeal for Childcare, and the BTEC Level 2 First Extended Certificate in CCLD is now on the List.

This means currently our Phase 2 next generation subjects are: Childcare, Construction, Creative Media & Production, Hospitality & Catering, Music, Travel & Tourism. In these areas we are developing Next Generation qualifications for first teaching in September 2013.