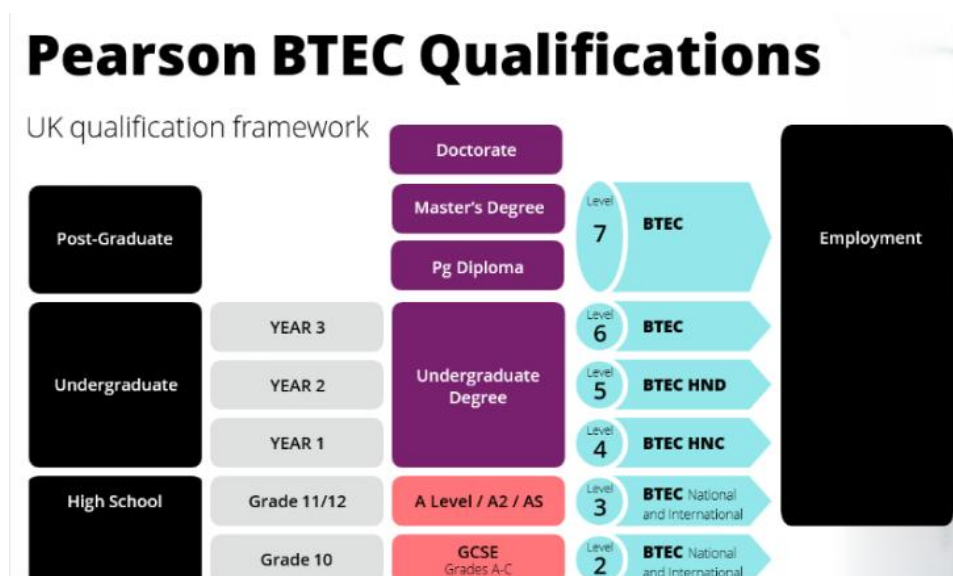


## BTEC qualifications

### To Whom It May Concern

This document outlines the positioning and equivalency of Pearson BTEC National and International Level 3 qualifications.

Pearson BTEC qualifications are developed by a combination of education academics, industry professional and subject matter experts. They are studied by over one-million learners each year, across seven levels of learning, and support graduates in progressing to higher education and into employment.



Pearson is the UK's largest awarding organisation and we are regulated by government agencies across the United Kingdom including the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) (England), CCEA (Northern Ireland) and Qualifications Wales (Wales). Pearson has a mandate to create fit for purpose vocational qualifications under the name BTEC, that meet the above agencies requirements to access learner funding, and these are developed by a combination of education academics, industry professional and subject matter experts.

## BTEC National and International Level 3 qualifications

BTEC National and International Level 3 qualifications are typically taken by learners aged 16–19 and are commonly used as credentials for entry into tertiary education around the globe. Candidates with these qualifications appear in over a quarter of university admitted applications in the UK. In addition, universities around the world recognise BTEC qualifications for entry into an undergraduate degree.

The BTEC Level 3 National is available for learners studying within the UK, exclusively, whereas the BTEC Level 3 International is available in over 50 countries outside of the UK. Those that have informed Pearson of their recognition of the BTEC International Level 3 can be found on our published [BTEC International Recognition List](#).

BTEC Level 3 National qualifications are regulated by the Ofqual and have been developed and accredited on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). BTEC International Level 3 qualifications are self-regulated by Pearson and are comparable to BTEC National Level 3 qualification standard, with similar content to the BTEC National embodied within the qualification. Comparability between the 2 qualifications has been [benchmarked and confirmed](#) by the UK's designated credential evaluator, UK ENIC. This confirms the BTEC International Level 3 alignment to Level 3 on the RQF. **The EQF – European Qualifications Framework** – is an overarching qualifications framework and a tool to help understand and compare qualifications awarded across different countries and systems within and beyond Europe. BTEC Level 3 qualifications were identified as being equivalent to Level 4 on the EQF.

EQF	SCQF	RQF	CQFW
8	12	8	8
7	11	7	7
6	10/9	6	6
5	8/7	5/4	5/4
4	6	3	3
3	5	2	2

As an Ofqual regulated awarding organisation with decades of experience in qualification development, Pearson implements robust quality measures on all centres, to maintain standards of delivery and assessment. Pearson also uses the same methodologies and quality assurance process to adapt our BTEC qualifications for international learners to access these benchmarked and recognised qualifications through the BTEC International suite, at the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) Levels 2 and 3.

### Grading, Sizes and Equivalence Level 3:

BTEC Level 3 qualifications are available in 5 sizes. The table below displays how many Guided Learning Hours (GLH) are attributed to each size as well as an equivalence against International Advanced Level qualifications:

BTEC sizes	Equivalent International A level sizes
Certificate (180 GLH*)	International Advanced Subsidiary
Subsidiary Diploma (360 GLH)	International A level
Foundation Diploma (540 GLH)	International A level + International Advanced Subsidiary
Diploma (720 GLH)	2 International A levels
Extended Diploma (1080 GLH)	3 International A levels

It is not uncommon for learners to present a combination of smaller BTEC Level 3 qualifications and A Levels when applying to university. Learners may also choose to study multiple smaller BTEC Level 3 qualifications, diversifying their subject knowledge. The Table below: [BTEC and UCAS points | Pearson qualifications](#), shows the number of UCAS tariff-points Level 3 BTEC Nationals that will be awarded on applications for 2017 submissions onwards. The updated BTEC Nationals (AAQ) have the same UCAS points allocated as the existing BTEC Nationals (RQF).

In applications submitted for 2017 admissions onwards, the Level 3 BTEC Nationals will qualify for the following UCAS tariff points.

Extended Diploma	Diploma	Foundation Diploma	Extended Certificate	Certificate	AS level	A level	UCAS tariff points
D*D*D*							168
D*D*D							160
D*DD							152
DDD							144
DDM							128
DMM	D*D*						112
	D*D						104
MMM	DD						96
		D*					84
MMP	DM						80
		D					78
							72
MPP	MM						64
			D*			A*	56
PPP	MP	M	D			A	48
						B	40
	PP		M			C	32
				D*			28
		P		D		D	24
						A	20
			P	M	B	E	16
					C		12
					D		10
				P			8
					E		6

I hope this explanation assists in clarifying the equivalency and positioning of Pearson BTEC International qualification. If you would like further information or clarification, please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Yours sincerely,

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