

BTEC International Level 3 Diploma (720 GLH) in Horticulture: Sample Delivery Plan

Audience

This document is aimed at supporting tutors and those delivering BTEC International Level 3 qualifications from April 2020.

Introduction

Clear unit planning and understanding of key deadlines are essential for a successful delivery programme. We have produced a sample delivery plan showing how the BTEC International Level 3 Diploma in Horticulture could be delivered over two years, highlighting assessment milestones and indicating where you can teach units holistically.

Key sections

The document focuses on key dates to plan around and an example of how the Extended Diploma can be structured, set out in the three sections below.

Section 1: Guide to key dates

Setting out the key activities and requirements for course delivery alongside dates and links to further information.

Section 2: Sample two-year plan – delivery chart

A chart setting out the key deliverables against chosen units.

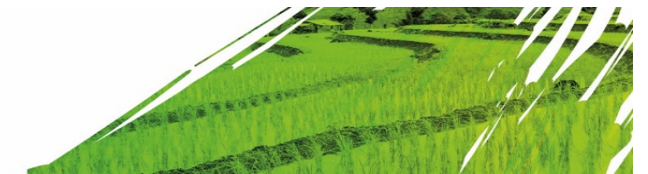
Section 3: Sample two-year plan – detailed rationale

An in-depth rationale and explanation as to how the suggested plan was structured.

Further support can be found within the relevant specification on Pearson’s website (<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-international-level-3/land-based.html>).

Below is an overview of how wider support also links to this document.

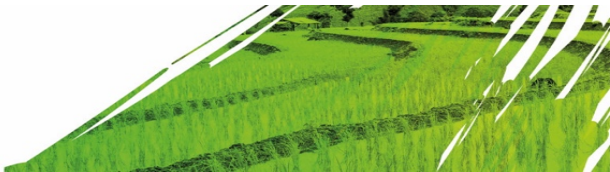
Support	Purpose
Delivery Guides	A companion to your BTEC International Level 3 specification and Authorised Assignment Briefs (AABs) and Sample Pearson Set Assignments. It contains ideas for teaching and learning, including practical activities, realistic scenarios, ways of involving employers in delivery, ways of managing independent learning and how to approach assessments. The aim of these guides is to show how the specification content might work in practice and to inspire you to start thinking about different ways to deliver your course.
Authorised Assignment Briefs	Provides scenarios and teaching plans for each unit, to be used either as they are set out, or to inform your own planning.
Schemes of Work	Demonstrates how the unit content can be covered in the GLH while providing lesson ideas and highlighting links to other units to help you plan your teaching.



Section 1: Guide to key dates

Setting out the key activities' order and requirements for course delivery alongside links to further information.

Action	Description	Resource/reference
Assessment plan(s)	An assessment plan(s) must be in place to demonstrate that sufficient time is available to deliver and assess all the required units in a timely manner. More than one plan may be required if there are different groups working at different speeds.	Assessment plans are available on the Pearson website. Please note that all units are internally assessed. For a small proportion of units Pearson sets the assignment and these are also internally assessed. Pearson Set Assignments will be available from October of the year of assessment and can be taken at any point in that year.
Assignment briefs	Assignment briefs should be internally verified to ensure they are fit for purpose and that the equipment, resources and staff expertise will be available. This is not required for Pearson Set Assignment units.	Authorised Assignment Briefs are available on our website.
Learner induction	A short period of induction is strongly recommended to ensure learners are familiar with the programme and its requirements. Plagiarism, referencing, time management skills, the importance of meeting deadlines and centre policies should be covered.	
Register your learners	Learner registrations need to be made by the deadlines on our website. This will trigger the allocation of a Standards Verifier and support for your centre.	Edexcel Online
Allocation of Standards Verifier	The Standards Verifier needs to see the assessment plan(s) and will agree a sampling schedule with the centre. They are available to provide support and guidance.	The details of the Standards Verifier will be emailed to the Quality Nominee at the centre. Please ensure the Quality Nominee details registered with Pearson are accurate.
Internally assessed unit completed	The internally assessed unit(s) needs to have been sampled and reported prior to the end of teaching for the year.	A guide to internal assessments is available on our website.
Second sampling completed	Second sampling of internally assessed units that were not released for certification must be complete by the end of the teaching for the year.	



Section 2: Sample two-year plan – delivery chart

This plan is intended to be used as guidance.

Key

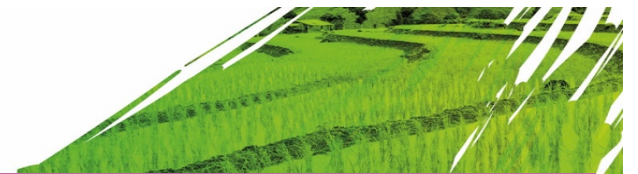
LA = Learning aim

SET = Pearson Set Assignment

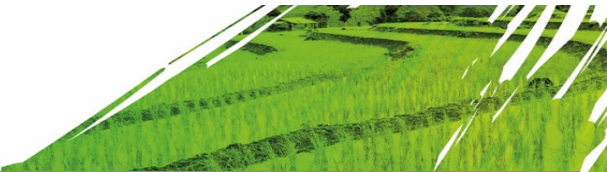
INT = Internal assessment

SA = Summative assessment

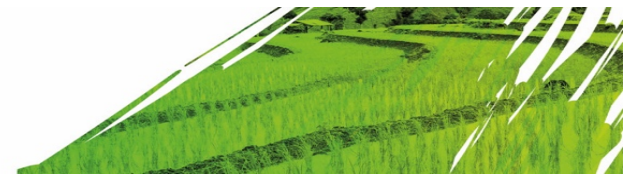
				YEAR 1 TERM 1												
Unit	Unit title	Guided learning hours	Assessment method	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Plant and Soil Science	60	INT SET													
		4 hours per week														
27	Identification, Planting and Care of Plants	60	INT													
		4 hours per week														
3	Understanding Environmental Management	60	INT SET													
		4 hours per week														
				YEAR 1 TERM 2												
Unit	Unit title	Guided learning hours	Assessment method	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1	Plant and Soil Science	60	INT SET	SA	SA											
		4 hours per week to week 15														



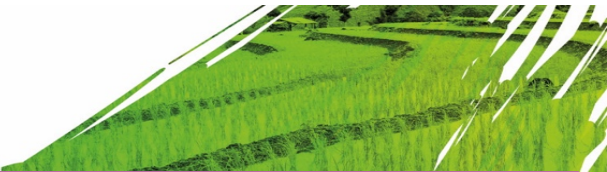
27	Identification, Planting and Care of Plants	60	INT	SA	SA											
		4 hours per week to week 15														
3	Understanding Environmental Management	60	INT SET	SA	SA											
		4 hours per week to week 15														
38	Protected Horticultural Crop Production	60	INT													
		4 hours a week from week 16														
39	Outdoor Horticultural Crop Production	60	INT													
		4 hours per week from week 16														
28	Routine Plant Management	60	INT													
		4 hours per week from week 16														
				YEAR 1 TERM 3												
Unit	Unit title	Guided learning hours	Assessment method	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
38	Protected Horticultural Crop Production	60	INT			SA	SA									
		4 hours per week														
39	Outdoor Horticultural Crop Production	60	INT			SA	SA									
		4 hours per week														



28	Routine Plant Management	60	INT			SA	SA									
		4 hours per week														

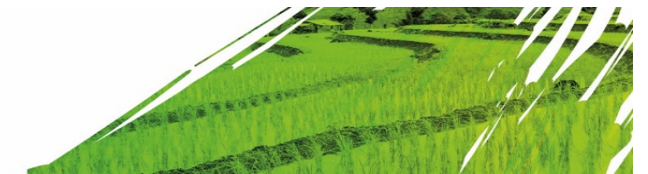


				YEAR 2 TERM 1												
Unit	Unit title	Guided learning hours	Assessment method	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5	Operational and Environmental Activities in Land-based Enterprises	60	INT SET													
		4 hours per week														
2	Estate Skills	60	INT													
		4 hours per week														
6	Land-based Business Improvements	60	INT SET													
		4 hours per week														
				YEAR 2 TERM 2												
Unit	Unit title	Guided learning hours	Assessment method	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	Operational and Environmental Activities in Land-based Enterprises	60	INT SET	SA	SA											
		4 hours per week to week 15														
2	Estate Skills	60	INT	SA	SA											
		4 hours per week to week 15														



6	Land-based Business Improvements	60	INT SET	SA	SA											
		4 hours per week to week 15														
4	Developing a Land-based Enterprise	60	INT SET													
		4 hours per week from week 16														
33	Pests and Disease in Plants	60	INT													
		4 hours per week from week 16														
29	Plant Propagation Activities	60	INT													
		4 hours per week from week 16														

				YEAR 2 TERM 3												
Unit	Unit title	Guided learning hours	Assessment method	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
4	Developing a Land-based Enterprise	60	INT SET			SA	SA									
		4 hours per week														
33	Pests and Disease in Plants	60	INT			SA	SA									
		4 hours per week														
29	Plant Propagation Activities	60	INT			SA	SA									
		4 hours per week														



Section 3: Sample two-year plan – detailed rationale

Overview

The International Level 3 Land-based suite of qualifications includes Horticulture, Land-based subjects and Agriculture. The programme suggested gives considerable flexibility by selecting units that are common to all three subjects. This means centres could offer learners the opportunity to follow common units for the first term before specialising in Horticulture for the remainder of the programme. The Horticulture units chosen also provide flexibility by selecting units that are common to the Foundation Diploma, Diploma and Extended Diploma in Horticulture. This means learners can achieve a full qualification over one or two years according to their abilities.

The Level 3 Diploma in Horticulture suggests 720 guided learning hours (GLH) and comprises six mandatory units, and at least five optional units. Five of the mandatory units are internally assessed using a Pearson Set Assignment and one using a centre-designed assignment or the Authorised Assignment Brief for the unit. The optional units are all internally assessed via centre-designed assignments or the Authorised Assignment Briefs.

The qualification structure identifies the mandatory and optional units and this information is also listed in the qualification specification. To achieve any qualification grade, learners must complete and have an outcome (D, M, P or U) for all units within a valid combination for the size of the award. For the Diploma in Horticulture, learners must pass all mandatory units along with 360 GLH from the optional units. This means that learners could attain a U grade in one of the optional units and still achieve a passing grade overall depending on their other results. Please see page 585 of the specification for more details about compensation and grading.

The sample delivery plan is based on the qualification being delivered over two years, with lesson times totalling 12 hours per week; 30 weeks per year ($360 \text{ GLH} \times 2 = 720 \text{ GLH}$).

If your centre is subject to Standards Verification, your Standards Verifier will confirm sampling arrangements with you in order to meet the first sampling deadline of the end of May. The sample delivery plan ensures that most of the mandatory units will be undertaken in the first half of the course ensuring they will be available for sampling. All other units will be completed in time for the end of June, which is the second sampling deadline (should this be required). It is important that you have at least one completed unit ready for Standards Verification to take place by the end of May.

Involving employers in the assessment/delivery

There is no compulsory requirement for a work experience placement within the qualification. All units lend themselves to a range of horticulture industry employer involvement, for example, in the form of an educational visit, guest speaker, focus group or case study. There is an optional work experience unit available for the Diploma and Extended Diploma Qualifications in Horticulture and Agriculture.

Which units are assessed by Pearson Set Assignments?

Units 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be assessed by Pearson Set Assignment. The assignments will be available from October. The assignment can be taken at any time in the year. The evidence can be resubmitted once. Any resit student must resit a new assignment.

Mandatory units

Unit 1: Plant and Soil Science – learners will develop knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of plants and soils together with factors that influence their development.

Unit 2: Estate Skills – learners will understand and carry out a range of estate skills and develop their ability to manage a workforce in undertaking practical tasks.

Unit 3: Understanding Environmental Management – learners will develop the knowledge and skills needed to interpret management of landscapes and the environment and the factors that affect this.

Unit 4: Developing a Land-based Enterprise – learners will develop the skills that allow them to plan for a start-up business, including market research and financial viability for small-scale enterprises.

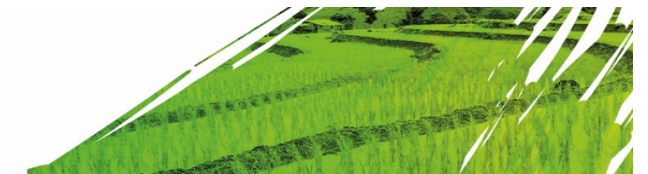
Unit 5: Operational and Environmental Activities in Land-based Enterprises – learners will develop the skills and knowledge required to carry out day-to-day operational and environmental activities.

Unit 6: Land-Based Business Improvements – learners will examine the impact of landscape on land-based businesses and the opportunities this presents for improvement or diversification.

With the exception of *Unit 5: Operational and Environmental Activities in Land-based Enterprises*, all the mandatory units are common to the Foundation Diplomas, Diplomas and Extended Diplomas in Horticulture and Agriculture. Within the Land-based Subjects qualifications they are also available as optional units. This will give you considerable flexibility when developing programmes as learners could be combined into programmes across different qualifications.

Suggestions for which units to teach in Year 1

Unit 1: Plant and Soil Science – this is a mandatory unit that is assessed internally using a Pearson Set Assignment. The unit can be delivered for four hours per week for 15 weeks and delivery should include the internal assessment activities. This will ensure that you have a mandatory unit assessed via a Pearson Set Assignment completed for Standards Verification.



Unit 3: Understanding Environmental Management – this is a mandatory unit that is assessed internally using a Pearson Set Assignment. Delivery can start in term two and the unit is allocated four hours per week. Learners should experience a variety of landscapes or habitats and tutors should give consideration to blocking time to allow for fieldwork although the unit can be completed through research and classroom activities. Extreme weather events could be studied through case studies.

Unit 27: Identification, Planting and Care of Plants – this optional unit is internally assessed using a centre-devised assignment or by using the Authorised Assignment Brief for this unit. It underpins much of the learning for the qualification and is ideally delivered early in the course. Although an optional unit, it is common to both Land-based Subjects and Horticulture routes of learning. Its inclusion can give flexibility to the programmes you offer, as in Horticulture it is an option which is available for all three sizes of qualification.

Unit 38: Protected Horticultural Crop Production – this optional unit is internally assessed using a centre-devised assignment or by using the Authorised Assignment Brief for this unit. This unit can be scheduled for delivery in the first year as, together with *Unit 39: Outdoor Horticultural Crop Production*, it offers a good overview of the range of horticultural activities. Its inclusion will give flexibility to the programmes you may offer, as it is an option available for all three sizes of Horticulture qualification. In addition, it acts as an optional unit within the Land-based Subjects qualifications, which may be useful for land-based learners who decide to progress into Horticulture.

Unit 39: Outdoor Horticultural Crop Production – this optional unit is internally assessed using a centre-devised assignment or by using the Authorised Assignment Brief for this unit. This unit can be scheduled for delivery for four hours per week across 30 weeks. This unit has been scheduled for delivery in the first year as, together with *Unit 38: Protected Horticultural Crop Production*, it offers a good overview of the range of Horticultural activities. Its inclusion will give flexibility to the programmes you may offer, as it is an option available for all three Horticulture qualifications. In addition, it is an optional unit within the Land-based Subjects qualifications which may be useful for land-based learners wishing to progress into horticulture.

Unit 28: Routine Plant Management – this optional unit is internally assessed using a centre-devised assignment or using the Authorised Assignment Brief for this unit. This unit can be scheduled for delivery in Year 1 and complements *Unit 38: Protected Horticultural Crop Production* and *Unit 39: Outdoor Horticultural Crop Production*. It is a common optional unit for all three sizes of Horticulture qualification and the Land-based Subjects Subsidiary Diploma giving flexibility to the programmes you may offer.

Suggestions for which units to teach in Year 2

Unit 5: Operational and Environmental Activities in Land-based Enterprises – this is a mandatory unit that is assessed internally using a Pearson Set Assignment. This unit is ideally delivered in the second year of a two-year programme, after which learners have developed their knowledge of horticultural operations and will have carried out, or have been introduced to, some of the principles covered in this unit and in other units taken. Also, the unit is only available for the Diploma and Extended Diploma sizes of qualification, both of which are typically to be offered as two-year programmes. It is scheduled for delivery for four hours per week over 15 weeks.

Unit 2: Estate Skills – this is a mandatory unit that is assessed by an internally set assignment or the Authorised Assignment Brief for this unit. The unit could be delivered for four hours per week over 15 weeks. Delivery should include the internal assessment activities. This unit underpins a number of units within the qualification and provides a basis for the practical tasks they will require.

Unit 29: Plant Propagation Activities – this optional unit is internally assessed using a centre-devised assignment or by using the Authorised Assignment Brief for this unit. The unit could be delivered for four hours per week for 15 weeks. Delivery should include the internal assessment activities. The unit is available in the Land-based Subjects Subsidiary Diploma and for all the Horticulture sizes of qualification allowing for flexibility of programme delivery.

Unit 33: Pests and Disease in Plants – this optional unit is internally assessed using a centre-devised assignment or by using the Authorised Assignment Brief for this unit. This unit is common to all Horticulture qualifications and is ideally delivered towards the end of the programme. This allows your learners to experience a range of situations including plants, shrubs and trees that takes account of varying life cycle and production stages which will provide opportunities for wide ranging investigations and activities.

Unit 4: Developing a Land-based Enterprise – this is a mandatory unit that is assessed internally using a Pearson Set Assignment. The unit can be delivered for four hours per week for 15 weeks. Delivery must include the internal assessment activities. The unit requires learners to plan for a small-scale, start-up enterprise (there is no requirement for learners to carry out or implement the plan).

Unit 6: Land-based Business Improvements – this is a mandatory unit that is assessed internally using a Pearson Set Assignment. The unit could be delivered for four hours per week for 15 weeks. Delivery must include the internal assessment activities. Learners would benefit from case studies and visits by practitioners where possible, so they can explore the range of business activities, the factors that affect them and opportunities for improvement or diversification. There are clear links to *Unit 4: Developing a Land-based Enterprise* and tutors should consider running them concurrently.

Centres are encouraged to timetable a period of induction for learners at the start of the programme. This should include information on topics such as the structure of the units, how to use an assignment brief, the importance of command verbs, how to work to meet deadlines, consequences of not meeting deadlines, how to reference work, and the importance of evidence submitted for assessment being independently produced, valid and authentic. Centre policies on malpractice and plagiarism should be explained.

NB: internally assessed units can only be sampled when all learners have completed the unit, resubmissions have occurred and been assessed and internally verified. All units must be available for first sampling and reporting to have occurred **at the appropriate deadline** in the year of certification.