

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Changes to the grading of BTEC Specialist qualifications

Background

The BTEC Specialist qualifications were accredited to the QCF when the new qualifications framework was introduced. They were accredited for first teaching September 2010 onwards, and were designed to be used as both stand alone or perhaps alongside the 14-19 Diploma as Additional and Specialist Learning.

This communication is important information for any learner currently on a BTEC Specialist qualification wishing to use the qualification as part of their entry requirements for Higher Education in August 2014 or August 2015.

What has changed?

We have discovered some discrepancies between the qualification grading information captured in the specification, on the Register of Regulated Qualifications and on the UCAS Tariff for a number of our BTEC Specialist qualifications.

The BTEC Specialist qualifications listed overleaf should all be awarded at the overall grade of 'Pass' only.

In other words, learners will only be able to achieve a pass for this qualification, and this is what will be issued on the learners' Certificate. Note that the Notification of Performance will continue to show the unit grades at pass, merit or distinction.

What does this mean for our learners?

The lack of clarity in respect of the grading of these qualifications may prove problematic for a particular group of learners' needs.

Most of our BTEC Specialist qualifications were designed for and are taken by learners on vocational programmes. However, we are becoming increasingly aware of a broader range of learners taking these qualifications in mixed programmes (for example alongside A levels) and of the specific needs of those learners who wish to use the qualifications as part of their entry requirements for Higher Education.

We will provide on request a letter showing the predicted notional overall grade for learners who are using these qualifications as part of a programme of qualifications to support their application to higher education. The predicted notional overall grade is the hypothetical grade the learner would achieve if the qualification were graded pass, merit, distinction overall.

This service will be offered for any learner currently registered on these BTEC Specialist programmes wishing to progress to HE, as it will help HE admissions tutors to evaluate the achievement of learners. However, please note that this practice will not continue beyond 2013 starters, completing after summer 2015.

For 2014 starters and beyond, the qualification grading for these qualifications will be addressed in the review for each qualification in line with new 16-19 headline measures, the revision of UCAS tariff and industry needs.

What do I need to do?

For any of your learners currently registered on these qualifications wishing to use it as part of their entry requirements for Higher Education, your centre should apply for a letter of support by submitting a copy of the learner's Notification of Performance to the relevant e-mail address below:

- UK Schools and Colleges - email examsofficers@pearson.com
- Pearson Work Based Learning Centres - email wblcustomerservices@pearson.com
- International centres - email InternationalEO@pearson.com

We will then issue your centre with a letter for the learner, indicating the predicted notional grade, within one working day of receipt. The letter of support can then be submitted to the HE institution in support of the learner's application.

It is important that the request is submitted to us as soon as possible after the results have been confirmed. This will ensure that your centre receives the letter in time, well before A level results day which in 2014 will be on 14 August.

Please distribute this communication to all Heads of Department offering these qualifications.

Sector	QN	Title
Public Services	500/8303/X	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Improving Health and Fitness for Entry to the Uniformed Public Services (QCF)
Public Services	500/8234/6	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Public Sector Practice (QCF)
Public Services	500/8233/4	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Public Sector Practice (QCF)
Public Services	500/8129/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Fitness Testing and Training for the Uniformed Public Services (QCF)
Public Services	500/8152/4	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Understanding Discipline in the Uniformed Public Services (QCF)
Public Services	500/8128/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Public Sector Practice (QCF)
Public Services	500/8126/3	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Public Sector Practice (Uniformed) (QCF)
Public Services	500/8193/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Public Sector Practice (QCF)
Public Services	500/8125/1	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Public Sector Practice (Uniformed) (QCF)
Accounting and Finance	500/8124/X	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Financial Services Regulation, Ethics and Trends (QCF)
Accounting and Finance	500/8131/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Business (Specialist: Finance) (QCF)
Accounting and Finance	500/8155/X	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business (Specialist: Finance) (QCF)
Business Management	500/8219/X	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Business (Specialist) (QCF)
Business Management	500/8232/2	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Business (Specialist) (QCF)
Business Management	500/8218/8	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Business (Specialist) (QCF)
Business Management	600/2924/9	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Work Experience for Enterprise (QCF)
Business Management	500/8114/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in The Business Environment (QCF)
Business Management	500/8115/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Business (Specialist) (QCF)
Business Management	500/8116/0	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business (Specialist) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8236/X	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Engineering (Specialist: Applied Science) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8264/4	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Engineering (Specialist: Manufacturing Engineering) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8249/8	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Engineering (Specialist: Applied Science) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8273/5	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Engineering (Specialist: Manufacturing Engineering) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8250/4	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Engineering (Specialist: Applied Science) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8270/X	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Engineering (Specialist: Manufacturing Engineering) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8190/1	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Engineering (Specialist: Aeronautics) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8189/5	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Engineering (Specialist: Applied Science) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8194/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Engineering (Specialist: Electrical/Mechanical) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8198/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Engineering (Specialist: Manufacturing Engineering) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8179/2	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Engineering (Specialist: Operations and Maintenance) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8191/3	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Engineering (Specialist: Aeronautics) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8178/0	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Engineering (Specialist: Applied Science) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8162/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Engineering (Specialist: Electrical/Mechanical) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8181/0	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Engineering (Specialist: Manufacturing Engineering) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8180/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Engineering (Specialist: Operations and Maintenance) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8188/3	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Engineering (Specialist: Aeronautics) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8186/X	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Engineering (Specialist: Applied Science) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8204/8	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Engineering (Specialist: Electrical/Mechanical) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8164/0	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Engineering (Specialist: Manufacturing Engineering) (QCF)
Engineering	500/8163/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Engineering (Specialist: Operations and Maintenance) (QCF)
Building and Construction	500/8289/9	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Construction and Built Environment (Specialist: Construction) (QCF)
Building and Construction	500/8275/9	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Construction and Built Environment (Specialist: Construction) (QCF)
Building and Construction	500/8271/1	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Construction and Built Environment (Specialist: Construction) (QCF)
Building and Construction	500/8153/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Construction and Built Environment (Specialist: Construction) (QCF)
Building and Construction	500/8130/5	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Construction and Built Environment (Specialist: Construction) (QCF)
Building and Construction	500/8127/5	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Construction and Built Environment (Specialist: Construction) (QCF)
ICT Practitioners	600/1419/2	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate In Information Technology (Specialist) (QCF)
ICT Practitioners	600/1418/0	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Diploma In Information Technology (Specialist) (QCF)
ICT Practitioners	600/1417/9	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate In Information Technology (Specialist) (QCF)
ICT Practitioners	600/1209/2	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate In Information Technology (Specialist) (QCF)
ICT Practitioners	600/1208/0	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma In Information Technology (Specialist) (QCF)
ICT Practitioners	600/1210/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma In Information Technology (Specialist) (QCF)
Warehousing and Distribution	500/7707/7	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Warehousing and Storage Principles (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8430/6	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Exercise and Fitness Instruction (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8433/1	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Skills and Activities for Sport and Active Leisure (Outdoor Education) (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8434/3	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Skills and Activities for Sport and Active Leisure (Exercise and Fitness Instruction) (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8432/X	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Skills and Activities for Sport and Active Leisure (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8431/8	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Skills and Activities for Sport and Active Leisure (Exercise and Fitness Instruction) (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8436/7	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Skills and Activities for Sport and Active Leisure (Outdoor Education) (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8435/5	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Skills and Activities for Sport and Active Leisure (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8520/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Skills and Activities for Sport and Active Leisure (Coaching and Performance Management) (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8521/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Skills and Activities for Sport and Active Leisure (Exercise and Fitness Instruction) (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8541/4	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Skills and Activities for Sport and Active Leisure (Outdoor Education) (QCF)
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	500/8525/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Skills and Activities for Sport and Active Leisure (Business) (QCF)