

# Planning to teach **BTEC at Key Stage 4?**

Your guide to  
the differences between

**BTEC First Awards** and  
**BTEC Tech Awards**



This guide will help you to understand the differences between the BTEC First Awards and the BTEC Tech Awards and inform your decision about which of the two types of qualification would be better suited to your KS4 students.

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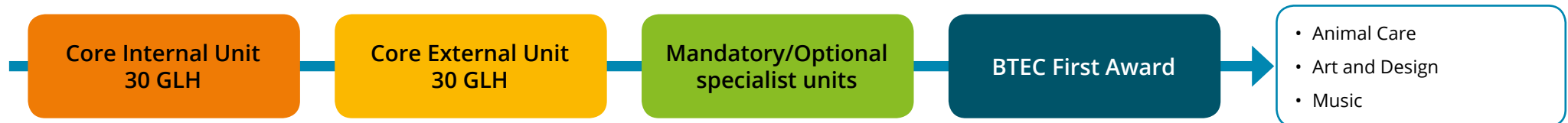


# BTEC First Awards explained

Our **BTEC First Awards** can be taught alongside GCSEs, giving students a hands-on learning style that provides the opportunity to develop skills to draw upon throughout their careers:

- graded across Level 2 with a Level 1 pass fallback
- designed for **14+ year olds**
- work through **themed units** exploring an industry sector
- apply learning through **scenario based tasks and tests** in a work-related context
- **a progression route** to further study, to an apprenticeship or into employment
- the qualifications below are on **DfE KS4 performance tables** in England and count in the 'open group' of Progress 8.

## Model 1:



## Model 2:



\*None in Children's Play, Learning and Development.

## Course Grading

BTEC First Award learners receive a grade for each individual unit (Distinction, Merit, Pass, or Unclassified). BTEC First Awards from 2012 also include a Level 1 pass at unit and qualification level, and a Distinction\* grade (at qualification level only).

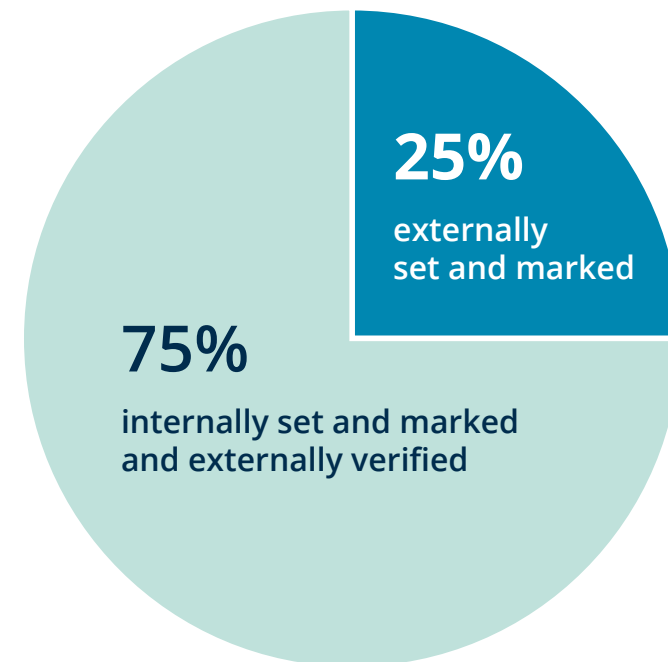
We calculate the final grade for a BTEC First Award by looking at performance across each unit in the qualification using a points-based scale. Each individual specification contains details of how to grade each unit and calculate the overall qualification grade.

For more information about grading

[quals.pearson.com/BTECfirsts](https://quals.pearson.com/BTECfirsts)

## Course/Assessment Structure

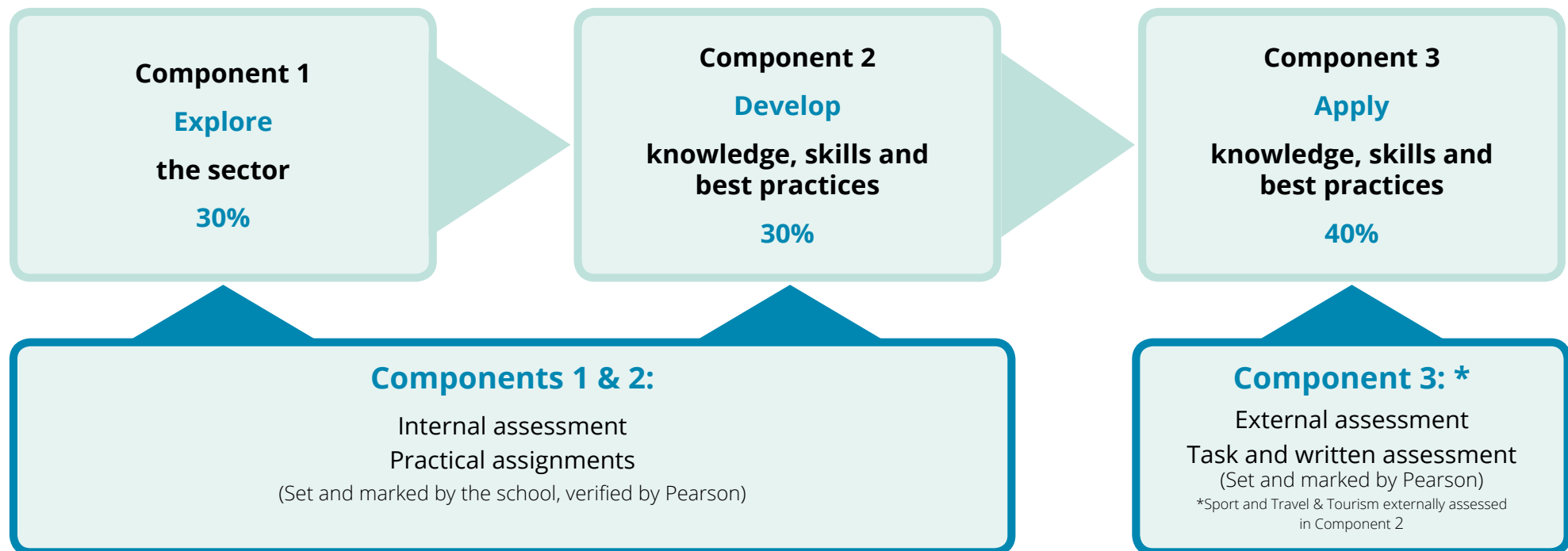
Core units and optional specialist units



# BTEC Tech Awards explained

Our **BTEC Tech Awards** are also designed to be taught alongside GCSEs, giving your students a glimpse into a professional sector whilst teaching them transferable skills for life. Often the Tech Award is a broader, more detailed exploration of a sector proving a basis for a range of post-16 options:

- specifically designed for **14–16 year olds** in schools
- **graded across Level 1 and Level 2** to recognise the achievements of all students
- assessed using **assignments, tests and practical tasks** to suit vocational students
- all qualifications are on DfE KS4 performance tables in England and count in the 'open group' of Progress 8.
- 40% external assessment



## Qualification Grading

Level 1 Grading	Pass	Merit	Distinction	
Level 2 Grading	Pass	Merit	Distinction	Distinction*

## Grade Points Table

Internal assignments	External assessment	Final Qualification Grade
Unclassified 0 points	Unclassified 0 points	Unclassified 0 points
Level 1 Pass: 9 points	Level 1 Pass: 12–17 points	Level 1 Pass: 30 points
Level 1 Merit: 15 points	Level 1 Merit: 18–23 points	Level 1 Merit 44 points
Level 2 Pass: 22 points	Level 1 Distinction: 24–29 points	Level 1 Distinction 58 points
Level 2 Merit: 29 points	Level 2 Pass: 30–35 points	Level 2 Pass 72 points
Level 2 Distinction: 36 points	Level 2 Merit: 36–41 points	Level 2 Merit 95 points
	Level 2 Distinction: 42–48 points	Level 2 Distinction 105 points
		Level 2 Distinction* 114 points

## How is the grade calculated?

### Step 1

Students achieve a grade for each component, which is then allocated a number of points.

### Step 2

At the end of the course, the points from each component are added up to give a total number of points.

### Step 3

The total number of points is matched against the grade thresholds for the qualification.

For more information about grading

[quals.pearson.com/BTECTA](https://quals.pearson.com/BTECTA)

# What's on 2020, 2021 and 2022 performance tables?

## BTEC First Awards in:

- Animal Care\*
- Art and Design\*
- Children's Play, Learning and Development\*
- Music\*
- Construction and the Built Environment\*  
– Revised 2018
- Sport\* – Revised 2018
- Travel and Tourism\* – Revised 2018

## BTEC Tech Awards in:

- Health & Social Care\*
- Performing Arts\* (with Production Arts route)
- Engineering\*
- Creative Media Production\*
- Enterprise\*
- Digital Information Technology
- Art & Design Practice
- Child Development
- Music Practice
- Sport, Activity and Fitness
- Travel and Tourism

\*Also on the 2019 performance tables



## A comparison of the First and Tech Awards

### **BTEC First Award in Art and Design (2012)**

#### **Content Focus:**

- Focus on developing vocationally relevant art and design skills.
- Optional units such as contextual references in art and design, a range of 2D and/or 3D specialist discipline units, and portfolio development.
- External assessment is a response to a theme-based brief in a chosen discipline which is marked internally and externally verified.

#### **Student Profile/Progression:**

- For students aiming to move into entry-level roles, such as assistants in design and craft production, the fashion and textiles sector, product design services, or the visual arts and visual communications sectors.
- There is also a clear progression route to a Level 3 course or apprenticeship.

### **BTEC Tech Award in Art and Design Practice (2018)**

#### **Content Focus:**

- Focus on developing commercially focused art and design skills.
- Three mandatory components in which art and design skills are applied in any discipline. Learners research relevant products, and client and audience needs to develop art and design work to meet the needs of client briefs.
- External assessment is a practical response to set a vocational brief and is externally set and marked.

#### **Student Profile/Progression:**

- Suited to students who want to develop practical visual communication skills.
- For students who want to learn through vocational contexts and creative projects.
- Designed to complement GCSEs.
- For students considering progression to Level 3 vocational study or A-Level as preparation for higher education or a creative career.



## A comparison of the First and Tech Awards

### **BTEC First Award in Music (2013)**

#### **Content Focus:**

- Focus on music industry (unique content).
- Optional units e.g. live sound.
- Optional units allow the creation of a more specialist course.

#### **Student Profile/Progression:**

- Suited to students who are interested in music and working with music, but who are not automatically performers.
- Suited for progression to level 3 academic, applied general or technical level music or music technology qualification, or to an apprenticeship.
- Suited for general introduction to the music sector.

### **BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice (2018)**

#### **Content Focus:**

- Focus on creating/producing musical product to an industry brief – it is about practice, rather than the wider music sector.
- Mandatory requirements to study musical elements in different genres.
- Development of processes skills and techniques that underpin effective ways of working in the music industry.
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the music industry, including personal management and communication.

#### **Student Profile/Progression:**

- Suited to students who are interested in music performance, creation or production.
- Students who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts.
- Designed to complement GCSEs.
- For students considering progression to A-Level as preparation for higher education, Level 3 vocational study.



## A comparison of the First and Tech Awards

### **BTEC First Award in Children's Play, Learning and Development (2017)**

#### **Content Focus:**

- Child development 0–8 years.
- Content includes Principles of Early Years Practice (ways to implement inclusive practice, how children are empowered, importance of key person approach).

#### **Student Profile/Progression:**

- Designed to enable progression onto Level 3 Early Years Educator qualifications, which require knowledge and understanding of 0-8 years.

### **BTEC Tech Award in Child Development (2018)**

#### **Content Focus:**

- Child development 0–5 years.
- Content includes how children learn through play and how meeting the needs of individual children will support their development, play and learning.

#### **Student Profile/Progression:**

- Aimed at those with an interest in eventually progressing to a role involving working with children (not necessarily in the early years sector).
- Complements GCSE English and GCSE Psychology.
- Leads to further vocational study or A-Level.



## A comparison of the First and Tech Awards

### **BTEC First Award in Travel and Tourism (2018)**

#### **Content Focus:**

- The opportunity to explore UK and global travel and tourism.
- Focus on the geography and knowledge required for specific roles in the travel and tourism sector, e.g. visas and travel advice.
- Development of customer service skills.

#### **Student Profile/Progression:**

- Suited to students interested in working in industries such as travel agents, tourist information centres or visitor attractions.

### **BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism (2018)**

#### **Content Focus:**

- Global travel and tourism as well as UK.
- Focus on trends and issues in the industry and how destinations and organisations overcome these through destination management.

#### **Student Profile/Progression**

- Suited to students interested in the travel and tourism industry as a whole.
- For students who want to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by exploring the aims of different travel and tourism organisations, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer requirements, and the influences on global travel and tourism as part of their Key Stage 4 learning, including implementation of sustainable tourism principles.



## A comparison of the First and Tech Awards

### **BTEC First Award in Sport (2018)**

#### **Content Focus:**

- Incorporates key aspects of the industry, such as fitness testing and training for sport and exercise, the psychology of sport, practical sports performance and sports leadership.
- Focus on sports performance and participation in practical sport, as well as leading sessions.

#### **Student Profile/Progression:**

- For students who want to learn in a practical way, includes a greater range of sports and fitness activities compared with GCSE PE.
- Suited to students who are considering a career in the sports industry, either progressing onto a Level 3 qualification or an apprenticeship.

### **BTEC Tech Award in Sport, Activity and Fitness (2018)**

#### **Content Focus**

- Broad and unique content, e.g. sports injuries, technology, physiology and nutrition principles.
- Students gain a deeper understanding of how technological advances impact on sport and activity.
- Students apply physiological and psychological aspects to the planning and delivery of a sports or activity session.

#### **Student Profile/Progression**

- For students looking to gain a broad overview of the varying disciplines available in the sport, activity and fitness sector.
- Suited to students who are considering a career in the sport, activity or fitness industries, either progressing onto a Level 3 qualification or an apprenticeship.

 Our subject teams are on hand to help. Please get in touch with them and sign up for their **newsletters and updates**: [quals.pearson.com/BTECnewsletters](https://quals.pearson.com/BTECnewsletters)

 Book onto a **Network event** near you – choose either a face-to-face or online event: [quals.pearson.com/BTECtraining](https://quals.pearson.com/BTECtraining)

 Visit the **qualification pages** to view and download specs, SAMs and free support resources:

[quals.pearson.com/BTECfirsts](https://quals.pearson.com/BTECfirsts)

[quals.pearson.com/BTECTA](https://quals.pearson.com/BTECTA)

 If you are new to BTEC, **visit our website** to read:

- how our BTEC processes and delivery cycle work
- walk through the different stages of delivery
- access handy guidance for the different topics.

[quals.pearson.com/deliveringBTEC](https://quals.pearson.com/deliveringBTEC)



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