Pearson

BTEC Tech Awards

Your quick guide

The skills to succeed, the confidence to progress

Contents

What are BTEC Tech Awards?

- Broad, high-quality Level 1 / Level 2 qualifications in non EBacc subjects, for **Key Stage 4 students in schools in England and Northern Ireland** to study alongside GCSEs.

- Designed to equip students with **applied knowledge** not normally acquired through GCSEs, giving them a taste of a particular sector, **sector-specific and transferable skills**, and the confidence to take their next steps.

- **The same size as a single GCSE,** they are rigorous enough to show capacity for progression to Key Stage 5/post-16.

- Created to meet the **DfE's latest technical guidance** for Key Stage 4 qualifications for inclusion in performance tables and the 'Open Group' of **Progress 8.**

- Assessed using a combination of **vocational assignments**, practical tasks and written assessments as relevant to each subject area. Creative subjects use only practical, task-based assessments.

Available subjects

All 12 qualifications are included in Key Stage 4 performance tables, providing **the broadest offer from any awarding organisation.**

Who BTEC Tech Awards are designed for

BTEC Tech Awards are perfect for students interested in learning more about a specific sector in a hands-on way. With a Tech Award your students will:

- Get a taste of what a sector is like
- Receive an introduction to vocational study
- Grow their confidence to help them in the world today and prepare them for their futures
- Develop knowledge and technical/creative skills integral to roles within their chosen sector
- Have opportunities to apply academic knowledge from their GCSE subjects to every-day contexts
- Build applied knowledge and skills that show an aptitude for further learning, both in the sector and more widely.

"My BTEC Tech Award was both challenging and rewarding.

The balance of theory and practical elements kept learning engaging, while the hands-on experience of leading sessions helped me develop perseverance."

Ryan Hughes
Former BTEC Tech Award Sport student

Qualification structure

Students will typically take this qualification over a **two-year period (120 guided learning hours).** This enables them to build their confidence to understand the sector, vocational contexts and vocational attributes before they are assessed.

Most of the subjects follow the same pattern of **internal and external assessment**, although there is variation between subjects whether the external assessment is a written exam or a task-based assignment.

Component	Guided learning hours	Weighting	Available marks	Assessment type
Component 1	36	30%	60	Internal assessment (PSA). External moderation.
Component 2	36	30%	60	Internal assessment (PSA). External moderation.
Component 3	48	40%	60	External assessment. Externally marked.

Pearson Set Assignments (PSAs) are set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.

Please note:
For Construction it is Component 1 that is the externally assessed component.
For Art & Design Practice it is Component 2.

Qualification components

Most of the courses follow a **three component structure**, with two internally assessed components and one externally assessed*.

The components are interrelated and best seen as part of an **intergrated whole**, rather than as distinct study areas.

All components are mandatory, with **optionality built-in** within the content where relevant to the sector, streamlining assessment.

* The exception to this rule is Art and Design Practice where internally assessed components are merged into one.

How assessment works

BTEC Tech Awards feature a combination of internally and externally assessed knowledge and skills-based assessments. This gives students opportunities to **demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skill.**

Each assessment draws on vocational scenarios so students can:

- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and best practice behaviours they have developed throughout the course
- Apply the knowledge, skills and behaviours in a vocational context

Internally assessed components are marked by you and then quality assured by Pearson through moderation. Unique to BTEC Tech Awards, the moderation process includes **direct written feedback and the opportunity to amend marks.** This allows you to address any issues with assessment before they impact your students results.

"The BTEC Tech Award offers a great balance of assessment methods, from written coursework to video based practical tasks. The use of real-world case studies has been particularly valuable, helpng students to develop analytical and research skills."

Natalie Marks
Assistant Headteacher - Teaching & Learning
at Barr's Hill School

Pearson Set Assignments (PSAs)

Engaging vocational contexts

PSAs are project-based assessments taken within a window that allow students to respond to relevant vocational contexts and scenarios.
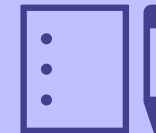
While the context/scenario will change in each PSA, the tasks will assess the same skills so that you and your students know what is expected in the assessment.

Generous assessment windows

PSAs are released twice a year* well in advance of assessment windows, giving you time to plan and prepare. PSA release dates are:

Early June for the Dec/Jan assessment series. Early September for the May/June assessment series.

Thoughtful mark scheme design

The mark schemes for each internal component remain consistent, making it easy for you to apply and standardise marking.

Students can gain marks across **four distinct bands.** A clear set of descriptors will help you understand which band fits the quality of the evidence overall, with three marks available in each band.

* Does not apply to Art and Design which only has a May / June series.

How final grades are determined

More information

To learn more about how final grades are determined, we recommend downloading the specification for your subject area.

Grade scale

The BTEC Tech Award qualifications are graded and certificated on a **seven grade scale** from Level 2 Distinction* to Level 1 Pass. Individual components are graded on a **six-point scale** from Level 2 Distinction to Level 1 Pass. Individual component results are reported.

Grade calculation

Assessment is compensatory within components and across the qualification - meaning anywhere learners gain marks, these are added towards their overall grade. A lower performance in some components may be **balanced** by a higher outcome in others. The final grade awarded represents the student's performance across all three components.

Grade requirements per component

There **are no minimum grade requirements** for each component. So, an 'Un-classified' result in any of the components will not prevent a learner from achieving the full qualification. This gives your students more opportunities to achieve and better capture their true ability.

Support for delivery

Free resources

We will support you with complimentary resources and training to help you deliver the new assessments and apply the mark schemes:

- Delivery Guide
- Transition Guide mapping from previous qualification
- Sample assessment materials
- ExamWizard*
- Results Plus*
- Marking Training
- Marking Standardisation Events
- Access to Pearson subject specialist

* For subjects with a written exam

Paid-for resources

Paid for resources are also available for most subjects. These include a range of materials for Students, and a Digital Teacher Pack for educators.

For students:

- Student Book
- ActiveBook
- Pearson Revise BTEC Revision Guide
- Pearson Revise BTEC Practice Assessments Plus

For educators:

- Digital Teacher Pack

Support for quality

For Quality Nominees (QNs) we have a wide range of support options including guidance documents and videos. These include:

- Support index
- QN webpage
- QN webpage (dedicated to BTEC Tech Awards)
- Quality Assurance newsletters
- QN Networks
- VQAM support team

Why choose Pearson BTEC Tech Awards

Deliver vocational excellence with the worlds leading learning company.

More time to teach

PSAs are released in June and September, giving you **a long window of assessment** each series. This provides you with more time to plan, prepare, mark, and upload assessments.

Supportive Advisors

Receive unmatched support from our Subject Advisors to **assist your delivery**. You can: book an informal appointment, call and email directly, and follow them on social media.

Early feedback

We are the only provider offering moderator feedback reports **well in advance of Results Day**. You'll have the chance to submit mark adjustments when it is most helpful to you and your students.

Expert training

Plan, deliver, and administer BTEC Tech Awards with confidence, by utilizing the wide range of **CPD training events and support resources** that are available to you.

Pearson

Join us in creating a future for every learner.