



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 600/4785/9	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Performing Arts (120 GLH)

The performing arts sector

The performing arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. Overall, the industry contributes £3.5 billion to the UK economy. There are 5,480 businesses in the performing arts sector, and 101,593 people working in a wide range of roles from performers, to designers and directors.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is a Technical Award equivalent in size to one GCSE. It is ideal for you if you are a pre-16 student working at level 1/level 2 and want to include an introduction to some of the key areas within the performing arts sector in your broader Key Stage 4 curriculum. The content enables you to develop knowledge and understanding by applying your learning and skills in a work-related context. You will undertake a range of diverse activities, including participation as a performer, designer or theatre maker in a variety of performance opportunities.

What will I study as part of this qualification?

The qualification provides an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of performing arts. You will explore some of the key areas within the sector such as acting, dance, production, musical theatre and music performance.

There are two mandatory core units, which provide the underpinning knowledge, understanding and practical experience of the performing arts:

- individual showcase – in which you explore different career, training and education opportunities within the performing arts, choosing one of them to showcase your practical skills and industry knowledge
- preparation, performance and production – which requires you to collaborate with other learners to explore, develop and shape ideas for a performance.

You will also choose one optional unit, from five, which will allow you to look in more detail at a particular aspect of performing arts. The optional units are:

- acting skills
- dance skills
- musical theatre skills
- music performance skills
- production skills for performance.

How will I be assessed?

Your ability to apply your own skills to realistic scenarios is assessed through a task in the individual showcase unit, which is set and marked by Pearson. The other units are assessed through assignments, which are set and marked by your school.

Where will this take me?

In studying this qualification, you will gain a wider understanding and appreciation of the performing arts. This includes the knowledge and experience of the audition, presentation, production and performance process; as well as developing a range of skills, techniques and personal attributes essential for entry and progression into the industry.

This qualification will provide a sound basis if you want to progress to studying a related qualification at level 3, such as BTEC Performing Arts or A Level Drama and Theatre.

You will also develop transferable technical and practical skills in written and oral communication, research and project management, which will be valuable in supporting your progression to any academic or vocational level 3 course.

After you have finished the course, you may want to go on to further study such as A levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. Alternatively, you might want to find work in the performing arts sector as an apprentice or a trainee. The best option for you will depend on the grades you achieve in this qualification and in other qualifications you have taken, what you enjoy doing and any advice you can access about the further learning and training opportunities available in your area.

What other subjects go well with performing arts?

This course builds on and uses the knowledge and skills you learn in your GCSEs. It can complement learning for both GCSEs in EBacc subjects and non-core GCSEs in creative subjects (such as art). For example, English teaches theoretical skills, while performing arts will give you a practical edge, including confidence and specialist knowledge. It complements both by providing curriculum breadth and the skills needed to make informed choices about study post 16.

This course is different from studying GCSEs as, by taking part in different types of practical activities, it gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge, skills and the techniques you learn in practical ways.