Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 600/4789/6	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Information and Creative Technology (120 GLH)

The information and creative technology sector

Information and creative technology (I&CT) is a dynamic and energetic sector of the economy that provides a wide range of opportunities to most other business sectors. The sector is sometimes referred to as the digital sector, and the UK is one of the leading digital nations in the world.

Research by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) showed that the digital economy is larger than conventional estimates indicate, with almost 270,000 actively digital companies in the UK, or 14.4 per cent of all companies, and 11 per cent of all jobs.

Information and creative technologies focus on making most, if not all, devices 'smart' in terms of working interactively, collecting, processing and communicating data to support the development of computing capability in everyday objects, and improving quality and safety in our lives.

Ongoing developments in the sector include the Government Digital Inclusion strategy to increase SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) transactions online, with the aim of reaching 1.6 million businesses by 2018.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is a Technical Award equivalent in size to 1 GCSE. It is ideal for you if you are a learner working at level 1/level 2 and want to include a study of technology as part of your broader Key Stage 4 curriculum. It provides an introduction to current technology within the industry, enabling you to explore, for example, digital services and the technology that enables them to share and exchange information.

You will develop and apply your knowledge of the sector, while also developing a range of relevant practical, technical and creative skills. You will gain a broad understanding and knowledge of the industry and you will have the opportunity to apply your knowledge in new, practical and creative contexts.

What will I study as part of this qualification?

This qualification provides you with an engaging and stimulating introduction to a wide range of digital technologies. You will have the opportunity to gain practical and creative skills, knowledge and understanding – both by building from your own experiences of technology and by carrying out projects.

You must take two core units, which cover the following areas:

- the digital world, which will help you understand key technologies and processes, and investigate how they come together
- integrated digital technology, which will help you understand the features of digital technologies and how these can be combined into a larger solution to meet the needs of different users.

You will also have the opportunity to take one or two optional units, depending on the size of the units selected. This will extend your learning in creating, testing and reviewing digital products. The optional units reflect the breadth of opportunity within the information technology sector and cover the following areas:

- creating digital animation
- creating digital audio
- creating digital graphics
- creating digital video
- spreadsheet development
- database development
- website development.

How will I be assessed?

Your knowledge of the digital world is assessed through an onscreen, on-demand test, which is set and marked by Pearson. The other areas are assessed through assignments, which are set and marked by your school.

Where will this take me?

The core and optional units have been designed so that you can develop a broad knowledge and understanding of digital technologies.

If you wish to continue with further study of the digital technology sector, this qualification forms a sound basis for progression to academic or vocational qualifications at level 3, or to an apprenticeship. You will develop transferable technical, creative and practical skills in communication, including analytical writing skills and writing for audience and purpose, research and project management. The course will give you the opportunity to demonstrate reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem, and this will be valuable in supporting your progression to a level 3 qualification in any subject.

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 digital technology 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 information and creative technology?

This course builds on and uses the knowledge and skills you learn in your GCSEs or level 2 vocational studies. It can be complementary learning for GCSEs in EBacc subjects (including the sciences and computer science), non-core GCSEs (such as design and technology, art and psychology), and/or other Technical Awards (for example, BTEC Creative Digital Media or BTEC Engineering), since you can broaden your skills and experience in these areas, allowing you to make informed choices about what you 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, such as proposing new integrated digital technology solutions.