

Updated 29 May 2014

FAQs for Science teachers in centres offering BTEC First Applied Science (NQF) following the announcement from the Secretary of State on first entry examination results and school performance tables in England

1. My Year 11 students have already sat GCSE Science in the summer of their Year 10 (June 2013). They are taking BTEC Principles of Applied Science this year, which result will count?

The better of the two results will count in 2014 performance tables. This applies only for this academic year, as part of the transition arrangements.

2. My Year 10 students are studying for GCSE Science this year and I plan to offer an option to study Principles of Applied Science when they reach Year 11. Which result will count in performance tables?

If your students take the GCSE exam in Year 10 and the BTEC in Year 11, then the GCSE result will take precedence over the BTEC result, and is the one that will be reported in performance tables. This is because the GCSE exam (June 2014) comes before the BTEC 2015 entry date. This date is to be set, but for 2014 it is 5th July. Both results will continue to count for the learner, as they do now.

3. My Year 10 students are taking BTEC Principles of Applied Science this year and I plan to offer an option to study GCSE Science next year, when they reach Year 11. Which result will count in performance tables?

If your students are awarded their BTEC this year at the end of Year 10, then that result would be reported in performance tables, not the GCSE result at the end of Year 11.

4. Do the same rules apply to GCSE Additional Science and BTEC Application of Science?

No. GCSE Additional Science and BTEC Application of Science do not discount each other, so both *could* be included in performance tables. However, there is a limitation on the number of non-GCSEs in the performance tables, so the BTEC *might* not count.

5. My students take science GCSEs and BTEC applied science. Which combination of GCSEs and BTECs count for both the school and the student?

- GCSE Science followed by BTEC Application of Science – both qualifications will count.
- BTEC Awards in Principles of Applied Science and Application of Science – both qualifications will count.
- GCSE Science with Principles of Applied Science – only the first qualification entered will count.

6. My Year 11 students have already attempted the external assessment for Principles of Applied Science in June 2013, but have yet to complete or claim their full results for the qualification. They are entered for the June 2014 exam. Which result will count?

You will be able to register the better result from the two sittings (or any subsequent sitting) when making the final claim for their qualification. Our advice would always be that you only enter students when they are ready for the exam and you believe they can perform to their fullest potential.

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7. My Year 10 students are taking BTEC Principles of Applied Science this year. They took the March 2013 exam. Can they resit in June 2014? Which result will count?

Yes, they can resit if they believe they can improve their unit grade and the best result can contribute to the final qualification grade, which will count in performance tables if the BTEC is the first qualification claimed. Our advice would always be that you only enter students when they are ready for the exam, and you believe they can perform to their fullest potential.

8. My Year 11 students are taking BTEC Application of Science. If they took the March 2014 exam, can they resit in June 2014? Which result will count?

You will be able to register the better result from the two sittings (or any subsequent sitting) when making the final claim for their qualification. Our advice would always be that you only enter students when they are ready for the exam and you believe they can perform to their fullest potential.

For current year 11s, BTEC Application of Science is not included in the recent announcement concerning entry dates. In future, for current Year 10 students and below, it will be.

Summary - for current year groups 2013/2014

Year Group	Yr 10	Yr 11	Counts in performance tables
Current Yr 10	BTEC Principles	GCSE Science	Principles result will count (if awarded at the end of year 10)
	BTEC Principles	GCSE Additional Science	Principles result will count (if awarded at the end of year 10)
	GCSE Science	BTEC Principles	GCSE result will count
	GCSE Science	BTEC Application	Both could*
Current Yr 11	BTEC Principles	GCSE Science	The better of the 2 results will count for this year only if Principles was awarded at the end of year 10
	BTEC Principles	GCSE Additional Science	The better of the 2 results will count for this year, but only if Principles was awarded at the end of year 10
	GCSE Science	BTEC Principles	The better of the 2 results will count for this year only
	GCSE Science	BTEC Application	Both could*

*There is a limitation on the number of non-GCSEs in the performance tables, so the BTEC *might* not count

The student will receive recognition for the qualifications they take.

For further advice, please contact the [Science subject advisor team](#).