

Delivering BTEC during Coronavirus (COVID-19)



September 2020 to August 2021

External Assessment Adaptations

Guidance for BTEC Nationals, Firsts, Tech Awards and
Technicals

External assessment guidance

Last updated 20 November 2020



Introduction

It is expected that COVID-19 will continue to impact upon teaching, learning and assessment through the academic year, impacting those learners who are part-way through their qualifications and those who are commencing this academic year. We are committed to ensuring that learners continue to benefit from the breadth of content of BTEC qualifications through adaptations in teaching, learning and assessment.

This document is intended to provide you with information about the external assessment adaptations that have been agreed for BTEC qualifications in the academic year of 2020-2021. This information should be read in conjunction with the Exam Timetables and Administrative Support Guides, which will be updated to reflect any changes in the situation.

We continue to work with our regulators and relevant sector bodies on any possible adaptations or

accommodations in line with the OFQUAL and DfE consultations.

Key aspects such as social distancing, safety, lost teaching time, subject content and practical activities have been carefully considered when defining these mitigations. However, it should be noted that all of the activities and information provided here must only be followed within the context of the guidance issued by your own centre, relevant governing and industry bodies, local and national government.

For further advice and guidance, please refer to the Teaching, Learning and Assessment pages on [Pearson's website](#) or contact us [via the Customer Support portal](#).

We look forward to continuing to support you and your learners throughout this challenging time and wish you well for the coming year.



Supplementary Guidance for Conducting BTEC External Assessments in Winter 2021 (Updated 18 November 2020)

This guidance relates to the external assessments for the following qualifications and applies to the January and February series only in 2021:

- BTEC (RQF) Nationals from 2016
- BTEC Tech Awards

The following guidance has been made available to centres but is not mandatory. If you are able to deliver the external task as you normally would and prefer to do so, accounting for any possible COVID-19 local and government restrictions, this is allowable.

Key points in this update

- **Many task-based external assessments with either Part A and Part S will be released earlier to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 self-isolation and social distancing restrictions.**
- All external assessments that have a set timetabled session remain in place as previously published.
- Submission dates for externally assessed tasks also remain as published.
- Where adaptations have previously been published in this External Assessment Adaptations Guide, these remain in place.



Early release of set task materials

This guidance relates to external assessments with either a **Part A pre-release** or a single **Part S release**.

We recognise that current COVID-19 guidelines for a self-isolation period of 14 days, in addition to amended blended learning and delivery timetables within centres to account for social distancing, have the potential to impact upon learners' opportunities to successfully meet the Part A and Part S requirements. Where appropriate, allowing a longer window for preparation, research and/or completion will support centres through offering options for scheduling smaller groups where needed, sanitising specialist resources and equipment in between groups and ensuring that all learners have equality of access regardless of their individual context.

Each BTEC external assessment task that has either Part A or Part S in the January and February 2021 series, has been reviewed and adapted, where appropriate, to support completion of this assessment window.

A summary of these adaptations can be found below on pages 6-8 by sector, qualification and unit. Further detail can be found in the BTEC External Assessment Overview 2020-2021 document.

For **all impacted tasks**, Pearson will be issuing a clarification notice confirming the adapted arrangements in place for the specific external assessment task.

Printed question papers will be despatched on 23/11/20. Modified papers for web-release tasks will be sent as soon as possible. Any questions on the despatch of these should be sent to additional_requirements@pearson.com

Maintaining supervision controls

To maintain the integrity of the external assessment, the **supervision controls** as detailed in the external assessment tasks and papers, the Administrative Support Guides (ASGs) and BTEC Instructions for the Conduct of External Assessments (ICEA) **must be retained**.



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External Assessment Tasks adapted earlier release dates for Part A / Part S

BTEC Nationals (RQF)					
Unit Code	Sector	Unit Name	Published Part A/S window	Adapted Part A/S window	New release date for Part A/S
21321L	Agriculture/Countryside Management/Horticulture/Forestry and Arboriculture	Unit 3: Contemporary Issues in the Land-based sectors	2 weeks	3 weeks	07/12/2020
31644H	Animal Management	Unit 1: Animal Breeding and Genetics	2 weeks	4 weeks	23/11/2020
31646H	Animal Management	Unit 3: Animal Welfare and Ethics	2 weeks	4 weeks	30/11/2020
20168K	Applied Law	Unit 1: Dispute Solving in Civil Law	1 week	3 weeks	23/11/2020
20170K	Applied Law	Unit 3: Applying the Law	2 weeks	3 weeks	30/11/2020
31629H	Applied Science	Unit 7: Contemporary Issues in Science	2 weeks	4 weeks	30/11/2020
31489H	Business/Enterprise	Unit 2: Developing A Marketing Campaign	3 weeks	4 weeks	23/11/2020
31588H	Business/Enterprise	Unit 6 / Unit 12: Principles of Management	2 weeks	3 weeks	02/12/2020

BTEC External Assessment Adaptations



Unit Code	Sector	Unit Name	Published Part A/S window	Adapted Part A/S window	New release date for Part A/S
31598H	CPLD	Unit 2: Development of Children's Communication, Literacy and Numeracy Skills	2 days	1 week	07/12/2020
31708H	Engineering	Unit 3: Engineering Product Design and Manufacture	1 week	3 weeks	23/11/2020
31725H	Engineering	Unit 6: Microcontroller Systems for Engineers	2 weeks	3 weeks	07/12/2020
20177K	Music Performance	Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry	2 weeks	4 weeks	30/11/2020
31811H	Music Technology	Unit 5: Music Technology in Context	1 week	2 weeks	07/12/2020
21405J	Sport	Unit 22: Investigating Business in Sport and Active Leisure Industry	2 weeks	3 weeks	30/11/2020
31525H	Sport	Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-Being	1 week	3 weeks	23/11/2020
31542H	Sport	Unit 19: Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity	1 week	2 weeks	07/12/2020
20208K	Travel and Tourism	Unit 2: Global Destinations	2 weeks	3 weeks	07/12/2020



BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Awards					
Unit Code	Sector	Unit Name	Published Part 1 window	Adapted Part 1 window	New release date for Part 1
21141K	Engineering	Component 3: Responding to an Engineering Brief	4 days	2 weeks 4 days	18/01/2021



BTEC Nationals (RQF)

BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF) in Applied Science				
BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF) Forensic and Criminal Investigation				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
31619H	3: Science Investigation Skills	January and June series	<p>To provide learners with an experimental method and complete set of data before completing the Part B assessment.</p> <p>Learners will be given a 45-minute reading period to understand the scientific method that was used and review the experimental data.</p>	<p>Change to the requirement for learners to complete a controlled laboratory practical that provides learners with experiment data that they process, analyse and interpret in the Unit 3 Science Investigation Skills Part B external assessment.</p> <p>There are no changes to the unit content or the type of practicals that learners are expected to be familiar with.</p> <p>Part B will be largely unchanged. The Part B examination will consist of two sections and a total of 5 questions worth a total of 60 marks.</p> <p>The Part B examination will be comparable with previous years because the data will be generated from a topic that is listed in the Unit 3 specification.</p>



BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF) in Art and Design				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
31827H	Visual Recording and Communication	June series	Release task 4 weeks earlier to allow additional time to complete the task.	Extending the assessment window will support centres by providing more time to deliver the assessment to allow learners sufficient access to specialist materials and equipment whilst social distancing measures are in place.
31828H	Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design	January and June series	Release Part A one week earlier to facilitate earlier release of Part B and extend assessment window by one week.	Facilitate the need to timetable several sessions of the Part B supervised assessment with different learners to allow for social distancing.
31832H	Managing a Client Brief	January and June series	Release task 4 weeks earlier to allow additional time to complete the task.	Extending the assessment window will support centres by providing more time to deliver the assessment to allow learners sufficient access to specialist materials and equipment whilst social distancing measures are in place.
31833H	Developing and Realising Creative Intentions	June series	Release task 4 weeks earlier to allow additional time to complete the task.	Extending the assessment window will support centres by providing more time to deliver the assessment to allow learners sufficient access to specialist materials and equipment whilst social distancing measures are in place.



BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF) in Creative Digital Media Production				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
31668H	Media Representations	January and June series	Extend assessment window by 2 days.	Facilitate need to timetable several sessions of supervised on screen assessment with different learners to allow for social distancing.
31672H	Special Subject Investigation	January and June series	Release the set task A 2 weeks earlier. Provide 2 additional days for Part B assessment window.	Extending the assessment window will support centres by providing more time to deliver the assessment to allow learners sufficient access to specialist materials and equipment whilst social distancing measures are in place.
31674H	Responding to a Commission	January and June series	Release the set task 2 weeks earlier. Provide 2 additional days for controlled assessment.	Two additional days for Part B (31672H) and the controlled assessment (31674H) will facilitate the need to timetable several sessions of the supervised assessment with different learners to allow for social distancing.
31670H	Digital Media Skills	June series	Release 4 weeks early to allow a longer assessment window.	Extending the assessment window will support centres by providing more time to deliver the assessment to allow learners sufficient access to specialist materials and equipment whilst social distancing measures are in place.



BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF) in Music Performance				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
20175K	3: Music Ensemble Performance	June series	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extend the assessment window by 3 weeks. 2. Reduce time requirements for Ensemble work to minimum of one piece (list A or B) from three and 2 minutes from 6 minutes. 3. Reduce rehearsal minimum time limit to 5 minutes from 8 minutes. 4. Reduce rehearsal debrief activity minimum time limit from 3-5 minutes to 1.5 minutes. 5. Activity 4 to be completed individually for one piece/style from the other list not chosen for performance. 	<p>Release the task 3 weeks earlier to allow additional time to complete the task in accordance with social distancing measures.</p> <p>Reduced assessment evidence is required to facilitate use of the limited appropriately distanced specialist facilities available in centres due to the inappropriateness of smaller practice/rehearsal rooms at this time.</p> <p>All aspects of the established external assessment and marking grids are retained but the assessment burden is significantly reduced.</p>
20177K	Professional Practice in the Music Industry	January series	Release Part 5 Set Task 2 weeks earlier	For the January 2021 series only, release the task 2 weeks earlier on 30/11/2020 to allow additional time to schedule completion of the task in accordance with social distancing measures and self-isolation guidelines.
		June series	No adaptation	



BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF) in Music Technology				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
31810H	DAW Production	June series	Release task 2 weeks earlier to allow a 4 week assessment window.	Extending the assessment window will support centres by providing more time to deliver the assessment to allow learners sufficient access to specialist software and equipment whilst social distancing measures are in place.
31809H	Music Technology Enterprise Opportunities	June series	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extend the assessment window by one week to allow a 3 week assessment window. 2. Remove the requirement for a video recorded learner presentation and instead produce presentation materials (similar to 20177K). 	<p>Facilitate the need to timetable several sessions of the supervised assessment window within reduced timetabled contact time to allow for social distancing.</p> <p>Removing the delivery of the pitch/presentation significantly streamlines the assessment burden for centres and learners.</p>
31811H	Music Technology in Context	January series	Release Part A one week earlier	For the January 2021 series only, release the task one week earlier on 07/12/2020 to allow additional time to schedule completion of the task in accordance with social distancing measures and self-isolation guidelines.
		June series	No adaptation	



BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF) in Performing Arts				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
31557H	Group Performance Workshop	June series	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Release task 4 weeks earlier to allow centres additional time to deliver the assessment. 2. Amend group size from 3-7 to 2-7 in each group 3. Reduce timings to a minimum of 6 mins for pairs, and a min of 8 mins for group sizes of three or more, retaining 20 minutes as the maximum. 	<p>Release the task 4 weeks earlier to allow additional time to complete the task in accordance with social distance measures.</p> <p>Learners may not be able to work in larger groups due to centre restrictions on access to rehearsal spaces/blended learning restricting opportunities for practical work, plus possible local lockdown further impacting on opportunities. All aspects of the established external assessment and marking grids are retained but the assessment burden is reduced.</p>
31559H	Individual Performance Commission	June series	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Release task 2 weeks earlier to allow centres additional time to deliver the assessment 2. Reduce submission requirements to 3-6 minutes from 5-8 minutes of solo work. 	<p>Release the task 2 weeks earlier to allow additional time to complete the task in accordance with social distance measures.</p> <p>Reduce the amount of practical work to mitigate lost teaching time and space to produce work.</p>
31561H	Employment Opportunities in the Performing Arts	January and June series	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Release task 2 weeks earlier to allow centres additional time to deliver the assessment. 2. Reduce requirement to two recorded extracts of performance work in the learner's Digital Promotional Portfolio. 	<p>Release the task 2 weeks earlier to allow additional time to complete the task in accordance with social distance measures.</p> <p>Reduce the evidence requirements for the Digital Promotional Portfolio in acknowledgement that less performance work will be possible this academic year.</p>
31555H	Investigating Practitioners' Work	January and June series	No adaptation	



BTEC Firsts (NQF)

BTEC Level 1 / 2 Firsts (NQF) in Art and Design				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
20478E	2: Creative Project in Art and Design	June series	Release 2 weeks early to allow a longer assessment window.	Extending the assessment window will support centres by providing more time to deliver the assessment to allow learners sufficient access to specialist materials and equipment whilst social distancing measures are in place.
21357E	7: Recording for Creative Intentions in Art and Design	June series	Release 2 weeks early to allow a longer assessment window.	



BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Awards (RQF)

BTEC Level 1 / 2 Tech Award (RQF) in Art and Design Practice				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
21181L	Component 3: Responding to a Client Brief	June series	Release 6 weeks earlier to allow a longer assessment window.	<p>The Set Task will be released 6 weeks earlier in January to allow for a longer assessment window to facilitate social distancing and mitigate loss of access to specialist resources due to potential local lockdowns. Research may be secondary rather than primary.</p> <p>It is expected that all other aspects of this external assessment will be accessible within the established parameters.</p> <p>The published Assessment Objectives and marking grids remain relevant and unchanged.</p> <p>This component may already be approached on an entirely individual basis as group work is not required or assessed.</p>



BTEC Level 1 / 2 Tech Award (RQF) in Creative Media Production				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
21153K	Component 3: Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief	June series	Release 4 weeks earlier to allow a longer assessment window.	<p>The Set Task will be released 4 weeks earlier in January to allow for a longer assessment window to facilitate social distancing and mitigate loss of access to specialist resources due to potential local lockdowns.</p> <p>It is expected that all other aspects of this external assessment will be accessible within the established parameters.</p> <p>The published Assessment Objectives and marking grids remain relevant and unchanged.</p> <p>This component may already be approached on an entirely individual basis as group work is not required or assessed.</p>



BTEC Level 1 / 2 Tech Award (RQF) in Engineering				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
21141K	Component 3: Responding to an Engineering Brief	Feb series	Release 2 weeks earlier to allow a longer assessment window.	<p>The Set Task Part 1 will be released 2 weeks earlier in January to allow for a longer assessment window to facilitate social distancing and mitigate loss of access to specialist resources due to potential local lockdowns and self-isolation requirements.</p> <p>Part 1 will now be released on 18/01/2021.</p> <p>The teacher instructions will be available for secure download from the Pearson website on 7/12/20. This will allow centres more time to purchase any resources needed for Part 1 of the external assessment prior to the start of the supervised period. This document must still be kept secure at all times.</p>



BTEC Level 1 / 2 Tech Award (RQF) in Music Practice				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
21211L	3: Responding to a Commercial Music Brief	June series	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Release 3 weeks earlier to allow a longer assessment window 2. Reduce time requirements to a minimum of one minute and thirty seconds from three - four minutes. 	<p>The Set Task will be released 3 weeks earlier in January to allow for a longer assessment window to facilitate social distancing and mitigate loss of access to specialist resources due to potential local lockdowns.</p> <p>In addition, there is a reduction in the amount of musical work to be produced in response to the given brief. This has been reduced to a minimum of one minute and thirty seconds from three - four minutes.</p> <p>It is expected that all other aspects of this external assessment will be accessible within the established parameters.</p> <p>The published Assessment Objectives and marking grids remain relevant and unchanged.</p> <p>This component may already be approached on an entirely individual basis as group work is not required or assessed.</p>



BTEC Level 1 / 2 Tech Award (RQF) in Performing Arts				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
21123K	3: Responding to a Brief	June series	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Release 3 weeks earlier to allow a longer assessment window 2. Reduce minimum group size to 2 - 7 performers with up to 4 designers per group 3. Reduce performance requirements to 3-10 minutes for performers and 5-10 minutes for designers. 	<p>To facilitate social distancing and mitigate loss of access to specialist resources, practical working space, etc. due to potential local lockdowns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Set Task will be released earlier in the window at the beginning of January to allow for a longer assessment window and • The minimum group size, performance and/or design pitch/presentation time has been reduced. <p>Groups will work together in response to the set task context and theme and to plan and develop their work, but the recorded performance can include solos if social distancing measures make ensemble work impractical, however, these must be related to the group response.</p> <p>Group collaboration can be at the centre subject to social distancing and/or remote collaboration using online platforms, social media, email, etc.</p> <p>It should be possible for individual learners to still produce the three written logs (Ideas, Skills and Evaluation Report) with appropriate invigilation during the supervised writing time, in line with national COVID-19 policy and guidance for examinations. Centres may decide to schedule the supervised completion of the written logs into less than three separate sessions if needed.</p> <p>It is expected that all other aspects of this external assessment will be accessible within the established parameters.</p> <p>The published Assessment Objectives and marking grids remain relevant and unchanged.</p>



BTEC Level 2 Technicals (RQF)

BTEC Level 2 Technical Diploma (RQF) in Design Production				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
21244K	Unit 6: Creative Design Project	June series	Release 4 weeks early to allow a longer assessment window.	Centres will need more time to deliver the assessment to allow learners sufficient access to specialist materials and equipment whilst social distancing measures are in place.

BTEC Level 2 Technical Diploma (RQF) in Digital Media Production				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
21250K	Unit 5/6: Digital Production Project	June series	Release 4 weeks early to allow a longer assessment window.	Centres will need more time to deliver the assessment to allow learners sufficient access to specialist materials and equipment whilst social distancing measures are in place.

BTEC Level 2 Technical Diploma (RQF) in Music Production				
Unit Code	Unit Title	Assessment opportunities	Adaptation	Comments
21314L	Unit 14: Music Project	June series	Release 3 weeks early to allow a longer assessment window.	Centres will need more time to deliver the assessment to allow learners sufficient access to specialist materials, software and equipment whilst social distancing measures are in place.