Pearson
BTEC

Teaching and learning support during Coronavirus (COVID-19)

IT and Computing

Guidance for BTEC Nationals, Tech Awards and Firsts

Support

Last updated 21st May 2020

Formal assessment requirements

We have confirmed for BTEC Level 3 Nationals, BTEC Level 1 and 2 Firsts and Tech Awards, where we expect to be able to provide calculated results, we do not require or expect any formal assessment for BTEC to take place while learners are studying at home. We expect to collect centre assessment grades from teachers and tutors for any incomplete work for all learners and these judgements will be used in the calculation of a final result where relevant.

Supporting teaching and learning

Whilst not a requirement we are encouraging and supporting continued learning at home during this time, so when learners return to school or college, progress to HE, an apprenticeship, or work, they have the knowledge and skills they need to continue with confidence. We also recognise the benefits that learning and a structured day have on general health and wellbeing and we want to make sure that we are doing everything we can to best support you and your learners at this time.

Contents:

Qualifications in IT and Computing that fall into the Calculated Result Category

Qual. No.	Qualification title
600/4789/6	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Information and Creative Technology
600/6071/2	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Certificate in Information and Creative Technology
601/0169/6	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Diploma in Information and Creative Technology
600/6072/4	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate in Information and Creative Technology
603/2740/6	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology
601/7574/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Information Technology (180 GLH)
601/7575/8	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology (360 GLH)
601/7576/X	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Information Technology (510 GLH)
603/0455/8	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Information Technology (720 GLH)
603/0454/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Information Technology (1080 GLH)
601/7337/3	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Business Information Systems
601/7338/5	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Computer Science
601/7339/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Computer Systems and Network Support
601/7340/3	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Computing for Creative Industries
601/7341/5	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Computing (360 GLH)
601/7343/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Computing (510 GLH)
603/0445/5	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Computing (720 GLH)
601/7342/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Computing (1080 GLH)

Support for Blending Learning

1. Digital Textbooks and Revision Guides

We're providing **free 90-day access** for your centre to some of our digital learning resources which can be accessed in college or at home.

The following digital Textbook bundles are all available via our online ActiveLearn platform. ActiveLearn provides core textbooks, online homework and practical activities, as well as front-of-class teaching resources, planning and assessment materials. You can allocate as much or as little from the e-Textbooks as you wish to your learners to access wherever, whenever.

Digital textbook bundles:

- KS4 Vocational Qualifications
- KS5 Vocational Qualifications

Revision

- KS4 Revision Guides
- KS5 Revision Guides

If you would like to access these resources please request access here.

2. Online remote-delivery recordings for BTECs

- Introduction to online remote delivery
- Developing resources for online delivery
- Planning and teaching online
- Supporting students studying online

> Find out more

3. Digital Live Event and Recordings

Access recordings from our **Digital Live event: Enabling Education**

> Find out more

4. Get expert guidance from our community of online teaching and learning specialists

A range of free resources including blog articles and webinars to provide support, inspire ideas and enable you to channel your passions and expertise without feeling too overwhelmed. Browse articles and blog content and access via this link.

5. Paid-for Teaching Resources

Pearson Learning Hub

This platform has a range of courses available with content broken down into bitesize learning chunks. It supports blended and online learning via the use of videos, online quizzes and resources that your learner can access.

For some courses, flashcards and infographics break down information further into accessible amounts of information.

Learning programmes currently include:

- **Workplace Behaviours** – soft skills training and development covering areas such as Resilience, Professionalism, Decision-making, Adaptability, Self-Management and Work Ethics.
- **Digital Technologies for non-experts** including Artificial Intelligence for Leaders, Artificial Intelligence De-Mystified and Digital Technology De-Mystified.

>Find out more about Pearson Learning Hub

ActiveLearn teaching packs

These packs cover the full breadth of the unit content. Lesson plans, presentations, activity sheets, videos and quizzes are included in the pack. Once you have access to these, you can share them with your learners.

Active Learn teaching packs are available for:

- **BTEC National in IT**
- **BTEC Nationals in Computing**

Support Videos

BTEC Nationals in DIT

We've designed your BTEC Tech Awards resources to work with the free Schemes of Work. Once you have access to these, you can share them with your learners.

6. Sector Body Resources

Sector body	Web page
Digital industry research articles	**Tech UK**
Employer led free training resources	**Huawei Free Online Resources**
Free training from Google	**Google Garage**
Free Digital Business Courses	**Tech Nation**

Subject Advisor support and guidance

Contact details:

- Contact your Subject advisor **Tim Brady** using the webform **here.**
- Sign up to the **Subject Advisor monthly newsletter** here
- Join Facebook groups for
  - **BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology**
  - **BTEC Nationals Computing & IT**
  - **GCSE Computer Science**
- Join our new **Pearson Community** here

Teaching and Learning to support transition to second year of a two-year programme

We are continuing to support schools and colleges to enable learners to continue with their studies from home. We are encouraging continued learning so when learners return to school or college they have the knowledge and skills they need to continue with their course.

Tech Awards - DIT

Over 40 ways to teach Digital Information Technology

Explore what you can teach and some fun lesson plans to deliver it with our guide. We've worked with IT teachers to create a resource packed with ideas on how to deliver this BTEC

(**Videos**, **Delivery Support**)

BTEC Nationals in Information Technology

Free resources from across the internet

BTEC Nationals in Computing

Free resources from across the internet

Approaches for remote learning

Our expectation is that centres will continue to provide teaching and learning of as much of the BTEC specification unit content as is possible and carry out teacher based assessments (e.g. worksheets, questions, activities etc) to help prepare learners for the next stage of their journey.

We do not expect learners to complete any formal BTEC Assignment Briefs for BTEC Level 3 Nationals, BTEC Level 1 and 2 Firsts and Tech Awards between mid-March and July.
The table provides some examples of adapted approaches to providing learners with activities that allow for feedback and support continued teaching and learning.

Alternative Remote Learning Approaches	
Assessment Technique	**Indicative Alternative Assessment**
Case study (physical submission)	Case study (online submission or electronic submission by email)
Discussion forum (in class, verbal)	Virtual meetings (Google class, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, FaceTime, Skype or equivalent platforms)
Discussion forum (written)	Online chat (Google class, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, FaceTime, Skype, VLEs, blogs or equivalent platforms)

Independent research report (physical copy)	Independent research report (online submission or electronic submission by email)
Question and Answer Session	(Google class, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Skype or equivalent platforms)
Peer review (written, in class)	Peer review report (online submission or electronic submission by email)
Presentation (face-to-face, in class)	Presentation (live via Google class, Microsoft Teams, Zoom,Skype or equivalent platforms Presentation (recorded online submission or electronic submission by email)
Self-reflection	Self-reflection (online submission or electronic submission by email)
Simulated activity (in class demonstration)	Individual report (online submission or electronic submission by email)
Written task/report (physical submission)	Written task/report (online submission or electronic submission by email)

How to approach research

Students working on research activities requiring primary research may find it challenging in the current climate. However, when used correctly the internet can be a good source for scholarly journals (e.g. Google Scholar and Pubmed), current news, books, credible magazines, general information and other relevant content to help with research-based activities.

Primary Data Collection

Typically, activities such as interviews, focus groups, observations, etc. would be conducted in a face-to-face environment. Alternative methods to conduct primary research could include:

- Utilising video conferencing software to host focus groups, observations and interviews
- Arranging a phone conversation for direct interviews
- Utilising Live Messaging systems or software such as MS Teams to conduct research amongst peers
- Engaging in email correspondence

Using social media networks to gauge feedback or interest i.e. consumer voice.
Using online surveys is another approach which is relatively simple to set up. Several free online survey tools are readily available to design and send out to wide range of participants. Common survey platforms include:

- **Google Forms** – http://forms.google.com
- **SurveyMonkey** - http://surveymonkey.com
- **SmartSurvey** - https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk

Secondary Data Collection

Where primary data collection may not be possible, or necessary, students may be directed to use secondary research; which can support the original hypothesis being examined. Many online journals offer free access to scholarly articles and peer reviewed journals. To ensure reliability look for reputable sources online. Many reliable statistics, articles and other information can be found on government and educational websites.

In addition, an Internet search for only scholarly information will reveal further sources. Some open access journals which feature topics across several areas are:

- **DOAJ** - https://doaj.org/
  DOAJ features more than 8,500 open access journals, many of which are sourced from government, commercial, non-profit, and for-profit sources.
- **Oxford Open** - https://academic.oup.com/journals/pages/open_access
  Oxford Open's database is comprised of archived content from more than 300 publications. The majority of these journals are fully open access, and the site also provides an array of optional open access entries (articles with publication costs paid by the author) that users may also access free-of-charge.
- **Omics Group -** https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access-journals-list.php
  More than 300 open-access scientific journals on life sciences, pharmacology, environmental science, management, computer science and engineering.

For a full list of open access journals by subject go to-
https://www.onlineschools.org/open-access-journals/

Many professional bodies and professional membership organisations also publish research studies, case studies and information that students may use to support their research. Typically, these sources will be reliable and relevant. Centres are encouraged to ensure that students are aware of the professional bodies and membership organisations that are relevant to their field of study.

How to approach the use of software

Centres are encouraged to provide students with guidance as to suitable free or low-cost software that may be used to undertake work. For example:

There are many free or low-cost alternatives available. Many software vendors provide free versions of software for students. Searching on the internet will result in extensive lists.

Some large, industry-standard software vendors provide free versions of their software for education. Some of the most common are:

- **Microsoft** – Word, Excel, Powerpoint and others are available for free. (https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office)
- **Libre Office** - LibreOffice is free and Open Source Office Suite Software. https://www.libreoffice.org/
- **Google Docs** - free office suite for personal use. https://www.google.co.uk/docs/about/

In addition, many vendors offer low-cost educational licenses for their software. For example, Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, etc.) offer a low-cost monthly license for students. (https://adobe.ly/3430FXX)

Finally, many vendors offer fully functional trial versions of their software. These may allow students to complete work using the same software as found in college. Centres are encouraged to explore whether trial versions of their software may be available and provide students with appropriate guidance.