

# How BTECs are assessed and awarded

**Level 3 BTEC Nationals** are qualifications which are often taken alongside, or instead of, A levels or T-Levels. You can find out more about Level 3 BTEC Nationals [here](#).

**Level 1/2 BTEC Firsts, Technicals** and **Tech Awards** are qualifications which are often taken alongside, or instead of, GCSEs. You can find out more about BTEC Firsts [here](#) and BTEC Tech Awards [here](#).

BTECs are flexible qualifications made up of modules which are assessed throughout the period of the course, rather than solely having exams at the end of the learning period.

Learners may complete a full BTEC qualification over a number of years (up to five) and there are many different sizes of BTEC (for example, a diploma, extended diploma).

Most BTEC qualifications are made up of around 60% internally assessed units, i.e. modules which are assessed by schools and colleges who give a recommended grade for those individual units or modules. These are then quality assured by Pearson.

External assessments (usually around 40% of the qualification) are set, marked, and awarded by Pearson.

Each completed unit, whether it is assessed internally or externally, has its own individual grade, and an equivalent points score. The learner can carry that score with them from one year to the next until a full BTEC qualification grade is achieved.

**In order to provide a BTEC qualification result, all of the following steps must be completed:**

- The school or college must register the learner and enter the learner for external assessments, plus complete all associated admin on behalf of that student
- All required unit elements must be completed by the learner
- The school or college needs to inform Pearson what internal assessment grades have been awarded
- The school or college must inform Pearson that the learner has completed the required units and 'claim' (request) for the final, overall qualification to be assessed and awarded. Without this, Pearson cannot be aware that a student has completed all the modules that they want considered as part of their final grade. ►

In order to take into account the adaptations put in place to support learners who were impacted by the pandemic, both last academic year and this, additional information needed to be added to our assessment systems over and above what is required in a 'normal' academic year. More information about this can be found [here](#), but as an overview, this included:

- **'Unit-Level Teacher Assessed Grades'** which were permitted for all assessments that were due to take place in 2020/21. These were in place of some units, due to the interruptions of that year. These grades are provided by schools/colleges and sent to Pearson to add to the overall BTEC score.
- **Unit grades awarded by Pearson** for learners who unavoidably missed external assessments (also known as the [Special Consideration process](#)). This is not a new process, but due to the impact of COVID-19, is more common in the current student cohort than in previous years.
- **Internal Unit grades awarded by teachers or tutors** which were streamlined and based on assessment of one learning aim or objective (rather than three or four).

Once Pearson has received the unit grades from schools/colleges these are combined to generate the final BTEC grade.

Pearson shares that final grade with schools/colleges in advance of "results day" which gives schools and colleges another opportunity to identify any individual, missing grades so that we can work together to resolve issues. This also allows schools, who know their students best, decide how to give students their grades, be that in person, digitally, by letter, or in an enhanced support setting.

For BTEC Nationals students who have applied to university, Pearson also shares the final grade with UCAS directly, ahead of results day. ■



## How BTEC qualification grades are assessed and awarded

