

# Introduction to BTEC Nationals

A guide for Parents

# What is BTEC?

- BTECs are vocational Qualifications which ARE DESIGNED to mix practical and academic ASSESSMENT.
- They provide a route to higher study whilst developing key skills for those looking to go into the workplace.
- Each BTEC is split into separate units which will enable the student to acquire new skills and improve existing ones.
- It is a vocational qualification meaning that there will be specific links to industry in the specified field.

# How will it impact my child's UCAS application?

BTECs are increasingly being used by University applicants.

For more practical courses they are preferred due to the vocational element.

UCAS have assessed the new BTECs as part of their new Tariffs and linked the points value to that of A-Levels.

The key for students is to look at the individual university requirements

BTEC Certificate

Grade	Current Tariff	New Tariff
D*	70	28
D	60	24
M	40	16
P	20	8

BTEC Extended Certificate

Grade	Current Tariff	New Tariff
D*	140	56
D	120	48
M	80	32
P	40	16

BTEC Foundation Diploma

Grade	Current Tariff	New Tariff
D*	210	84
D	180	72
M	120	48
P	60	24

# How do employers view BTECs?

- BTECs are designed to provide a link between the skills needed in an employment sector and education.
- BTECs have been created with the participation of employer organisations.
- BTECs are also often used by companies for the educational component of apprenticeships.
- The new Level 3 BTECs require employer engagement in some instances.

# How is a BTEC studied?

- Students will study an element of the course
- They then are given an assignment brief which requires tasks to be completed to produce evidence by a fixed deadline.
- Each unit is made up of a number of assignments which all must be completed
- Evidence can include- reports, financial documents, projects, posters, displays, leaflets, interviews, role plays, logbooks, journals, presentations, case studies, performance, SWOT analysis,

# How will my child be assessed?

- Btecs have a range of assessments.

Types	Set and marked by	Format	Tasks demonstrate
Assignments	The lead teacher  Verified by Pearson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practical tasks</li><li>• Work-related scenarios</li></ul>	Application of knowledge and skills  Individually or in teams
Tasks	Pearson External Markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practical tasks</li><li>• Everyday scenarios</li><li>• Controlled conditions</li><li>• Some pre-released information</li></ul>	Application of learning to common workplace or HE scenarios
Exams	Pearson External Examiners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practical questions</li><li>• Written responses</li><li>• Controlled conditions</li></ul>	Confidence with recalling and applying technical information and fundamental knowledge

# How does it compare to an A-Level?

Name	Number of Units	Learning Hours	A-Level Equivalent
Certificate	2 Mandatory Units	180	AS Level
Extended Certificate	3 Mandatory Units & 1 Free Choice Unit	360	A Level
Foundation Diploma	4 Mandatory & 2 Free Choice Units	510	1.5 A Level
Diploma	6 Mandatory & 2 Free Choice Units	720	2 A Level
Extended Diploma	7 Mandatory & 6 Free Choice Units	1080	3 A Level

CHECK WITH SUBJECTS FOR MORE DETAILS

# How many Exams will they have?

Name	Internal Assessment Units	External Task Units	Examination Units
Certificate	1 Unit	1 Unit	None
Extended Certificate	2 Units	1 Unit	1 Unit
Foundation Diploma	4 Units	1 Unit	1 Unit
Diploma	5 Units	2 Units	1 Unit
Extended Diploma	9 Units	3 Units	1 Unit

CHECK WITH SUBJECTS FOR MORE DETAILS AS EACH SUBJECT WILL VARY.



# BTECs are for weaker students- aren't they?

- No- is the simple answer.
- They are designed for learners who want to develop career focused skills.
- They are well respected by universities and employers.
- They provide a wider range of assessment which ensures that learners are fully tested.

# What makes a good BTEC Student?

- Good Organisational Skills
- Hard work
- Strong research skills
- Ability to apply ideas to practical situations
- Inquisitive mind
- Teamwork skills

# How can you help your child?

- Be aware of their deadlines- these are 'hard' deadlines and they must be kept so please inform teachers of any problems.
- Assist with resources- BTECs require a lot of research and investigation- access to the internet and a quiet place to work is vital
- Support practical work- in BTECs vocational experience is critical- you could provide work experience opportunities or support by attending events at school involving your child
- Be Positive- BTECs are hard work and many students will find it difficult to stay focused on their targets- Positive support at home can make the difference