



Your guide to Pearson qualifications

FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS



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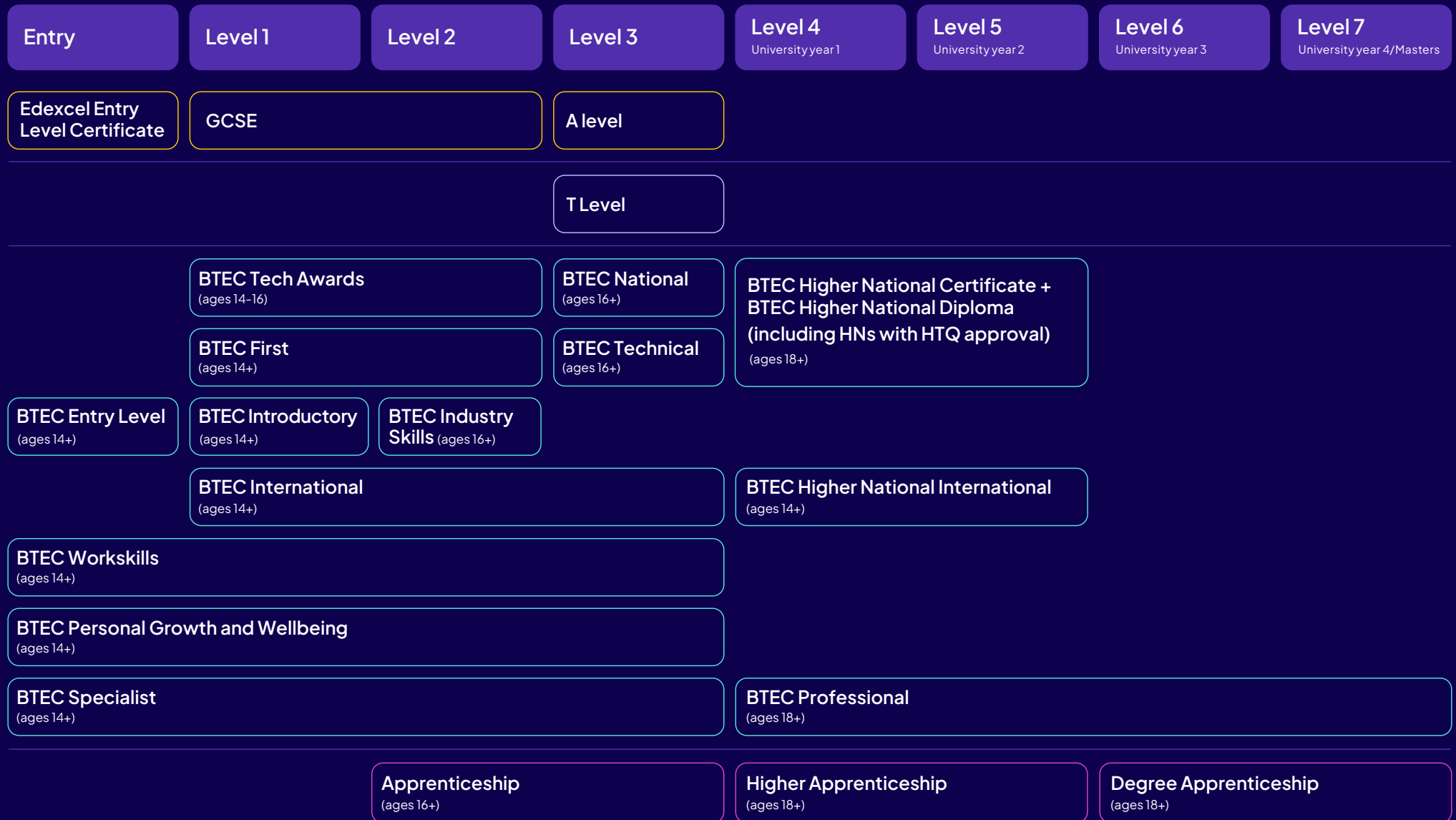
BTECs recognise that there's difference in people, but not in their potential.”

Teanna

BTEC National in Health & Social Care



Pearson qualifications



What is a BTEC?

BTEC (which stands for the Business & Technology Education Council) offers high-quality, career-focused qualifications grounded in the real world of work.

BTEC courses focus on skills-based learning and are designed around themed units. Rather than testing everything at the end, BTECs are tested throughout the course using assessments based on real-life scenarios.

This practical approach allows learners to develop and apply the knowledge, skills and behaviours that employers and universities are looking for.

With a BTEC qualification, you will learn and develop key skills such as:



Organisation
and working
to deadlines



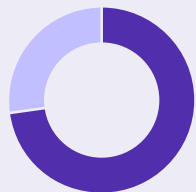
Ability to
learn and
adapt



Sector-specific
skills and
knowledge

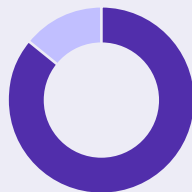


Initiative
and problem
solving



73%

of students say they want to learn about topics that are more relevant to them and their lives.



86%

of students say they want to learn skills that help them get a job.

1 in 5

of the UK adult working population have a BTEC, so they are qualifications that all employers recognise.



“

Being the only one out of 150 students in year 11 to undertake a BTEC qualification as part of an apprenticeship, was the best decision I could ever make.”

Santina

BTEC Level 3 National in Civil Engineering



BTEC and University

BTEC Level 3 Nationals qualify for UCAS points towards your university application in the same way as A levels and AS levels. This chart shows how many points each BTEC National is worth, based on the grade you achieve.

BTEC National Grade	90 – credit Diploma	Diploma	Extended Diploma
D*D*D*	–	–	168
D*D*D	–	–	160
D*DD	–	–	152
DDD	–	–	144
DDM	–	–	128
DMM	–	–	112
D*D*	84	112	–
D*D	78	104	–
DD	72	96	–
DM	60	80	–
MMM	–	–	96
MMP	–	–	80
MM	48	64	–
MPP	–	–	64
MP	36	48	–
PPP	–	–	48
PP	24	32	–

BTEC National Grade	Certificate	Extended Certificate & Subsidiary Diploma	Foundation Diploma
D* (Distinction*)	28	56	84
D (Distinction)	24	48	72
M (Merit)	16	32	48
P (Pass)	8	16	24

If you're also studying A levels and want to compare UCAS points, here's a quick guide.

Grade	A level	AS level
A*	56	–
A	48	20
B	40	16
C	32	12
D	24	10
E	16	6

BTEC Higher Nationals

You may also choose to go into Higher Education via a BTEC Higher National Certificate (equivalent to first year of a degree) or Higher National Diploma (equivalent to first two years of a degree) before progressing to a full degree.

BTEC Higher Nationals are internationally recognised, career-focused higher education qualifications that allow you to either 'top-up' to a degree at [300+ universities worldwide](#) or enter the world of work.

With over 40 subject areas to choose from, BTEC Higher Nationals are co-designed with industry to provide both real-world experience and academic knowledge. This ensures you'll leave with the expertise demanded by businesses and industries, with the flexibility to go straight into employment or continue to a degree.



Tim

BTEC Higher National
Diploma in Sport

“

It wasn't just the knowledge that I gained studying BTECs at a variety of levels, but also the employability skills that have really helped me in the workplace.”



Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is an exciting and practical way to get your career off to a flying start.

You'll be in a real job, meaning you will be earning while you're learning, with opportunities to put the knowledge and skills you learn into practice in the workplace.

You can start an apprenticeship from the age of 16 and over. Apprenticeships are available across a wide range of industry sectors and span levels 2 to 7 providing great progression opportunities, whether into highly skilled jobs or higher education.



Rayhan

L3 Digital Marketing
Apprenticeship

“

My apprenticeship experience has been life changing! I have met so many new people, many of whom are highly experienced in their industries and learned so much.”



T Levels

T Levels are new qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time education.

They have been developed in collaboration with employers, to ensure the content meets the needs of industry and prepares you for work.

Your T Level will provide you with the knowledge and experience needed to open the door to skilled employment, an apprenticeship or higher-level study, including Higher Technical Qualifications and university.



Fernanda

T Level in Digital
Production, Design
and Development

“

The T Level programme provided a unique blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience that has been essential in shaping my career in AI and digital solutions.”



GCSEs

GCSEs (General Certificates of Secondary Education) are taken by 14 to 16-year-old students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and take two years to complete.

You can opt to combine core GCSE subjects such as Maths, English and Science, with BTECs in vocational subjects you are interested in – a great way to develop your practical skills alongside your academic study and tailor your learning to your strengths and goals.

Whether combined with BTECs or as stand-alone qualifications, GCSEs offer you a route to a range of level 3 study routes such as A levels, T levels, BTEC Nationals or an apprenticeship.



A levels

A levels are Level 3 qualifications – sometimes called General Certificates of Education (GCE) or Advanced levels. They are normally studied after Level 2 BTECs or GCSEs and involve studying the theory of a subject combined with some investigative work and are studied full-time over two years at school or college.

A levels can be taken alongside BTEC Nationals, providing you with a mix of academic and practical skills – a great combination as you move to higher education or into employment.

Whether studied as standalone qualifications or combined with BTEC Nationals, A levels support progression to higher education at college or university, an apprenticeship or work.



Roo

A level and BTEC
student

“

I was able to study
A levels in the subjects I
loved alongside my BTEC
which provided me with
hands-on experience.”



