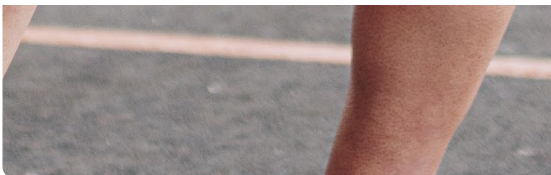




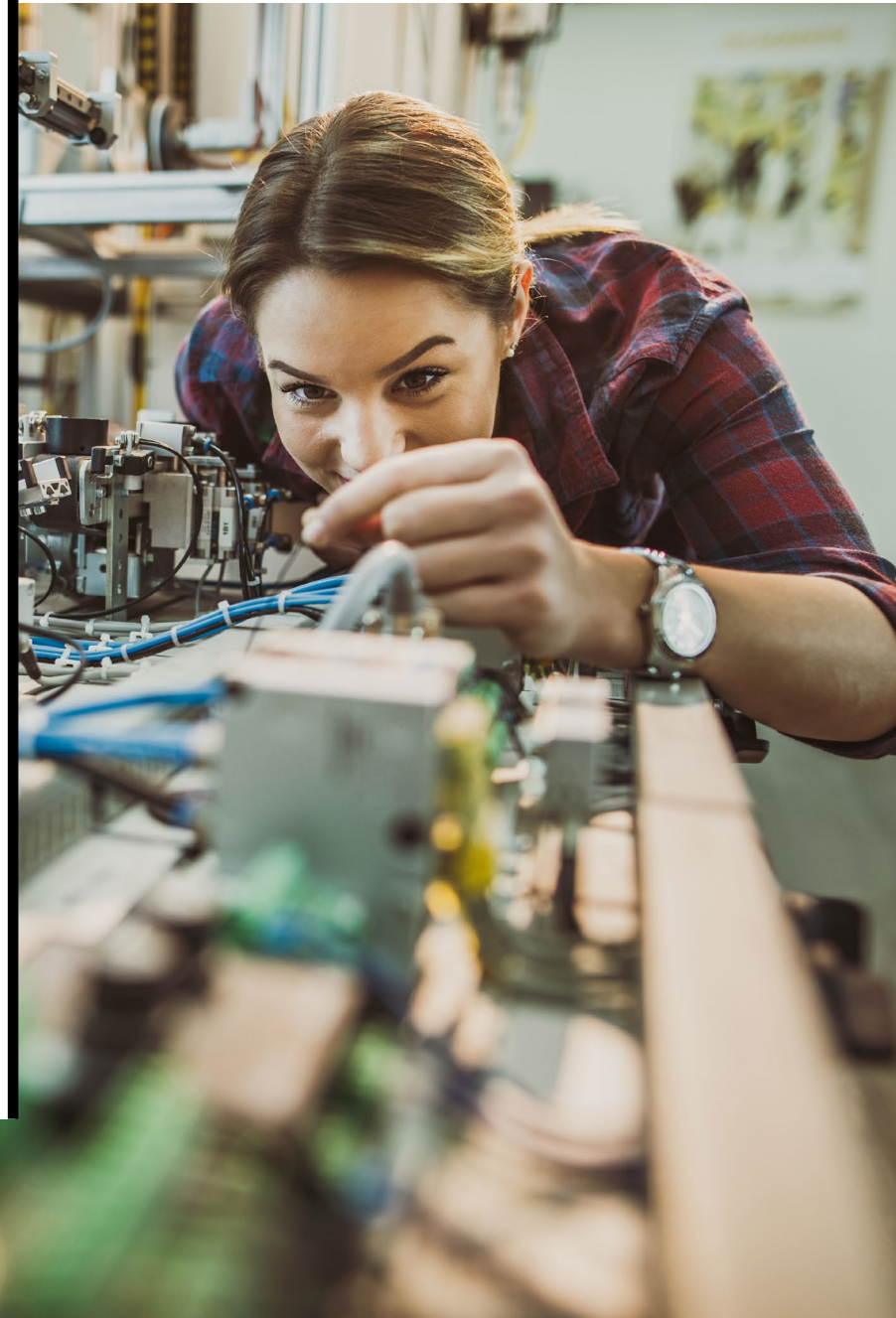
Introducing the  
Redeveloped  
**BTEC Tech Awards**


The skills to succeed – the  
confidence to progress



# What are **BTEC Tech Awards**?

- Broad, high-quality Level 1 / Level 2 qualifications in non EBacc subjects, designed for **Key Stage 4 learners in schools in England and Northern Ireland** to study alongside GCSEs.
- Designed to equip learners with **applied knowledge** not normally acquired through GCSEs, giving them a **taste** of a particular sector, **sector-specific and transferable skills**, and **confidence** to take their next steps.
- **The same size as a single GCSE**, they are rigorous enough to **show capacity for progression** to Key Stage 5/post-16 and are designed to encourage learners to take **next steps**.
- Designed to meet the **DfE's latest technical guidance for Key Stage 4** qualifications so that they are eligible for inclusion in the 2024 performance tables in the 'Open Group' of **Progress 8**.
- Assessed using a combination of vocational assignments, practical tasks and written assessments as relevant to each subject area. Creative subjects use only practical, task-based assessments.





# Why have we redeveloped the BTEC Tech Awards?

To meet the latest requirements for KS4 performance tables in England, we have created new BTEC Tech Awards for 2022.

12 of these qualifications have now been approved for 2024 performance tables, providing one of the broadest offers available from any awarding organisation.

# Will it be a big change for those teaching the previous specifications?

Our teaching & learning content has been retained in its current form for most subjects, with changes made to **increase clarity** and **enhance delivery and assessment**. We have retained and built on top of the features of the 2017/18 specifications that our community **told us that they liked** – such as the simple 3 component structure for most courses.

We **already met** the new requirement for **externally assessed components** to contribute **40%** to the qualification grade, however the externally assessed component must now be taken at the end of the programme to meet new **terminal assessment** requirements. Most centres currently deliver in this way, so it will mean no change.

The biggest change is to **internal assessment**. Under the new DfE requirements, all assessments must be marked internally by the teacher/assessor through **numerical** means using **mark schemes** (rather than by using pass, merit and distinction criteria) and moderated externally. Furthermore, assignments used for summative assessment must be **set by the awarding organisations** (whereas previously they could be internally set).

# Support for **delivery**

We will support you with complimentary resources and training to help you deliver the new assessments and apply the mark schemes:

- Delivery Guide
- Transition Guide mapping from previous qualification
- Sample assessment materials
- ExamWizard\*
- Results Plus\*
- Marking Training
- Marking Standardisation Events
- Access to Pearson subject specialist

\* For subjects with a written exam

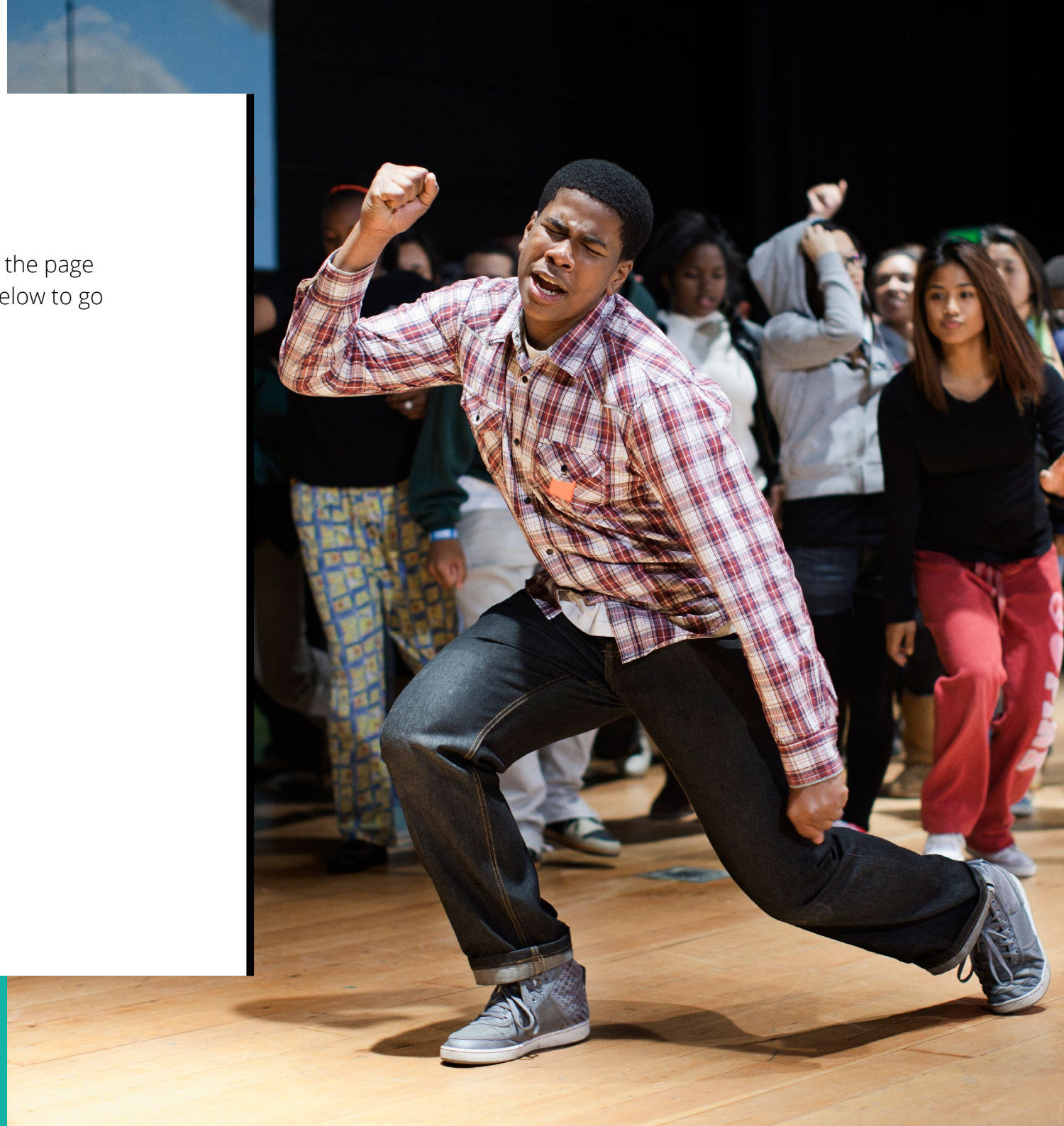
Paid for resources also available for most subjects including:

- Pearson Student books, Active books and Active Learn teacher packs
- Student Revision guides and workbooks



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# Introducing the redeveloped BTEC Tech Awards

For first teaching from September 2022, the redeveloped BTEC Tech Awards are perfect for learners interested in learning more about a specific sector in a hands-on way.

These Level 1/Level 2 courses are of the same size and rigour as GCSEs, widening learners' options at Key Stage 4, while keeping all their options open for progression into post-16 education and training.

With a Tech Award your learners will:

- Get a taste of what a sector is like.
- Gain skills and confidence that will help them in the world today and prepare them for their futures.
- Receive an introduction to vocational study.
- Have opportunities to apply academic knowledge from their GCSE subjects to every-day and work contexts.
- Build applied knowledge and skills that show an aptitude for further learning, both in the sector and more widely.

# Which **subjects** are available to teach?

## **Brand New** for 2022

In addition, we have redeveloped the popular BTEC Firsts in Animal Care, Construction and Sport as part of the redeveloped Tech Awards qualification suite.



\* Developed primarily from the BTEC First Award in Sport with some additional practical content taken from the Tech Award in Sport, Activity and Fitness.





# What's in the **courses**?

Our Tech Award specifications are designed to help learners:

- **Explore** what it's like to work in the sector and gain the underpinning knowledge and skills required to work in it.
- **Develop** key knowledge, skills and behaviours, and learn about essential tools, techniques, and equipment.
- **Apply** their learning to real-life contexts, and/or vocational scenarios in both learning and assessment.

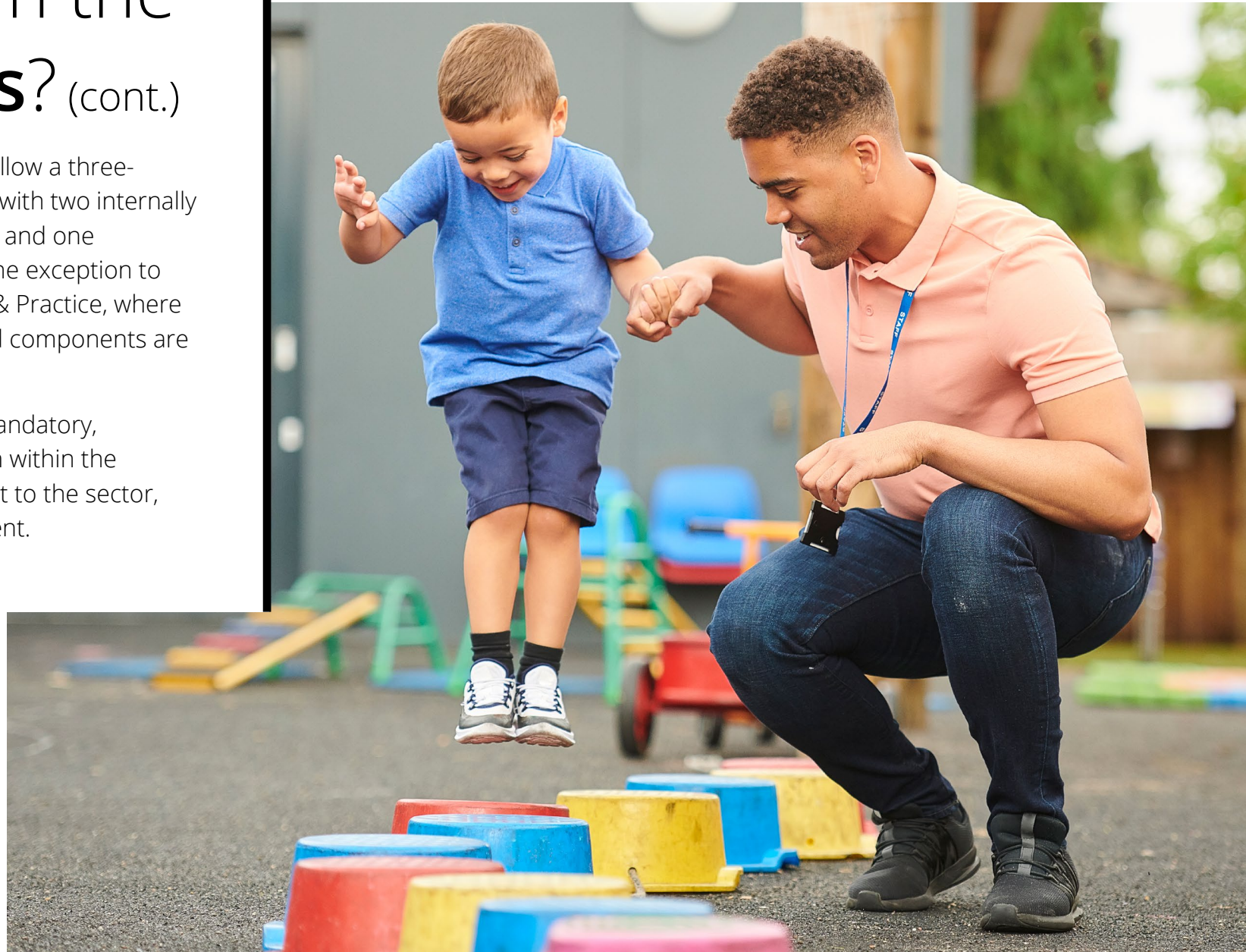
The components are interrelated and best seen as part of an integrated whole rather than as distinct study areas. Learners will normally take this qualification over a two-year period or longer, enabling them to build their confidence in understanding the sector, vocational contexts and vocational attributes before they are assessed.



# What's in the **courses?** (cont.)

Most of the courses follow a three-component structure, with two internally assessed components and one externally assessed. The exception to this rule is Art Design & Practice, where the internally assessed components are merged into one.

All components are mandatory, with optionality built-in within the content where relevant to the sector, streamlining assessment.





# How will **assessment** work?

BTEC Tech Awards feature a combination of internal and external knowledge and skills-based assessment giving learners opportunities to demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

Each assessment draws on vocational scenarios so learners can:

- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and best practice behaviours they have developed throughout the course
- Apply these knowledge, skills and behaviours in context

Components 1 & 2 are generally internally assessed and externally moderated, while Component 3 is externally assessed.\*

The **external moderation** requirement for internally assessed components is a new one, moving away from standards verification. However, our moderation process will give you opportunity to correct any issues with marking and will create a **significant reduction in administration** and paperwork.

\* Except for Construction, where Component 1 is externally assessed, and for Art and Design Practice, where it is Component 2.

# NEW Pearson Set Assignments

In a change to the DfE's previous criteria, internal summative assessments must now be set by the awarding organisation. Similar to the current Authorised Assignment Briefs, we will now be providing **Pearson Set Assignments (PSAs)**, which will be released twice a year well in advance of assessment windows in December/January and May/June.\*

While the scenario/context will change in each PSA, the tasks will assess the same skills so that the mark scheme remains consistent, making it easy for you to apply and standardise marking.

\*Art and Design Practice PSAs are released once a year. As per the new requirements, all assessments must be marked numerically.

In the new mark schemes, learners can gain up to 12 marks across four bands, ranging through **limited**, **adequate**, **good**, and **comprehensive** knowledge, understanding and skills.

A **consistent set of descriptors** to help you understand which band fits the quality of the evidence overall, with three marks available in each band to give you more **scope for differentiation**.

Full training will be provided on how to use the mark schemes.

# Marking of **external assessments** and **final grades**

The BTEC Tech Award qualifications will be graded and certificated on a seven-grade scale from **Level 2 Distinction\*** to **Level 1 Pass**. Individual components will be graded on a six-point scale from Level 2 Distinction to Level 1 Pass. **Individual component results will be reported.**

The final grade awarded for a qualification represents an **aggregation** of a learner's performance **across the three components**. A higher performance in some components may be balanced by a lower outcome in others.

To learn more about how final grades are **calculated**, we recommend downloading the specification for your subject area.



# Overview of Qualification Structure

Most of the subjects follow the same pattern of internal and external assessment, although there is variation between subjects as to whether the external assessment takes the form of a written exam or a task-based assignment.

	Guided Learning Hours	Weighting	Marks Available	Type of Assessment
Component 1	36	30%	60	Internal assessment (PSA). External moderation.
Component 2	36	30%	60	Internal assessment (PSA). External moderation.
Component 3	48	40%	60	External assessment. Externally marked.

Pearson Set Assignments (PSAs) are set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.

**NB:** For Construction it is Component 1 that is the externally assessed component, worth 40% of the qualification grade. For Art & Design Practice it is Component 2.

# Will the new way of assessing **affect** learners?

Assessment is **compensatory** within components and across the qualification - anywhere learners gain marks, these are added to the total towards a grade. Component grades are no longer restricted to the lowest grade achieved within the component.

There are **no longer any minimum grade requirements** in any component, so an Unclassified result in any of the components will not prevent a learner from achieving the qualification. This gives your learners more opportunities to achieve and better captures their true ability.

Unique to BTEC Tech Awards, the **moderation process includes direct feedback** – allowing you to address any issues with assessment before they impact on the learner's results.



# How will the courses **help learners?**

Learners will:

- Gain a practical introduction to life and work in a specific sector, allowing them to get a taste for a sector to see if it is for them.
- Develop knowledge and technical/creative skills integral to roles within their chosen sector should they choose to pursue a career in it.
- Develop relevant sector-specific employability skills, for example: delivering to a brief, communication, research, and project management.
- Develop a range of knowledge, understanding and practical skills needed to progress to further learning, be it a Level 2 Technical certificate or a Level 3 programme such as A Levels, T Levels or BTEC Nationals.





Want to know more?

