

Supporting our customers  
during  
Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Illustration by Lucy Vigars

Pearson's approach to awarding results in Summer 2020 for vocational, technical and other general qualifications in the UK.



Following on from the publication of the [Ofqual consultation](#) and [advice](#) on the assessment and grading of vocational, technical and other general qualifications, we have produced this document to summarise our proposal for Pearson qualifications, which are in scope.

This will help you to consider what this could mean for your centre and learners.

## Summary of changes

### Changes made in document dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020:

- We are now proposing Foundation Learning (which includes BTEC Entry Level (E1, E2, E3), BTEC Level 1 Introductory (2016) PSD, Workskills (Levels 1 - 2), Life Skills) follows a calculated results approach (instead of adapted assessment approach). See page 4 for further information, including about remote verification to support this.
- We have added "Level 1 (QCF 2010)" to the table on page 4, which had been omitted in the previous version.
- We have removed reference to a proposal to ask centres for centre assessment grades at qualification level for the main BTEC suites (page 4). Instead the proposal is to ask for actual and centre assessment grades for internal units, and a single rank.

### Additional changes in this document:

- Following the outcome of Ofqual's consultation, we've removed the term 'Proposed approach' and confirm that our approach is in line the consultation outcomes.
- We've added information to the Additional information section (pages 8-9) to include guidance on equalities and objectivity and links to further information.



## Contents

### Page 4

- BTEC Nationals\* (Level 3)
- BTEC Firsts (Levels 1- 2)
- BTEC Technicals\* (Levels 2-3)
- BTEC Tech Awards (Levels 1-2) Foundation Learning:
  - BTEC Entry Level (E1, E2, E3)
  - BTEC Level 1 Introductory (2016, QCF 2010)
  - PSD, Workskills (Levels 1 - 2)
  - Life Skills

### Page 5

- Functional Skills
- BTEC Foundation Diplomas in Art and Design (FAD) (Levels 3-4)
- BTEC HNC/HND (Levels 4-5)

### Page 6

- BTEC Specialist (Levels 1-3)
- BTEC Professional (Levels 4-6)
- CiDA (Levels 1-2)
- DiDA (Levels 1-2)

### Page 7

- Edexcel Awards in Maths (Levels 1-3)
- Core Maths (Level 3)
- ESOL Skills
- Competency-based qualifications (e.g. those that form part of an apprenticeship)
- Onscreen and paper based tests for BTEC Specialist/Professional/Customised/Licence to Practise Qualifications and End Point Assessment (EPA)

### Page 8

- Additional information and support



Qualification suite	Overview of approach for learners due to complete any assessments between 20 March and 31 July 2020
<p><b>BTEC Nationals* (Level 3)</b>  <b>BTEC Firsts (Levels 1- 2)</b>  <b>BTEC Technicals* (Levels 2-3)</b>  <b>BTEC Tech Awards (Levels 1-2)</b></p> <p><b>Foundation Learning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BTEC Entry Level (E1, E2, E3),</li> <li>○ BTEC Level 1 Introductory (2016, QCF 2010)</li> <li>○ PSD, Workskills (Levels 1 - 2)</li> <li>○ Life Skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Calculated result approach:</b> centres have already been asked to provide unit grades for <b>internally assessed</b> completed units. In addition to this, we will be asking for centre assessment grades, based on the most likely grade that learners would have achieved, for incomplete <b>internally assessed</b> units that were due to be completed during March-July and an overall qualification rank order of learners.</p> <p>We will provide guidance and support on the calculation process during the first two weeks of May.</p> <p>We will not be asking for centres to provide any externally assessed grades for these qualifications, instead we will look to calculate external assessment results (where learners have entries or test bookings) based on available data and the rank order provided.</p> <p>Pearson will then conduct checks and statistical standardisation of the grades submitted.</p> <p>For qualifications in the 'Foundation Learning' suite, please note that an aspect of remote sampling will be required as part of the mitigation for these qualifications.</p> <p><i>*Please note that this excludes some Dental/Childcare/Sport units or qualifications, where a licence to practise element is involved and assessment will need to be adapted or delayed.</i></p>



Qualification suite	Overview of approach for learners due to complete any assessments between 20 March and 31 July 2020
<p><b>Functional Skills</b></p>	<p><b>Calculated result approach:</b> centres will be asked to make entries for Level 1 and 2 assessments within a window and provide centre assessment grades for each assessment, based on the most likely grade that learners would have achieved.</p> <p>For all Entry Level Functional Skills qualifications and Level 1/2 Speaking and Listening, centres will be able to make claims, based on the most likely grade that learners would have achieved and will need to ensure there is appropriate evidence to support claims.</p> <p>We will provide guidance and support on the Pearson calculation process during the first two weeks of May.</p>
<p><b>BTEC Foundation Diplomas in Art and Design (FAD) (Levels 3-4)</b></p>	<p>Teaching and assessment should continue remotely as far as possible. Guidance will be made available to centres to support with continued delivery and assessment and include support on adaptations if required. Where students have been unable to complete their final major project, specific guidance will be provided to support centres with a <b>calculated result approach</b>. External Examination will continue remotely in June.</p>
<p><b>BTEC HNC/HND (Levels 4-5)</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Guidance</a> is available to all centres on how they can <b>deliver</b> their internally verified assessments to enable teaching to continue, where practicable. A <b>*calculated result approach</b> will be taken where it is not possible for units to be completed. We expect to provide guidance on the process for reaching and inputting centre assessment unit grades in mid-May. Centres will not be required to rank HN students.</p> <p><i>* Please note we will provide advice on any units that are unsuitable for calculation.</i></p>



Qualification suite	Overview of approach for learners due to complete any assessments between 20 March and 31 July 2020
<b>BTEC Specialist (Levels 1-3)</b>	<p>For Specialist qualifications which form part of an Apprenticeship an <b>adapted assessment approach</b> will be used in order to confirm grades. However, for any stand alone qualifications, a <b>calculated result approach</b> may be appropriate.</p> <p>This does not apply to qualifications with onscreen/paper-based tests, where you should see the information at the bottom of the table instead.</p>
<b>BTEC Professional (Levels 4-6)</b>	<p><b>Adapted assessment approach:</b> we will be looking to adapt assessment where possible to support learners due to complete this July.</p> <p>This does not apply to qualifications with onscreen/paper-based tests, where you should see the information at the bottom of the table instead.</p>
<b>CiDA (Levels 1-2)</b> <b>DiDA (Levels 1-2)</b>	<p><b>Calculated result approach:</b> centres will be asked to provide centre assessment grades at qualification level, based on the most likely grade that candidates would have achieved in the exam(s) and the internally assessed units (coursework). Results will be issued to candidates following statistical standardisation of these centre assessment grades.</p>



Qualification suite	Overview of approach for learners due to complete any assessments between 20 March and 31 July 2020
<p><b>Edexcel Awards in Maths (Levels 1-3)</b></p> <p><b>Core Maths (Level 3)</b></p>	<p><b>Calculated result approach:</b> centres will be asked to provide centre assessment grades at qualification level, based on the most likely grade that candidates would have achieved in the exams. Results will be issued to candidates following statistical standardisation of these centre assessed grades.</p>
<p><b>ESOL Skills for Life</b></p>	<p><b>Calculated result approach:</b> centres will be asked to put forward results for completed units and centre assessment grades for those due to be completed. They will be able to make claims, based on the most likely grade that learners would have achieved, but will need to ensure there is appropriate evidence to support claims and retain this.</p> <p>We will provide guidance and support on the Pearson calculation process during the first two weeks of May.</p>
<p><b>Competency-based qualifications (e.g. those that form part of an apprenticeship)</b></p>	<p>Competency-based qualifications and qualifications that form part of an Apprenticeship will continue to be delivered and assessed remotely where possible. For learners due to complete this July, adapted assessment can be used to support this. Where it is not safe to do so, assessment may need to be delayed. Further sector guidance will follow to support centres. Remote sampling will continue where required.</p>



<b>Onscreen and paper based tests for BTEC Specialist/Professional/Customised/Licence to Practise Qualifications and End Point Assessment (EPA)</b>	EPAs and customised qualifications are not in scope of the consultation.  We are exploring the use of remote proctoring for this whole group of qualifications and assessments where appropriate, but may need to delay assessment as a last resort in some cases.
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## Additional information about the generation of calculated results

Please note where we are proposing to request centre assessment grades for the purposes of issuing calculated results to learners, we will also be taking into account a range of other evidence we have, for example, any banked component data for units learners have completed and historical performance at both centre and overall level, before awarding a Pearson calculated and quality checked result. This process may involve some centre assessment grades being adjusted.

It is important that when forming any judgment on a Centre Assessment Grade for a learner a centre should consider any reasonable adjustment to mitigate any adverse impact of the Centre Assessment Grade process. We are committed to ensuring that all learners are treated fairly through these mitigating measures, and we acknowledge that centres will be best placed to accommodate this within their Centre Assessment Grade judgements.

As Ofqual has advised, "centres should use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a learner would have achieved had teaching and learning continued as normal and they were able to complete their assessments. For learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), or other vulnerable learners, we propose centres should make their judgement assuming learners had continued to receive any usual additional learning support and had any agreed reasonable adjustments in place."

Centres will be aware of any reasonable adjustments in place for learners and Centre Assessment Grades should be made on the basis that reasonable adjustments would have been in place should assessment have taken place. Protected characteristics should also be considered as part of this. Similarly, centres should also take into account any special consideration which may have impacted upon a learner's achievement in previous work/assessments if this is used as a basis for a Centre Assessment Grade.



In its published outcomes, Ofqual has recognised the importance of ensuring non-bias in Centre Assessment Grades during this time and has provided additional guidance to Awarding Organisations and [Heads of Centres](#) to support this. If you need support or guidance please do contact our sector specialists, whose details are [here](#).

We continue to work closely with Ofqual and other Awarding Organisations, as well as other relevant stakeholders on the approach for awarding results this summer.

Further guidance is available on each of the qualification suites as follows:

- BTEC Firsts/Tech Awards/Technicals/Nationals/Foundation Learning guide to [centre assessment grades](#) and [ranking](#)
- [BTEC Higher Nationals](#)
- [Functional Skills](#)
- [Competency and apprenticeship-related qualifications](#)



## **Additional support**

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.

Where a Pearson calculated result is anticipated to be issued, we have released [additional guidance](#) confirming there is no expectation or requirement to complete formal assessment during this time (from 20 March).

If you have feedback on our proposal for Pearson qualifications which fall into the scope of the consultation you can contact us [here](#).