

# Digital Learning

Key Stage 4 Qualifications from Pearson







# The new digital landscape

The world is becoming increasingly digital. As technology constantly advances new roles are being created. In this exciting and ever-shifting landscape so many new opportunities are open to students.

As companies invest more in online products and services, students need to make sure they're equipped with the knowledge and skills to keep up with the speed of change. In fact, 76% of CEOs are concerned with the availability of digital skills in their workforce\*.

Pearson offers a range of digital qualifications to help develop those all-important skills in your students. Whether they're aspiring software developers, digital media producers, or just need to develop a broad overview of IT skills, there's a pathway for everyone.

\*PwC, (2018). 21st CEO Survey



# The right qualification for your students

Do you have the next Bill Gates learning a media qualification when Computer Science might suit them better?

Does your IT class have a collection of budding videographers working their way through database problems?

Ensuring the qualifications you offer match the needs of your learners is a tricky task to balance but can be immensely rewarding for them.

We're here to help you discover and determine the ideal pathway for your individual learners. And we'll be there to support you, every step of the way.

**“An estimated additional 1.2 million people with specialist digital skills will be required by 2022. “**

UKCES Working Futures Evidence Report 2012-2022





# In this guide

In this guide, we'll help you choose a digital qualification that suits the needs of your students – for now in school and for later when they enter the world of work. Whether or not students have decided what they want to do once they've left school, a solid grounding in digital skills can help make them more appealing to employers, and will also help with their day-to-day lives.

We'll cover:

- The qualifications available
- Three common learning styles
- Pathways to suit each learner

## Contents

What qualifications are available? .....	5
Matching aspirations and interests .....	7
Digital literacy after education.....	11
Digital progression pathways .....	14
Support materials.....	15
Your subject advisors .....	16
Resources to support you and your learners .....	17
Contact us .....	18

# What qualifications are available?

We have a broad range of qualifications that can help develop digital skills. In this guide we're going to cover three:

- BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology
- Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Computer Science 2020
- BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production

Each qualification offers something different. They can be taught alongside each other or you can pick the one that best suits your learners' needs.

## BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

This up-to-date and engaging qualification allows students to gain a broad overview of the IT skills they need to succeed in the modern workplace, but also gives them a taste of areas that they can go on to specialise in. The course content covers some creative elements along with technical knowledge including **data, cyber security**, user interface design and **project planning**. It's the ideal IT qualification for you to teach your students the important skills to take with them to an increasingly digital workplace.

[quals.pearson.com/DITDigital](https://quals.pearson.com/DITDigital)





## Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Computer Science 2020

Our GCSE (9–1) Computer Science 2020 qualification offers an exciting, practical focus on real-life programming, developing skills relevant to the future.

Developed in collaboration with teachers and the computer science community, our engaging qualification equips students with the knowledge and practical skills to thrive in the fast-changing world of computer science whilst providing a practical approach to developing computational skills they need for an exciting digital future beyond the classroom.

[quals.pearson.com/CompSciDigital](https://quals.pearson.com/CompSciDigital)

## BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production

With the BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production, your students get the chance to develop a practical response to a digital media brief, and explore industry-related scenarios such as Esports tournaments and music promotion. Learners can choose from three different pathways – audio and moving image, publishing, and interactive media.

Dedicated support is available to help manage assignment timescales and get the best out of your learners, including new assignment briefs, which support IT approaches to delivering Creative Media and allow for responses in: website and app development, interactive streamed content, vlogs, games and e-magazines.

[quals.pearson.com/CMPDigital](https://quals.pearson.com/CMPDigital)

# Matching aspirations and interests to digital qualifications



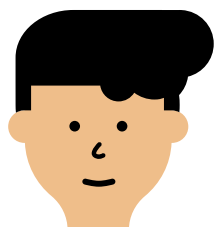
In this section we'll give you an overview of the interests and aspirations that can align with each of these qualifications.

Of course, these profiles are illustrative and in no way definitive and fixed to one type of personality, everybody's different. You may have students that would benefit from learning a combination of two or even three. You might recognize some of your own learners' interests and goals here, and hopefully it can help you decide on what qualification to offer them.





## Digital Information Technology



**Name:** Steven

**Interests:** App design, social media, cyber security

**Career goals:** UI/UX designer • Cyber Security Technologist  
Network administrator

### What they'll learn

By taking this BTEC, students like Steven will be able to develop skills in User Interface design, data, cloud storage and cyber security.

### How will this qualification help them achieve their goals?

This qualification will introduce Steven to a range of knowledge and skills that will help him understand what skills employers are looking for and help him decide what type of IT job he'd like to pursue after school. If he isn't planning to go into a specifically digital role he will be able to demonstrate the kind of digital abilities most employers are looking for. The course content includes the latest digital skills and will enable him to work toward his goals with knowledge of modern practices and technologies.

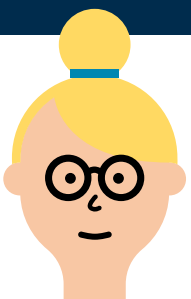
### Where can they go next?

Steven can go on to study a Level 3 BTEC National in Information Technology or take on a digital apprenticeship.

**It's brand new, and it's so up to date it gives every single student the opportunity to learn current standards in IT.**

Simon Pykett, BTEC IT Teacher, UTC Plymouth

## Computer Science



**Name:** Amina

**Interests:** Gaming, programming, puzzles, problem solving, repairing computers

**Career goals:** Project Manager • Computer Games Developer  
Software Developer • Web Content Manager • Social Media Manager

### What they'll learn

By studying Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Computer Science 2020, Amina will be able to develop skills in understanding hardware and software components, computer networks and security, what algorithms are and how they work, understanding and interpreting different data types and being more aware of emerging trends in computing technologies.

### How will this qualification help them achieve their goals?

This qualification will provide Amina with a perfect first step into the digital world, helping develop skills and knowledge that future employers will look for. Amina will develop problem solving skills, work with coding and computers, all whilst improving her programming skills and ability to write code in a practical fashion.

### Where can they go next?

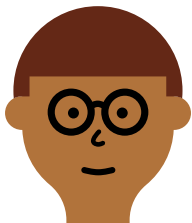
Amina could go on to study A levels in Computer Science, BTEC Level 3 National in Computing, apply for an apprenticeship or get started in an entry level role in the digital industry.

**The practical onscreen assessment approach will prepare students well for eventual employment ... being given two hours to complete a task also relates well to the real life constraints experienced by many Computer Scientists.**

Matt Hogan, Learning Manager (Secondary) at Raspberry Pi



## Creative Media Production



**Name:** Michael

**Interests:** Web design, video editing, photography, podcasts, video games.

**Career goals:** Web Designer • Videographer/film maker  
Animator • Graphic designer • Games designer

### What they'll learn

Michael will get to explore media products and develop technical skills and techniques. He will learn how to develop creative ideas and produce digital media products in response to a brief, using planning and production processes.

### How will this qualification help them achieve their goals?

It will provide him with an understanding of the media industry and opportunities to create independent work based on his own ideas, and the technical skills he needs in order to progress. He'll get to generate a portfolio of creative work that will showcase his skills and aid him in his personal progression goals.

### Where can they go next?

Once he's completed the BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production, Michael can either progress to the Level 3 BTEC National in Creative Media, apply for an apprenticeship or get started at an entry level creative role.

# Digital literacy after education

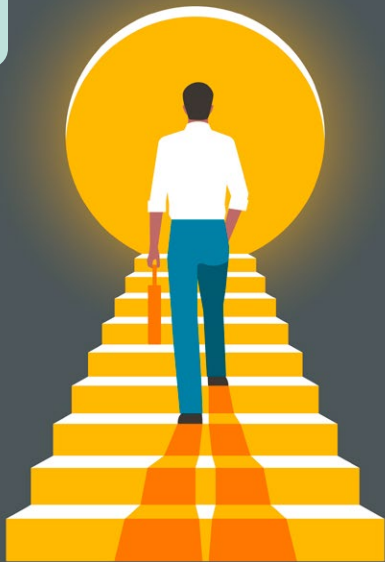


Young people are expected to head into the workplace with a wider range of skills than ever before, and so the role of the classroom has to change to reflect this.

For students seeking to get into digital or office-based roles, our qualifications will help develop the skills needed to prepare them for the future world of work.

### What is digital literacy?

Digital literacy is all about the digital skills we need for success now and in the future. It's about developing the knowledge and abilities that helps us stand out to employers. The workplace is increasingly digital and technology is a huge part of our everyday lives. By developing these skills in their formative years, people can be better equipped to face the digital challenges of the future.







What role do schools play?

The implementation of Ofsted’s new Education Inspection Framework (EIF) marks a significant shift from the outgoing framework, with a greater focus on education that promotes a broader knowledge base and the skills that prepare students for future learning and employment.

How do Pearson digital qualifications help?

Our BTEC qualifications are all designed to provide learners with the skills, knowledge and behaviours to succeed in their careers, providing insight into a particular industry.

Our GCSE qualifications involve studying the theory of a subject combined with some investigative work in order to provide the foundations for further study or employment.

**“As we accelerate into the digital revolution, almost a fifth of teachers say that digital skills are simply not developed in school.”**

ALICE BARNARD CEO,  
The Edge Foundation



Where next?

Where next for your digital learners? A range of options are available for those moving into further education at Level 3 or Key Stage 5. Students can continue their progression with BTEC Nationals at Level 3 in Information Technology, Computing, or Creative Media. Equally there are opportunities for A-Level Computer Science or Media.

Pearson offers a range of qualifications that will suit various learning styles and help your learners get to where they want to be.

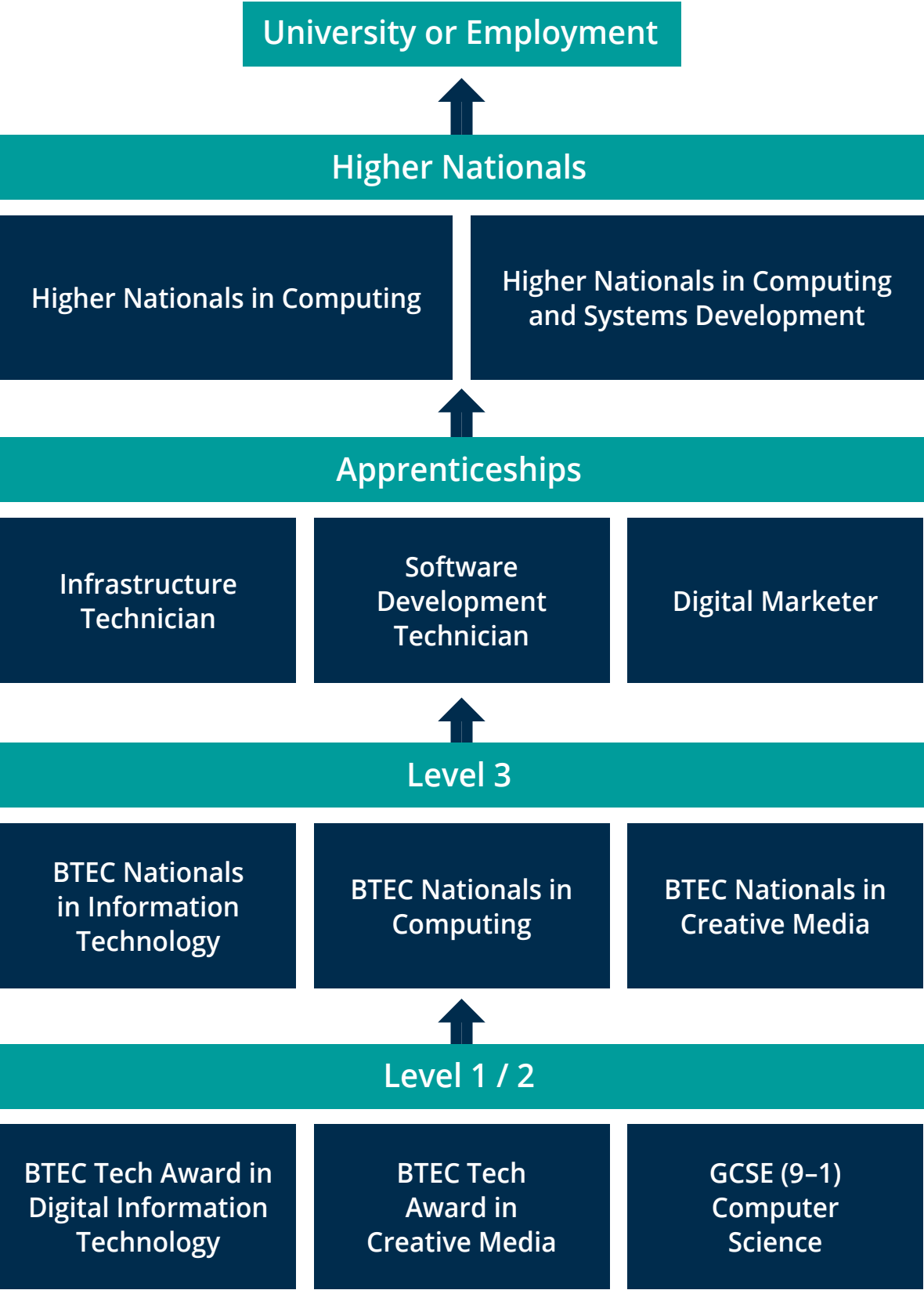
Take a look at the progression pathways available on the next page.







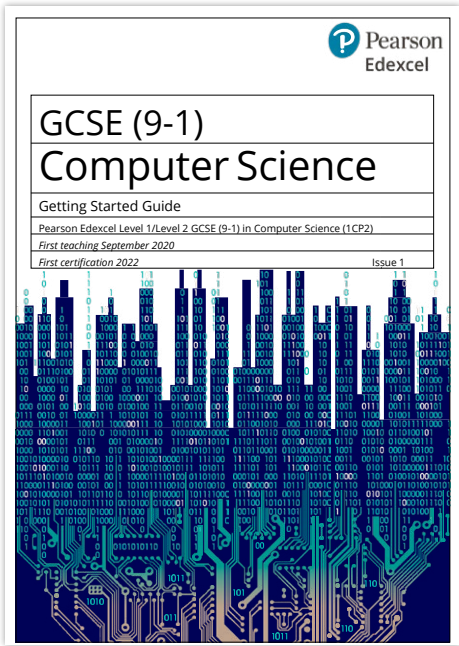
# Digital Progression Pathways



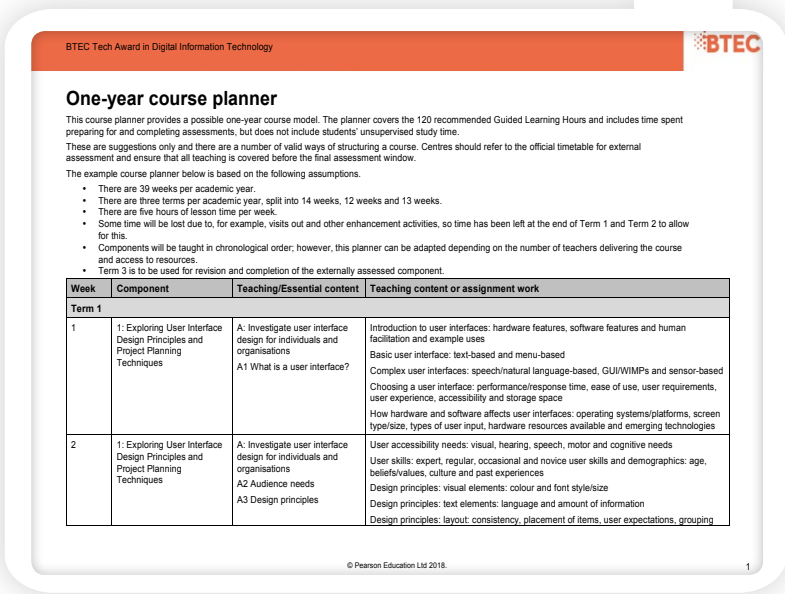
# Free support materials

Our website has a variety of free support materials for each qualification, from specifications, to sample assessment materials, course planners and first-look guides.

With dedicated subject advisors across our range of qualifications, the support and guidance you'll receive will be at the same high standard no matter the choice you make.



Get access to support materials via [quals.pearson.com/KS4Digital](https://quals.pearson.com/KS4Digital)







# Your subject advisors

If you need any support or advice on delivering and assessing your digital qualifications, feel free to get in touch with our dedicated subject advisors.



**Tim Brady** Computer Science and ICT  
Tim is an ex-IT teacher himself and can answer your questions about the BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology and Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Computer Science.  
📞 0333 016 4160



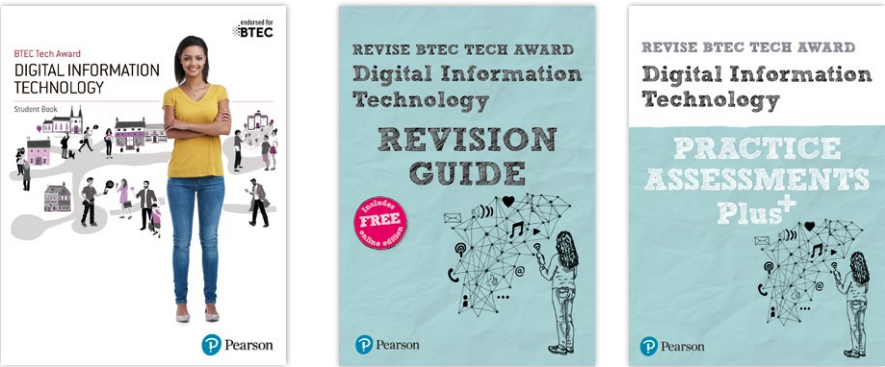
**Susan Young** Media  
If you're considering offering the BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production, get in touch with Susan. She can help you get started.  
📞 0330 058 3836

Send Tim or Susan a question via [support.pearson.com/uk/s/qualification-contactus](https://support.pearson.com/uk/s/qualification-contactus)

# Resources to support you and your learners

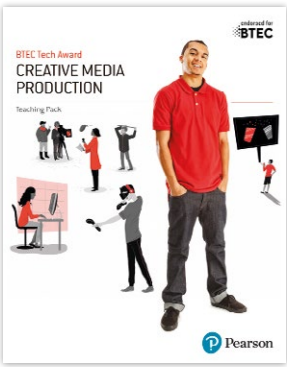
## BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Student Book    Revision Guides



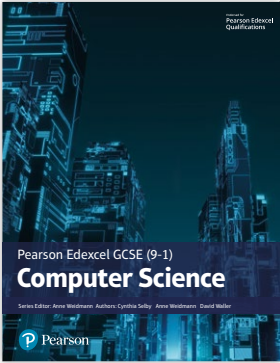
Find out more about the DIT student book

## BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production Teaching Pack

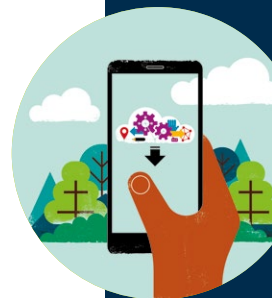


Download free samples

## Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Computer Science 2020



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