



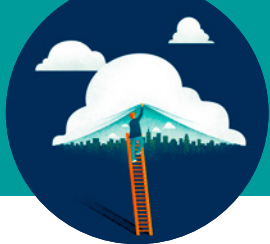
Paths to Employment

Shaping the future together



Developing
the essential
skills for a
global
future

Your guide to our qualifications



Shaping the future

The world of work is changing. Young people are expected to enter the workforce with a wider range of skills than ever before – and so the role of the classroom is changing, too.

We know all the experiences your students have inside and outside of the classroom help them develop as individuals. We also know that the right qualifications help develop softer skills to prepare them for future learning and the world of work.

This guide will take you through the reasons behind the increasing need for those skills. We'll aim to give you a clearer understanding of our approach to employability, and **we'll highlight specific qualifications within our portfolio** that are particularly fitting for developing the essential skills for a global, technical future.

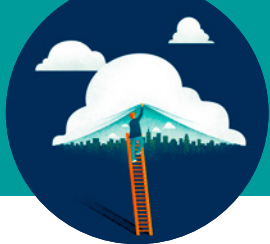
What role do schools play?

Most schools will seek to prepare their students for life after school, and not simply with careers advice for school-leavers; most teachers agree that their role is to help all their students achieve success.

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.



In their education inspection framework (May 2019), Ofsted state that there is a measured need in schools to ensure that **“the provider’s curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment.”**



The need for employability skills

Employability skills are not new. But they are more important now than ever before.

The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework of **8 guidelines that define the best careers provision in schools and colleges**. The guidelines include linking curriculum learning to careers, encounters with employers and employees, and addressing the needs of each student.

You can find out more [online](#).

“It is more important than ever that our education system instils the skills and competencies young people need for their future life and work.”

ALICE BARNARD CEO,
[The Edge Foundation](#)

How can we help develop employability skills?

Our high-quality, future-focused qualifications are designed to ensure your students are future ready – **whatever their learning style, subject, or progression pathway**. We have a broad portfolio designed to give your students the knowledge, skills and behaviours to be successful in their careers.

“...schools are making tremendous headway in developing ‘employability skills’, citing for example teamwork, communication and self-management being core to many activities”

NICK CHAMBERS CEO, Education and Employers

What do we mean by employability?

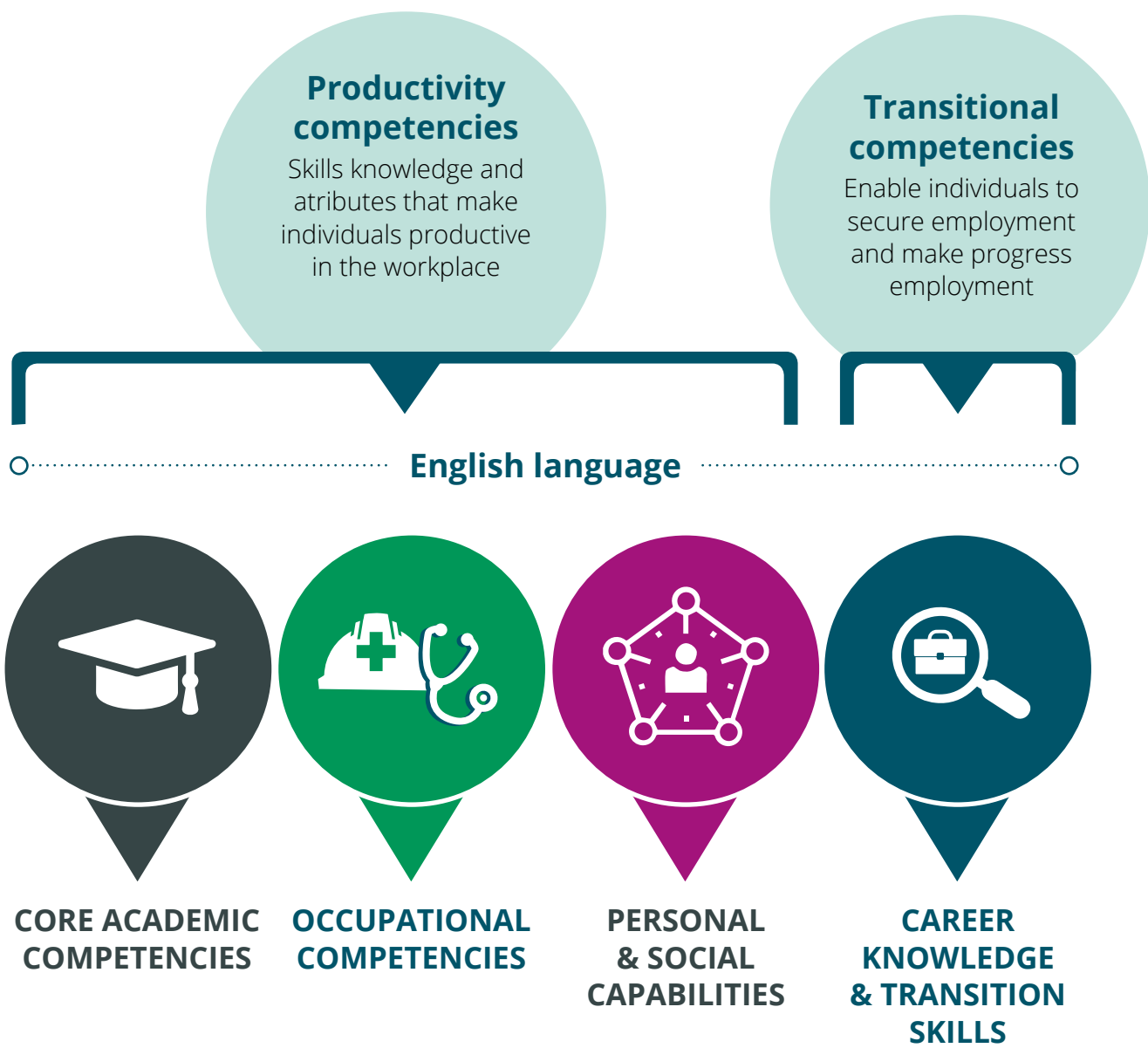
Employability isn't about funneling people into a specific job. It's about **the skills we need as people for success now and in the future**. It's about being fulfilled and engaged in a rewarding career that helps you grow in ways you may not even have imagined. It's about making sure that everybody has access to these opportunities. And as ever, **we're here to support you, and your students** every step of the way.





What makes us employable?

At Pearson, we have identified four areas that make up employability, based on formal and informal research with employers, educators, and learners. Individuals need to develop skills in each area, but the stage they are at in their life – whether that’s starting, developing, or changing career – will impact which areas to focus on most.



[Learn more about our research](#)

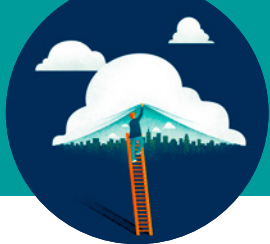
The importance of working with employers

Encounters with the world of work can change attitudes and improve academic achievement. The recent **‘Motivated to Achieve’** report by Education and Employers highlights how putting time and effort in the classroom into careers and employment advice can raise engagement and attainment, particularly with lower-achievers.

“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

We work closely with employers to ensure our qualifications are developing the skills employers identify as being the most important. You’ll find more information on these in the individual qualifications, throughout the rest of this guide.



“A chance to experience the world of work first hand can play a huge part in helping young people develop the skills and personal qualities they need for workplaces, as well as showing them how the subjects they are learning at school are relevant in later life.”

Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP,
Secretary State for Education

Take a look at our research on the future of skills.



Our **BTEC qualifications** are all designed to provide learners with the skills, knowledge and behaviours to succeed in their careers, providing them with a taste of a particular industry sector. We've highlighted the qualifications below as we feel they reflect the growing trends towards self-employment and entrepreneurship, and the need thrive in an increasingly digital workforce.

Our **GCSE qualifications** involve studying the theory of a subject combined with some investigative work. They're highly valued by schools, colleges and employers, and the first step towards a range of careers or further study.

They enable students to develop transferable skills such as critical thinking, communication and analysis.



Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) **NEW!** Computer Science 2020

We've worked with teachers, and in partnership with **leading industry organisations**, to provide a qualification that ensures your students have the computational skills they need to be ready for a digital future beyond the classroom, with a practical focus on **real-life programming**.

Content focus

A new, up-to-date qualification to reflect the fast-changing world of Computer Science - with innovative, future-looking on-screen assessment to ensure all students develop the computational skills they need for an exciting digital future beyond the classroom.

Student profile

Students will benefit from an exciting, practical focus on programming, developing skills relevant to their future.

Our assessments are designed with an underpinning pedagogical approach derived from NCCE Hubs, and ensure real-world programming skills are assessed via a realistic, practical and engaging assessment experience.

We've designed our qualification with the right balance of theory and practical application, providing a rounded experience of computer science for all students.



Employability skills

Computer literacy is defined as an occupational competency. We're working with leading industry organisations to identify which content and skills in the Computer Science specification will be most relevant in the workplace now and in the future.

We'll apply real life context to make the content and skills more accessible to students – and to inspire them to progress.

Industry links and partnerships

We've developed our new qualification in partnership with leading industry organisations, to ensure we can identify which content and skills in the Computer Science specification will be most relevant in the workplace – both now and in the future.

Learn more about our work with leading industry and pedagogical organisations in Computer Science





BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Content focus

By taking this modern and engaging qualification, students will get to learn a mix of **creative design and technical knowledge** including data, cyber security, user interface design and project planning.

Student profile

The BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is ideal for learners pursuing a career in IT and who want to get a broad taste of digital skills. It is an excellent stepping stone to careers like IT Project Management, Technical Support and Cyber Security.

Employability skills

The digital sector requires people with a diverse set of skills who can **marry up the tech world and business world** and present it in a way that everyone understands, and this BTEC can help equip students with those skills.

This qualification supports the increasing need to strike a balance between applying creative skills to technically minded students, and technical skills to creatives.

The BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology has support from the BT Group and CompTIA, the voice of the world's Information Technology industry, who says the qualification "will suitably stretch the individual and aid with their development of relevant knowledge and skills".



Learn more [online](#)



Pearson Future Skills for Employability



Content focus

Pearson Future Skills for Employability is a brand new Future Ready framework, suite of resources and qualification designed to equip today's learners with the **future skills needed to flourish in tomorrow's world of work**. Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Extended Project Qualification can be used to deliver and assess our new employability framework.

Student profile

Pearson Future Skills for Employability will enable all students to develop and showcase their employability skills, while earning a qualification recognised by universities and employers – students gain 28 UCAS points, as well as the opportunity to select their own area of interest for in-depth study.

Employability skills

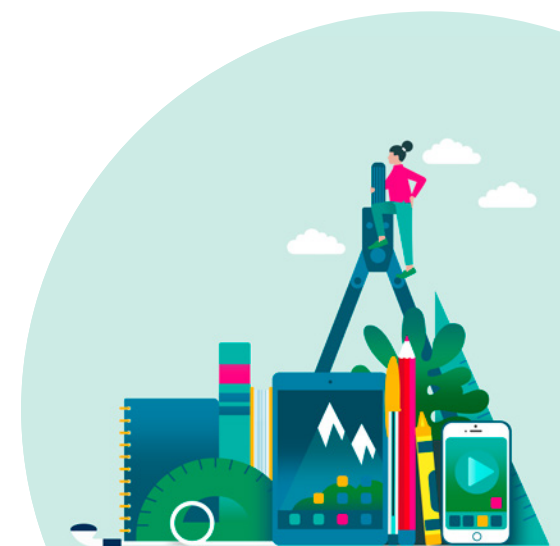
We provide teaching guidance and resources to make delivery easy and to help you better equip your learners with the future skills they need for employment, in a world of increasing automation and globalisation. We aim to apply these principles across all phases of 5–19 learning.

Empower today's learners with the skills they need for higher education and the future world of work through project learning.

Discover **Future Ready** and our free resources



Illustration by Dan Matutina





Pearson Future Skills for Employability continued

Future Skills for Employability students become:

01	FORWARD THINKERS	...with higher cognitive skills
02	DIGITAL SUPERUSERS	...with excellent Information Age skills
03	POWERFUL INFLUENCERS	...with superior communication and interpersonal skills
04	MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS	...with strong leadership and teamwork skills

Authentically assessing these skills is a common challenge. They're complex and nuanced, and not well suited to commonly used assessment formats, such as multiple choice questions.

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Extended Project Qualification portfolios require students to compile work completed for a project, typically through writing assignments. In addition to communication skills demonstrated through writing, projects can target a variety of other skills. Completing a research study elicits critical thinking, and reflecting on a service-learning project demonstrates social responsibility.

“The Framework enables teachers and practitioners at a glance to understand the essential skills that are important for children and young people for the future world of work. It also highlights that not all young people will be the same – they may have different strengths that could set them apart – but also where they can support their students to develop and grow”.

Sam Stone, Senior Programmes and Services Manager at Young Enterprise

“There is a clear synergie between the Framework and the skills and attributes developed through Young Enterprise’s programmes. Participating in our flagship enterprise programme, Company Programme, offers a practical opportunity to achieve the EPQ. It enables learners to input into the choice and design of their project, using their own interests and experiences to shape the final project output and the Framework is essential to this.”

Sam Stone, Senior Programmes and Services Manager at Young Enterprise

[**Learn more about the Company Programme**](#)

Industry links

Created in collaboration with Nesta, Young Enterprise, CBI and other industry leading partners, Pearson Future Skills for Employability will help provide young people today with the identified necessary employability skills to ensure they are future ready.



[**Learn more online**](#)





BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise

Content focus

By studying the BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise, students will learn how to develop, plan and pitch their own business. They'll also learn how to support their business by creating a marketing plan and learn how to finance their enterprise.

Student profile

Everybody can be enterprising, even if we don't all become entrepreneurs. This BTEC is ideal for students who want to bring their ideas to life and run their own business or learn how to be enterprising within an organisation that isn't their own.

Students will learn how to generate and demonstrate ideas that can be developed into innovative products and services which deliver value.

This BTEC is an ideal qualification for students who wish to pursue a career in a different sector, such as the arts or sport, but want to learn how to realise their ambitions.

“It's not just that you are assessed on your knowledge, but you're also assessed on your skills”

Jas Sanghera, Assistant Head,
Welling Secondary School



Photo © Konstantin Pelikh / 123rf

Employability skills

- Creative thinking
- Commercial awareness
- Problem solving
- Organisation and problem solving
- Strategic thinking

BTECs are tested throughout using assessments based on real-life scenarios and what you will have studied across each unit or component. This hands-on approach allows you to develop and apply the knowledge and skills that employers are looking for.



BTEC and the Peter Jones Foundation

BTEC has teamed up with the Peter Jones Foundation in pursuit of our shared aim in delivering “world-class enterprise education”. The BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise can be offered as part of the Peter Jones Enterprise Academy pathway at Key Stage 4.



Find out more about our work with the Peter Jones Foundation

Learn more online





Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business

Content focus

Our specification is structured into two themes, taking students from how entrepreneurs start businesses (Theme 1) through to growing and global businesses (Theme 2).

Real-world contexts and examples of modern business practice enable you to make the course relevant to the business world and accessible to your students.

Student profile

Our assessments are clear, accessible and well-designed, helping to engage your students by using real and relevant business examples.

The qualification provides opportunities to really engage students with local, business enterprise examples through to the international brands they recognise, and to understand where they can take their skills in the future.

Employability skills

- Creative thinking
- Commercial awareness
- Problem solving
- Organisation and problem solving
- Strategic thinking

[Learn more online](#)



We know learning doesn't stop in the classroom.

Our business qualifications open up a world of experiences for students and help develop them as individuals with impressive skillsets, prepared and excited for their futures.

Watch our case studies to learn how Year 10 students of Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business & L3 Business & Enterprise student Will King used their qualifications to develop knowledge, skills and passion which took them beyond their classroom learning.

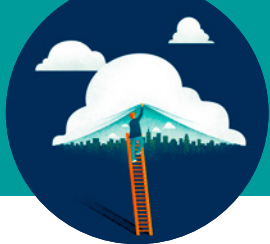


“My communication skills have improved, being able to stand in front of an audience, and being more independent.”
Christina

“Students have really built up their skills in problem solving and teamworking. The qualification gives them the resilience to move forward... and students really want to improve on what they're doing and contribute to society.”

Adnan Ilahi





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.

“There’s loads of support coming through the website, the Facebook group, and the responses I get to emails has been second to none – it’s some of the best support I’ve ever experienced.”

Adnan Ilahi, Key Stage Co-ordinator for Business Preston Manor School

Resources to support you

There’s also a host of published resources* for teaching and revision across our qualifications. You can tailor your use of the available materials, keeping you and your learners’ needs at the heart of what you do.



*You don't have to purchase resources to teach any of our qualifications.

This is just the beginning...

Our broad range of qualifications allows you to **choose the course and progression route that’s right for your students’ personal strengths and ambitions** – making sure every individual learner has the chance to reach their full potential. There’s a variety of pathways for your students to choose on their route from early secondary education to further study or employment. And we’re here to support you, whichever route you take.

Discover our whole portfolio of qualifications





Your
next
steps

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Feeling creative? We know the talents students develop during their creative education are not only important for their own personal development, but in a world of increasing automation, they're vital to employers. Download our **Where can Creatives take you?** guide and help your students open doors...

