



Pearson

Providing Access to High Quality Career Focussed Education:

'New Generation'

BTEC Nationals (2016 - RQF) Results
October 2018

Image by Lu Yi



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BTEC is the leading internationally recognised standard in career education

*Supporting student progression to HE,
careers & lifelong learning*

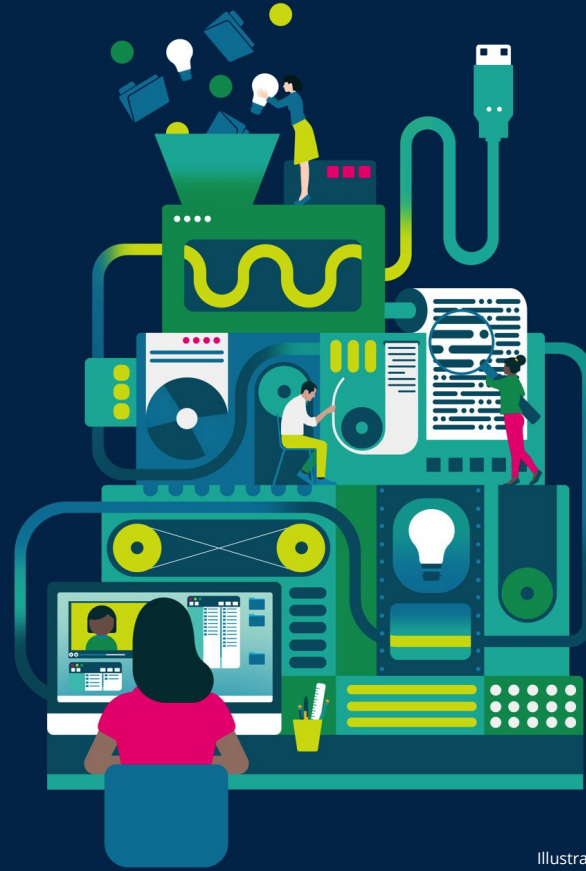


Illustration by Lucy Vigrass

Introduction: Understanding the New Generation BTECs*

'BTEC Nationals (2016 - RQF) Overview

The development of the new BTEC Specifications (launched in 2016) was informed by talking to over 5,000 stakeholders, including teachers, students, universities and employers, and underpinned by research on the best education systems in the world.

These qualifications retain their essential BTEC character - learning by doing - and have evolved to meet changing needs by including:

- some **externally assessed units** (practical tasks and written tests) which better prepare learners for university-level courses and taking professional qualifications in the future.
- a **larger foundation of mandatory content** studied by all learners, so employers and universities know what to expect from a BTEC-qualified candidate.

The new BTEC specifications were developed to meet the requirements set by Department for Education (DfE) to be counted as Applied General and Tech Level qualifications, for example by including the required proportion of external assessment.

The information contained here gives some top-line indications of performance in what is the second year for some qualifications and the first year for others. Where this is the first year, and possibly also where this is the second, the patterns of registration and performance are likely to be atypical and not representative of future years.

* *New reformed [BTEC qualification](#) first taught from 2016, containing external assessment*

Introduction: Understanding New Generation BTEC* Results

Data definitions

The results publication for the BTEC Nationals (2016) only reports outcomes for completed qualifications. This is different from the data rules used for the BTEC Nationals (2010) and the BTEC Firsts, where results are reported based on projected completions. This means these results for the BTEC Nationals (2016) refer to those people claiming this academic year rather than being dependent on a projected length of course.

What is a completion? - In these results, a completion refers to qualifications where a learner is awarded a grade, which can include U (unclassified). For this the learner must have completed a valid combination of units to complete the qualification. The centre must have claimed the qualification for the learner, having assessed and submitted grades for the internally assessed units, and the learner must have completed the required external assessments.

What is a Pass? – These results also show figures for learners who have passed the qualification (achieved a Pass grade or above). Learners who have completed but not passed are awarded U. To pass, learners must have completed the qualification, passed the externally assessed units and achieved the required number of points on the mandatory units and the qualification as a whole.

Rounding

Numbers in these slides are generally rounded to the nearest multiple of 100. Smaller numbers may be rounded to the nearest 10.

Providing students with knowledge and skills required for career and lifelong learning



Animal Management



Applied Science



Creative Digital Media Production



Engineering



Children's Play, Learning and Development



Computing



Sport



Music Technology



Performing Arts



Health and Social Care



Art and Design



Business



Equine Management



Applied Law



Construction



Enterprise and Entrepreneurship



Forensic and Criminal Investigation



Information Technology



Sport and Exercise Science

New reformed BTEC: Supporting Student Progression to HE, Career & Lifelong Learning

Designed with educators, employers and professional groups to provide relevant career-based learning

- Min. 40-60% mandatory content, developed in consultation with over 5,000 stakeholders
- Designed to be 'Applied Generals' (primary progression is Higher Education), and 'Tech Levels' (primary progression is to employment)
- Two sectors included in new Trailblazer apprenticeships (Construction, Engineering)

Develops knowledge, skills and understanding – theory and practical application

- Features employability skills aligned to those identified in 'Future of Skills and Employment' report
- Min. 30-40% externally assessed (via a mix of exams and tasks)
- Contains internal assessment to develop and assess learners' practical skills
- Learners must obtain a minimum points threshold across units to achieve the qualification

Modular design – progression at learner's own speed from one level to another

- Supports social mobility – access and progression
- Designed to be part of 16-19 curriculum, builds on Level 2, aids progression to Level 4
- Different sizes for different learner profiles
- Supports and is largely funded for learners aged 19-23 years

Learner completions – BTEC Nationals (2016)

*New Generation BTEC National
specifications for first teaching 2016*

Interest in New Generation BTEC is strong

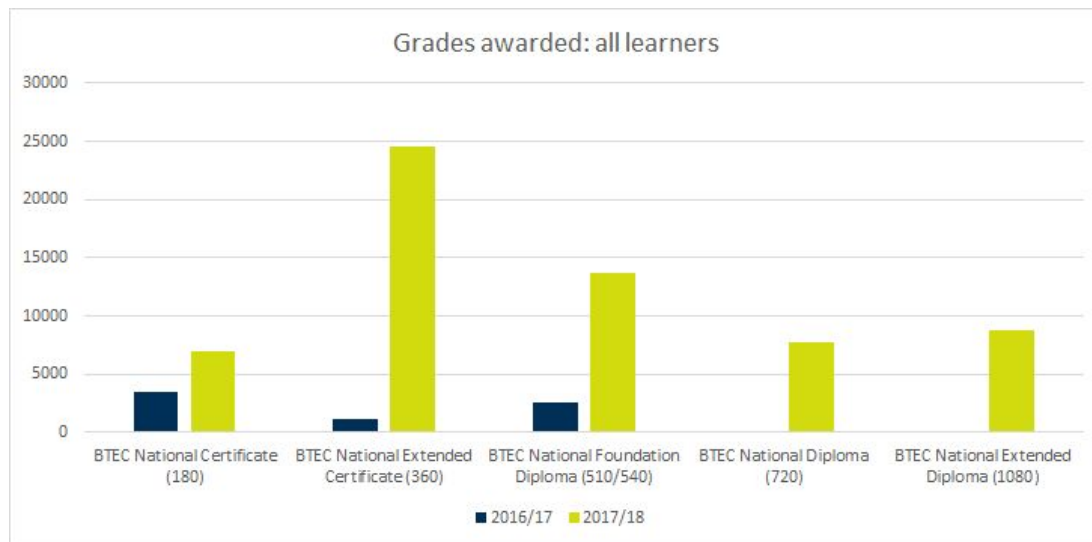
Learners prefer the BTEC National Extended Certificate as part of a broader curriculum

Cohort Overview

This graph shows the number of learners completing each of the qualification sizes in 2017/18.

2016/17 was the first year the BTEC Nationals (2016) were available, so there were far fewer completions in 2016-17. Results for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 cohorts are therefore not directly comparable.

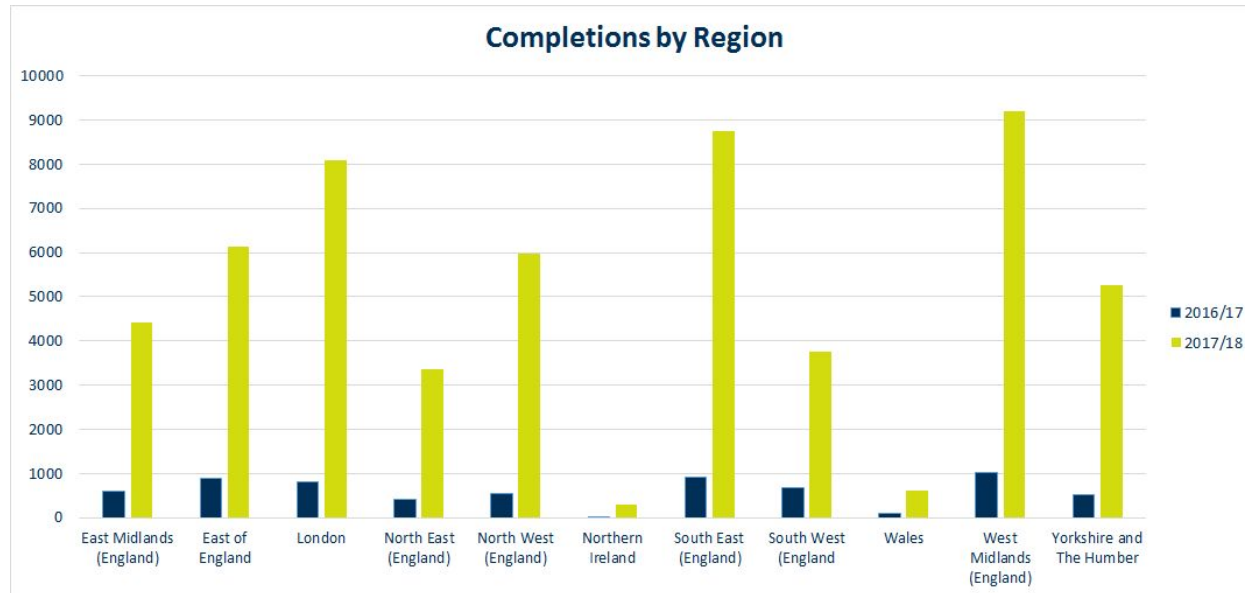
The BTEC National Diploma (720 GLH) and Extended Diploma (1080 GLH) are two year courses so the first completions were in 2017-18.



The Extended Certificate is the most popular size qualification for the BTEC Nationals (2016). Most learners take it as a two year course. These qualifications are often taken alongside A levels to provide a broader curriculum, developing learners' employability and soft skills.

The New Generation BTEC appeals to learners nationwide

Outcomes by region



The West Midlands has the highest number of learners completing the new Nationals in 2017-18 closely followed by South East England.

As 2016-17 was the first year for these qualifications and 2017-18 was the first year for some specifications, the picture we see in future years could be quite different.

Learners seek pathways to sectors with employability growth

Business, Technology & Health and Social Care among top five sectors of interest

BTEC Nationals (2016): completion – top 5 sectors in 2017/18

Sector	Completion	
	2016/17	2017/18
Business	1,800	13,600
Health And Social Care	1,700	11,700
Applied Science	1,300	7,900
Sport	300	6,100
Information Technology	600	5,300

The five most popular subjects for the BTEC Nationals (2016) are the same as for the BTEC Nationals (2010).

2016-17 was the first year for most of these specifications, with a second phase starting in 2017-18. As expected, the number of learners taking these qualifications increased substantially between 2016-17 and 2017-18. These were very different cohorts and performance for the two years cannot therefore be directly compared.

Learners prepare for a wide range of careers

Completions by sector

The BTEC Nationals (2016) were available for nineteen sectors for completion in 2018. The five most popular are shown in the previous slide. This table shows how the number of learners taking the other 11 sectors which had more than 250 learners in 2017-18 has also grown.

Qualifications in Applied Law, Forensic Investigation, Music Technology and Sport and Exercise Science were available for certification for the first time in 2017-18.

Sector	Completion	
	2016/17	2017/18
Performing Arts	500	3,400
Creative Digital Media Production	100	2,800
Art and Design	400	2,500
Engineering	100	2,100
Computing	100	1,700
Animal Management	100	1,200
Children's Play, Learning and Development	100	1,100
Applied Law	-	900
Sport and Exercise Science	-	700
Enterprise and Entrepreneurship	60	300
Music Technology	-	300

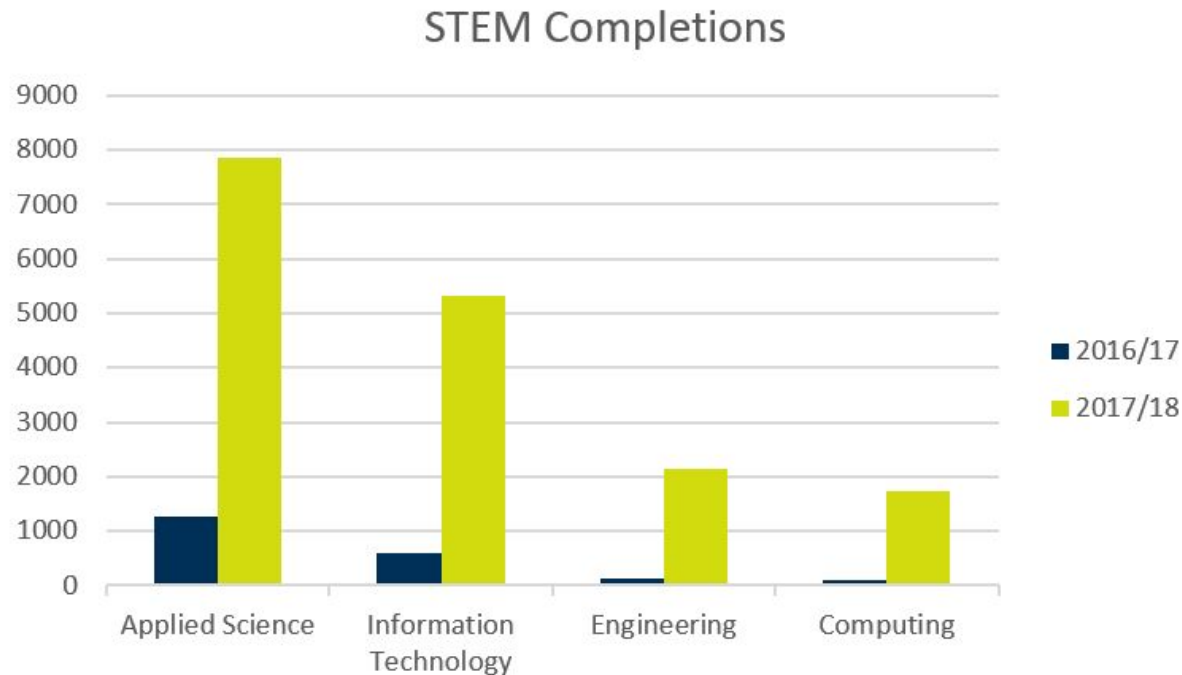
Learners also completed courses in Construction, Equine Management and Forensic Investigation in 2017-18, with more learners expected to complete in 2018-19. 2018-19 sees qualifications become available in a further range of sectors, including Applied Human Biology, Applied Psychology, Horticulture and Music Performance.

Students continue to complete a BTEC to pursue careers in STEM

Completions in STEM sectors

The most popular STEM subjects for completion in 2017-18 were Applied Science and IT.

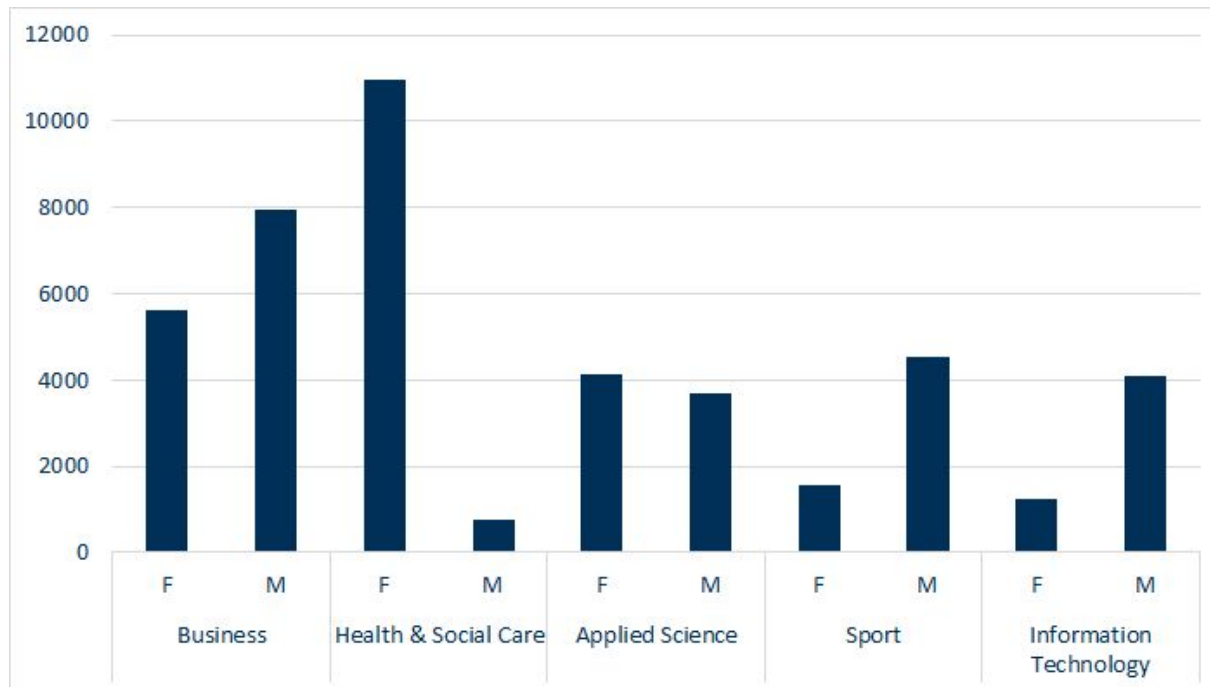
From very small cohorts in 2016-17, Computing and Engineering grew to much larger cohorts in 2017-18.



Gender differences exist among subject choice

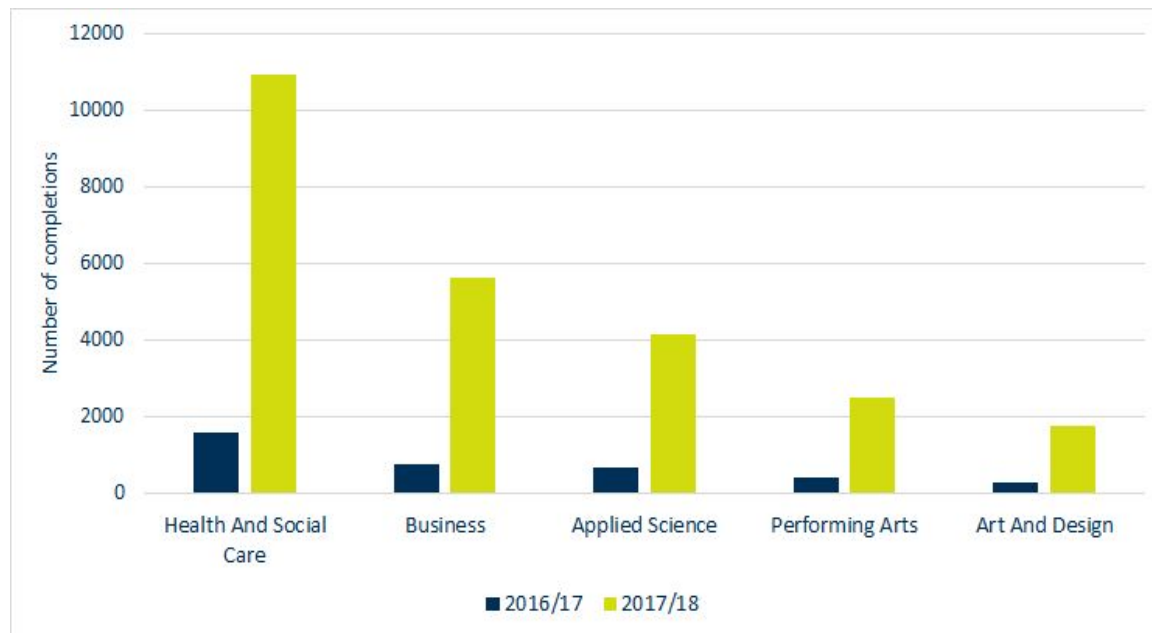
BTEC Nationals (2016): 2017/18 most popular five sectors by volume and gender

Learners taking Health and Social Care are more likely to be female, while learners taking Business, IT and Sport are more likely to be male.



Health & Social Care continues to be of great interest to female learners

BTEC Nationals (2016): most popular 5 sectors for female learners by completion volume

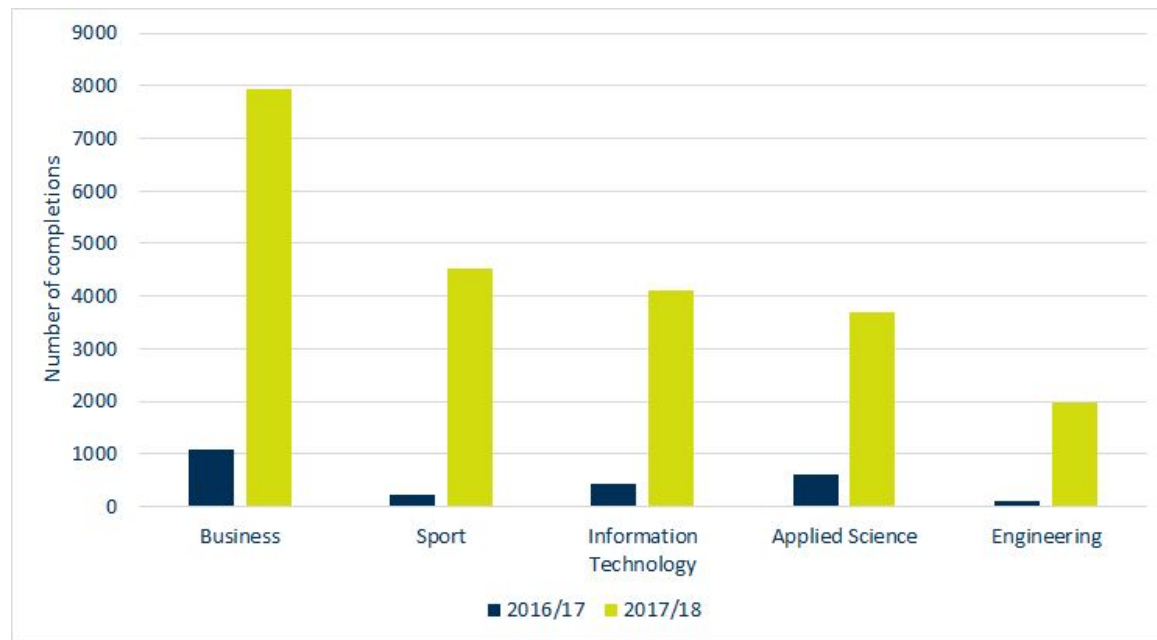


The number of learners completing qualifications in each sector was much greater in 2017-18 than 2016-17.

The sector with the most female learners in 2017-18 was Health and Social Care, the same as in 2016-17, and the same as the BTEC Nationals (2010).

Business is of great interest to male learners

BTEC Nationals (2016): most popular 5 sectors for male learners by completion volume



The number of learners completing qualifications in each sector was much greater in 2017-18 than 2016-17.

The sector with the most male learners in 2017-18 was Business. The number of learners taking Sport grew even more relative to 2016-17, making it the second most popular sector for male learners in 2017-18.

Learner achievement – BTEC Nationals (2016)

*Reformed new BTEC National specifications
for first teaching 2016*

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement – 2018 Results

Grade distribution: Overview

The BTEC Nationals can be taken as a one or two year course, but most learners have taken them as a two year course, so there are many more completions in 2017-18 than in 2016-17. Learners following a two year programme of study may achieve a qualification in each year. For example they could complete a smaller size BTEC (180 to 540 GLH) in their first year, then top up to a larger size BTEC National (2016) (360 to 1080 GLH) which they then complete in their second year. Both qualifications will be included in this data. The 2017-18 cohort included learners who had already completed a related qualification in 2016-17, whereas the 2016-17 only included learners taking these qualifications for the first time.

The 2017-18 cohort had an opportunity to resit externally assessed units, the 2016-17 cohort completed the qualification after only one series of external assessments. When the Near Pass (N) grade for externally assessed units was introduced for 2017-18, it was also applied retrospectively. Learners who had completed their qualifications in 2016-17, but who would have achieved N grades, were regraded in 2017-18 using N grades. These learners appear in the figures for 2017-18 rather than 2016-17.

With any new qualification, centres will adapt to the new qualification over time, developing new teaching materials and learning from each annual cohort's performance. As 2016-17 was the first year for these qualifications, grade distributions in 2017-18 should not be compared directly with 2016-17.

BTEC grades explained

Qualification Grade	Grade name
D*	Distinction Star
D	Distinction
M	Merit
P	Pass
U	Unclassified

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: grades explained

Learners who pass the BTEC Nationals (2016) are awarded grades using the range from Pass (P), the lowest qualifying grade, up to Distinction Star (D*) the highest.

Learners passing the Certificate (180GLH), Extended Certificate (360 GLH) and Foundation Diploma (510/540 GLH) are awarded single grades, e.g. D.

Learners passing the Diploma (720 GLH) are awarded double grades, e.g. DM. Those passing the Extended Diploma (1080 GLH) are awarded triple grades, e.g. DDM.

Learners who have not met the standard for Pass are graded U (Unclassified) on all sizes of the qualification.

BTEC Nationals (2016) Results 2018 – achievement across sectors

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: grade distribution overview

The table below shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome for the Certificate (180GLH), Extended Certificate (360 GLH) and Foundation Diploma (510/540 GLH) in 2017-18.

These figures include the first cohort of learners completing these qualifications over two years, as well as the 2017-18 cohort of learners completing these qualifications over one year.

Qualification	Size	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Certificate	180	7,000	4.8%	10.3%	49.7%	27.8%	7.4%
BTEC National Extended Certificate	360	24,600	5.7%	28.6%	42.8%	20.0%	2.9%
BTEC National Foundation Diploma	510/540	13,600	2.3%	23.4%	35.5%	34.1%	4.6%

Grades at pass and above for these qualifications are awarded as a single grade, e.g. D.

BTEC Nationals (2016) Results 2018 – achievement across sectors

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: grade distribution overview

The first cohort of learners for the Diploma (720 GLH, equivalent to two A levels) and Extended Diploma (1080 GLH, equivalent to three A levels) completed their qualifications in 2017-18. These qualifications are taken as two year courses. The tables below show the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome.

Qualification	Size	Completions	D*D*	D*D	DD	DM	MM	MP	PP	U
BTEC National Diploma	720	7,800	4.5%	17.0%	24.4%	20.3%	15.0%	9.6%	6.7%	2.5%

Qualification	Size	Completions	D*D*D*	D*D*D	D*DD	DDD	DDM	DMM	MMM	MMP	MPP	PPP	U
BTEC National Extended Diploma	1080	8,800	3.2%	8.6%	13.7%	14.4%	13.8%	13.2%	11.0%	8.0%	6.6%	4.1%	3.3%

Grades at pass and above for the Diploma (720 GLH) are awarded as two grades , e.g. “DM”.

Grades at pass and above for the Diploma (1080 GLH) appear as three grades , e.g. “DDM”.

The following slides show the 2016-17 as well as the 2017-18 outcomes by qualification size. As this is the first cohort for the Diploma and Extended Diploma, 2016-17 results are only shown for the Certificate (180 GLH), Extended Certificate (360 GLH) and Foundation Diploma (510/540 GLH).

BTEC National Certificate (2016) Results 2018 – compared to 2017

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: grade distribution overview

Certificate (180 GLH)

This table shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome, in both 2016-17 and 2017-18. The 2016-17 and 2017-18 were different cohorts and performance for the two years cannot therefore be directly compared.

Qualification	Year	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Certificate (180 GLH)	2017/18	6,988	4.8%	10.3%	49.7%	27.8%	7.4%
	2016/17	3,519	3.2%	9.0%	50.2%	25.3%	12.3%

2016-17 was the first year for most of these specifications, with a second phase of specifications, eg. Applied Law, starting in 2017-18. As expected, the number of learners taking these qualifications increased substantially between 2016-17 and 2017-18. For fairness the introduction of the N grade at unit level in 2017-18 was applied retrospectively for learners who completed their studies in 2016-17, these learners appear in the 2017-18 cohort.

Given that the years shown are the first cohorts for these new qualifications, long term patterns cannot be inferred from these results.

BTEC National Extended Certificate (2016) Results 2018 – compared to 2017

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: grade distribution overview

Extended Certificate (360 GLH)

This table shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome, in both 2016-17 and 2017-18. The 2016-17 and 2017-18 were different cohorts and performance for the two years cannot therefore be directly compared.

Qualification	Year	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Extended Certificate (360 GLH)	2017/18	24,577	5.7%	28.6%	42.8%	20.0%	2.9%
	2016/17	1,157	3.9%	23.2%	46.5%	18.1%	8.4%

2016-17 was the first year for most of these specifications, with a second phase of specifications, eg. Applied Law, starting in 2017-18. As expected, the number of learners taking these qualifications increased substantially between 2016-17 and 2017-18. For fairness the introduction of the N grade at unit level in 2017-18 was applied retrospectively for learners who completed their studies in 2016-17, these learners appear in the 2017-18 cohort.

Given that the years shown are the first cohorts for these new qualifications, long term patterns cannot be inferred from these results.

BTEC National Foundation Diploma (2016) Results 2018 – compared to 2017

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: grade distribution overview

Foundation Diploma (510/540 GLH)

This table shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome, in both 2016-17 and 2017-18. The 2016-17 and 2017-18 were different cohorts and performance for the two years cannot therefore be directly compared.

Qualification	Year	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Foundation Diploma (510/540 GLH)	2017/18	13,637	2.3%	23.4%	35.5%	34.1%	4.6%
	2016/17	2,579	1.9%	25.1%	34.3%	24.5%	14.2%

2016-17 was the first year for most of these specifications, with a second phase of specifications, eg. Applied Law, starting in 2017-18. As expected, the number of learners taking these qualifications increased substantially between 2016-17 and 2017-18. For fairness the introduction of the N grade at unit level in 2017-18 was applied retrospectively for learners who completed their studies in 2016-17, these learners appear in the 2017-18 cohort.

Given that the years shown are the first cohorts for these new qualifications, long term patterns cannot be inferred from these results.

BTEC National Certificate (2016) Results 2018 – most popular sectors

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: 5 most popular subjects - grade distribution overview

Certificate (180 GLH)

This table shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome.

Qualification	Sector	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Certificate (180 GLH)	Business	1,500	0.9%	6.0%	50.2%	32.6%	10.3%
	Health And Social Care	1,300	1.2%	10.8%	55.5%	27.8%	4.8%
	Information Technology	1,300	6.7%	9.0%	47.4%	27.1%	9.9%
	Applied Science	1,200	3.0%	9.4%	50.8%	33.7%	3.1%
	Applied Law	900	16.3%	20.7%	42.0%	14.7%	6.3%

Applied Law was offered for the first time in 2017-18 but is already in the five most popular subjects for the Certificate (180 GLH).

As with A levels, there is no reason to expect outcomes to be similar across sectors. The Certificate is equivalent to one AS level and may therefore be combined with a variety of different programmes. These are relatively small cohorts so the proportion of different centre types may vary. Different sectors can therefore attract different groups of learners: outcomes on Applied Law for example are higher than outcomes on Business on both the 2016 specification (shown here) and the 2010 Specification.

BTEC National Extended Certificate (2016) Results 2018

- most popular sectors

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: 5 most popular subjects - grade distribution overview

Extended Certificate (360 GLH)

This table shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome.

Qualification	Sector	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Extended Certificate (360 GLH)	Business	6,000	3.7%	30.5%	45.2%	18.5%	2.0%
	Health And Social Care	4,200	5.9%	30.2%	40.8%	21.0%	2.2%
	Information Technology	3,400	5.2%	28.7%	43.6%	19.2%	3.2%
	Applied Science	3,400	4.8%	25.3%	45.5%	21.8%	2.6%
	Sport	2,700	6.9%	26.7%	40.1%	21.1%	5.2%

These five subjects are also the most popular subjects for 360 GLH qualifications in the 2010 specification. Performances are fairly similar across these five qualifications but as with A levels, there is no reason to expect these outcomes to be similar.

BTEC National Foundation Diploma (2016) Results 2018

– most popular sectors

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: 5 most popular subjects - grade distribution overview

Foundation Diploma (510/540 GLH)

This table shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome.

Qualification	Sector	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Foundation Diploma (510/540 GLH)	Health And Social Care	2,500	1.5%	24.1%	36.1%	34.1%	4.1%
	Business	2,300	1.6%	23.7%	30.1%	40.5%	4.0%
	Sport	1,900	1.4%	29.4%	35.8%	27.8%	5.6%
	Applied Science	1,300	3.7%	23.2%	37.5%	32.8%	2.8%
	Art And Design	1,100	3.4%	17.7%	41.2%	35.4%	2.2%

Art and Design is among the five most popular sectors on the Foundation Diploma (510/540 GLH). There is some variation across sectors at each grade but as with A levels, there is no reason to expect outcomes to be similar across sectors.

BTEC National Diploma (2016) Results 2018 – most popular sectors

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: 5 most popular subjects - grade distribution overview National Diploma (720 GLH)

Grades at pass level and above for these qualifications are awarded as two grades, e.g. DM.
This table shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome.

Qualification	Sector	Completions	D*D*	D*D	DD	DM	MM	MP	PP	U
BTEC National Diploma (720 GLH)	Business	2,100	2.2%	14.5%	29.7%	23.0%	14.5%	8.0%	6.8%	1.2%
	Health And Social Care	1,800	4.4%	19.1%	26.2%	19.7%	13.6%	8.0%	4.7%	4.2%
	Sport	800	4.4%	17.2%	22.1%	18.3%	15.7%	11.9%	8.0%	2.6%
	Applied Science	800	3.6%	14.6%	22.1%	19.3%	17.7%	12.9%	9.2%	0.7%
	Creative Digital Media Production	500	6.1%	19.0%	20.1%	20.1%	17.9%	12.0%	3.3%	1.3%

Creative Digital Media Production is in the five most popular sectors on the Diploma (720 GLH). There is some variation across sectors at each grade but as with A levels, there is no reason to expect outcomes to be similar across sectors.

BTEC National Extended Diploma (2016) Results 2018

– most popular sectors

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: 5 most popular subjects - grade distribution overview

Extended Diploma (1080 GLH)

Grades at pass level and above for these qualifications are awarded as three grades, e.g. DDM.

This table shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome.

Qualification	Sector	Completions	D*D*D*	D*D*D	D*DD	DDD	DDM	DMM	MMM	MMP	MPP	PPP	U
BTEC National Extended Diploma (1080 GLH)	Health And Social Care	1,900	3.2%	9.2%	15.0%	16.6%	15.2%	12.3%	8.9%	5.9%	6.1%	4.0%	3.6%
	Business	1,700	0.8%	4.8%	15.3%	19.7%	13.4%	12.2%	10.7%	8.4%	7.7%	5.7%	1.5%
	Applied Science	1,200	3.1%	7.3%	10.0%	12.9%	14.8%	14.9%	12.6%	9.8%	7.8%	4.5%	2.2%
	Performing Arts	700	7.1%	18.3%	19.8%	12.6%	14.9%	10.3%	7.4%	5.1%	2.9%	0.9%	0.9%
	Art And Design	600	3.6%	8.8%	8.1%	10.9%	13.2%	17.2%	17.1%	10.2%	6.7%	2.8%	1.6%

Art and Design is among the five most popular sectors on the Extended Diploma, as it is on the Foundation Diploma (510/540 GLH).

Performing Arts is also a popular sector for this size. There is some variation across sectors at each grade but as with A levels, there is no reason to expect outcomes to be similar across sectors. These are relatively small cohorts so the proportion of different centre types may vary, with different sectors attracting different groups of learners.

ALWAYS LEARNING