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Providing Access to High Quality Career Focussed Education:

BTEC Nationals (2016 - RQF) Results
October 2019

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Illustration by Lucy Vigrass

BTEC is the leading internationally recognised qualification in career education

Supporting student progression to HE, careers & lifelong learning

Illustration by Lucy Vigrass

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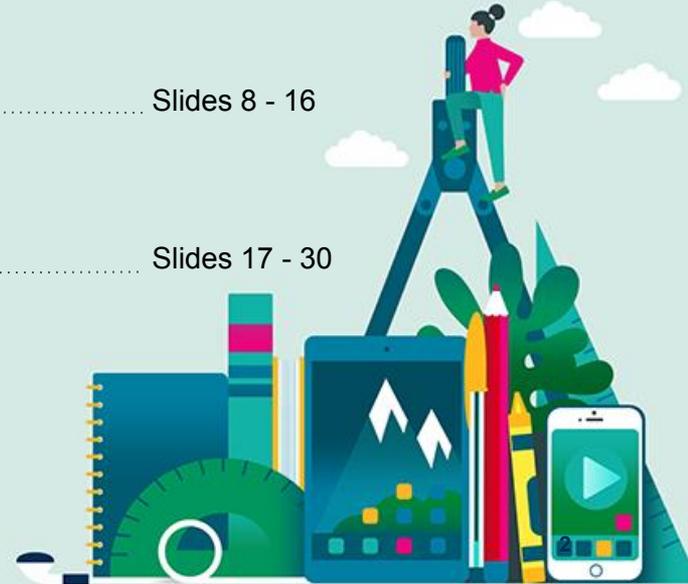
Introduction: Understanding the BTEC Nationals (2016)*

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 or third 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 BTEC Nationals (2016)* 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 has been awarded a grade for the qualification, which can include U (unclassified).

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.

* New reformed first taught from 2016, containing external assessment

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

BTEC Nationals (2016): 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

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2019
Learner completions – BTEC Nationals (2016)

BTEC National specifications for first

teaching 2016

# Interest in Reformed 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 2018/19.

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, 2017/18 and 2018/19 cohorts are therefore not directly comparable.

The BTEC National Diploma (720 GLH) and Extended Diploma (1080 GLH) are two year courses so 2018/19 saw the second year of completions for these qualifications.

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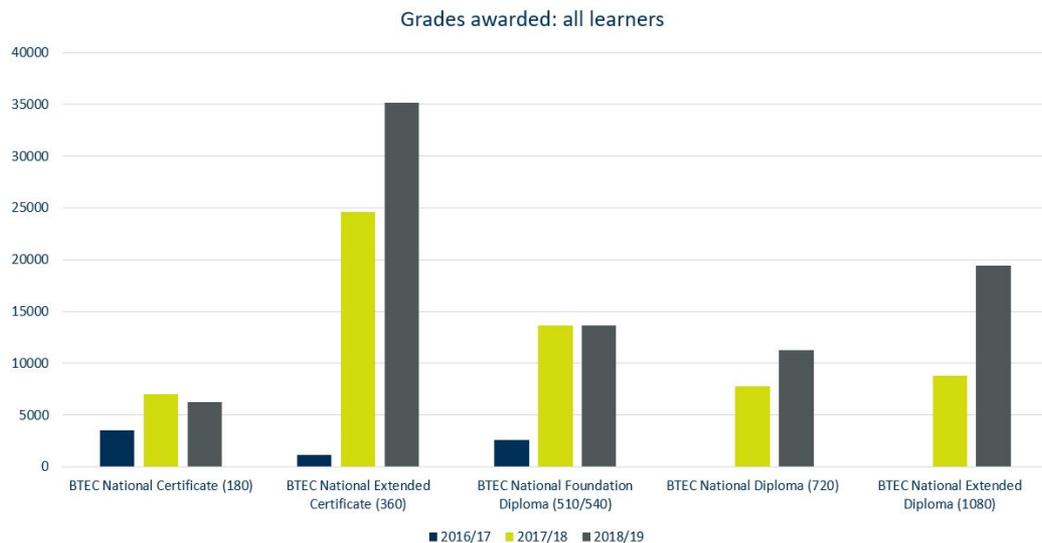
The Extended Certificate is the most popular size qualification for the BTEC Nationals (2016). Most learners take it as a two year course. These qualifications are often taken alongside A levels to provide a broader curriculum, developing learners' employability and soft skills.

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The BTEC Nationals (2016) appeal to learners nationwide

Completions by region

Completions by Region
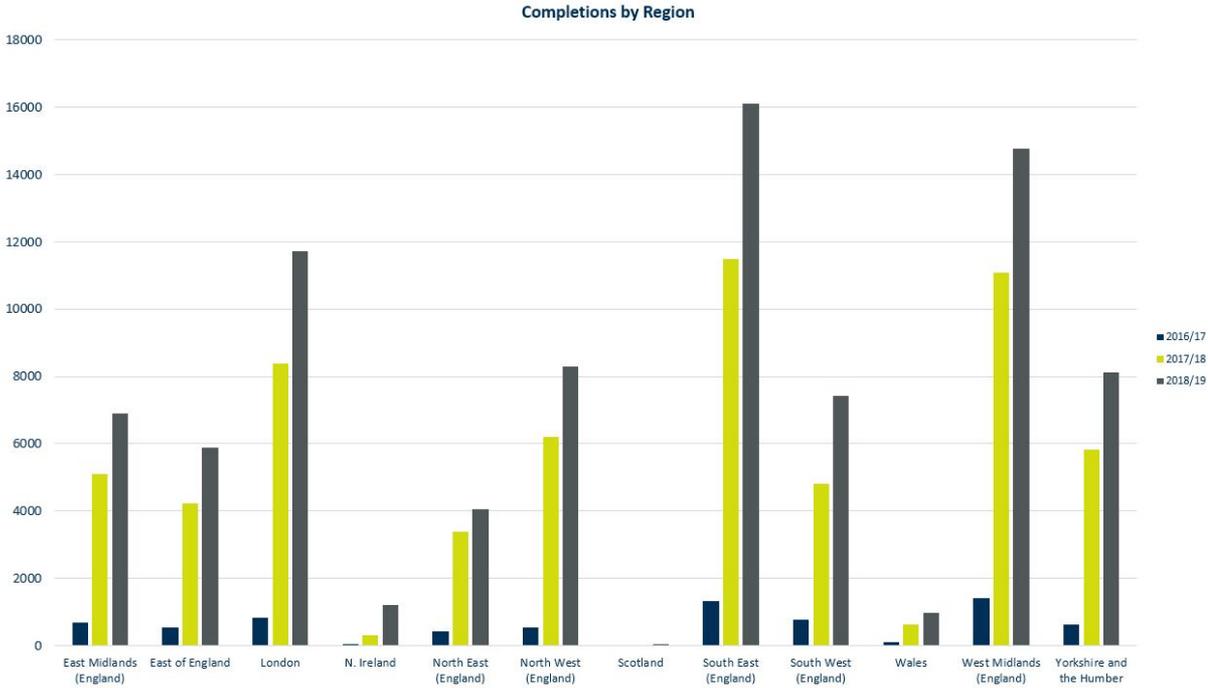
South East England has the highest number of learners completing the BTEC Nationals (2016) in 2019, closely followed by West Midlands.

As registration volumes continue to increase, we may continue to see shifts in the picture across regions.

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 2018/19

Sector	Completion			Change from previous year
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
Business	1,800	13,600	17,300	+27%
Health And Social Care	1,700	11,700	15,200	+30%
Applied Science	1,300	7,900	11,000	+39%
Sport	300	6,100	8,700	+43%
Information Technology	600	5,300	7,800	+47%

The five most popular subjects for the BTEC Nationals (2016) are the same this year as in 2017/18.

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Learners prepare for a wide range of careers

Completions by sector

The BTEC Nationals (2016) were available for nineteen sectors for completion in 2018/19. The five most popular are shown in the previous slide.

This table shows how the number of learners has also grown in the the other 13 sectors which had more than 250 learners in 2018/19.
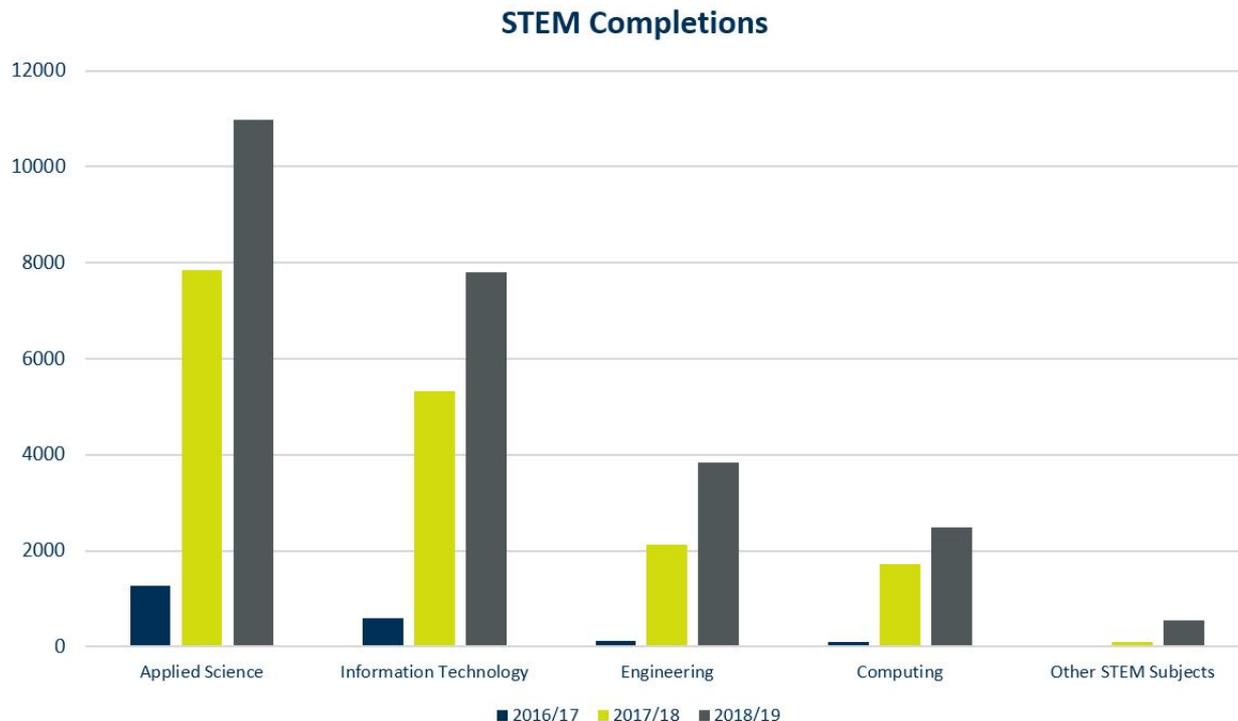
Sector	Completion			Change from previous year
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
Creative Digital Media Production	100	2,800	3,900	+39%
Engineering	100	2,100	3,800	+81%
Performing Arts	500	3,400	3,700	+9%
Applied Law	-	900	2,500	+178%
Computing	100	1,700	2,500	+47%
Art And Design	400	2,500	2,300	-8%
Animal Management	100	1,200	2,000	+67%
Children's Play, Learning And Development	100	1,100	1,700	+55%
Sport And Exercise Science	-	700	1,200	+71%
Music Technology	-	300	500	+67%
Construction And The Built Environment	-	100	500	+400%
Enterprise And Entrepreneurship	100	300	400	+33%
Forensic And Criminal Investigation	-	100	300	+200%

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Students continue to complete a BTEC to pursue careers in STEM

Completions in STEM sectors

The most popular STEM subjects for completion in 2018/19 were Applied Science and IT.

Completions increased across all STEM subjects as centres continue to transition across from the BTEC (2010) qualifications.

STEM Completions

Legend: 2016/17 (dark blue), 2017/18 (yellow-green), 2018/19 (grey)

Categories: Applied Science, Information Technology, Engineering, Computing, Other STEM Subjects

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# Gender differences exist among subject choice

BTEC Nationals (2016): 2018/19 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.
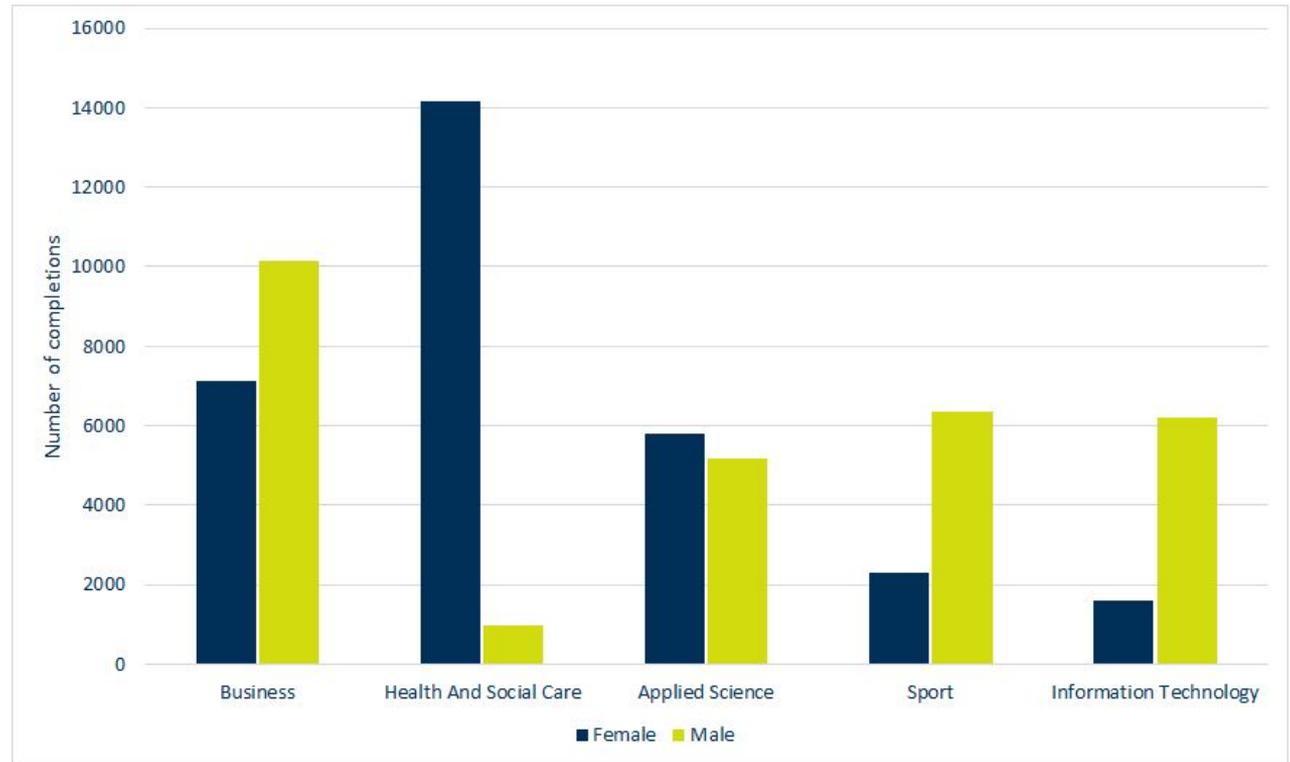
Health & Social Care continues to be of great interest to female learners

BTEC Nationals (2016): most popular 5 sectors for female learners by completion volume
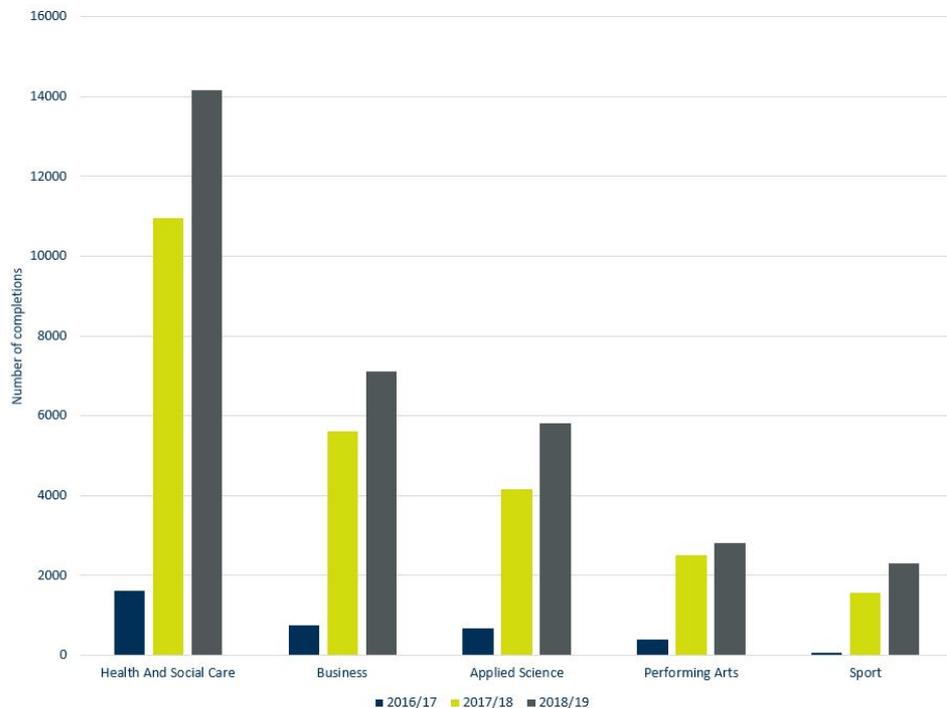
The number of learners completing qualifications in each sector was much greater in 2018/19 than 2017/18.

The sector with the most female learners in 2018/19 was Health and Social Care, the same as in 2017/18, and the same as the BTEC Nationals (2010).

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Business is of great interest to male learners

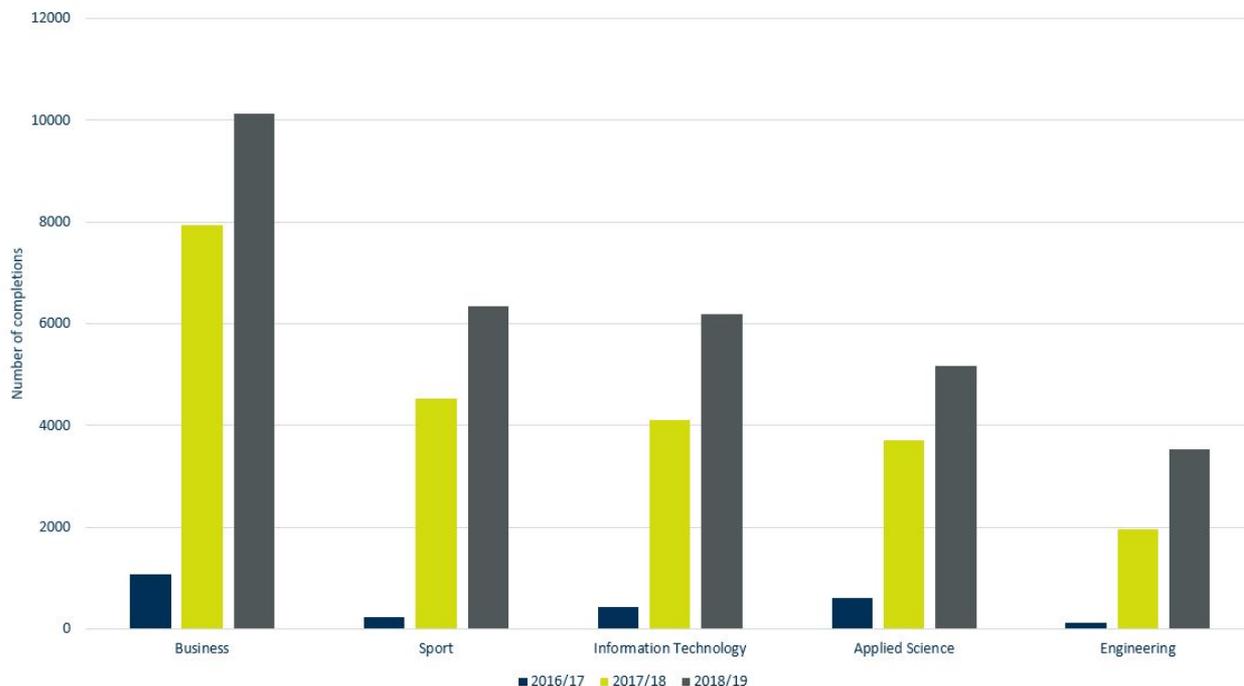**BTEC Nationals (2016): most popular 5 sectors for male learners by completion volume**

The number of learners completing qualifications in each sector was much greater in 2018/19 than 2017/18.

The sector with the most male learners in 2018/19 was Business. The number of learners taking Sport makes it the second most popular sector for male learners in 2018/19, marginally ahead of Information Technology.

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 2019 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 2018/19.

Qualification	Size	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Certificate	180	6,000	6.3%	13.6%	49.7%	23.6%	6.9%
BTEC National Extended Certificate	360	35,000	7.0%	31.3%	42.7%	16.9%	2.0%
BTEC National Foundation Diploma	510/540	14,000	2.4%	24.0%	33.3%	35.6%	4.8%

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

BTEC Nationals (2016) Results 2019 Achievement across sectors

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: grade distribution overview

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 2018/19 take these qualifications 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	11,000	4.4%	15.3%	23.9%	20.5%	15.0%	10.6%	8.6%	1.6%

Qualification	Size	Completions	D*D*D*	D*D*D	D*DD	DDD	DDM	DMM	MMM	MMP	MPP	PPP	U
BTEC National Extended Diploma	1080	19,000	3.9%	8.5%	12.7%	13.2%	13.3%	12.3%	11.1%	8.7%	8.5%	5.1%	2.8%

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 2017/18 as well as the 2018/19 outcomes by qualification size, for comparison.

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BTEC National Certificate (2016) Results 2019 – compared to 2018

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 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Qualification	Year	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Certificate (180 GLH)	2017/18	7,000	4.8%	10.3%	49.7%	27.8%	7.4%
	2018/19	6,200	6.3%	13.6%	49.7%	23.6%	6.9%

2016/17 was the first year for most of these specifications, with a second phase of specifications starting in 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.
As the transition to the BTEC (2016) continues, we expect to see performance increase in stability in over time.

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BTEC National Extended Certificate (2016) Results 2019 – compared to 2018

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 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Qualification	Year	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Extended Certificate	2017/18	24,600	5.7%	28.6%	42.8%	20.0%	2.9%
(360 GLH)	2018/19	35,000	7.0%	31.3%	42.7%	16.9%	2.0%

2016/17 was the first year for most of these specifications, with a second phase of specifications starting in 2017/18.

As expected, the number of learners taking these qualifications increased substantially between 2016/17 and 2017/18 and continued to increase in 2018-2019.

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.

As the transition to the BTEC (2016) continues, we expect to see increased stability over time.

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BTEC National Foundation Diploma (2016) Results 2019 – compared to 2018

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 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Qualification	Year	Completions	D*	D	M	P	U
BTEC National Foundation Diploma (510/540 GLH)	2017/18	13,600	2.3%	23.4%	35.5%	34.1%	4.6%
	2018/19	13,600	2.4%	24.0%	33.3%	35.6%	4.8%

2016/17 was the first year for most of these specifications, with a second phase of specifications starting in 2017/18. As expected, the number of learners taking these qualifications increased substantially between 2016/17 and 2017/18 and continued to increase in 2018/19.

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.

As the transition to the BTEC (2016) continues, we expect to see increased stability over time.

BTEC National Diploma (2016) Results 2019 – compared to 2018

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: grade distribution overview

Diploma (720 GLH)
This table shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome, in both 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Qualification	Year	Completions	D*D*	D*D	DD	DM	MM	MP	PP	U
BTEC National Diploma (720)	2017/18	7,800	4.5%	17.0%	24.4%	20.3%	15.0%	9.6%	6.7%	2.5%
	2018/19	11,300	4.4%	15.3%	23.9%	20.5%	15.0%	10.6%	8.6%	1.6%

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BTEC National Extended Diploma (2016) Results 2019 – compared to 2018

BTEC Nationals (2016) achievement: grade distribution overview

Extended Diploma (1080 GLH)
This table shows the percentage of learners on each grade, or with each outcome, in both 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Qualification	Year	Completions	D*D*D*	D*D*D	D*DD	DDD	DDM	DMM	MMM	MMP	MPP	PPP	U
BTEC National Extended Diploma (1080)	2017/18	8,800	3.2%	8.6%	13.7%	14.4%	13.8%	13.2%	11.0%	8.0%	6.6%	4.1%	3.3%
	2018/19	19,500	3.9%	8.5%	12.7%	13.2%	13.3%	12.3%	11.1%	8.7%	8.5%	5.1%	2.8%

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BTEC National Certificate (2016) Results 2019 – 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	1,300	0.8%	10.1%	56.1%	25.0%	8.0%
	Health And Social Care	1,200	2.3%	14.2%	54.6%	24.4%	4.5%
	Applied Science	900	4.1%	10.3%	50.7%	31.1%	3.8%
	Applied Law	900	16.1%	27.1%	37.7%	14.1%	5.0%
	Information Technology	800	11.1%	14.0%	47.3%	19.4%	8.2%

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, we do not necessarily 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.

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BTEC National Extended Certificate (2016) Results 2019 – 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	7,400	3.4%	31.7%	46.0%	17.0%	1.9%
	Health And Social Care	5,900	4.9%	34.3%	43.0%	16.3%	1.6%
	Information Technology	5,200	8.4%	32.0%	40.6%	16.2%	2.8%
	Applied Science	5,000	6.5%	27.7%	45.8%	18.9%	1.1%
	Sport	3,500	9.0%	32.8%	40.0%	16.1%	2.2%

Information Technology is one of the most popular subjects in the 180 and 360 size, but Engineering takes its place in the larger sizes.

BTEC National Foundation Diploma (2016) Results 2019 – 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)	Business	2,200	1.1%	29.6%	31.3%	33.9%	4.0%
	Health And Social Care	2,100	1.3%	27.2%	35.8%	32.7%	3.0%
	Applied Science	1,700	3.8%	24.8%	32.8%	35.4%	3.2%
	Sport	1,300	1.4%	23.1%	32.9%	38.7%	3.9%
	Engineering	900	0.9%	16.6%	33.6%	42.0%	6.9%

Engineering is one of the 5 most popular subjects in the 510/540 sizes. 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.

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BTEC National Diploma (2016) Results 2019 – 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	3,000	1.6%	13.0%	30.4%	23.4%	14.6%	8.0%	8.4%	0.7%
	Health And Social Care	2,400	3.4%	17.7%	28.4%	19.6%	12.7%	9.4%	6.5%	2.2%
	Sport	1,500	5.8%	15.5%	21.1%	19.0%	14.9%	13.3%	9.0%	1.3%
	Applied Science	1,000	5.6%	14.0%	20.4%	20.5%	16.4%	13.9%	8.7%	0.5%
	Engineering	600	6.9%	16.5%	14.8%	20.8%	19.1%	12.0%	9.6%	0.2%

Engineering is one of the 5 most popular subjects in the 720 GLH 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.

BTEC National Extended Diploma (2016) Results 2019 – 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	3,400	2.5%	9.0%	13.8%	16.7%	16.2%	12.6%	9.1%	6.6%	7.1%	4.1%	2.1%
	Business	3,300	1.1%	5.0%	14.7%	17.4%	13.9%	11.7%	10.2%	8.9%	8.5%	6.6%	2.1%
	Applied Science	2,200	7.0%	10.7%	13.2%	11.8%	14.2%	13.9%	11.2%	7.6%	6.8%	3.1%	0.5%
	Sport	2,000	2.6%	6.3%	9.6%	12.5%	13.6%	13.7%	13.7%	9.5%	9.2%	6.4%	2.8%
	Engineering	1,300	3.9%	7.7%	9.9%	10.9%	11.8%	12.8%	11.7%	9.2%	9.7%	4.7%	7.7%

Engineering is one of the 5 most popular subjects in the 1080 GLH 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.

ALWAYS LEARNING