

## Edexcel Thinks

### What's the issue?

With important changes currently being made to the qualification system, notably through the creation of a Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) and the implementation of a 14 - 19 Qualification Strategy, questions are being asked about the position of existing qualifications such as BTECs. What is Edexcel's current position on this? What does Edexcel think?

### What does Edexcel think?

- Edexcel welcomes the fact that the Government remains committed to ensuring that choice continues to be available for all learners on the basis that the options are manageable and that publicly funded qualifications continue to meet a defined need
- Edexcel remains committed to supporting this by providing the broadest choice for learners to prepare them for progression in education or the workplace through continued provision of its BTEC and other qualifications
- Edexcel will also work with providers to ensure that they are able to tailor their qualification offer, including BTECs, around the needs of learners and local communities, including employers, as far as possible
- Edexcel will update and revise its vocational qualification offer of BTECs and NVQs to provide a wealth of choice that can support 14 - 19 Diplomas. Learners and providers will be able to select from a range of BTEC options that can be taken either as Additional Specialist Learning or as stand alone qualifications as needs determine
- Edexcel recognises that the qualification offer for 14 - 19 learning will continue to evolve as part of the build up to the 2013 review of the 14 - 19 Qualification Strategy. Edexcel also acknowledges that new regulatory and accreditation procedures are being in put in place to determine 14 - 19 provision and funding. It will therefore seek to ensure its qualifications fit developing expectations
- Edexcel will also ensure its BTEC qualifications support the transition to the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) for adult learners. It is currently working to ensure both its BTEC suites of qualifications and individual units match the needs of employers through SSCs and align with the funding and regulatory requirements of the QCF



## What is Edexcel doing?

Edexcel is accredited to offer eight of the first 10 lines of learning in 14 - 19 Diplomas and intends to offer all 10 for first teaching in September 09. Edexcel is currently developing four more Diplomas for Phase 3 which will be taught from 2010. Edexcel is offering a full programme of support for consortia taking up Diplomas from the first two Phases. Training events are taking place across the country and Edexcel is working with partners to produce resources.

Edexcel's suite of BTEC Firsts (Level 2) and Nationals (Level 3) will be aligned to the QCF. The revised qualifications will have enhanced specifications and Edexcel will provide guidance and support for centres. Edexcel is also creating a new suite of BTEC ASL qualifications from the units developed for the QCF. These units will be credit rated.

Edexcel provides a range of resources for centres delivering BTEC qualifications including course guides and CD-Roms. Edexcel also produces BTEC in a Box, a complete kit containing all the subject-specific teaching resources centres need to start teaching a BTEC First qualification. Edexcel is also currently developing a DVD guide for those new to BTEC.

Edexcel is working to ensure its qualifications fit the 14 - 19 Qualification Strategy requirements and receive funding via the Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval (JACQA).

Edexcel is adapting and developing its Entry Level and Level 1 qualifications to integrate successfully within the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT.) It is currently piloting vocational qualifications on the FLT in three sector areas and developing vocational qualifications in several other sectors.

Edexcel currently offers English, maths and ICT Functional skills at Levels 1 and 2. From January 2009, Edexcel will also offer Entry level functional skills. Edexcel is trialling on-screen maths and English Functional Skills.

Edexcel will continue to work closely with providers and update them on changes as the new qualification frameworks take shape.

## Background

BTECs provide a practical, real-world approach to learning and skills development alongside a key theoretical background. They continue to be developed and updated with and for industry and in response to the needs of learners. This could be in readiness for the workplace or continued study at the next level, whether in an academic environment or a more specialist vocational area. BTECs are available in 17 sectors from entry to level 7 of the National Qualifications Framework.

The number of learners taking BTEC qualifications continues to grow. From 2004/05 to 2006/07 the number of BTEC Firsts and Nationals taken in schools and colleges alone, more than doubled. The growth of BTEC in schools has been particularly successful.

In 2007, Edexcel commissioned independent research to examine how well BTECs support the labour market. The research looked at two aspects: the use of BTECs for progression purposes and labour market returns on particular BTEC qualifications. The reports are on the Edexcel website.

## Useful links

<http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Pages/not-60.aspx> Link to Policy watch on the 14-19 Implementation plan

[http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/2008\\_9\\_2008\\_9\\_29\\_\\_\\_\\_April\\_Government\\_clarifies\\_the\\_position\\_of\\_BTECs\\_in\\_14\\_\\_\\_19\\_provision\\_in\\_England.pdf](http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/2008_9_2008_9_29____April_Government_clarifies_the_position_of_BTECs_in_14___19_provision_in_England.pdf) Link to Edexcel Thinks on BTEC position in May 08

[http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2007/07\\_35/](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2007/07_35/) Link to HEFCE report on Pathways to higher education for BTECs

[http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/\\_1\\_\\_Summary\\_The\\_Labour\\_Market\\_Returns\\_to\\_BTEC\\_Qualifications\\_BTEC\\_LMR1.pdf](http://www.edexcel.com/Policies/Documents/_1__Summary_The_Labour_Market_Returns_to_BTEC_Qualifications_BTEC_LMR1.pdf) Link to: The Labour Market Returns to BTEC Qualifications: An Analysis Using the UK Labour Force Survey – A Summary