

Edexcel Level 3 BTEC Nationals in Health and Social Care

Additional Guidance for Unit 45: Competence-Based Vocational Experience for Health and Social Care

Completion of Unit 45: Competence-Based Vocational Experience for Health and Social Care is to be encouraged, especially for learners wishing to work in the care sector.

Unit 45: Competence-Based Vocational Experience for Health and Social Care requires a minimum of 200 hours of work experience with the recommendation that this is undertaken across 3 different placements. However, for learners in work, or who have part time jobs, this may not be possible. For successful completion of this unit, Tutors should be confident that learners can transfer their skills to different situations and contexts.

The 200 hours of work experience for unit 45 is in addition to the 100 hours required for Unit 6: Personal and Professional Development in Health and Social Care. Work experience for Unit 6 should be in 3 different settings and learners could build on one of these settings for Unit 45.

The unit abstract for unit 45 suggests that learners will be able to demonstrate continuing development to acquire new skills and that they may be able to gain the following level 3 NVQ Units, provided they are observed by a qualified assessor that meets the requirements of the assessment strategy for the NVQ in question (please see detailed guidance on assessment of NVQs at the end of this extract). However, level 3 NVQs require learners to hold a position of responsibility and to work autonomously. Unless it is the case that learners on placement do work with this level of responsibility, centres should be encouraged to consider the equivalent level 2 NVQ units; these are listed below the level 3 NVQ units. The level 2 NVQ in Health and Social Care complies with the requirements of the National Minimum Standards in the Care Standards Act 2000 as the minimum level of qualification to work in the sector.

Level 3 NVQ Health and Social Care units:

Unit HSC31: Promote effective communication for and about individuals

Unit HSC32: Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security in the working environment

Unit HSC33: Reflect on and develop your practice

Unit HSC34: Promote the wellbeing and protection of children and young people

Unit HSC35: Promote choice, wellbeing and the protection of all individuals.

Level 3 NVQ Health

The unit should also enable learners to gain some of the underpinning knowledge for the following units of the Level 3 NVQ in Health:

Unit GEN12: Reflect on and evaluate your own values, priorities, interests and effectiveness

Unit GEN13: Synthesise new knowledge into the development of your own practice.

Cont'd.

Cont'd.

Level 2 NVQ Health and Social Care units:

Unit HSC21: Communicate with and complete records for individuals

Unit HSC22: Support the health, safety of yourself and individuals

Unit HSC23: Develop your knowledge and practice

Unit HSC24: Ensure your work actions support the care, protection and wellbeing of individuals

Unit HSC25: Carry out and provide feedback on a specific plan of care

Learners will gain underpinning knowledge at level 3, but practical competence can be developed and demonstrated only through the job role. NVQs are not progression qualifications and it should be made clear that these unique qualifications relate only to competence in a specific work role.

Assessment of NVQs must comply with regulatory requirements including the JAB Guidance on Internal verification, the QCA Code of Practice (2006) and the associated Assessment Strategy as developed by the Sector Skills Councils, Skills for Health and Skills for Care. Centres / placement providers must therefore be approved to offer the specific NVQ so that learners may be registered on the programme. Alternatively, if access to assessment is not available, learners can gather evidence of competence for future use.

Additional funding may be available for learners achieving an NVQ / NVQ units at a level different from their main qualification aim. However, this needs to be confirmed with your local LSC.