



# BTEC First and National titles are changing

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A PEARSON COMPANY

This briefing is designed to inform you of the changes we are required to make to the titling of our suites of BTEC First and National qualifications from 1 September 2010.

## The agenda

- The BTEC Firsts and Nationals from 2010
- The QCF and curriculum
- Key messages

## BTEC First and BTEC National titles are changing

- From 1 September 2010, the revised Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) versions of the Level 2 BTEC Firsts and the Level 3 BTEC Nationals will have to change
- We will still market them, and refer to them generically as BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals; centres are encouraged to do the same
- The actual title of each award is significantly different and conforms to the requirements of the QCF

## What about the size and equivalences of the BTEC Firsts and Nationals ?

- The qualification will be made up of units, and each unit given Credits and Guided Learning Hours (GLH)
- Each QCF BTEC qualification will be sized in Credits (not units)
- The equivalences with GCSEs and A Levels and other benchmarks remain the same as now
- The GLH continue to be used for planning and funding purposes

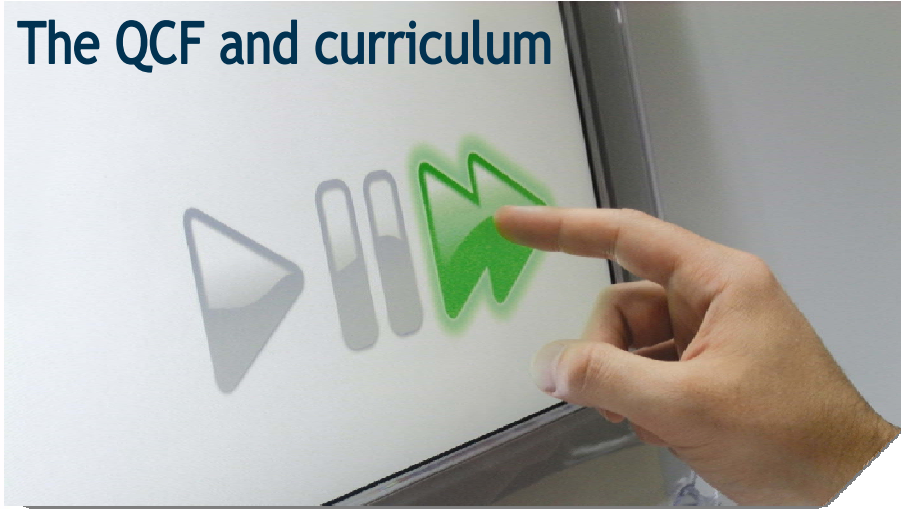
These are important to grasp

Credit has been used for many years in university degree programmes; credit is now being used across all levels of vocational qualifications as a “currency”. It is felt by the Department (DCSF) and the regulator (Ofqual) that credit will make achieving qualifications more flexible and enable learners to aggregate their learning throughout their working lives.

Guided Learning Hours (GLH) are used now for funding and planning purposes; many BTEC units currently have 60 GLH. GLH is a notional measure of the amount of time when a member of staff is present to give guidance to a learner; it is not an exact science. GLH is used by the Learning and Skills Councils to allocate funding.

Learning Time is associated with credit and amount of time the average learner takes to achieve a pass. Learning time is 10 x that of credit.

## The QCF and curriculum



## A credit-based system - what is credit?

Credit based on the average amount of time it takes a learner to achieve the learning objectives of a unit, at a pass level

Learning time includes contact time, directed learning and assessment time for the average learner

10 hours of learning = 1 credit

Credit allocated relates to 'learning time' which is a fuller acknowledgment of learner effort – not just how long they are in the classroom

Learning time includes contact time, directed learning preparation for assessment and assessment time but not learner initiated study

Learning Time is the average amount of time it takes a learner to achieve the learning objectives of a unit, at a pass level, assuming that the learner is at the level of the unit (and has any prerequisite knowledge and/or skills)

10 hours of learning time = 1 credit

1 credit is the smallest amount possible for a unit to have, there are no fractions. Credit is awarded in integers. 10 hours of learning is based on one day's training plus some preparation work and some 'homework'

Credit is based on achievement at pass level, grading is therefore different to credit. Learners are not awarded more credit for achieving a unit at a higher grade – this achievement is recognised in the grading – more on this soon.

Funding follows GLH rather than credit

## How units and qualifications get on the QCF

- Each unit and qualification within the QCF is given credits
- Units are submitted for QCF accreditation through the Sector Skills Councils and the regulators
- Sector Skills Councils set the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for their particular sector; there are about 25 SSCs
- They also agree the Rules of Combination (ROC) that make up qualifications

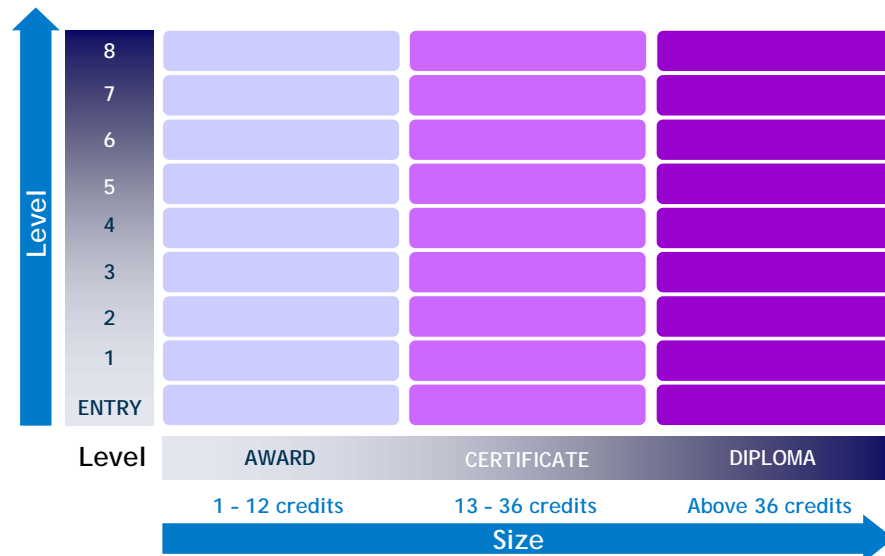


Logos of the 25 Sector Skills Councils who set the National Occupational Standards for their sectors and are the gatekeepers to the QCF

## Understanding the QCF qualification sizes

- The QCF has the same number of levels as the existing NQF (National Qualifications Framework); From Entry through to Level 8
- Unlike now, on the QCF there are defined sizes of qualifications, namely:
  - - an **Award** must comprise 1-12 credits (10-120 hours of Learning Time)
  - - a **Certificate** comprises 13-36 credits (130-360 hours of Learning Time)
  - - a **Diploma** comprises 37+ credits (370 or more hours of Learning Time)
- QCF BTEC titles have been agreed by Ofqual for the BTEC Level 2 Firsts & and Level 3 Nationals

## The Qualifications and Credit Framework



The challenge is the level of qualification – QCF levels are exactly the same as current NQF levels. There will be 9 levels in the QCF (just as the NQF) Entry level (E1, E2 and E3) and levels 1 to 8.

At every level there will be three sizes of qualification. Size is measured in credits. Small = Award (1- 12 credit); Medium = Certificate (13 – 36 Credits) and Large = Diploma (37+ credits)

So there's no differentiation between a 37 credit qualification (which may take a couple of terms) and a 100 credit qualification, which is clearly far larger, as they will all be called 'Diplomas'. (not to be confused with THE Diplomas!)

Equally a 13 credit qualification will be called a Certificate, as will a 36 credit qualification, which is nearly three times the size.

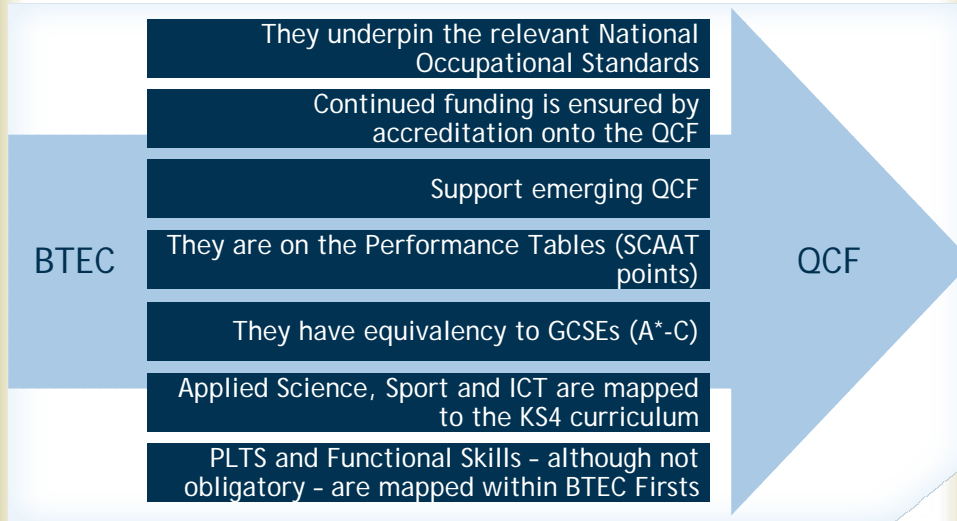
## The BTEC Firsts and Nationals from 2010



## The BTEC Level 2 Firsts and Level 3 Nationals retain their benchmarks

- Although the qualification titles are changing the content, volume and equivalences remain as now
- The following slides identify these benchmarks and equivalences

## The QCF BTEC Level 2 Firsts remain fully benchmarked



There is continuity between the existing NQF and QCF versions, and the articulations of the Level 2 BTEC Firsts to various benchmarks

## QCF Revised Titles with Equivalences from September 2010

### Level 2 BTEC Firsts (NQF)

Level 2 BTEC First Diploma  
6 units (360 GLH) = 4 GCSEs A\*-C

Level 2 BTEC First Certificate  
3 units (180 GLH) = 2 GCSEs A\*-C

### BTEC Level 2 Firsts (QCF)

BTEC Level 2 Diploma  
60 credits (360 GLH) = 4 GCSEs A\*-C

BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate  
30 credits (180 GLH) = 2 GCSEs A\*-C

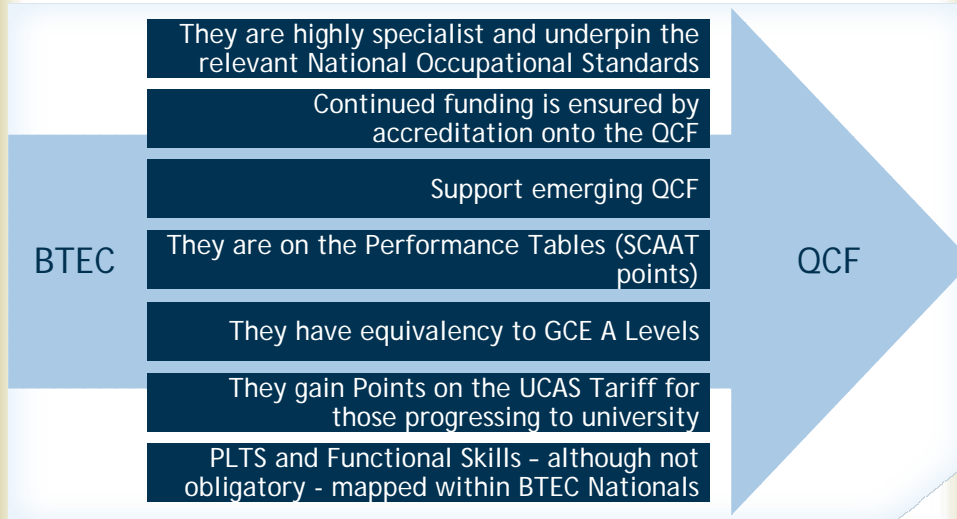
BTEC Level 2 Certificate  
15 credits (90 GLH) = 1 GCSE A\*-C

Compare left to right; on the left are the current qualification titles – on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) - for Level 2 BTEC Firsts. On the right are the revised titles for the Qualifications and Credit Framework from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

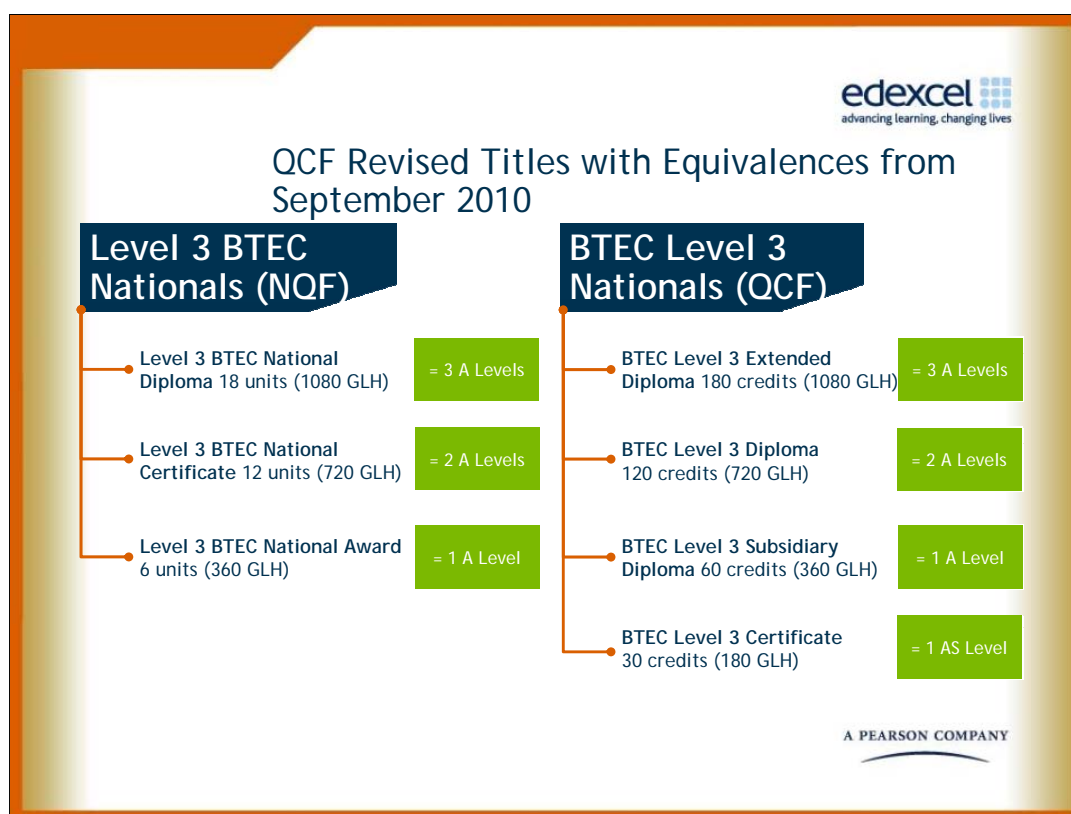
NQF uses no. of units; e.g. Level 2 BTEC First Diploma has 6 units, each consisting of 60 GLH; the total GLH is therefore 360.

The QCF uses total credit; the units may not all be the same size but have variable credits. The total credits must add up to, for example, 60 credits for a Level 2 BTEC Diploma.

## The QCF BTEC Level 3 Nationals remain fully benchmarked



There is continuity between the existing NQF and QCF versions, and the articulations of the Level 3 BTEC Nationals to various benchmarks



As with the Firsts compare left to right; on the left are the current qualification titles – on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) - for Level 3 BTEC Nationals. On the right are the revised titles for the Qualifications and Credit Framework from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

NQF uses no. of units; e.g. Level 3 BTEC National Diploma has 18 units, each consisting of 60 GLH; the total is therefore 1080 GLH.

The QCF uses total credit; the units may not all be the same size but have variable credits. The total credits must add up to, for example, for a Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma to 180 credits (this represents 1800 hours of Learning Time – the amount of time an “average” student needs to pass).

## Messaging about the changing titles of BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals

- The BTEC Nationals and Firsts have been part of the landscape for over 25 years
- We continue to refer to these qualifications as BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals
- We need also to get accustomed to the new QCF titles
- When they are accredited onto the QCF the new titles are on the National Database of Accredited Qualifications (NDAQ)