

BTEC Bulletin

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TEACHING NEW OR UPDATED QUALIFICATIONS TO PRE-16S FROM SEPTEMBER 2011

The government regulates which qualifications can be taught to pre-16s by approving them onto Section 96. Pending the result of a consultation on league table points for vocational qualifications pre-16, the government has “frozen” Section 96.

This has meant that a small number of Edexcel qualifications cannot be delivered to pre-16s. Where possible, we have extended the old versions of these qualifications for use in pre-16 settings.

We have prepared some FAQs which contain a list of the affected qualifications, and provide further guidance on what you should do if you are planning on teaching these courses to pre-16 learners from September 2011.

Read the FAQs document at www.edexcel.com/section96.

BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRSTS AND LEVEL 3 NATIONALS IN VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY SUBMITTED FOR QCF ACCREDITATION

Edexcel is delighted to announce that the BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Vehicle Technology have been submitted for accreditation onto the QCF, following approval by the Sector Skills Council, IMI. We are grateful for, and have been impressed by, the support of our centres delivering Vehicle Technology qualifications through Edexcel during a period of some uncertainty, and – with their help – have gained accreditation for an extension of the NQF versions to 31 December 2011, permitting centres to register learners on these versions. The Learning Aim Database (the LAD) will be updated as soon as possible.

Entries on Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications and the LAD will not "appear" until November, with definitive QANs and funding information. Further details, including the pre-accreditation draft structures and units, can be accessed on the following pages:

BTEC Level 2 Firsts: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts10/vehicle/Pages/default.aspx>

BTEC Level 3 Nationals: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/nationals10/vehicle/Pages/default.aspx>

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF BTEC

Whether you are a new or existing BTEC customer we want to welcome you to the start of the autumn term and make sure that you are aware of the support that is available for you. We hope that you will find the welcome page on our website useful - <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/BTEC/Pages/welcome.aspx>.

For new programmes and new members of staff we want to make sure that you feel fully supported. Should you wish to learn more about the support we offer or if you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing us – btec@edexcel.com.

Training events

We have published a summary of the types of events that you can attend; these include events for practitioners but also Exams Officers, Quality Nominees and more. Further details can be found at <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/BTEC/support/Pages/Training.aspx>. To book your place on one of our events visit our training portal - <http://www.edexcel.com/resources/training/Pages/default.aspx>.

Introduction to BTEC modules - coming soon!

We will shortly be uploading some Introduction to BTEC modules onto our website. These will introduce and explain the key process needed to get started with BTEC. This includes the procedures and administration processes, the basics of internal verification, the requirements for centres and staff, the BTEC style of delivery and assessment, BTEC terminology, the structure and the support available, just to name a few of the modules.

Assignment Checking Service

Due to popular demand, the Assignment Checking Service will be returning very shortly. See the following page for more information: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/BTEC/support/Pages/Assignment-Checking-Service.aspx>.

BTEC LEARNING FOR LIFE IMPORTANT UPDATE

BTEC Learning for Life is a suite of brand new certificates at Entry 3, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 accredited for first teaching from September 2011. Due to the ongoing consultation about league table points (see page 1), pre-16 learners can only be entered for the Entry 3 qualification.

We're expecting the outcome of the consultation to be published early next year. In the meantime, we have mapped the learning outcomes for the Level 1 and Level 2 Learning for Life units to our WorkSkills qualifications. This will allow you to deliver a similar course and your learners will receive a BTEC WorkSkills Certificate.

The BTEC Level 3 Certificate is only accredited for learners aged 16+.

For more information and to download the assessment criteria mapping document for Levels 1 and 2, visit www.edexcel.com/learningforlife.

BTEC NATIONALS IN CHILDREN'S CARE, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Approval

Please note that centres wishing to offer these qualifications must go through a full approval process with support from their centre Curriculum Development Manager.

It is important to note that, as this qualification is unique in that it confers Licence to Practice (Qualified Practitioner Status), staff assessing these qualifications at Level 3 must:

- be aware of current occupational standards
- be qualified as one of the following:
 - Primary school teacher
 - Health visitor
 - Social Worker (Children's Services)
 - Registered Sick Children's Nurse (RSCN)
 - Childcare Practitioner (qualified to Level 3)

Specialist units should be delivered and assessed by staff qualified in that particular area of work, e.g. Child Protection.

In addition, centres must have access to sufficient placements for learners to complete 800 hours of monitored practice as outlined in the Reflective Practice unit. Staff should also have planned Continuous Professional Development in order to maintain their occupational competence.

It is likely that learners who successfully achieve these qualifications will hold supervisory positions working with babies and young children. For further guidance please contact Kath Carmody, Regional Quality Manager, at kath.carmody@edexcel.com.

Family placement

The specification for the BTEC Nationals in Children's Care, Learning and Development contains guidance for the relevant placements for Unit 4 on page 56. We would like to clarify that in view of the present economic climate and decrease in the age range 0-1 year in nursery settings, with effect from 1 September 2011 centres can use a private family placement as a setting.

However, we would require centres to take the necessary precautions when placing learners in these settings e.g. a risk assessment and safeguarding requirements, and keep a record of these.

CALLING ALL LEARNERS FOR OUR COMPETITION WITH JAMIE OLIVER!

We have an exciting opportunity for a learner to win a meal for four people at a Jamie's Italian restaurant, plus £100 worth of vouchers to use on books and cookware at his JME online store.

The competition is open to all learners aged 14 to 19 years who are studying at a school or college in the UK. They don't need to be studying a BTEC Home Cooking Skills qualifications or be an expert chef – we want everyone to have a go!

To be in with a chance of winning, they have to design, plan and cook a meal for one scenario from four we've chosen. The meal should include at least two dishes or courses, and include details of a drink to accompany the food. They should think about the specific requirements of the scenario and explain how they intend to cater for them in their meal design.

The closing date for entries is 31 January 2012. Visit <http://www.jamieshomecookingskills.com/competition> to watch the introduction by Jamie Oliver and download the full competition pack.

BTEC QUALITY NOMINEES HALF-DAY NETWORKS: AUTUMN 2011

We are pleased to let you know that, following a positive response last year, we're repeating two different Quality Nominee Networks this autumn. The events in **September** are for **new Quality Nominees** and in **October** and **November** for **experienced Quality Nominees**. Please choose one which is most appropriate for you.

If you are a new Quality Nominee but are unable to attend an event in September, you may still find attending an event for experienced Quality Nominees useful.

Networks for new BTEC Quality Nominees

These will support you if you have recently taken on the BTEC Quality Nominee role at your centre, or if you want to know more about the role and delivery and assessment of BTEC qualifications.

The programme will focus on:

- the role of the Quality Nominee
- implementing delivery, assessment and internal verification
- using Edexcel Online
- BTEC quality assurance
- using the BTEC website
- progress on the new generation of BTECs from September 2012
- keeping in touch with your Regional Quality Manager.

Networks for experienced Quality Nominees

These are to keep colleagues up-to-date on quality matters. We will include the progress being made on the new generation of BTECs planned for September 2012, as a result of the Government's response to the Wolf Report and the ongoing Vocational Debate.

The programme for the event will focus on:

- progress on the new generation BTECs from September 2012
- BTEC quality assurance updates
- an update on OSCA

- Quality Review and Development second year visits
- developing support for centres.

For FE colleges, there will also be updates on:

- BTEC Higher Nationals
- Vocational degree developments
- Apprenticeships

How to book

Here is the link to full details on the website of the events, dates, venues and times, and details on how to book online using the relevant event code - www.btec.co.uk/qnnetworks.

Please note that we are also offering two live online events, which you may find more convenient to attend if you can't make a face to face event.

We look forward to seeing you.

BTEC QUALITY ASSURANCE HANDBOOKS

The **UK** and **International BTEC Quality Assurance Handbooks 2011-12** are available on the BTEC website. The Handbooks are for centres running the following qualifications at all levels:

- BTEC
- NVQ / SVQ
- BTEC Apprenticeships

They provide you with guidance on what you need to do to operate your programmes effectively and gain certification for your learners. They are for you to share with all staff involved in management, delivery and assessment of your vocational programmes.

Download the Handbooks from the **Quality Assurance / Key Documents** page:
www.edexcel.com/quals/BTEC/quality/Pages/documents.aspx.

15,000 LEAD INTERNAL VERIFIERS ACCREDITED FOR OSCA

After the first year of operation across BTEC Levels 1, 2 and 3 and Entry Level, we're pleased to announce that over 15,000 Lead Internal Verifiers achieved accredited status through online standardisation without referral through standards verification sampling. This is a phenomenal number and centres have responded well to the new quality assurance model. Whilst this integral part of the quality assurance has now been established, we're still looking to refine online standardisation for 2011/12 in response to centres' needs and feedback.

Changes for 2011/12 include:

- OSCA2 will now be known as OSCA! The previous system of online support materials for centres has been decommissioned which now means that there is only one OSCA system and will bring the naming convention in line.
- there will only be two online standardisation windows as there are fewer centres who need to gain accreditation, but these windows will be longer. Window 1 will be 3 November to 30 November 2011 and Window 2 will be 19 January to 15 February 2012.
- cutting down the number of questions from 36 to 28 in recognition of the time commitment of Lead Internal Verifiers and to avoid repetition of themes in the questions.
- creating a common standardised question bank so that questions in the online standardisation materials will be the same as those viewed in advance by centres with the practice materials.

- a new overview facility on the OSCA platform which will be available from September to Quality Nominees to allow them greater visibility of who is accredited at their centre.

BRAND NEW INTERACTIVE RESOURCES FOR BTEC SUSTAINABILITY SKILLS

A new island has been discovered off the coast of England! With the UK population ever increasing, we need to develop the island ready for inhabitants. If we could start afresh - with the technology we have today - what would we do to create a suitable infrastructure?

British Gas has worked in partnership with us to create exciting interactive Flash resources which can be used to engage learners in BTEC Sustainability Skills lessons. Learners can use them to take a tour of the island and work in teams to build a sustainable infrastructure. They can track their progress and reflect on their learning using the learner record sheets, whilst you can ensure all the assessment criteria have been met for the Project and Working in a Team units using the built-in teacher guidance.

To download the resources, visit www.edexcel.com/sustainability.

NATIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK – 3 TO 9 OCTOBER 2011

As an ICS ServiceMark Accredited organisation, Edexcel participates in National Customer Service Week each year.

This is a week long opportunity to raise awareness of customer service and the vital role it plays in successful business practice. This year, we have a full week of activities planned, involving both staff and customers, which are aimed at demonstrating our commitment to customer service.



The week also gives us an ideal opportunity to recognise the efforts and achievements of people working in customer service, particularly those involved in crucial frontline and customer-facing activities.

In addition, it helps us to demonstrate that we are committed to our customer service improvement programme - an important part of maintaining our ICS ServiceMark accreditation.

Everything we've done so far has been based on your feedback and we remain committed to continued service improvement. We can't do this without your ideas and suggestions so please keep in touch by emailing feedback@edexcel.com.

BTEC APPRENTICESHIPS UPDATE

Apprenticeship red tape to be 'swept away' for employers

Skills Minister John Hayes has announced a package of new measures to make it easier for employers to take on large numbers of apprentices.

Responding to the recommendations of a review led by the Employer Reference Group, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and large companies, including BT and TUI Travel, Mr Hayes said that firms that contract directly with the Government to train apprentices will now benefit from simplified payment, reporting and assessment requirements. Read the full report including the package of measures for employers at this link:

http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=421064&NewsAreaID=2&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+bis-news+%28BIS+News%29

FE Week reports that *'The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has announced a package of new measures today that will cut data returns and audit requirements for apprenticeship delivery, despite fraud and the misuse of funding reaching 'a record high'.* Read the full story here: <http://www.feweek.co.uk/index.php/2011/09/06/bis-to-sweep-away-apprenticeship-red-tape-for-employers>

Product update

There are three new Vocational Frameworks BTEC Apprenticeship Frameworks; these are:

- Advanced Apprenticeship in Campaigning
- Advanced Apprenticeship in Fundraising
- Advanced Apprenticeship in Volunteer Management

For further information on these new frameworks please contact adam.barrigan@edexcel.com.

The **ERR e-learning** module is to be launched on 15 September 2011.

NEW BTEC QUALIFICATIONS IN THE HOSPITALITY AND CATERING SECTOR

There are a number of new BTEC qualifications in the Hospitality and Catering sector that have recently been accredited or are currently being developed.

- Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Front of House Operations (QCF) - 600/1950/5

This qualification has been accredited on the QCF for first teaching from September 2011 and the final specification is available on the website at <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/Specialist/front-of-house-lvl2/Pages/default.aspx>.

- Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Award in Food Safety Supervision for Retail (QCF) - 600/3188/8

This qualification has been accredited on the QCF for first teaching from September 2011 and the accredited, pre-publication draft specification is available on the website at <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/Specialist/food-safety-sup-retail-lvl3/Pages/default.aspx>.

- Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Food and Beverage Service Supervision (QCF) - 600/2243/7
- Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Food and Beverage Service Supervision (QCF) - 600/2244/9

These qualifications have been accredited on the QCF for first teaching from September 2011 and the accredited, pre-publication draft specification is available on the website at <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/Specialist/food-beverage-lvl3/Pages/default.aspx>.

- Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)
- Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering (QCF)
- Edexcel BTEC Level 4 Award in Managing Food Safety in Catering (QCF)

These qualifications are being prepared for accreditation onto the QCF. Draft material will be made available on the website shortly.

AMENDMENT TO THE BTEC NATIONALS IN BEAUTY THERAPY

We are pleased to announce that the Level 2 unit Provide Pedicure Treatments (R/601/4448) has now been added to the rules of combination of the following qualifications as Unit 42, an additional optional unit:

- Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Beauty Therapy (QCF)
- Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Beauty Therapy (Sciences) (QCF)

This means that while learners still need to achieve 120 credits overall, they now need to achieve at least 88 credits at Level 3 or above, not 93 as previously stated. A revised version of the specification (Issue 3) is available on the website at <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/nationals10/beauty/Pages/default.aspx>. If you have any further queries about this qualification, please call 0844 576 0026.

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