

BTEC Bulletin

Issue 40

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NEW BTEC HOMEPAGE AND SUBJECT PAGES ON THE EDEXCEL WEBSITE

We have recently launched a homepage dedicated to our suite of BTEC qualifications - www.btec.co.uk. From here, you can access information on the types of BTEC we offer, how to deliver BTECs and you will also find links to our new BTEC subject pages.

BTEC Homepage

The screenshot shows the BTEC homepage with the following callout boxes:

- Click here to return to the BTEC homepage:** Points to the 'BTEC Home' link in the left-hand navigation menu.
- Information on available support, guidance on delivery, Bulletins and News:** Points to the 'Support' link in the left-hand navigation menu.
- The latest news about BTEC qualifications:** Points to the 'BTEC Firsts and Nationals are changing!' banner at the top of the main content area.
- Click on the relevant images to access our new BTEC subject pages:** Points to a grid of subject-specific images including Applied Science, Art & Design, Business & Services, Children's Care Learning & Care, Construction and the Built Environment, Engineering, Hair & Beauty, Health & Social Care, Hospitality, Travel & Tourism, Land-based & Environmental, and Media.

Our new subject pages are designed to provide a central focus on the Edexcel website for a particular subject area. There are two types of subject page - one focussed specifically on BTEC qualifications and another that is relevant to all qualifications within a particular subject. Teachers can visit their subject page for an overview of everything that's happening in their subject.

Where we have a dedicated Subject Advisor for a subject, they will support their subject page by updating it regularly, highlighting important issues and providing useful information and resources.

Subject page - e.g. BTECs in Applied Science

The screenshot shows the 'BTECs in Applied Science' subject page with the following callout boxes:

- Links back to the subject homepage, the BTEC homepage and the subject page for all Science qualifications:** Points to the 'Subjects Home', 'BTEC Home', and 'Science' links in the left-hand navigation menu.
- The most recent discussion threads from our subject communities:** Points to the 'IAAs and their effect on this year's results' article in the main content area.
- Updates and articles written by Edexcel's Subject Advisors, where appropriate:** Points to the 'My name is Stephen Nugus...' article in the main content area.
- Links to pages for specific qualifications:** Points to the 'Qualifications' section on the right-hand side, which lists links for Applied Science, Applied Science, Applied Biology, Applied Chemistry, Applied Physics, and Applied Biomedical Science.
- Subject specific news items:** Points to the 'Delivering BTECs' news item at the bottom of the right-hand side.

NEW LOOK FOR THE QUALIFICATIONS PAGES ON THE EDEXCEL WEBSITE

We've also made changes to the qualifications area of the website to integrate it with the new subject pages.

The main change is that all the subjects for that qualification will now be listed prominently in the middle of the page. This frees up the left-hand navigation, which now includes a link back to the qualifications homepage.

Qualification family page - e.g. BTEC Firsts from 2010

Link back to the Qualifications homepage

Select the relevant link to access information and materials for a specific BTEC First qualification

Qualification page - e.g. BTEC Firsts in Business from 2010

Links back to the Qualifications homepage, the BTEC Firsts from 2010 family page, the BTEC subject page for Business and the subject page for all Business qualifications

News items for BTEC Firsts in Business from 2010

Documents for BTEC Firsts in Business from 2010

RE-TITLING OF THE BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRSTS AND BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONALS

The implementation of the new Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) and the increased powers of the regulators have impacted upon the formal titling of our BTEC Level 2 First and BTEC Level 3 National qualifications. The revised conventions - based upon pre-defined "credit" sizes for Awards, Certificates and Diplomas - change the ways we name our qualifications.

This means that schools, colleges and training providers need to be clear about the titling and meaning of these BTEC qualifications. We recently contacted all BTEC centres to explain these changes. Details (revised) can also be accessed on our website, via the following links:

Equivalence guide: [Re-titling of the BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals](#)

Marketing briefing: [Communicating the revised QCF BTEC Level 2 First and BTEC Level 3 National titles](#)

Presentation: [Briefing on the revised QCF BTEC Level 2 First and BTEC Level 3 National titles](#)

[FAQs - Re-titling of the BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals](#)

If you have any queries about the re-titling of BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals, please contact the BTEC team at btec@edexcel.com or our Customer Services team on 0844 576 0026.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE - BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRSTS AND BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONALS

We are pleased to announce that a substantial number of BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals have been accredited on to the QCF for first teaching from September 2010. These have been accredited by Ofqual using the new titling conventions, as explained above. Further information is available on the [National Database of Accredited Qualifications](#) and an up to date list of the titles accredited so far can be accessed on the following page, under Accreditation Update: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts10/Pages/keydocs.aspx>.

A range of BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals in a number of additional sectors (e.g. Health and Social Care, Travel and Tourism) are currently being developed and submitted to Ofqual for accreditation on to the QCF. Once these are accredited, centres will be informed via this Bulletin and the Edexcel website.

FINAL ACCREDITED SPECIFICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRSTS AND BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONALS

A number of final accredited specifications are now available on the website. You can look for specifications by selecting the relevant subject from the lists on the following pages:

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

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

Please note that some specifications are in an earlier stage of development than others, so at this time we are only able to provide draft units and structures on the website for certain subjects.

BTEC ANNUAL BENCHMARKING DATA

Each year we publish aggregated benchmarking grade boundary statistics for BTEC qualifications for which there is an overall grade or grades. This is to assist centres seeking to benchmark their learner achievements against national rates for Ofsted and other purposes.

The statistics for the 2008/9 academic year have now been published on the website and can be accessed via the following links:

[BTEC Nationals benchmarking](#)

[BTEC Firsts benchmarking](#)

[BTEC Introductory benchmarking](#)

[BTEC Entry benchmarking](#)

[BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design benchmarking](#)

SUPPORTING QUALITY FOR THE QCF FOR BTEC QUALIFICATIONS IN SEPTEMBER 2010

We have created a series of updates to help you get ready for the 2010 QCF vocational qualifications. These updates can be accessed via the following links:

[Update 1 - how Edexcel will support you](#)

[Update 2 - Quality Review and Development \(QRD\)](#)

[Update 3 - Quality Assurance arrangements](#)

LAND-BASED BTEC QUALIFICATIONS SECTOR UPDATE

Edexcel has been collaborating with NPTC/City & Guilds and Lantra Sector Skills Council in the development of new Level 2 and Level 3 Vocationally-Related Qualifications in Land-based subjects for first delivery in 2010. These qualifications will continue to offer the underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills, drawing from Lantra's own Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) units where relevant, necessary for employment and higher education in land-based and the environment. Edexcel intends to offer new Level 2 and Level 3 BTEC qualifications in Agriculture, Animal Care/Management, Blacksmithing and Metalworking, Countryside and Environment/Countryside Management, Fish Husbandry/Management, Floristry, Forestry and Arboriculture, Horse Care/Management, Horticulture and Land-based Technology as part of the QCF.

BTEC CUSTOMISED FRAMEWORK

We have been advised by BTEC Assessment that any new customised BTEC programmes we approve from now on can only be approved until August 2011. By the end of 2010 all accredited vocational qualifications offered by Edexcel will have transferred to the Qualifications and Credit Framework. We will revise our non-accredited provision to reflect the changes in descriptors for qualifications and units. We will be issuing information on arrangements for non-accredited provision during 2010 and centres can then decide what type of accredited or non-accredited provision would best meet their needs. Therefore we are not approving any new customised qualifications (CQF) beyond August 2011 at this time.

BTECS AND THEIR EQUIVALENCES

We have produced a simple ready-reckoner guide to BTECs and their equivalences in SCAAT points and, where appropriate, UCAS Tariff points -

http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/Family%20top%20level/BTEC_to_QO_Equivalence_Guide.pdf

This quick guide to the current position for DCSF School and College Attainment and Achievement Table (SCAAT)/performance tables and UCAS points will be useful. Please note that we cannot, as yet, confirm both the SCAAT and UCAS points for the new QCF versions of BTEC qualifications after 1 September 2010. We are in dialogue with UCAS regarding UCAS points for the QCF BTEC Nationals and BTEC Specialist qualifications. More information will be included in the BTEC Bulletin when this is available.

BTEC SECURITY LICENCE TO PRACTISE QUALIFICATIONS FOR SIA LICENSING IN ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

This relates to the following qualifications:

Edexcel Level 2 BTEC Award in Door Supervision
Edexcel Level 2 BTEC Award in Security Operations
Edexcel Level 2 BTEC Award in CCTV Operations (Public Space Surveillance)
Edexcel Level 2 BTEC Award in Vehicle Immobilisation
Edexcel Level 3 BTEC Certificate in Close Protection Operations

These qualifications are currently being updated. They will be moved from the NQF to the QCF and are due to be implemented between February and March 2010, except for Door Supervision, which is due to be implemented in summer 2010. Exact dates will be confirmed shortly.

Main changes at Level 2

- Two units (*Working in the Private Security Industry* and *Conflict Management in the Private Security Industry*) will be common across the different qualifications. This means that learners will be able to switch more easily between different occupations. For example, a learner who has successfully completed the new BTEC Level 2 Award in Security Guarding and who wants to become a vehicle immobiliser will already have passed two of the three units necessary to complete the BTEC Level 2 Award in Vehicle Immobilisation; they would therefore only need to take one remaining unit in order to complete the full vehicle immobilisation course.
- The Level 2 BTEC Award in Door Supervision will have an additional unit in physical intervention skills. As is currently the case for trainers in conflict management, trainers in physical intervention will need to demonstrate their competence before they can deliver this unit. A qualification for trainers is currently being developed, but other means for trainers to demonstrate competence might be acceptable, such as through Accreditation or Prior Learning (APL) of other qualifications. Details will be confirmed in due course.

Main change at Level 3

- The Level 3 BTEC Certificate in Close Protection Operations will now become a single unit.

Written tests will be assessed by multiple-choice test. Internal assessment will comprise a portfolio of evidence which is internally assessed and subject to external verification.

Guided Learning Hours at Level 2 and Level 3 have not yet been confirmed but are likely to be broadly similar to those for the current qualifications.

The current Scottish versions of Security Operations and CCTV Operations will be extended until autumn 2010, at which point the new versions will be introduced. The exact dates are yet to be confirmed. The Scottish version of Door Supervision is due to be implemented in summer 2010 at the same time as that for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Centres will be contacted shortly with further information about the implementation dates and about how to access the draft learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

WORKSKILLS AND FOUNDATION LEARNING - ONLINE STANDARDISATION

OSCA2 is the platform for assessment for Lead Internal Verifiers (Lead IVs) for WorkSkills, and for Lead IVs for qualifications under Foundation Learning.

The next window of assessment opens on 23 November and closes on 8 January 2010 and will cover the following programme groups:

- WorkSkills (Levels 2, 1 and entry 3)
- WorkSkills (Level 3, 2, 1 and entry 3)
- Personal and Social Development

Some actions that need to be taken by centres are as follows:

- For new Lead IVs, please ensure that your Edexcel Online administrator gives you access to OSCA2 on your user profile. Further information on registration can be found [here](#). **Please note that for WorkSkills, you should only register on the programme group which has the highest level that your centre is approved to offer** (e.g. you should register as Lead IV for WorkSkills (Level 3, 2, 1 and entry 3) programme group if Level 3 is the highest level your centre is approved to run).
- For existing WorkSkills accredited Lead IVs, you should have received an email earlier this month asking you to re-register on OSCA2 as part of the quality assurance check. Simply log on to Edexcel Online, select the OSCA2 tab to access your homepage and select the re-register link to complete the process. Your accreditation status will be re-activated - **you do not need to retake an online standardisation assessment window**. If your centre now intends to offer Level 3 WorkSkills, please contact us at BTECDelivery@edexcel.com.

With some browsers, such as Internet Explorer 8, some functionality may not be visible and your IT department will need to enable the Java scripting setting on your browser. If you experience any technical difficulty, please contact the IT Service Desk on 0844 5760024.

CENTRE RISK ASSESSMENT (CRA) 2009/10

The window for this activity begins on 1 November 2009 and goes through to 28 February 2010. If your centre is being visited by a risk assessor then they will be getting in touch with you to arrange the date of the visit. To assist you getting ready for the visit a preparatory document has been produced following comments from centres. This can be found on the website - please [click here](#) - and your risk assessor will have a copy.

Again this year Edexcel will not be asking certain centres to formally be part of the CRA process. If your centre's BTEC registrations are small or your centre is newly approved to run BTEC programmes you will not be required to undergo CRA for the 2009/10 academic year. Nevertheless, you are required to have sufficient internal quality checks in place to ensure the smooth running of your BTEC

NQF programmes and assure the achievement of your learners. It is recommended that you review your quality management process this year as this will aid in highlighting any potential areas for quality improvement. Please [click here](#) to access guidance documents that will help you to conduct this review. For further clarification on this, please email CRA@edexcel.com or contact your local BTEC Regional Quality Manager - [click here for RQM map](#).



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