

Re-titling of the BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals

Equivalency Tariff for BTEC qualifications

The QCF requires us to conform to the revised titling conventions and to express the size of BTEC qualifications in terms of credit. The QCF BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals retain the same equivalency, benchmarks and sizes as now, with the addition of two smaller sized qualifications - a 1 GCSE (A*-C) equivalent for BTEC Firsts, and a 1 AS Level equivalent for BTEC Nationals.

Current NQF versions		QCF				
Level	Qualification title	GLH	Qualification title from September 2010	Credits	GLH	Equivalent to
BTEC Level 5 Higher Nationals						
4/5	BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma	960	BTEC Level 5 HND	240	960	Foundation Degrees, Dip HE
	BTEC Level 5 Higher National Certificate	600	BTEC Level 4 HNC	120	600	Intermediate level qualifications
BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design						
3/4	BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design	600	To be confirmed (Levels 3 and 4)	150	600	2 GCE A Levels
BTEC Level 3 Nationals						
3	BTEC Level 3 National Diploma	1080	BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma	180	1080	3 GCE A Levels
	BTEC Level 3 National Certificate	720	BTEC Level 3 Diploma	120	720	2 GCE A Levels
	BTEC Level 3 National Award	360	BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma	60	360	1 GCE A Level
			BTEC Level 3 Certificate	30	180	1 GCE AS Level
BTEC Level 2 Firsts						
2	BTEC Level 2 First Diploma	360	BTEC Level 2 Diploma	60	360	4 GCSEs (A*-C)
	BTEC Level 2 First Certificate	180	BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate	30	180	2 GCSEs (A*-C)
			BTEC Level 2 Certificate	15	90	1 GCSE (A*-C)
BTEC Level 1 Introductory and Foundation Learning						
1	BTEC Level 1 Introductory Diploma	variable	BTEC Level 1 Certificates, Awards and Diplomas (vocational component of Foundation Learning)	variable	variable	GCSE (D-G)
	BTEC Level 1 Introductory Certificate	variable		variable	variable	GCSE (D-G)
Entry Level BTEC/Certificates and Foundation Learning						
E	BTEC Entry Level Certificate in Life Skills	variable	Entry Level BTEC Certificates, Awards and Diplomas (vocational component of Foundation Learning)	variable	variable	N/A
	BTEC Entry Level Certificate in Skills for Working Life	variable		variable	variable	N/A

Revised Guidelines on communicating and promoting the titles for the revised QCF BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals

1. Background

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 First and 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 training providers, schools and colleges need to be clear about the titling and meaning of these BTEC qualifications.

2. Overview and Equivalency Tariff

The revised Edexcel BTEC Level 2 First and BTEC Level 3 National titles will be available for first teaching following accreditation onto the QCF from 1 September 2010.

The QCF requires us to conform to the revised titling conventions and to express the size of BTEC qualifications in terms of credit.

As an approximate guide:

1 credit = 6 Guided Learning Hours = 10 hours of Learning Time.

Learning Time is the amount of time a learner at the level of the unit, is expected to take, on average, to complete the learning outcomes of the unit to the standard defined by the assessment criteria. Learning Time includes all the time needed to achieve a unit, including directed study, follow-up work, assessment preparation and assessment time, as well as contact time. Credit is one-tenth of Learning Time.

The units within the revised QCF BTECs also continue to identify Guided Learning Hours (GLH) as now; GLH will be used to ascertain funding and should be used for the purposes of curriculum planning.

So, for example, the BTEC Level 3 Diploma (previously the Level 3 BTEC National Certificate) has 1200 hours of Learning Time and, as now, 720 Guided Learning Hours.

The QCF BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals retain the same equivalency, benchmarks and sizes as now, with the addition of two new smaller-sized qualifications - a 1 GCSE (A*-C) equivalent for BTEC Firsts (the new BTEC Level 2 Certificate), and a 1 AS Level equivalent for BTEC Nationals (the BTEC Level 3 Certificate).

3. Guidance for Marketing Managers in the promotion of the revised QCF BTEC qualifications

Please note that the regulator has recently revised the naming conventions for the revised QCF BTEC qualifications. The acronym BTEC will now be placed before the Level. The full, official title of the qualifications would, for example, be:

Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism.

This would be title on a learner's certification documentation, and be their learning aim.

It is recognised that many centres will have already produced their course prospectuses, using the NOF titling (e.g. Level 3 BTEC First Diploma in Engineering). It is important that learners be informed, when their learning aims are finalised and at the time of enrolment, of the revised QCF title for their individual programme of study.

The following advice is designed to provide those involved in marketing and promoting the revised BTEC qualifications.

a) Referring to BTEC qualifications generically

The revised 2010 QCF versions of the BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals should be referred to generically as e.g.:

BTEC Level 2 Firsts in Engineering
and
BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Engineering

b) An alternative way of referring to BTEC qualifications generically

So, for example, in a prospectus or course leaflet the BTEC Level 2 Firsts in Engineering should be expressed as:

BTEC Level 2 Firsts in Engineering
BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Engineering*
BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Engineering*
BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Engineering

* The predecessor BTEC First qualifications were respectively titled as:
the Level 2 BTEC First Diploma in Engineering
the Level 2 BTEC First Certificate in Engineering
(note: the Level 2 BTEC Certificate in Engineering is a new qualification)

c) Referring to BTEC qualifications specifically

Separately they should be referred to as:

BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Engineering

If not mentioned before the following could be added as a footnote:
The predecessor BTEC First qualification was Level 2 BTEC First Diploma in Engineering

It should be noted that these re-titling conventions do not simply apply to BTEC Firsts and Nationals, but will also apply to BTEC Specialist/ASL (Additional and Specialist Learning) qualifications, BTEC Higher Nationals, and the BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design. The re-defined titles for the latter has not been agreed as yet, but we will keep centres informed when such matters are agreed.

Those who have attended a face-to-face or an online session regarding the 2010 BTECs will have had the reassurances that we are maintaining the BTECs, as they are now known, as BTEC Firsts and Nationals – as stand-alone qualifications. Edexcel will continue to market them as BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals, for reasons of familiarity and reassurance.

Schools, Colleges and Training Providers want to see a consistent approach, to understand that the qualifications have not been altered and retain their equivalences with the existing qualifications and maintain performance table (SCAAT) points and funding. Where possible we need to emphasise such aspects in our materials.

Any queries should be referred to btec@edexcel.com or our customer services team on 0844 576 0026.