

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

Why are the BTEC Firsts and Nationals being renamed?

Because the qualification regulator (Ofqual) has created the new Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), which requires awarding bodies to conform to new titling conventions.

What is Learning Time?

Learning Time relates to credit. It is the amount of time the average learner takes to pass a unit; it includes contact time, assessment time and the learner's own studying and research time. Credit is one tenth of Learning Time.

How many credits make up the revised Levels 2 BTEC First and Level 3 BTEC National qualifications and how many credits are there in each unit?

Each unit comprises credits. This varies by the amount of Learning Time needed to achieve a unit. Most units in the revised Level 2 BTEC Firsts and Level 3 BTEC Nationals are either 5 or 10 credits. The Level 2 BTEC Diploma comprises 60 credits, the Level 2 BTEC Extended Certificate comprises 30 credits and the Level 2 BTEC Certificate comprises 15 credits. The Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma comprises 180 credits, the Level 3 BTEC Diploma comprises 120 credits, the Level 3 BTEC Subsidiary Diploma comprises 60 credits and the Level 3 BTEC Certificate comprises 30 credits.

Will GLH still be used, and how do the credits relate to the current Guided Learning Hours?

Yes – GLH (Guided Learning Hours) will continue to be shown in the revised QCF BTEC Firsts and Nationals. A 5 credit unit has approximately the same size as a 30 GLH unit and a 10 credit unit approximately 60 GLH. Guided Learning Hours (GLH) is the notional amount of time used to measure the time a learner is in guided learning – that is, being taught or under the supervision of a teacher or member of staff. GLH is used to allocate funding and resources.

How do we promote the revised QCF BTECs to potential learners?

Edexcel has produced guidance for this purpose. This can be obtained by contacting btec@edexcel.com or phoning 0844 576 0026.

Why is the current Level 2 BTEC First Certificate going to be called a Level 2 BTEC Extended Certificate?

Because it has been agreed by the regulatory authority (Ofqual) that this be the revised title. When referring to the Level 2 BTEC Firsts and Level 3 BTEC Nationals Edexcel will continue using the terms Level 2 BTEC Firsts and Level 3 Nationals for the revised QCF qualifications, because centres, learners and others are well aware of the original BTEC qualifications. BTEC qualifications are widely recognised qualifications and have been awarded for over 25 years.

The new titles use the term Diploma quite a lot. Isn't this confusing?

The Qualifications and Credit Framework determines that qualifications of over 370 hours of Learning Time (or over 37 credits) must be called Diplomas. By the level and size of qualification, in terms of credit, it is possible to differentiate these.

Where are details of the content and guidance for the revised QCF BTEC qualifications?

The specifications, once accredited and published, will be on the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com). Sample qualification structures and units for certain sectors can be found at <http://www.edexcel.com/2010btecfirasts> and <http://www.edexcel.com/2010btecnationals>.

Accreditation details – e.g., accreditation dates, permitted age ranges for the qualifications etc) – are on the National Database of Accredited Qualifications – see <http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/index.aspx>.