

# 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
<b>BTEC Level 5 Higher Nationals</b>						
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
<b>BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design</b>						
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
<b>BTEC Level 3 Nationals</b>						
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
<b>BTEC Level 2 Firsts</b>						
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)
<b>BTEC Level 1 Introductory and Foundation Learning</b>						
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)
<b>Entry Level BTEC/Certificates and Foundation Learning</b>						
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

The revised 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 equivalency tariff identifies the equivalences and titles for the existing National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) versions.

### As an approximate guide:

## 1 credit = 10 hours of Learning Time.

Learning Time is different to Guided Learning Hours. It 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.

Typically, the learning time for a QCF qualification will be significantly larger than the NQF equivalent (in GLH).

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.

It should be noted that these re-titling conventions do not simply apply to BTEC Firsts and Nationals, but will also apply to BTEC Short Course/ASL qualifications, BTEC Higher Nationals, and the BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design. The re-defined titles for these latter have not been agreed as yet, but we will inform you when such matters are agreed as soon as possible.

Those who have attended a face-to-face or an online session regarding the 2010 BTECs will have been reassured 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.

Schools, Colleges and Training Providers want to see a consistent approach, to understand that the qualifications have not been altered and have equivalence with the existing qualifications and retain performance table points and funding.

For guidance on how to promote BTEC Level 2 Firsts and BTEC Level 3 Nationals please get in touch with us using the contact details at the foot of this page.

Any queries  
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