

Key Stage 4 performance tables: Inclusion of 14-16 Qualifications from 2014.

Questions and Answers

On 31st January 2012 the DfE published the *Key Stage 4 performance tables: Inclusion of 14-16 Qualifications from 2014*. This confirmed the list of non-GCSE qualifications that will count in school headline measures from 2014.

To help you understand the implications of this for you and your learners we have collated some of the most common questions we have received, with their answers.

Index of questions:

1. Where can I find a copy of the full list of 125 approved qualifications?
2. Where can I find a copy of the full list of Edexcel and BTEC approved qualifications?
3. What does it mean if a qualification is on the list?
4. What does it mean if a qualification isn't on the list?
5. Why aren't the next generation NQF BTEC Firsts on the list? Will they count in headline measures once accredited?
6. None of the QCF 90glh Certificates are on the list; why is this?
7. Why isn't Landbased/Public Services/Hospitality/Workskills on the list? Will you still be developing next generation BTEC Firsts in these areas, and if so will *they* count in headline measures?
8. And what about Childcare (BTEC CCLD) and Level 1 Vocational Studies?
9. When will the next generation BTEC First Awards be accredited?
10. When the Next Generation BTEC Awards do get accredited, will they automatically go onto the list?
11. When the Next Generation BTEC Awards do get accredited, will they replace the 180glh QCF Extended Certificates?
12. As the QCF Level 2 Extended Certificates and Diplomas are on the approved list, does this mean that I don't have to move over to the next generation NQF BTEC First?
13. We currently teach DiDA and you mentioned you were redeveloping this. I don't see it on the list - will it still count in 2014 headline measures?
14. The qualification I teach isn't on the list, can I still teach it?

Question 1 : Where can I find a copy of the full list of 125 approved qualifications?

A: This can be found on the Department for Education's website: www.education.gov.uk

Question 2: Where can I find a copy of the full list of Edexcel and BTEC approved qualifications?

A: This can be found on our website at: www.btec.co.uk

Question 3: What does it mean if a qualification is on the list?

A: The "list" has been created by DfE to inform teachers of the Vocational (and non GCSE) qualifications that will count in headline performance measures in the school performance tables from summer 2014 (ie for Year 10 learners starting two year programmes in September 2012 or current Year 9 learners).

It only relates to the one set of measures in the tables – the school measure of A*-C achievement (with and without English and Maths) and A*-G achievement (with and without English and Maths). All other qualifications that have been accredited for inclusion on to the Section 96 table will continue to be recognised elsewhere in the performance tables.

Qualifications published on the 31st January list are confirmed for 2014 headline measures, but there will be an updated list containing some additional qualifications in mid-March.

The list shows the current qualifications that already fulfilled the criteria set out by the DfE for inclusion in future headline measures – eg the Principal learning qualifications that had been part of the Diploma.

It also includes existing qualifications which are in the process of being re-developed to meet the criteria (subject to Ofqual accreditation). These existing qualifications are eligible for an additional year (the "year of grace") and will be counted in headline measures in Summer 2014 for one last time.

If a qualification is on the "list" it will count as a single subject in headline measures in the 2014 performance tables. Beyond the 2014 tables only qualifications which fully meet all characteristics that will count in headline measures.

Question 4: What does it mean if a qualification isn't on the list?

A: If a qualification is not on the list it will not count in the headline measures from Summer2014. However, schools can continue to offer them if they are on Section 96 and they will count in the broader performance measures (detail to be confirmed in Summer2012).

In addition there are some new qualifications currently going through Ofqual, but these are not included on the list for now. As a broad indicator they are likely to be in the subject areas already included in the list.

The BTECs currently going through this process are listed below. These new qualifications (if accredited by Ofqual) will appear on the updated list in March.

- BTEC Level1/Level2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science (120glh)
- BTEC Level1/Level2 First Award in Applications of Applied Science (120glh)
- BTEC Level1/Level2 First Award in Art and Design (120glh)
- BTEC Level1/Level2 First Award in Business (120glh)
- BTEC Level1/Level2 First Award in Engineering (120glh)
- BTEC Level1/Level2 First Award in Health and Social Care (120glh)
- BTEC Level1/Level2 First Award in Information & Creative Technology (120glh)
- BTEC Level1/Level2 First Award in Performing Arts (120glh)
- BTEC Level1/Level2 First Award in Sport (120glh)

Question 5: Why aren't the next generation NQF BTEC Firsts on the list? Will they count in headline measures once accredited?

A: We are currently developing successor qualifications in all the main BTEC subject areas (at a range of sizes - 120, 240 and 360 guided learning hours).

These are not on the list so far, because they have not yet been accredited. If they are accredited before March 2 they will be considered for headline measures and, if approved, will be included on an updated list published Mid March. If they are not you will still be able to teach the existing BTECs on the list and they will count in 2014 headline measures. This is good news for your BTEC learners as you can be confident that their work will be appropriately recognised irrespective of whether the new ones get accredited before March.

We will of course keep you posted on the progress of our new BTECs as soon as we know.

Question 6: None of the QCF 90glh Certificates are on the list; why is this?

A: To count in headline measures DfE has confirmed that a qualification must be at least 120 guided learning hours in size. All of the new BTECs are at least this size. If you're currently delivering a 90glh BTEC (and you are keen for it to be counted in headline measures) you can top up to a larger existing BTEC on the list for one more year (standard top-up fees apply). Or you can move your students on to one of our new BTECs if they are accredited before the end of March (no additional cost if you are moving from a QCF 90glh Certificate to a new NQF 120glh Award)

Question 7: Why isn't Landbased/Public Services/Hospitality/Workskills on the list? Will you still be developing next generation BTEC Firsts in these areas, and if so will they count in headline measures?

A: The DfE has run a process where they have disallowed many qualifications from the headline measures list. In the case of the above they have decided that these subjects are either too specialist for a pre 16 learner or too generic to meet the requirements for headline measures. This doesn't mean that you can't continue to teach them. Indeed they stress that it is in the schools judgement as to whether they would still be valuable to their learners.

We will still continue to offer our existing BTECs in these areas and they will be recognised in the broader performance measures – they won't, however, count for headline measures for Summer 2014.

We are in the process of consulting with our customers as to how they would like us to think about these areas for the future.

Question 8. And what about Childcare (BTEC CCLD) and Level 1 Vocational Studies?

A: These are not currently on the list. We are appealing this and will update you as soon as we know the outcome of our appeal.

Question 9: When will the next generation BTEC First Awards be accredited?

A: We have submitted new BTECs in 8 subjects (list the subjects).

No Awarding Organisation has had any new qualifications approved yet. We expect to know in the next few weeks and we will update you as soon as we know. What is clear, is that we will have a very wide range of existing qualifications that will be eligible for headline measures whatever the outcome of the accreditation process. This is good news for your BTEC learners.

Question 10: When the Next Generation BTEC Awards do get accredited, will they automatically go onto the list?

A: If they are accredited before March 2nd they will be reviewed by DfE, and if they meet all requirements they will be added to the list. If accreditation happens after that they will go forward for consideration for the 2015 list, which will be published in November 2012. Remember though that the existing QCF Extended Certificates and Diplomas currently on the list will count in headline measures for another year, whatever the outcome.

Obviously we will update you as soon as we know.

Question 11: When the Next Generation BTEC Awards do get accredited, will they replace the 180gh QCF Extended Certificates?

A: No, the existing 180 and 360 gh QCF BTECs will stay on the list for the summer 2014 tables regardless of the outcome of the submission of the new qualifications.

Question 12: As the QCF Level 2 Extended Certificates and Diplomas are on the approved list, does this mean that I don't have to move over to the next generation NQF BTEC First?

A: With BTEC's presence across subjects (and with both existing QCF and new qualifications subject to Ofqual accreditation) you can choose what's best for your school and your learners. If headline measures are an important factor in your decision then either option will enable them to be recognised appropriately.

Question 13: We currently teach DiDA and you mentioned you were redeveloping this - will it still count in 2014 headline measures?

A: qualifications commonly referred to as DIDA are being re-developed and are listed in their existing form on the list as Digital Applications in IT. In this respect DIDA is in exactly the same position as BTEC – as befits this high quality suite.

Question 14: The qualification I teach isn't on the list, can I still teach it?

A: Yes absolutely. If it is on section 96 (ie it has already been accredited by Ofqual) you can continue to teach it and it will be recognised on the broader performance measures. The only difference is that it will not be counted towards your headline measures from Summer 2014.