

Who is this qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science is intended as an Applied General qualification for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the applied science sector.

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and aims to give a coherent introduction to study of the applied science sector.

What does this qualification cover?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Employers and professional bodies have also been involved and consulted to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners planning to enter employment directly in the applied science sector.

Learners will study three mandatory units:

- **Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I** **YEAR 12**
- **Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques** **YEAR 12**
- **Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills** **YEAR 13**

Plus one optional unit:

- **Unit 8: Physiology of Human Body Systems** **YEAR 13**

What could this qualification lead to?

The requirements of the qualification will mean that learners develop the transferable and higher order skills which are valued by higher education providers and employers. For example, when studying Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills, learners will develop skills including how to plan investigations, collecting, analysing, and presenting data and communicating results which support some of the skills learners need to progress to higher education, employment, self-employment or training.

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning, including, but not exclusively, those which are science-related.

The qualification can be taken as part of a diverse programme, leaving progression options fully open. It can also give context to subjects which would benefit from some scientific background. This will depend on the combination of qualifications chosen. For example, taken alongside:

- A Level in Psychology and BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport to progress to sport psychology courses
- BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care to progress to nursing courses
- BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science to progress to sport and exercise science courses
- A Levels in Geography and Computing to progress to geography or environmental science courses.

All BTEC Nationals provide transferable knowledge and skills that prepare learners for progression to university. The transferable skills that universities value include:

- the ability to learn independently
- the ability to research actively and methodically
- being able to give presentations and being active group members.