



A guide to Pearson BTEC qualifications in the Middle East

Real skills for the real world

“

I think all students should have the chance to do at least one BTEC, just to help them gain the skills needed for the 21st century.”

Sandra Carter

Senior Leadership Professional - Education, UAE



About Pearson

Pearson is the world's leading learning company, with 40,000 employees in more than 70 countries working to help people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives through learning. We provide learning materials, technologies, assessments and services to teachers in order to help people everywhere aim higher and fulfil their true potential. We put the learner at the centre of everything we do.

www.pearson.com

Pearson BTEC – real skills for the real world

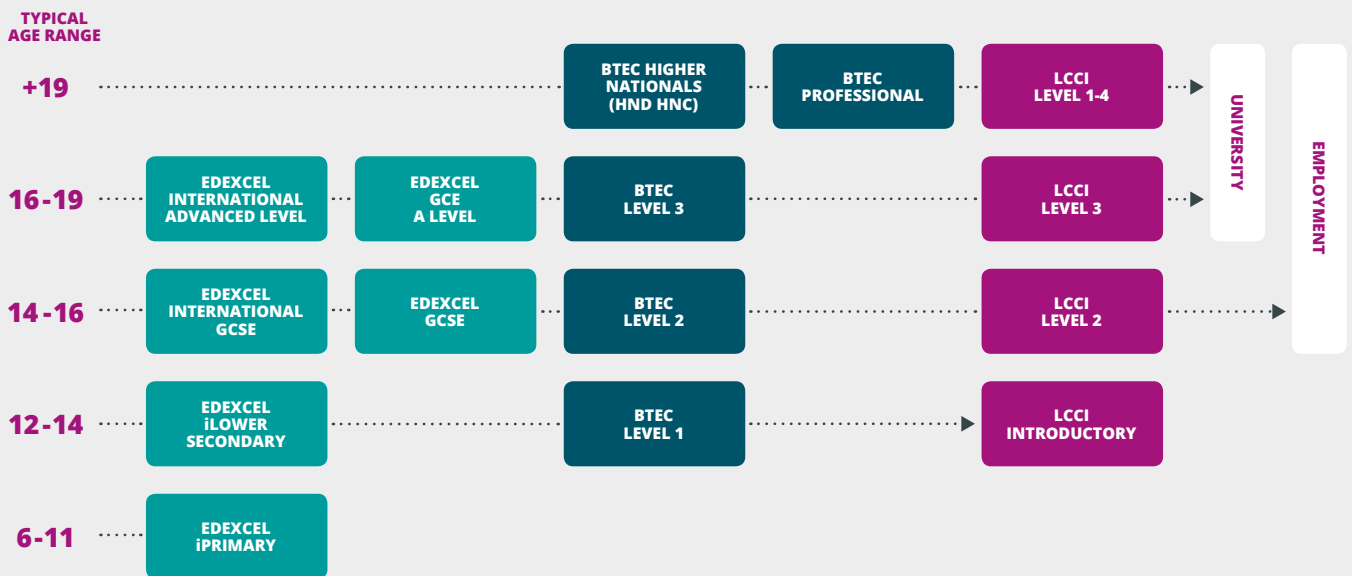
Pearson have been delivering BTEC qualifications (Business Technology and Education Council) since 1984. Highly practical courses, developed in consultation with employers and universities, BTECs truly prepare students for further study at university or the world of work. Our practical learning focuses students' minds and shows how theory works in real life.

▶ **90%**

**of BTEC students in the
UK are employed full-time
after graduating.***

*London Economics 2013

Where does BTEC fit with other Pearson qualifications?



This diagram shows the different Pearson learning pathways that students can take, and how they link into further and higher education or employment. Age ranges are a guide only; all our qualifications can be taken at different ages.

Pearson BTEC. Learning by doing.

BTECs are all about practical learning. A BTEC course comprises 60% core units and 40% project work. Practical work can be workplace assignments, presentations or simulations, so that students experience the real-life applications of their studies.

3 more great reasons to choose Pearson BTEC

1

Flexible, modular learning

Students can choose a blended curriculum, studying International GCSEs or International A levels alongside a BTEC course, and then become more focused on a particular area of interest later on. Modules and specialist pathways can be added on so that the course is the right fit for each student.

2

An international qualification with local relevance

BTECs can be taught in most languages, including Arabic, and up to 20% of the curriculum can be tailored by schools and centres to be regionally targeted. They are internationally recognised and are equivalent to International GCSEs, International A levels and 1 or 2 years of a university degree.

3

Designed to meet university and employer needs

BTECs are designed with input from universities, professional bodies and employers. They develop academic skills and abilities, and equip students with the work-ready skills they will need in their future career.

Progression opportunities: the student journey with Pearson BTEC



1

Getting started

Student age: 12 to 16

BTEC International: levels 1 & 2

A perfect balance of practical and theoretical learning, with level 2 being equivalent to International GCSE.

Many BTEC students explore an area of study at BTEC International levels 1 and 2, alongside academic studies such as Edexcel International GCSEs. These levels can then lead to studying BTEC International level 3, either on their own or alongside International A levels.

2

Heading for university?

Student age: 16 to 18

BTEC International: level 3

A complement or alternative to International A levels. Prepares the student for entry to a university degree course.

Students start to refine the subjects they want to progress in. Many choose a 'blended' curriculum, studying for International A levels alongside BTEC level 3, which is the same standard as International A level and internationally recognised by universities.

Pearson works with universities around the world, so that they recognise and accept applications from BTEC students onto a degree programme. In fact, more universities than ever before are choosing BTEC-qualified candidates.

“

I am the quality nominee at the Al-Hussein Technical University in Amman, Jordan. We have been accredited to run and safeguard BTEC qualifications in Engineering, Construction and the Built Environment, as well as Computing levels 4 & 5. The experience has been amazing.”

Rumiana Nuseibeh

Quality Nominee, Al-Hussein Technical University, Jordan

Did you know...

BTEC Nationals can boost lifetime earnings by £92,000?*

*London Economics, 2013.





Student Profile:

Maryam Taher

Biomedical Science undergraduate at York University, previously studied a BTEC in Applied Science.

"I did my BTEC as soon as I left high school and went into college. I wanted to study the topics we studied in high school in more depth, so I thought the BTEC level 3 would be the perfect chance for me to do that and then go on to university as well.

My university course combines different modules and we also have practical work and academic assessments. We have both exams and coursework which I did in BTEC, and also the practical work which I experienced and practiced a lot in college. BTEC definitely prepared me for my university degree. The practical work I did is still useful and the hands-on skills I gained are still very helpful at university as I am already familiar with them."

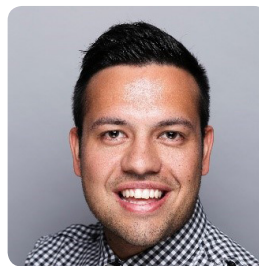
3

Pearson BTEC as part of a 'top up' degree

Student age: 18 plus

BTEC Higher Nationals: levels 4 & 5

BTEC Higher Nationals allow fast track entry into university. BTEC level 4 is equivalent to first year at university, while level 5 BTEC means that students can go directly into the third year of a university course. At this level, certain courses carry accreditations for industry bodies, for example, the ACCA, CIM and CIMA. Some BTEC students study the first two years in their home country, and then complete the university course with a further year at an international university. This makes for a very cost-effective way of studying for a full degree.



“

BTEC is an outstanding parallel pathway to A-Levels. One in four students who go to

University now have at least one BTEC behind them, many of whom have gained skills in the workplace already. Personally I have found that businesses favour BTEC students and they excel in the real world”.

David Wright

Teacher, BTEC National Travel and Tourism, Dubai British School

4

The world of work

BTEC students will begin their career, armed with the confidence and skills needed in the workplace. Today's employers are looking for confident, work-ready candidates who have the practical knowledge, experience and technical skills that BTECs provide.

BTEC Professional qualifications are available for students who want to enhance their career prospects.

Pearson BTEC levels at a glance

BTECs are available to students aged 12 and above. BTECs are available in a range of subjects and work on a credits system. Here is a snapshot of BTEC levels 2 to 5.

BTEC LEVEL	AGE GROUP	NUMBER OF SUBJECT AREAS	EQUIVALENT TO	KEY POINTS
2	14 to 16	13	International GCSEs	Excellent introduction to a career-focused area of further study. Allows students to explore specific sectors in order to decide future path.
3	16 to 19	17	International A levels	A deeper dive into the subject. Realism of assignments shows students what it will be like to actually work in that industry. Options after this stage are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry to degree in same subject • Further study in that subject • Entry level employment
4	18+	16	1st year of university degree	Professional body recognitions and exemptions in subjects like Finance and Marketing. Specialist pathways allow students to choose particular areas of interest. Recognised by universities worldwide.
5	19+	19	2nd year of university degree	A 'top up' degree is a popular and cost-effective option at this level, where the student can for example, study the first two years of a university course through BTEC in their home country, and then take the third year at a university abroad.

Did you know...

The fastest growing route to higher education in the UK is the combination of BTEC and A levels, according to the latest analysis from UCAS.

The most popular Pearson BTEC subjects in the Middle East:

- ▶ Engineering
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Business
- ▶ IT
- ▶ Sport
- ▶ Computing
- ▶ Art & Design
- ▶ Hospitality

5 key benefits for schools and training centres

- ▶ **Great to teach :**
Hands-on teaching approach that leads to an internationally recognised qualification and skills that can immediately be put to use in a professional OR academic context.
- ▶ **Internally assessed :**
Using theory and practical assignments like business plans, proposals, films clips, taking place in real work environments, like mechanical workshops or design and production studios.
- ▶ **Multilingual :**
BTEC can be delivered in most languages, including Arabic.
- ▶ **Regional relevance :**
20% of the course curriculum is regionally targeted, while the remainder of the curriculum follows a set, easy-to-teach structure.
- ▶ **Flexible structure :**
BTEC means that centres and schools can tailor programs to students.

5 key benefits for students

- ▶ **Tried and tested progression route to university :**
BTECs carry the same value as International A levels and are sought after by universities worldwide.
- ▶ **A cost-effective way of gaining a university degree :**
Higher Nationals mean that part of the degree can be completed before going to university, keeping costs down.
- ▶ **Emphasis on practical skills :**
40% of the BTEC curriculum is practical work, as opposed to exams. Students gain hands-on experience on real-world scenarios.
- ▶ **Fit for purpose :**
Skills learnt on BTEC courses match industry and university requirements. Early in the learning process, students gain insight and knowledge into their chosen career.
- ▶ **Keep options open :**
The flexible structure of BTECs allows students to explore sectors before deciding their future path. The courses are international, so if personal circumstances change during a BTEC course, students can continue studying in a different country.

66

“BTEC is an excellent qualification that offers an industry-based approach to curriculum delivery and assessment; one that does not rely on examinations alone... We have run BTEC courses within GEMS for several years and have had excellent success with students undertaking BTEC as a standalone qualification or in combination with other qualifications such as GCE AS/A levels and IB”

Craig Lamshed

Country Director, GEMS Education

Pearson BTEC facts



95% of UK Higher Education Institutes



over **200 universities worldwide** - including many of *The Times* top 100 ranked universities internationally



over **70 professional bodies** - including the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), Management, Accounting and Engineering Institutions



International employers such as Shell, BAE Systems, PWC and Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group

...all actively recruit BTEC graduates.

Teach Pearson BTEC

4 easy steps to delivering BTEC:

- 1 Contact your regional office
- 2 Together we choose the programme that's right for you and your students
- 3 We work with you through your application
- 4 Your centre is approved to deliver BTEC qualifications

Set your educational institution apart with qualifications that engage and inspire students, while building their confidence to achieve their ambitions.

Arrange a meeting with your local Pearson representative. Visit middleeast.pearson.com/btec to find out more.