

# BTEC Results 2024

## Background information for media

July 2024

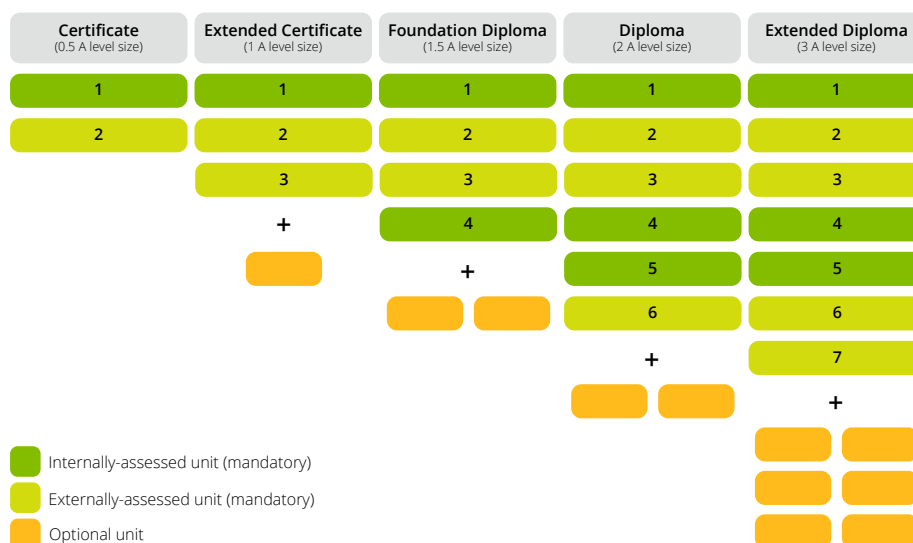


## What is a BTEC qualification?

BTECs are vocational qualifications that combine practical learning with subject and theory content in key employment sectors such as engineering, health and social care and construction. They can be studied in the UK or internationally. Each year around 450,000 students receive Level 3 or Level 2 results.

They are highly valued by students to progress to employment or higher education, and by employers as a source for the most in-demand skills in the economy. BTECs are designed to be delivered in a flexible, modular format to meet the needs of both students and employers.

### A typical Level 3 BTEC National qualification suite structure



The inherent flexibility within BTECs means that most, but not all, students will receive their final qualification grade in the summer in any given year. Whilst we expect many Level 3 BTEC National students to finish their studies and receive a grade in August, we know others will complete their studies and receive a grade at other points during the year.

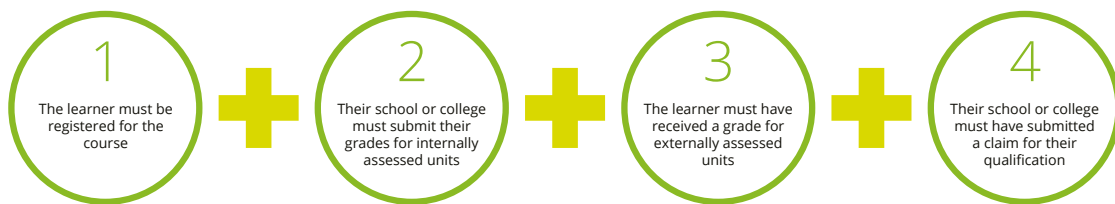
Those students may be claiming a final grade outside of the summer results window because their personal circumstances mean they need to complete their assessments earlier or later in the year than they had planned; some students may decide to switch courses and use their units to count towards a different BTEC qualification to the one on which they had registered, and some students may be studying for their BTEC course outside of a traditional academic institution. BTECs were deliberately designed to give students this flexibility to support their progress.

# How are BTEC grades awarded?

A student taking BTECs follows a course divided into different units or modules of study. Each of these units is either assessed by the school or college, or externally by Pearson.

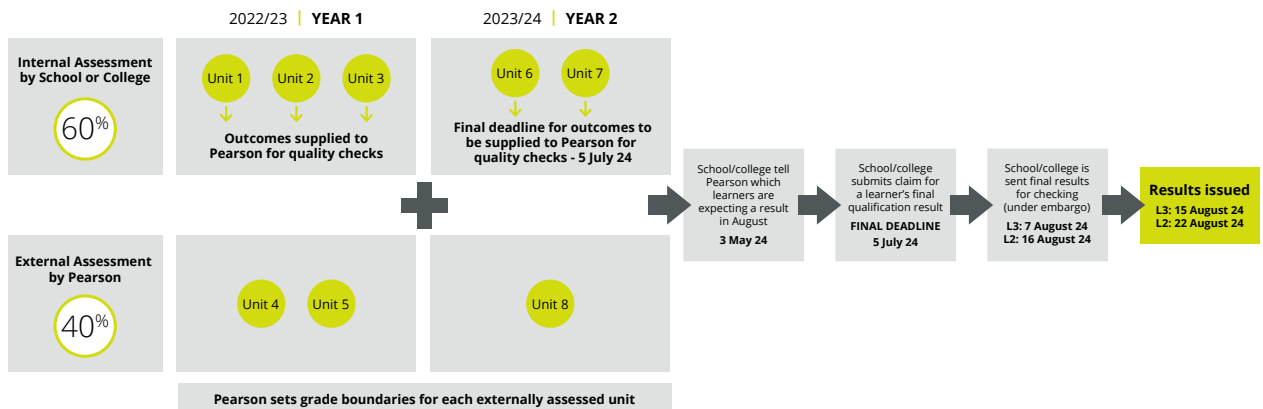
Internally-assessed coursework takes a wide variety of forms, including written reports, artefacts, oral presentations and performances. Alongside the internal components, between 33% and 65% of a Level 3 BTEC National, for example, may be assessed externally. This can take the form of examinations, or practical projects.

At the end of each unit, the student's coursework is assessed by their school or college, following published quality assurance requirements, and they are awarded a unit grade. Their school or college then submits the unit grades to Pearson for verification. Other units are examined externally – Pearson marks the papers and awards unit grades and enters the result for processing. In order for Pearson to process the overall grade for a student, a school or college needs to:



**Without all this information, we are unable to award a result**

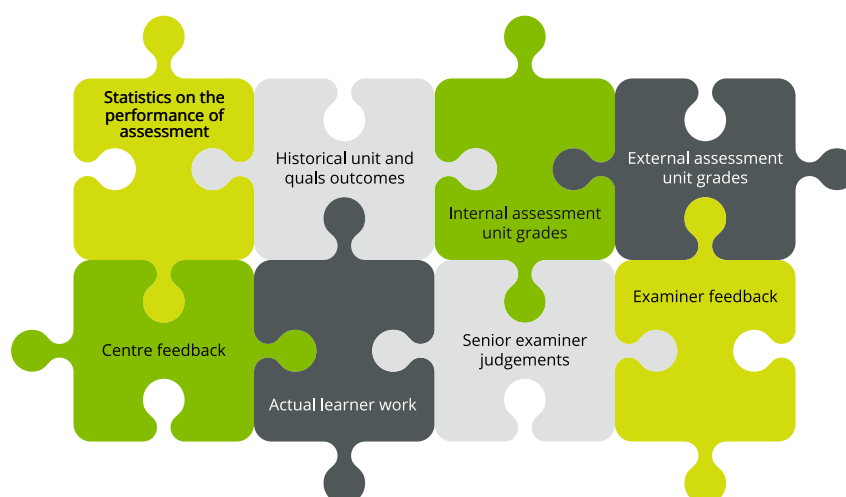
The diagram below shows all the elements that make up an example Level 3 BTEC National grade, taken over the past two years.



# How we will set Grade Boundaries for External Assessments in Summer 2024

A group of subject and technical experts set grade boundaries (the number of marks needed to achieve a certain grade) after each external assessment has taken place. They review a range of evidence to make sure there is fairness, validity and robustness in the grade boundaries recommended.

Just as for A levels and GCSEs, we use qualitative and quantitative information to guide us in how we set grade boundaries. The types of evidence the subject experts look at includes:



The subject experts make a final recommendation considering all the available pieces of evidence. The results are also discussed with other awarding organisations, with oversight from Ofqual.

## The principles around awarding results in 2024

Ofqual has set out their **plans for awarding qualifications in 2024** and their plans to continue with normal arrangements this summer, having returned to normal grading in 2023 for A levels, AS levels and GCSEs, as well as for vocational qualifications.

Pearson's guiding principle and approach to awarding BTEC qualification results in 2024 is to maintain the performance standards from summer 2023.