



## Learning in England ∞ BTECs

### 13 > What are BTECs?

These qualifications are mainly in vocational subjects undertaken at secondary and undergraduate level. They can be taught and examined alongside GCSEs and A Levels and continued at degree level. So, pupils may choose to combine two BTEC subjects with three or more GCSEs; or one BTEC alongside two A levels. They are named after the Business and Technology Education Council and administered now by Pearson.

*“BTECs are high quality, hands-on qualifications grounded in the real world of work. BTECs are all about learning by doing and that means BTEC students put what they learn into practice straight away. Throughout the course, they work on a series of assignments set in real-life scenarios, developing the practical knowledge and skills employers and universities are looking for.”<sup>1</sup>*

It is unusual for independent schools to offer BTEC qualifications. They are often offered at Sixth Form Colleges and Maintained Schools and Academies. More detail can be found on this website: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-brand/what-is-a-btec.pdf>

BTECs have greater application than A Levels. The underpinning theory is there, in each subject, but how the content is to be used in the workplace is their great strength.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-brand/what-is-a-btec.pdf>



Subjects include:

- Computing
- Child Care
- Engineering
- Hair and Beauty
- Public Services
- Sport Science
- Travel and Tourism

BTEC qualifications are	equivalent to these qualifications
BTEC – LEVEL 1	GCSE
BTEC – LEVEL 2	GCSE
BTEC – LEVEL 3	A Levels
BTEC – LEVEL 6-7	University degree and Masters

BTECs are sat at the same time of year as GCSEs and A Levels - in May and June. The grading is equivalent to GCSEs and A Levels.

The equivalence of A-Levels and BTECs		
BTEC grade	UCAS tariff	UCAS equivalence to A-Level
Starred distinction	56	A*
Distinction	48	A
Merit	32	C
Pass	16	E



*Can you get into a top university with BTECs?*



Yes. The only place which does not accept BTECS is Imperial College, London.

The great advantage of BTECs is the different way of learning. Students develop strong skills in independent learning.