

Understanding how we calculated BTEC results for summer 2020



We used the Centre Assessment Grades that you submitted and standardised these, supported by qualitative checks.

Evidence you provided us with:

- ✓ actual grades for completed internal units
- ✓ Centre Assessment Grades (CAG) for incomplete internal units, based on the grade the learner most likely would have achieved
- ✓ rank order of learners at programme level for graded BTECs




Information on our systems:

- ✓ historical data of performance at individual centre level for the past three academic years (2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019) - where not available, see FAQs on method used
- ✓ prior attainment data at centre level (at either Key Stage 2 or 4), depending on learners' age for graded qualifications
- ✓ other information to support qualitative checks (e.g. past Standards Verification reports)

Statistical standardisation

We reviewed the evidence you provided us with against our **expectations**, which were informed by the information on our systems. There were three possible outcomes for the unit:

Making adjustments to grades

Centre have been cautious with grades submitted = grades adjusted upwards	Centre grades submitted are in line with our expectations = grades submitted were accepted	Centre have been generous with grades = For graded qualifications : grades adjusted downwards. For ungraded qualifications : grades not released till additional evidence provided, or centres reviewed the submitted pass rate
		

We can confirm we have accepted approximately 98% of Level 3 submitted grades and that where adjustments were made, this was on the basis of strong statistical evidence both upwards and downwards. This year's results will be broadly in line with previous years' outcomes.

Quick Links - See the links below for details of how we calculated results for different qualification types.

BTEC qualifications with all internal graded units

- ▶ BTEC Level 1 Introductory (2016)
- ▶ BTEC Level 2 Firsts (QCF)
- ▶ BTEC Level 3 Nationals (QCF)

BTEC qualifications with all internal, ungraded (pass/fail) units

- ▶ BTEC Entry Level (E1, E2, E3)
- ▶ BTEC Level 1 (QCF)
- ▶ PSD, Workskills (Level 1 & 2) Life Skills
- ▶ BTEC Specialist (Level 1-3)
- ▶ BTEC Professional (Level 4-7)

BTEC qualifications with mix of internal and external graded units:

- ▶ BTEC Level 1/2 Firsts
- ▶ BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Awards
- ▶ BTEC Level 2 Technicals
- ▶ BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF)

▶ Working out your learners' final results

- ▶ **Frequently Asked Questions**

BTEC qualifications with all internal graded units

BTEC qualification	Type of BTEC units featured
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ BTEC Level 1 Introductory (2016)▶ BTEC Level 2 Firsts (QCF)▶ BTEC Level 3 Nationals (QCF)▶ Some other BTEC qualifications feature all internal graded units e.g. some BTEC Specialist qualifications (please check your specification to confirm whether all the units are graded or not).	<p>Internal graded units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ We reviewed the information you submitted to us (actual unit grades and CAG) against our expectations for your centre.▶ For each completed unit, which has not already been quality assured and signed off by the Standards Verification process, we reviewed the unit grades submitted against our expectations.▶ Our expectations were based on your centre's historical data (the average for the past three years) and prior attainment data (at KS2 or KS4). <p>Based on all of the evidence, we either accepted the grades you put forward, or adjusted them up/down, using the rank order.</p>

BTEC qualifications with internal ungraded 'pass/fail' units

BTEC qualification	Type of BTEC units featured
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ BTEC Entry Level (E1, E2, E3)▶ BTEC Level 1 (QCF)▶ PSD, Workskills (Level 1 & 2)▶ Life Skills▶ BTEC Specialist (Level 1-3)*▶ BTEC Professional (Level 4-7)* <p>Please note that a few individual titles within these suites may feature graded units, rather than pass/fail, in which case they follow the model above instead. Please check the specification to confirm whether units are graded or not.</p> <p>* Please also note that a small number of qualifications within these groups of qualifications follow an 'adapted assessment' approach, so results are not calculated. Please see our spreadsheet here for confirmation of whether your qualification follows an adapted assessment or calculated results approach.</p>	<p>Internal ungraded unit ('Pass/fail')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ We reviewed the information you submitted to us (actual unit grades and CAG) against our expectations for your centre.▶ Our expectations were based on your centre's historical data (the average for the past three years).▶ If your grades were significantly higher or lower than our expectations, we did further qualitative checks.▶ These checks included reviewing past SV reports, or contacting you to ask for further information. <p>Based on this, we either accepted grades submitted if there was sufficient evidence, or did not release results until you provided additional evidence, or you reviewed your submitted pass rate.</p>



BTEC qualifications with mix of internal and external graded units

BTEC qualification*

- ▶ BTEC Level 1/2 Firsts
- ▶ BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Awards
- ▶ BTEC Level 2 Technicals
- ▶ BTEC Level 3 Nationals (RQF)

* Please also note that a small number of qualifications within these groups of qualifications follow an 'adapted assessment' approach, so results are not calculated. Please see our spreadsheet [here](#) for confirmation of whether your qualification follows an adapted assessment or calculated results approach.

Type of BTEC units featured

Internal graded units (P/M/D):

- ▶ We reviewed the information you submitted to us (actual unit grades and CAG) against our expectations for your centre.
- ▶ For each completed unit, which was not already quality assured and signed off by the Standards Verification process, we reviewed the unit grades submitted against our expectations.
- ▶ Our expectations were based on your centre's historical data (the average for the past three years) and prior attainment data (at KS2 or KS4).

Based on this, we either accepted grades submitted, or adjusted them up/down.

External unit - first sitting:

- ▶ We used the rank order, learner's performance on internal units and your centre's prior attainment profile to predict their overall qualification grade on a scale (high/medium/low).
- ▶ Then we assigned points to the qualification grade, using the BTEC specification.
- ▶ We deducted the points from the moderated internal units, to work out the total number of points for external unit(s).
- ▶ We subtracted points from any completed external units, then divided this number by the remaining number of external units to allocate points to each, proportionally to the size of each external unit. These points represent a unit grade, as outlined in the BTEC specification.
- ▶ We checked the calculated results for external assessments against data we have (e.g. prior attainment, historical achievement rates for the unit, performance on internal units). We may have adjusted our calculations up or down.

This was why it was important for us to have a minimum level of evidence from you about learners' completed internal units, including at least one mandatory unit (as performance on mandatory units is a stronger indicator of performance on external units).

External unit - resit attempt:

- ▶ We calculated the average resit improvement rate at your individual centre for this unit (e.g. % with one grade up improvement, % with two grades up improvement) to determine which learners are likely to improve performance compared to their best banked attempt.
- ▶ We calculated the average resit improvement in points based on a learner's best banked attempt and calculated the new points for the learners who we have identified as likely to improve their performance.



Working out your learners' final results:

- ✓ We performed a number of qualitative checks to sense check the calculated unit grades.
- ✓ We aggregated the unit grades and checked they met the BTEC specification rules.
- ✓ As long as the unit grades met the specification's requirements, we calculated the overall qualification grade for completing learners on **graded** and **ungraded** qualifications.
- ✓ Results could then be issued to centres.

For **ungraded** qualifications:

- ✓ this means learners must have achieved a minimum number of credits or units to be awarded the qualification.

For **graded** qualifications:

- ✓ this means all the units are assigned points
- ✓ these unit points are added together to provide the qualification grade points
- ✓ the qualification grade points determine the final qualification grade.

Frequently Asked Questions

How did you come up with this model for calculating results?

We reviewed the Ofqual requirements for awarding and calculating results this summer for vocational qualifications. We also consulted extensively with Ofqual and other Awarding Organisations on aspects of the approach.

Part of our consideration included the information we already had on our systems and evidence we could reasonably request from your centre.

We developed, tested and refined the statistical model, using historical data to identify the best approach for calculating BTEC results. This was then underpinned by qualitative checks, to sense check the outcomes, as well implement specific checks (e.g. for small or new centres).

Part of our analysis involved comparing outcomes to previous years to ensure this year's learners are neither disadvantaged nor advantaged by the process.

Is the process for calculating results for completing and non-completing (i.e. mid-flight) learners the same?

Broadly the approach is the same, except for BTEC qualifications with external assessment. Two points of difference there included ensuring that where results for non-completing learners were being claimed, that a minimum specified level of evidence had already been banked to enable us to more reliably calculate

results for externally assessed units.

The second point of difference was in with BTEC qualifications with external assessment, whereby in order to calculate results for externally assessed units we first separately predicted overall qualification outcomes (and associated points available) for completing and non-completing learners, using the rank order information you supplied us with. Historical data shows that these two groups of learners perform differently on external assessments, as they are at a different stage in the programme. Within that parameter, we preserved the rank order provided.

I am a new centre (new to Pearson/this BTEC programme), we don't have three years of historical data for this BTEC qualification. How will you calculate my learners' grades?

Given our size, we have data on many centres in the UK. When there is no or limited historical data available for a centre for a particular BTEC programme, we were able to identify characteristics that your centre has (e.g. prior attainment of cohort, size of cohort). Using these characteristics, we can ascertain an average for your type of centre and use the information we have for that centre type to calculate results.

Continued overleaf...

Frequently Asked Questions

I am a small centre and our results vary significantly year on year. How will you calculate my learners' grades?

We know that results for small centres, or those with limited historical data can vary from one year to another. We have taken this into account during the process and ensured that it is fair for all learners. We have many qualitative checks in place to check on the accuracy and validity of results issued, and one is specifically to ensure and monitor that small centres are not adversely impacted, due to a more dramatic variation of year on year historic performance.

Our centre recently merged and we have different sites. How will you calculate my learners' grades?

Fortunately, your centre number for BTEC qualifications includes a subsite affix (creating a six-digit centre number). This means we have historical data for your centre at a subsite level and just as we asked you to put forward Centre Assessment Grades and rank order at subsite level, we calculated results on that basis.

My centre's results have been improving year on year, will this upward trajectory be considered?

We did not attempt to model centre trajectories because the characteristics of your current cohort are more significant determinants of attainment than an individual centre trajectory. This is similar to the process for general qualifications, set by Ofqual, who stated: "For the vast majority of schools and colleges any year-on-year variation in results for a given subject is quite small, with small changes up and down seen. The lack of stability over a 3-year period in improvements or deteriorations in performance for the overwhelming majority of centres means that any statistical model is likely to be unacceptably unreliable in predicting any trends in performance in 2020. For this reason, the trajectory of schools and college results will not be taken into account in the standardisation process."

We have a substantially different cohort to prior years; how will this be considered?

We considered changes in prior attainment and entry size when making adjustments and calculating grades. We have sought to maintain the historical value-added relationship observed at qualification and unit level.

How will you calculate results for new BTEC units (without a track record)?

Subject experts have identified appropriate cognate units (units from other BTEC qualifications that are similar in content and demand to the new BTEC units), and we have used historical data and value-added relationship for these cognate units to standardise and calculate grades for the new BTEC units.

What do the calculated results look like for summer 2020?

It is too early to confirm final results across all our BTEC suites at this stage. However interim findings suggest that most learners will receive the same grade as their Centre Assessment Grade. Results therefore will broadly be in line with tutors' expectations, professional judgements and previous years' outcomes. This is partly explained by the long history of tutor assessment, which is at the heart of BTEC qualifications, as well as the fact most of the teaching would have been delivered so the grades are largely based on completed or near-completed learner work and evidence.

A small proportion of learners will have adjusted grades (either upwards or downwards), where submitted grades were not in line with expectations, based on the information and evidence we have.

We will publish in August a results summary of national qualification outcomes on Edexcel Online, like in previous years.

I think some of the results issued at my centre are incorrect, can I appeal on behalf of a learner/learners?

Yes, you will be able to appeal results on certain grounds. We are currently awaiting the outcomes of the Ofqual consultation on appeals and are working closely with JCQ and the other exam boards on finalising details of the appeals process, including the different grounds for appealing. We hope to share this with you by early August.

