

Awarding Body: Pearson

Level: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Introduction

This course provides a broad basis of study for the health science sector. It is designed to support progression to Higher Education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals and/or A-Levels. It is equivalent to one full A-level and, as such, gives students valuable UCAS points that can enable them to access a wide variety of health/science-related degree courses (see below for further information).

This award comprises four units of which two are externally assessed. External assessment accounts for 58% of the award with the remaining 42% coming from coursework-style modules that are internally assessed (but externally verified).

Units are assessed using a grading scale of Distinction (D), Merit (M), Pass (P), Near Pass (N) and Unclassified (U). Near Pass is used for the externally examined units only.

Once you have completed all units, Pearson calculates an overall Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* grade.

Year one content

Unit 1: Principles of Applied Human Biology (examined module)

Unit 1 is assessed via a 1.5 hr (80 mark) exam in either January or May/June.

Unit 2: Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (coursework)

Year two content

Unit 3: Human Biology and Health Issues (examined module)

Unit 3 is assessed via a task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions (3 hours). The task must be completed in one sitting on a day timetabled by Pearson (January or June) (60 marks).

Unit 5: Diseases, Disorders, Treatments and Therapies (coursework)

What you need

At least a grade 4 in GCSE Maths and at least a grade 4 in GCSE Biology (if doing Separate Science) or at least a grade 4/4 in Combined Science.

Career and further study

When combined with other qualifications within a two-year study programme, such as AS/A-Levels or a BTEC National Foundation Diploma or a BTEC National Diploma in a complementary sector, learners can progress into higher education, such as:

- BSc (Hons) in Occupational Health if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care
- BSc in Nursing or Midwifery if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care
- BSc (Hons) in Sport Science if taken alongside, for example, a Pearson BTEC Level 3 in Sport
- BSc (Hons) in Nursing if taken alongside, for example, A-Levels in Psychology and Sociology

Learners should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes with the specific higher education providers.

Trips and other costs

We will endeavour to run at least one trip a year to a laboratory facility so that students can see science in action. You are expected to fund your place on the trip.

Pearson have released a handbook for each unit of the course. These handbooks will be printed by the school, and you will be required to contribute towards the cost of printing. Printing costs of each handbook approximated to £2.50 (current as of September 2022).