

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate Information Technology

Level: 3 (A Level equivalent)
Syllabus: Pearson BTEC (NQF)
Duration of Course: 2 years (360 GLH)
Course Venue: The John Frost School

Course Outline

This qualification is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems, to manage and share information, alongside other fields of study. Progression is aimed at a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. BTECs embody a flexible, unit-based structure, with knowledge and understanding applied in project-based assessments. They focus on performing vocational tasks that encourage the development of transferable skills required to be able to succeed in employment and higher education. The ability to manage workload and meet deadlines is vitally important as learners will be assessed and graded via submitted assessments. Lessons will be taught in a new IT lab, with excellent facilities.

Entry Requirements

Candidates are expected to have passed a qualification, at grade C or above, in GCSE ICT, BTEC Level 2 IT, or equivalent. Candidates with a good set of GCSE results in related subjects may also be considered. It is essential that students have a strong interest in this subject as prior knowledge and independent research is a key factor of this qualification.

What will I study?

The course consists of four units covered over two years*:

Information Technology Systems (mandatory unit): You will study the role of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations.

Creating Systems to Manage Information (mandatory unit): You will study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information.

Using Social Media in Business (mandatory unit): You will explore how businesses use social media to promote their products and services. Learners also implement social media activities in a business to meet requirements.

Optional units are shown below (decided by the centre):

Data Modelling: Using data modelling to solve problems; learners will design and implement a data model to meet client requirements (spreadsheets).

Website Development: Investigating website development principles; learners will design and develop a website using scripting languages.

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Information Technology				
Unit number	Unit title	GLH	Type	How assessed
Mandatory units – learners complete and achieve all units				
1	Information Technology Systems	120	Mandatory and Synoptic	External
2	Creating Systems to Manage Information	90	Mandatory	External
3	Using Social Media in Business	90	Mandatory	Internal
Optional units – learners complete 1 unit				
5	Data Modelling	60	Optional	Internal
6	Website Development	60	Optional	Internal

How will I be assessed?

Qualifications are graded using a scale of Pass, Merit or Distinction/* (A Level equivalence). All units must be passed satisfactorily to achieve the qualification. UCAS Tariff Points for this qualification match the equivalent A Level grades eg Distinction* = 56 points, Distinction = 48 points, Merit = 32 points and Pass = 16 points.

Career Opportunities and Progression

This qualification gives learners the opportunity to progress to a degree in an IT discipline and can support entry, into further education courses such as Business, Computer Arts, Fashion, Management, Software Development, Animation and Accounting and Finance.

BTEC Nationals provide a vocational context in which learners can develop the knowledge and skills required for particular degree courses, including: reading technical texts, effective writing, analytical skills, creative development and preparation for assessment methods used in degrees.