

BTEC Applied Science FAQs

1. What qualifications are available?

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science
BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Applied Science

2. What GCSE results will I need?

In addition to general College entry requirements you will need a minimum of 2 grade 4s in science subjects or a minimum of 44 in a combined science course, plus a minimum of grade 4 in both English Language and Mathematics.

3. How many A levels is each course equivalent to?

In terms of size of qualification and UCAS points:

- the Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A level
- the Diploma is equivalent to 2 A levels

4. What achievement grades are available?

Grades P, M, D & D* are available for the Extended Certificate

Grades PP, MP, MM, DM, DD, D*D & D*D* are available for the Diploma
(where P = Pass, M = Merit, D = Distinction, D* = Distinction*)

5. How much time will I spend studying for an Applied Science qualification?

The Extended Certificate will take up one column of teaching time on your timetable, and the Diploma will take up two teaching columns. In addition you will use your personal study time to research and develop your work outside of formal lesson times.

6. Which is exam board for these qualifications?

Pearson (Edexcel).

7. How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a combination of external exams and internal assessment (approx. 50/50 external / internal assessment).

8. How many modules will I study?

Over the two-year course you will study 4 units for the Extended Certificate and 8 units for the Diploma. The course video, course leaflet and website provide further details.

9. What text-book will I need?

You will have access to an online version of the course textbook, in addition hard-copies of the textbook are available for reference in the Applied Science work area. A range of other study resources will also be made available for you.

10. What resources will I need to bring to lessons?

Standard stationery supplies – pens, pencils, ruler, eraser, calculator, notebook, highlighters etc. You will have access to personal computers in the Applied Science work area and at other points around College. It would also be beneficial for you to have access to a laptop, personal computer or other device at home so that you can access your electronic files and undertake further research outside College. You may also occasionally take photographs of experimental outcomes on your phone to use as evidence when writing up practical investigations.

11. What practical resources will I need?

You will be provided with appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) when undertaking practical work. You will become familiar with Health & Safety requirements for the course during induction and will continue to develop your awareness throughout the course.

12. How much practical work will there be?

As this is an 'Applied' course there will be many opportunities for practical work. You will develop your laboratory-based skills to work towards producing reliable results on which to base your conclusions and evaluations.

13. What additional skills will I develop through studying for a BTEC Applied Science qualification?

You will have opportunities to develop your personal skill-set including the areas of communication, teamwork, collaboration and research.

14. What career / progression routes can I take after studying for a BTEC Applied Science qualification?

Students who study for an Applied Science qualification progress on to a wide range of routes. The courses will prepare you for a career in many science-based industries such as Primary Teaching, Childcare, Nursing, Sports Management or Sports Training. Many students have progressed to study a wide range of subjects including Forensics, Construction, Animal Behaviour, Biochemistry, Physiotherapy and Biomedical Sciences. Other students have chosen to follow Apprenticeships in laboratory work or engineering. In addition some students progress onto non-science related areas.