

# BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science

EXAM BOARD: Pearson BTEC

## What does the course cover?

In this course, which is equivalent in size to one A-Level, learners will study three mandatory units. These units provide a solid knowledge and skills base for those interested in the applied science sector, alongside other fields of study. The mandatory units cover the following content areas:

- Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science I
- Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
- Unit 3: Science Investigation Skills

Learners will also choose one option unit from a group (to be confirmed) with a view to supporting choices in progression to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily restricted to applied science

## What skills will the course help you develop?

As well as learning a range of industry-standard scientific skills, studying Applied Science will enable you to acquire some key transferable skills, valued by both employers and higher education providers. These include: critical thinking and problem-solving; communicating, collaborating and influencing; as well as presentation, research, effective writing and analytical skills.

## How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of externally assessed and internally assessed units. Unit 1 will be assessed through a 90-minute written exam, available twice a year in January and May/June, which is set and marked by the exam board. Unit 3 will be assessed through the completion of a 90-minute written task which includes a practical investigation. This is available once a year within a defined window in May/June and is also set and marked externally by the exam board. Unit 2 and the optional unit are internally set and assessed through assignments and portfolio-based work.

## What are the entry requirements?

Students wishing to study Applied Science should have at least 5 GCSEs A\*-C. Good GCSEs in English, Maths and Science (A\*-C) are desirable due to the demands of the course content and significant external (exam and task-based) methods of assessment.

## What do students who study this course go on to do?

The qualification carries UCAS points (see UCAS website for full details) and is recognised by a number of higher education providers when combined with other Level 3 subjects, including A-levels, which are both science and non-science related. (Always check specific entry requirements.) The course also supports learners entering direct employment, or via an apprenticeship, in a range of sectors including the applied science sector. This can lead to occupational areas such as biomedical science, environmental science, analytical and forensic science, as well as other non-science related employment areas.

## Who is the staff contact for Applied Science?

Mr Altaf is the lead teacher, working with Mr Vardy.

