

# BTEC

## Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)



### Who is this qualification for?

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate) is an Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) designed for post-16 students with an interest in health and social care and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment.

Equivalent to one A Level in size, it is suitable for students looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in health and social care alongside two A Levels.

### What will the student study as part of this qualification?

The qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education representatives to ensure students have the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to progress to, and thrive, in higher education.

The qualification has three mandatory units covering the following topics:

- Human Lifespan and Development – PIES and factors affecting growth and development, interventions and the different professionals providing care and treatment
- Human Biology and Health – Human body structure and systems, normal physiological functioning and the impact of common disorders
- Health and Social Care Practice – Core principles, values and legislation that underpin and influence health and social care, and the effect of social determinants on an individual health status

Students have a choice from four optional units covering the following topics:

- Health, Social Policy and Wellbeing – Public health policy and its influences, including health-related organisations/groups and a range of strategic factors
- Promoting Health Education – Health education, its purpose and use of different approaches and models to achieve positive health outcomes
- Safe Environments in Health and Social Care – Appropriate provisions in services relevant to different needs; governance relating to safe environments
- Health Science – Types of infections and their potential impact on a local, national and international scale.

### What knowledge and skills will the student develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

**Students will develop the following knowledge and skills from the mandatory units:**

- Professional values and skills expected of professionals, including communication and listening skills
- Organisational and critical thinking skills
- Cultural and social intelligence when working with individuals across the lifespan with different needs, alongside methods of managing challenging situations. Students will develop the following knowledge and skills from the optional units:
- Interpersonal skills required when working with others, including compassion and empathy
- Responsibilities of professionals to be adaptable and innovative in delivering care
- Management of own time and learning
- Academic skills such as research. Students will develop knowledge and skills throughout this qualification that are key to health and social care related degrees. Students have the

potential to develop transferable and study skills becoming well-rounded individuals, better prepared for the demands of Higher Education.

### Which subjects will complement this qualification?

The following subjects would be suitable to combine with this qualification:

- Psychology
- Biology
- English.

### What further learning will this qualification lead to?

This qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees:

- BSC Nursing
- BSC Social Work
- BSC Subjects Allied to Health.

## Exam Board

### Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC

## Assessment

### Qualification structure

#### Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)

Students must complete three mandatory units and one optional unit.

See *Section 6* for rules on qualification awarding.

#### Mandatory units – students complete and achieve all units

Unit number	Unit title	GLH	Type	How assessed
1	Human Lifespan and Development	90	Mandatory	External
2	Human Biology and Health	90	Mandatory	External
3	Principles of Health and Social Care Practice	90	Mandatory	Internal

#### Optional units – students complete and achieve one unit

Unit number	Unit title	GLH	Type	How assessed
4	Health, Policy and Wellbeing	90	Optional	Internal
5	Promoting Health Education	90	Optional	Internal
6	Safe Environments in Health and Social Care	90	Optional	Internal
7	Health Science	90	Optional	Internal

## External assessment

50% of the total qualification GLH is made up of external assessment. A summary is given below. See the unit content and sample assessment materials for more information.

Unit	Type	Availability
<b>Unit 1: Human Lifespan and Development</b>	An external examination set and marked by Pearson 80 marks	<b>January and June</b> <b>First assessment</b> <b>May/June 2026</b>
<b>Unit 2: Human Biology and Health</b>	An external examination set and marked by Pearson 80 marks	<b>January and June</b> <b>First assessment</b> <b>May/June 2026</b>

## Synoptic assessment

The assessment of synoptic knowledge requires students to apply learning from one unit to the assessment in another unit. Within the assessment for *Unit 3: Principles of Health and Social Care Practice*, students will be assessed on underpinning knowledge, ideas and concepts from *Unit 1: Human Lifespan and Development* and *Unit 2: Human Biology and Health*. Synoptic links are flagged within the units.

There might be some further naturally occurring synoptic opportunities across the qualification where students can synthesise their learning. These will be outlined in the Delivery Guide to help with planning for your teaching.