

Technical Education Reforms

Engineering Sector

January 2025

Gabriel Staples

Product Manager - Construction, Building Services & Engineering

L2 and L3

Dr Sahithi Siva

Subject Lead Engineering Higher Education

L4 and L5



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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue jacket and large black headphones, is shown in profile. She is holding a smartphone in her left hand and looking towards the right. The background is a museum or gallery with various exhibits and people, slightly blurred. The overall lighting is dim, with some highlights on the woman's face and hair. There are bright green bars at the top and bottom left corners of the image.

01

Context

Context – Level 3 Reform Timeline

2021

Level 3 and below policy landscape announced

- Academic and Technical pathways alongside T Levels
- Academic- A levels and AAQS
- Technicals – qualifications aligned to occupational standards
- A schedule of defunding qualifications starting with low or no registrations

2022

- Criteria published to develop reformed qualifications
- Cycle 1 Subject areas and sizes published
- Defunding of low and no qualifications announced

2023

- Further defunding announced
- AOs submit Cycle 1 qualifications for funding approval
 - Level 3 - July
 - Level 2 - Nov

2024

- Level 3 and Level 2 cycle 1 approved for 2025 – April / Sept

General Election

- Cycle 2 Level 3 and Level 2 paused – June
- Rapid Review Called – July
- Curriculum and Assessment Review - July
- 2024/25 defunding reversed – July
- Wave 4 Appeals announced- November

New Government - Rapid Review *focused review of Post-16 qualifications reform at level 3 and below, alongside the re-contracting of T Level qualifications, to ensure these high-quality qualifications continue to be available to learners.*

What was the Rapid Review?

In July 2024, the new government announced a focused review of Post-16 qualifications reform at level 3 and below (also referred to as Rapid Review) . The review considered whether funding should be removed from these qualifications and other qualifications due to be defunded in 2025

- Those qualifications that appeared on an overlap with T level list
- All qualifications at level 3 in cycle 1 subjects that are not approved for funding as an AAQ or Technical

The outcomes of the review were published in December 2024.

A man with dreadlocks, wearing a yellow button-down shirt, is raising his right hand in a meeting or classroom setting. He is looking towards the right. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulders is visible, and to the right, another person wearing glasses is partially visible. The background shows a window with vertical bars. The image has a dark overlay and a bright green bar at the top left and bottom left.

02

Outcomes of rapid review

First Outcomes of the Rapid Review in November 2024 - Pearson

Low or No Registrations

Awarding organisations were asked to give further evidence, to support potential funding of qualification that have had no registrations or less than 100 for the last three years

- *no Pearson qualifications were extended*
- *The qualifications on the list have very few public funded registrations*
- *Many are in the process of being withdrawn*
- *Where we have registrations, they are privately funded and therefore will be available for registrations but not funded.*

For Engineering, the following qualifications are defunded for full-time learners, from 2025/6, due to low/ no registrations. Note that qualifications will remain available for other funding streams e.g. apprentices where applicable or in other nations:

60175795 Level 3 National Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering

60175837 Level 3 National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

60358403 Level 3 Foundation Award in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Development Technical Knowledge)

Key Outcomes

AAQS and Technical Qualifications in cycle 1 subjects will continue to be first teach September 2025

All RQF BTEC Nationals 180/360 GLH qualifications in these sectors remain defunded from 31 July 2025 and are replaced with our new BTEC National AAQs and Technicals

The 1 AAQ and 2 A level Study programme requirement has been removed, Centres can revert to choosing study programmes that are right for their learners

Each Sectors funding reviewed independently and has a bespoke funding outcome: **Engineering largely protected until 2027**

Level 2 Cycle 1 will continue to be first teach September 2025.

A photograph of two women wearing hijabs sitting at a table, looking at a laptop. The woman on the left is wearing glasses and a grey sweater, while the woman on the right is wearing a white sweater. They are both smiling and appear to be engaged in a collaborative activity. The background shows a brick wall and large windows. The image has a dark overlay and a green bar at the top left.

03

Funding list for Engineering

Sector	QN	Qualification Title	GLH	First teach			Status
				24/25	25/26	26/27	
	601/9053/X	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Award in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Development Technical Knowledge)	360	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/9049/8	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Development Technical Knowledge)	540	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/9054/1	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Development Technical Knowledge)	720	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/9060/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Development Technical Knowledge)	1080	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	603/2537/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Rail Engineering Technician Knowledge	360	Yes	No	No	
Engineering	603/1197/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Engineering	180	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/7584/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering	360	Yes	No	No	
	610/3962/7	Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Engineering (Extended Certificate)*	360		Yes	Yes	<i>NEW funded for first teach September 2025</i>
	601/7591/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Engineering	540	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/7577/1	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering	720	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/7579/5	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering	720	Yes	No	No	
	601/7580/1	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Engineering	720	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/7582/5	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Manufacturing Engineering	720	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/7583/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering	720	Yes	No	No	
	601/7585/0	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering	1080	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/7587/4	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering	1080	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/7588/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Engineering	1080	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/7589/8	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Manufacturing Engineering	1080	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	601/7590/4	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Mechanical Engineering	1080	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	603/5840/3	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Foundation Award in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Development Technical Knowledge)	180	Yes	No	No	

04

Curriculum planning

Planning the Curriculum

When planning the curriculum for 25/26 it is important that consideration of potential funding implications of when registering learners following circumstances

- Learners registered in 2024/25 on a 180 GLH programme intending to top up to a 360 GLH programme that isn't funded in 25/26
- In 2025/2026 centres who traditionally register on 360 GLH and then top up to 720 GLH in year 2 *no longer possible in Engineering, where 2017 larger BTEC Nationals and 2025 AAQ 360 have diverged*
- Learners who need to fall back to smaller qualifications:

not possible to fall back from 2017 BTEC National to new 2025 AAQ due to different content and assessment

Level 3 Study Programmes

The previous rules of combination for the AAQ's required 1 AAQ and 2 A levels in a Study programme. This has been scrapped. You can design study programmes that are right for your learners.

Examples: AAQ Engineering plus:

A levels in Maths and Physics could lead to a BEng Mechanical Engineering

A levels in Maths and Chemistry could lead to a BEng Chemical Engineering

A levels in Maths and Design & Technology could lead to a BEng General Engineering

AAQ in Computing+ A Level Maths to access a wide range of STEM degrees w/specialisation in, e.g. Robotics, computer engineering

AAQ in Construction & the Built Environment + A Level Maths/ Design Technology to access a wide range of Building and Engineering degrees (e.g civil engineering, built environment, design engineering)

BTEC Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering, to access Engineering Technician Apprenticeships

**recommendations subject to individual university acceptance who may impose conditions or restrictions on vocational subject combinations*

Delivery Considerations

Some important considerations when mixing legacy & AAQ BTECs

Due to differences in assessment, unit structure and content, it is not possible to top up from the new AAQ to the legacy larger sizes of BTEC

Nor is it possible to drop down and claim the 360 size AAQ: Units and assessments are not shared between them

For Pearson Centres - How to process a transfer: <https://support.pearson.com/uk/s/article/Edexcel-Online-BTEC-Registration-Transfers>

Universities may have requirements preventing some combinations of vocational qualifications, or limiting the amount of vocational qualifications accepted in an application, or mandating certain A Levels alongside.

Although good support has been received from HE for the new 'alternative academic' BTEC in Engineering, existing rules are likely to still apply to new BTECs as they are still a 'vocational' qualification.

Qualification structure comparison

2016 Extended Certificate

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering			
Unit number	Unit title	GLH	How assessed
Mandatory units - learners complete and achieve all units			
1	Engineering Principles	120	External
2	Delivery of Engineering Processes Safely as a Team	90	Internal
3	Engineering Product Design and Manufacture	120	External
Optional units - learners complete one unit			
7	Calculus to Solve Engineering Problems	60	Internal
9	Work Experience in the Engineering Sector	60	Internal
10	Computer Aided Design in Engineering	60	Internal
11	Engineering Maintenance and Condition Monitoring Techniques	60	Internal
12	Pneumatic and Hydraulic Systems	60	Internal
19	Electronic Devices and Circuits	60	Internal
25	Mechanical Behaviour of Metallic Materials	60	Internal
30	Mechanical Measurement and Inspection Technology	60	Internal
35	Computer Programming	60	Internal
41	Manufacturing Secondary Machining Processes	60	Internal
44	Fabrication Manufacturing Processes	60	Internal
45	Additive Manufacturing Processes	60	Internal

2025 AAQ Extended Certificate

Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Engineering (Extended Certificate)			
Unit number	Unit title	GLH	How assessed
Mandatory Units, learners complete all units			
1	Engineering Principles	120	External
2	Engineering Applications	60	External
3	Engineering Design	120	Internal
4	Engineering Project	60	Internal

Summary of key similarities and differences

- Continued vocational approach to the qualification ensuring practical application and skill development important for progression into higher education.
- Established and well-recognised grade profiles inclusive of Pass, Merit and Distinction.
- Similar maths and science mandatory externally-assessed unit in 'Engineering Principles'.
- Product Design and Manufacturing process remain key features of the new qualification, across Engineering Applications, Engineering Design and Engineering Project units.
- Most popular Optional unit content has been retained in the new, all-mandatory structure (ie Design and CAD, Engineering Project).
- Enhanced opportunities to apply Engineering communication skills, problem solving and the understanding of modern engineering industrial processes to practical project outcomes.

→ For Assessment Structure and Mapping Guide download the Transition Guide

A young woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing red headphones and a black top, is smiling while looking at a laptop. She is in a kitchen setting with white cabinets and a stove visible in the background. The image is dimly lit, with a dark overlay. There are green decorative bars at the top left and bottom left corners.

05

**Resources and support for
Engineering**

Training offer

	Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
Live + on-demand training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting Ready to Teach• Getting Ready for Internal Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting Ready to Teach• Transitioning workshops• Delivering specific units• Getting Ready for Internal Assessment• Getting Ready for External Assessment
Bitesize videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roles within a centre and how to support your Exams Officer• Exemplar delivery practice at a unit level• A run through of Pearson Set Assignment Briefs and how to deliver these	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More titles will be created and made available, based on the latest developments and customer feedback

→ [Find out more from Training from Pearson](#)

Support

E Book, Student book & Teacher packs will be available for Engineering.

In addition we offer:

Delivering BTEC

A dedicated webpage to guide you through the stages of delivery and provide handy guidance for the different topics.

→ [Read more](#)

examWizard

An online resource containing a huge bank of past paper questions and support materials to help you create your own mock exams and tests. Available for a range of GCSE, A Level subjects, BTEC and Functional Skills, examWizard is easy to use, intuitive and saves you valuable time.

→ [Learn more](#)

→ [Full list of support from Pearson](#)

Teaching & learning support

A wide range of complimentary resources including specification, sample assessment materials, delivery and transition guides and paid for resources – Student Books and Delivery Packs.

→ [Learn more](#)

ResultsPlus

Our online results analysis tool for teachers. Included as part of your qualification fees, ResultsPlus give you a detailed breakdown of your students' performance in Pearson Edexcel exams and BTEC external assessments.

→ [Learn more](#)

Access to Scripts

An online service, included as part of your qualification fees, that allows educators to view their candidates marked scripts online or download as a PDF.

→ [Learn more](#)

Subject Advisers

Experts in their fields, and many of them former teachers, our subject advisers are here to support you throughout the year and can help with all your subject-specific queries.

→ [Meet the team and sign up for updates](#)

06

Level 2 Reform



Post-16 Level 2 Reform Rollout **PAUSED**

The DfE are rolling out the reform over three cycles – **This will be revisited later in 2025 following conclusion of the [Curriculum & Assessment Review](#)**

The only qualifications at level 2 that will have funding approval removed in 2025-26 are those which an awarding organisation has told DfE will be directly replaced by one of the reformed technical qualifications in cycle 1 – all other qualifications remain funded.

Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
First teach Sept 2025	First teach Sept 2026	First teach Sept 2027
Technical qualifications [groups 2-6] in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction• Education & Childcare• Engineering & Manufacturing• Healthcare & Science	Technical qualifications [groups 2-6] in: All other IfATE occupational routes; e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal, Finance and Accounting• Transport & Logistics• Catering & Hospitality	Technical progression [group 1] in: Level 3 technical routes submitted in cycle 2; e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protective Services• Sales/Marketing
	Technical progression [group 1] in: Level 3 technical routes submitted in cycle 1; e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital• Engineering	Academic progression [group 7] in: Level 3 academic routes submitted in cycle 2; e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sport• Art/Design• Music• Performing / Production Arts
	Academic progression [group 7] in: Level 3 academic routes submitted in cycle 1; e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applied Science• Health and Social Care• IT/computing	

Post-16 Level 2 offer

New for 2025:

L2 Technical Occupational Entry for Lean Manufacturing Operatives



All further level 2 reform is currently paused until the outcomes of the Curriculum assessment review is published.

The following qualifications are still available for teaching:

BTEC First Certificate / Extended Certificate/ Diploma in Engineering –available for 2025 and 2026

Other BTEC Specialist qualifications supporting apprenticeships and entry to work are available e.g.

BTEC L2 Certificate/ Diploma in Engineering Operations

BTEC L2 Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Foundation Competence)

A young man with a blue backpack is standing in a forest, looking up and to the right. He is holding a notebook and a pen. The background is a dense forest with green foliage. The image has a dark overlay and a green bar at the top left and bottom left.

07

Useful links

Useful links

Pearson Links

- [Updated L3 funding guide](#)
- [Level 3 reforms page](#)

DfE Links

- [The outcomes of the Review of Qualifications Reform at Level 3 in England](#)
- [Qualifications that have had funding extended](#)
- [Review of Qualifications FAQs](#)
- [Qualifications Reform](#)



08

Next steps

Next Steps

- DfE have paused Cycle 2 submission for level 2 and level 3
- The submission of these qualifications will be later in 2025 with first teach to be confirmed
- DfE will open a new cycle 2 for additional titles in HSC, Applied Science, Construction and Digital – to be confirmed
- For all other sectors, qualifications that need to be retained long term will be reformed and informed by the Curriculum and Assessment Review – expect to know more later in the year.
- By 2027: CAR will have concluded and new qualifications will have been developed to meet policy rules in Engineering. This **may** include:
 - larger qualifications co-existing with T Level *with greater unit flexibilities, e.g covering specialist areas otherwise 'forgotten about' in the previous reform (e.g motorsport, aerospace, robotics).*
 - Less prescriptive rules on external assessment / exam requirements
 - Further flexibilities for the T Level to encourage take up (*see announcements in December*)
- We still anticipate that centres will need to switch some provision in 2027 to new, reformed qualifications

09

Engineering Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship Updates – Current activity

Level 2 Engineering Operative currently under review – consultation suggests pathway approach is retained

L3 Engineering Technician ST0457 – continues to be updated from pathways to individual standards:

Engineering & Manufacturing Support Technician

Mechatronics Maintenance Technician, Machining Technician

Aircraft Maintenance Technician

Aerospace Engineering Technician (in development).

Some of the above standards specify qualifications such as AME L3, or variations of these, e.g. the new Machining AME or Engineering & Manufacturing Support Technologies L3, based on AME units

EPA Integration requirement: New standards now require the qualification, where mandated, to contribute to EPA. E.g. the integrated element of assessment such as observation or test is taken in the qualification at the end point, which remains separate to the non-integrated element controlled by the EPAO who awards final EPA grade. These can be different organisations.

10

Levels 4 and 5

**Pearson BTEC Higher
Nationals in Engineering**

Overview of the Higher Technical Qualifications offer



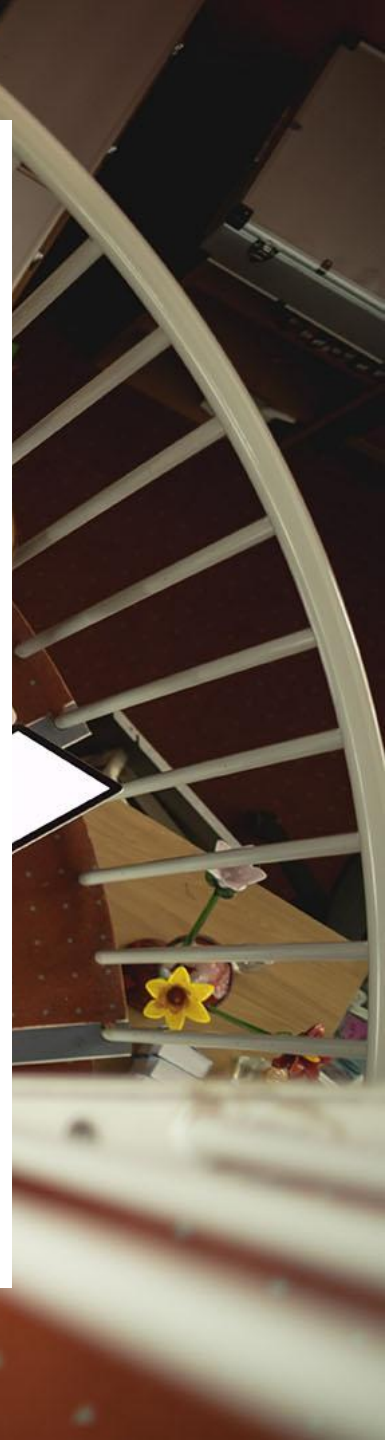
What are Higher Technical Qualifications in England?

- High potential landscapes
 - Only 10% of the UK adult population has a level 4 or 5 as their highest qualification
 - 50% of the UK young people progress to University – what about the other 50%?
 - Wholesale review of Level 4 and 5 policy
- English policy impact (IfATE approvals process)
 - Alignment to Occupational Standards
 - Owned by Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education
- Higher Nationals
 - High-quality HTQ: employer engagement and HE standards
 - Long standing reputation



HTQ Higher Nationals

- Existing Pearson Higher Nationals are being aligned to IfATE requirements to achieve HTQ status. Providers can deliver Higher National HTQ via a familiar approval process for Higher Nationals from Pearson.
- Providers / tutors will be familiar with Higher National delivery – nothing will change for them.
- The Higher National HTQ remains designed as a UK HE qualification – in terms of credit structure and FHEQ alignment – so students can articulate smoothly to level 6.
- Much similarity between HTQ versions and non-HTQ versions of HNs. Some changes required to HTQs in order to ensure qualifications are meeting IfATE's test of occupational standard (OS) coverage e.g. MLN service is not allowed, structural changes required to support coverage of OS.



Lifelong Learning Entitlement

From 2025, the lifelong learning entitlement will provide individuals with a loan entitlement to the equivalent of 4 years of post-18 education to use over their lifetime.

- Govmt response to LLE consultation now published. **Higher Technical Qualifications will be first in scope for inclusion** from academic year 25/26, with further expansion slated for 2027 onwards.
- **Maintenance support** will be expanded to technical courses.
- **“Equivalent or Lower Qualification Rule” is to be removed**, meaning that it will be permitted to receive loan finance for courses at the same level as – or lower than – one’s existing qualifications.
- The government plans to set the **upper age limit for the LLE at 60**, and learners will be entitled to four years of tuition funding – this will include returning students “once previous student loans are taken into account.”



Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Engineering

Portfolio



The HN Engineering Portfolio

Standard HNs

Non-Higher Technical Qualifications

Availability

All regions

Structures

Flexible

Quality mark

No

Occupational standard(s)

Adaptable

Professional standards

Requirements can be met

Stakeholder engagement

Yes

Training

Yes

HTQ HNs

Higher Technical Qualifications

England only

Streamlined and fixed

Yes

100% aligned

Requirements can be met

Yes

Yes



Standard HNs

- HNC/HND in Aeronautical Engineering (2024)
- HNC in Automation and Control Engineering (2022)
- HNC/HND in Automotive Engineering (2024)
- HNC/HND in Computer Systems Engineering (2022)
- HNC in Electrical Systems Engineering (2022)
- HND in Electronic and Electrical Systems Engineering (2022)
- HNC in Electronic Systems Engineering (2022)
- HNC in Manufacturing Operations (2019)
- HNC/HND in Space Technologies (2022)

Teach-out:

- HNC/HND in Aeronautical Engineering (2017)
- HNC/HND in Engineering (2024)



HTQ HNCs

Pearson Engineering HTQs: 13 HNCs and 9 HNDs individually quality marked

HNC in Aeronautical Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HNC in Automation and Control Engineering for England aligned to the Automation and Controls Engineering Technician standard

HNC in Computer Systems Engineering for England aligned to the Network Engineer standard

HNC in Electrical and Electronic Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HNC in Electrical Systems Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HNC in Electronic Systems Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HNC in Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HNC in Manufacturing Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HNC in Manufacturing Operations for England aligned to the Process Leader standard

HNC in Mechanical Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HNC in Mechatronics for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HNC in Operations Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HNC in Space Technologies for England aligned to the Space Engineering Technician standard

HTQ HNDs

Pearson Engineering HTQs: 13 HNCs and 9 HNDs individually quality marked

HND in Aeronautical Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HND in Computer Systems Engineering for England aligned to the Network Engineer standard

HND in Electrical and Electronic Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HND in Electronic and Electrical Systems Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HND in Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HND in Manufacturing Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

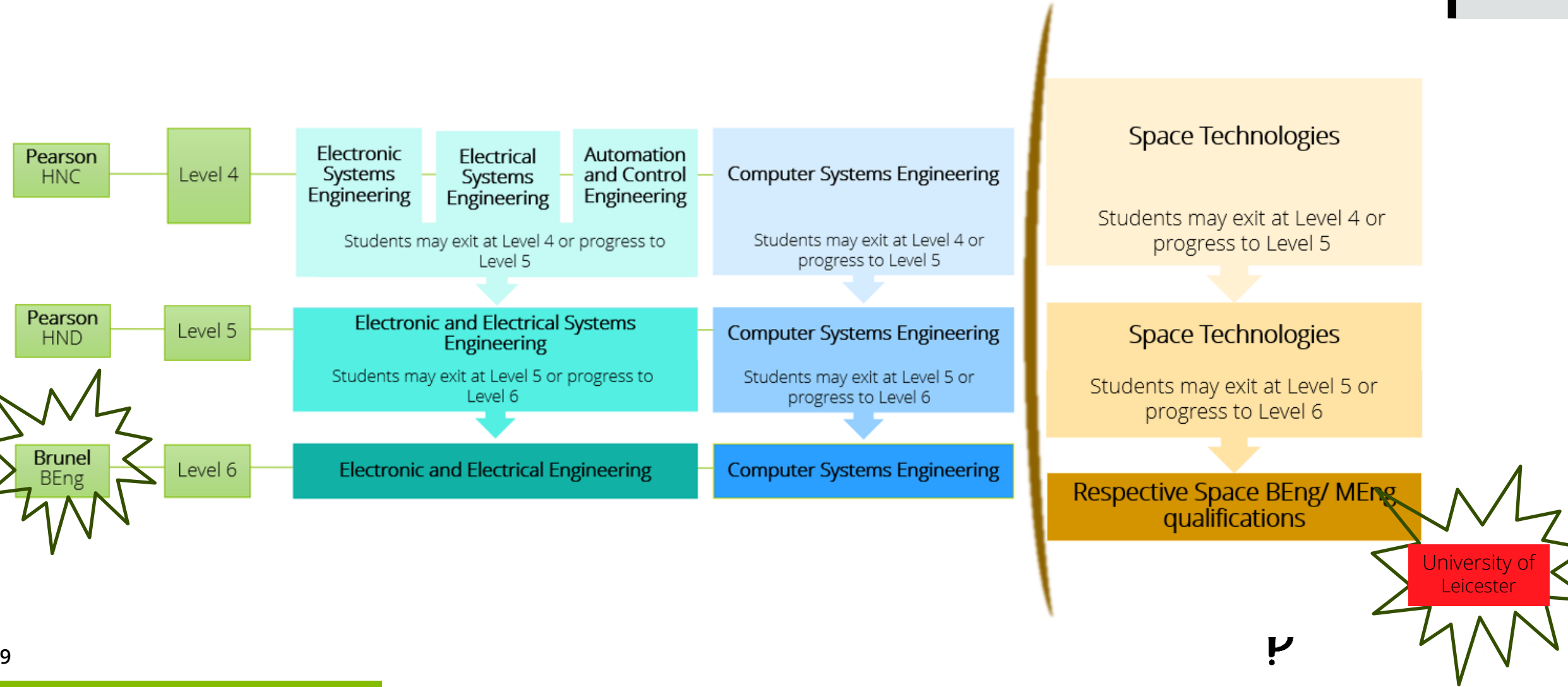
HND in Mechanical Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HND in Operations Engineering for England aligned to the Engineering Manufacturing Technician standard

HND in Space Technologies for England aligned to the Space Engineering Technician standard



Example progression opportunities (2022 suite)



Key changes from 1 September 2024 (1)

- ✓ New pathways
- ✓ unit numbers
- ✓ Updated content
- ✓ New units
- ✓ Unit Descriptor (consolidated)

The screenshot shows the Pearson BTEC website for 'Engineering (2024) - RQF'. The navigation bar includes 'Specification', 'News', and 'Unit Checker Tool' (circled in blue). Below the navigation bar, there are links for 'Our qualifications', 'BTEC Higher Nationals', and 'Engineering (2024) - RQF'. A 'Subscribe' button and a 'Sign in' button are also present. The main heading is 'BTEC Higher Nationals Engineering (2024) - RQF'. Below this, there is a link for 'Unit Descriptors (Higher Nationals Engineering Suite) > Download Unit Descriptors' (circled in blue). The 'Specification' section includes a 'Change specification size:' dropdown set to 'Certificate'. The 'Deliver this qualification' section has a 'Contact us' button. The 'HN Global' section has a 'Go to HN Global' button. The 'Specification' section includes a 'Download' button for a PDF (1.8 MB) and a 'Qualification summary' section with details: Credits: 120, Pathways: TBC, Qualification number (QN): 610/3635/3, Loan funded via: Student Finance England, Wales, NI, Availability: Wales, NI and International, First teaching: 1 September 2024.

The screenshot shows the Pearson BTEC website for 'Mechatronics for England (2024) - RQF'. The navigation bar includes 'Specification' and 'News'. Below the navigation bar, there are links for 'Our qualifications', 'BTEC Higher Nationals', and 'Mechatronics for England (2024) - RQF'. A 'Subscribe' button and a 'Sign in' button are also present. The main heading is 'BTEC Higher Nationals Mechatronics for England (2024) - RQF'. Below this, there is a link for 'Unit Descriptors (Higher Nationals Engineering Suite) > Download Unit Descriptors' (circled in red). The 'Specification' section includes a 'Download' button for a PDF (1.8 MB) and a 'Qualification summary' section with details: Credits: 120, Pathways: N/A, Qualification number (QN): 610/1260/9, Loan funded via: Student Finance England, Availability: England (ONLY), First teaching: 1 September 2024, Review date: 31 August 2029. The 'Deliver this qualification' section has a 'Contact us' button. The 'HN Global' section has a 'Go to HN Global' button. The 'Teaching support and training' section has links for 'Access assessment support', 'See upcoming training events', and 'Subscribe to the HN newsletter'. The 'Further information' section has a 'Keep up to date' button.

Key changes from 1 September 2024 (2)

Student registrations/ top-ups

- Teach Out: Students currently registered on the 2017 specifications can proceed to 'top up' their existing registrations from the HNC to the HND (non-HTQ). This is unchanged from how centres managed students' progression from the QCF to the RQF. Please refer to the Pearson information manual for reference if needed.
- Students/centres considering the top-up option (non-HTQ) must ensure that there is enough time to achieve within the lifetime of the student registration and/or the specification certification end date—whichever comes first. The certification end date for the 2017 qualification is 31 August 2029.
- All new registrations from 1 September 2024 should be on the 2022 and/or 2024 suite of Engineering qualifications. For all England centres, HTQs are the default qualifications from 1 September 2024, where available.



Key changes from 1 September 2024 (3)



21 November 2023

Customer Services Update

Transitioning to HTQs in Engineering

At 2.30pm today we are sending [this targeted notification](#) to Quality Nominees and Exams Officers at [these centres](#) who currently offer Higher Nationals in Engineering.

If you receive any queries relating to this please log these with 'EngineeringHTQ' in the CRM subject line.

Message Overview

Dear colleague,

The 2024 Higher Nationals in Engineering portfolio of RQF qualifications is expanding, with two main changes: the introduction of a new suite of Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQ) in Engineering and the revalidation and publication of Higher Nationals in Aeronautical Engineering and Engineering.

The current suite of Higher Nationals in Engineering expires on 31 August 2024. Existing HNC/D students can continue to complete their studies on the current specification. To register new students beyond 31 August 2024, you will need to apply for programme approval by completing our [declaration form](#) and sending it to us at hnqa@pearson.com.

We've created a dedicated web page with information on the new qualifications, how this will affect your centre, how recognition of prior learning will work and more. Read more about the transition to HTQs in Engineering on [our website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact us via the [Pearson support portal](#).

Kind regards

Yasmin Pitter
Strategic Lead - HE Quality, Assessment & Engagement

Centre reapprovals:

- Target communications
- HN Newsletter

<https://forms.office.com/r/fCjPMnKz1J>

11 April 2024

BTEC Higher Nationals in Engineering 2024

Open for reapproval for September 2024 delivery

Dear Colleague,

We are getting in touch to let you know that the following 2024 Higher Nationals in Engineering will be available for first teaching from 1 September 2024 and are open for reapproval.

- [Pearson BTEC L4 Higher National Certificate in Engineering](#)
- [Pearson BTEC L5 Higher National Diploma in Engineering](#)
- [Pearson BTEC L4 Higher National Certificate in Aeronautical Engineering](#)
- [Pearson BTEC L5 Higher National Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering](#)

These revalidated Higher Nationals replace the following qualifications from 1 September 2024:

- [Higher Nationals in Aeronautical Engineering \(2017\)](#)
- [Higher Nationals in Engineering \(2017\)](#)

The transition from the 2017 to 2024 specifications should be straightforward, with mostly unchanged pathway-level structures to ensure continuity and manageability.

What do we need to do?

To register new students beyond 31 August 2024, you will need to apply for programme approval by completing our online form.

[Apply for Higher National Engineering reapproval.](#)

Key changes from 1 September 2024 (4)

Authorised Assignment Briefs (AABs):

- off-the-shelf or
- adapt

Recommended assessment methods:

- inclusive and diverse
- close match with the apprenticeship and wider HE assessment methods

The screenshot shows the Pearson HN GLOBAL website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the Pearson logo and navigation links for 'All Subjects', 'Short Courses', 'Learning Zone', 'Tutor Resources', 'Forum', and 'Degree Finder'. The user is logged in as 'content_editor | sahithi.siva' and can 'Log out'.

The main content area is titled 'Teaching materials:' and includes a paragraph about free delivery materials. Below this, there is a section for '2024:' with four cards:

- Engineering Specification First Teach 1 September 2024
- Recommended Assessment Methods for a Selection of Engineering Units (marked with a blue checkmark)
- Authorised Assignment Briefs (AABs) 2024** (circled in blue)
- Supporting AAB Resources (marked with a blue checkmark)

Below the 2024 section is a 'Pre-2024:' section with four cards:

- Specification First Teach 2018 (Teach-out from Sep 2024)
- Example Assessment Briefs
- Assessment Brief Template
- Example Schemes of Work



Good news

Emerging issues

Good news:

- Several centres are onboard through speedy (re)approvals
- Several centres in England are offering HTQs
- Received feedback on the demand for additional HTQs to support other occupational standards
- To meet local needs, an exceptional approval process was established to enable centres in England to deliver the standard HNs

Emerging issues:

- Centres in England require optionality in delivering HTQs to meet local needs
- Use of the MLN process is not available with the HTQs



Apprenticeship updates – current activity

Occupational standards used for alignment:

Level 4:

ST0662 Automation and Controls Engineering Technician (under review)

ST0841 Engineering Manufacturing Technician

ST0127 Network Engineer (under review)

ST0695 Process Leader

ST0855 Space Engineering Technician (under review)

EPA Integration requirement: Not applicable to HNs.

Tailoring qualifications to meet requirements

Contact: Marianne Hendon-Clarke
BTEC UK & International Senior Custom
Designed Qualifications Lead



Pearson

HN Flex

The route to modularized learning



Study a 'bundle'
of 1 to 4 HN Flex
units

Pearson's HN Flex enables the easy delivery of specific units from Pearson BTEC Higher National qualifications at levels 4 and 5.

Student Focused



Have fun learning and develop the confidence to progress to further academic study.

Studying a HN Flex unit can provide an opportunity to study an area of interest without a huge time and financial commitment that can be life changing



Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

HN Flex is a fantastic tool to showcase and develop professional knowledge and skills, all captured in a bite-sized unit (or a maximum of 4 HN Flex units)



Develop new skills that lead to sector relevant employment. Build on existing skills and develop new skills

Employer Focused



Enterprise in Wales. HN Flex provides an excellent opportunity to directly support enterprise in Wales by providing tailored and focused upskilling and reskilling that attracts high caliber employees



Niche and specialist sectors. Identify specific units that specifically support the development of the workforce but also the organization. Higher National qualifications continually evolve enabling current and focused education and training of a workforce



Developing a talent pool. Employers can develop short, medium and long-term plans to develop their workforce in a way that provides clear academic progression routes, that support workforce retention

Funding via Personal Learning Account, self-funded or supported by employer.

Custom Designed Higher Nationals

Address skills gaps within specific sectors, or untapped needs in local or national vocational education

Work collaboratively to design and develop a curriculum to meet the specific needs of education and work in Wales

1

2

3

Development of nationally and internationally recognised qualifications

Diversification of the higher education portfolio

4

5

Provide employment/employer focused training solutions for employers and employees

Combines the commissioning party's and Pearson's **subject matter expertise** and Pearson's regulatory experience

6

7

8

Choice of frameworks, which includes the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF), regulated by Ofqual, or the Self-Regulated Framework (SRF), regulated by Pearson

Custom designed solutions = additional units, pathways or complete qualifications



Licensed Higher Nationals

Contact: Raman Gurnani

Licensed Higher Nationals
Partnerships Manager



What is the Licensed Higher Nationals offer?

Pearson Licensed HNs enable Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with awarding powers in the United Kingdom to offer:

- Higher National qualifications under licence and
- Use the Pearson trademark 'Higher National'



Types of License

Intellectual Property Licence (IP) enables HEIs to:

- use the entire content*of the Higher Nationals, to deliver and award as their own validated programmes
- save time and cost to create their own HNs
- retain the quality assurance, assessment, awarding and certification for the programmes under licence

** The content includes Title of the Award (excluding the use of 'BTEC' and 'Pearson'), Unit Title and Content, Learning Outcomes, Assessment Criteria and Rules of Combination*



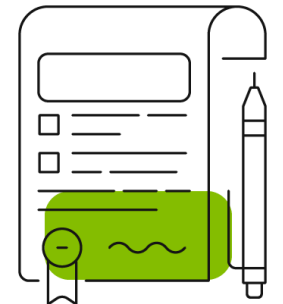
Types of License

Trademark Licence (TM) enable HEIs to:

- develop level 4 and level 5 programmes delivered under the Pearson Trademark “Higher Nationals”
- design, validate, quality assure and award their own Higher National Certificates/Diplomas

Under this licence, the **requirements** include:

- adherence to the Pearson Higher National Academic Regulations
- content mapped to the core content of existing BTEC Higher National programmes, if using a title (that is the) same or similar to existing BTEC HNs

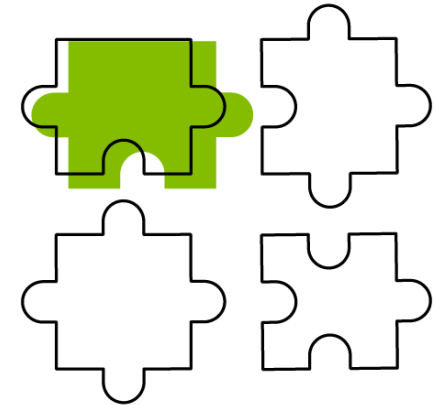


Support for HEIs

- ✓ Pre-approval meeting
- ✓ Approval Visit
- ✓ Regular catch-ups
- ✓ Quarterly newsletter
- ✓ Annual partner event
- ✓ Annual IRR Report

Useful links

- ✓ [Licensed HN webpage](#)
- ✓ [HN Flex](#)
- ✓ Contact us anytime via licenseHN@pearson.com



Contacts:

Your Subject Adviser

Evren Alibaba

Engineering



Email :

teachingengineering@pearson.com

Phone :

+44 (0) 344 463 2535

(Teaching Services team

Mon - Fri, 8am - 5pm GMT)

gabriel.staples@pearson.com BTEC & Apprenticeships

Sahithi.siva@pearson.com Higher Nationals

[Join the BTEC Nationals in Engineering 2016 group](#)

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[your subject advisor](#)



09

Q & A

