

BTEC Nationals Applied Science (AAQ)** – Extended Certificate – Pearson

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Course Description

The Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Applied Science is new for teaching from September 2025. Designed to complement A level programmes of study, these new qualifications are aimed at students who wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to future employment.

The theoretical topics cover aspects of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics, equivalent to some of the content of the A Level courses. Please note that students are **not** able to study this AAQ alongside a science A Level (Biology, Chemistry or Physics). This course is the equivalent of one A Level. It is graded Distinction* - Pass. Student's study 5 units, 3 of which are externally assessed. External assessment is worth 50% of the final grade. Each external assessment is 1 hour and worth 50 marks.

1. Principles and applications of biology (external assessment)
 - Structure and function of cells and tissues
 - Biological molecules
2. Principles and applications of chemistry (external assessment)
 - Structure of the Periodic Table and its implications on physical and chemical properties of substances, through analysis of different bonding methods.
3. Principles and applications of physics (external assessment)
 - Waves and their applications
 - Force principles and their application in transportation and construction of electrical circuits.
4. Practical scientific procedures and techniques (internal assessment)
 - includes chromatography, colorimetry and electrical circuits

Plus, one optional unit:

5. Scientific investigation skills (internal assessment)
6. Contemporary issues in science (internal assessment)

Assessment

Students are assessed through both external and internal assessment. External assessments are formal examinations with re-sit opportunities. Internal assessment is based on practical tasks carried out under controlled conditions.

Additional Entry Guidance

It is advisable that you achieve grade 4 or above in GCSE Science and grade 4 or above in GCSE English and Mathematics; however, this is not an essential requirement. You should also be keen to develop your practical skills, as there is a lot of practical work.