

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

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Course Description

The Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Medical 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. This course is the equivalent of 1 A Level. The theoretical topics cover aspects of human anatomy, physiology, health, disease and therapies. Please note that students are **not** able to study this AAQ alongside Biology A Level. Students study 4 units, 2 of which are externally assessed (worth 58%).

1. Principles of Human Physiology, Anatomy and Pathology

- Biological molecules
- Cells, transport and organisation
- Nervous and endocrine systems
- Musculoskeletal system
- Cardiovascular and respiratory systems

Renal and digestive systems

2. Health Issues and Scientific Reporting

- Diagnostic techniques
- Immune response
- Immune diseases
- Genetics and genetic conditions
- Cancer
- Interpretation, analysis and evaluation of scientific information

3. Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

- Classification of microorganisms
- Infectious disease
- Culturing and identifying microorganisms
- Effects of antimicrobial agents on growth

Plus one further internally assessed unit:

- Human Reproduction and Fertility
- Reproductive systems
- Role of hormones in reproduction
- Causes of infertility and treatments

Assessment

Students are assessed through both external and internal assessment. External assessments are formal examinations with re-sit opportunities. One 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.