

What are the fundamental concepts of Health and Social Care?

Through studying Health and Social Care, learners will gain knowledge and understanding of:

- How people grow and develop over the course of their lives from infancy to old age, and the factors that may affect development, such as diet, relationships, poverty or wealth.
- The impact of major life events like marriage or parenthood. Learners will analyse these impacts from a positive and negative viewpoint, demonstrating empathy. Learners will understand how people adapt to these changes and the support that is available to them.
- The range of local Health and Social Care Services, and how they may meet individual needs, as well as barriers that may make it harder to use these services.

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care (603/7047/6) is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge through vocational contexts by studying human lifespan development, health and social care services and values, and health and wellbeing as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate) allows students to engage in a broad investigation of various aspects of the health and social care sector. There are two mandatory examined units and one mandatory internally assessed unit. Students will select a further optional unit from the four available. The internally assessed units give students the opportunity to engage in applied knowledge and understanding tasks to develop their health and social care knowledge.

What topics do students study in each year?

Year 10	Year 11
Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development	Component 2 – Health and Social Care Services
	Component 3 – Health and Wellbeing

Year 12 (2 units from)	Year 13 (remaining 2 units from)
Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development	Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development
Unit 2 – Human Biology and Health	Unit 2 – Human Biology and Health
Unit 3 – Principles of Health and Social care Practice	Unit 3 – Principles of Health and Social care Practice
Unit 7 – Health Science (or other choices available)	Unit 7 – Health Science (or other choices available)

What key skills will the pupils develop over time?

Students will:

- Be given the opportunity to demonstrate, and apply, the key care values; such as dignity and respect for others, to real life scenarios
- Understand how to analyse and interpret lifestyle and physiological data, and be able to design appropriate health and well-being improvement plans.
- Develop skills that are essential for careers in both Health and Social Care and the wider employment market generally. These include verbal and written communication, team working, working from a prescribed brief, working to deadlines, presenting information effectively, as well as accurately completing administrative tasks and processes.

How are all pupils learning in Health and Social Care?

Pupils learn in many different ways, so in Health and Social Care lessons, the skills and attributes of all students can be further developed through a variety of tasks and activities. These include case studies to provide real-life examples for the students.

Learning materials in lessons vary according to the topic being covered. These are most often accessed on computers via a class Team.

Health and Social Care lessons have a very inclusive environment where all students are encouraged to have a voice by asking questions or expressing their own opinions due to the nature of the content covered. Students are inspired and changed by using case studies and scenarios that are relevant and relatable to their own lives and experiences. They successfully adapt this information to difficult or challenging life experiences, especially through mental, emotional, and behavioural flexibility that they either have encountered themselves or know someone who has.

Differentiated questioning is used frequently within lessons, especially to stretch the higher band pupils, alongside differentiated tasks and outcomes that suit the topic being studied. Students are always stretched to meet the higher aspects of the mark scheme. Where possible, students are provided with adaptive teaching methods such as scaffolded tasks and model examples to aid their understanding.

How are pupils assessed in Health and Social Care?

In Key Stage 4, all students are expected to complete the same tasks and have access to all classwork when completing tasks. Students are able to decide on the best way of presenting the information in a way that they are most comfortable with – this can be written, spoken or presented in a PowerPoint. Time is given for practice assessments to highlight strengths and weaknesses. Much of the preparation for final assessments is expected to be done as homework.

BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care is a Level 1 & 2 qualification.

Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* are the vocational equivalent to GCSE.

Students who do not meet the criteria for level 2 can be awarded level 1 pass, merit or distinction.

Components 1 and 2 are assessed via several coursework tasks which are carried out across the three years of study and assessed internally.

Component 3 assessment is a written paper taken under exam conditions which focusses on a case study. Currently students take this exam in the spring of year 11, and it is marked externally by BTEC.

- Component 1 – Human lifespan and development – Coursework
- Component 2 – Health and social care services and values – Coursework
- Component 3 – Health and wellbeing – assessed under examination conditions

In Key Stage 5, students are expected to complete assignments with far more independent research.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Health and Social Care aims to provide an introduction to the sector. The qualification supports access to a range of higher education courses possibly, but not exclusively, in Health and Social Care, if taken alongside further Level 3 qualifications. It builds on knowledge and skills developed across the Key Stage 4 Health and Social Care BTEC Tech Award, but is a standalone qualification which does not require prior study in this subject.

Year 12 BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Health and Social Care

There are two mandatory units, one internal and one external. Students must complete and achieve at Near Pass grade or above in the mandatory external unit and achieve a Pass or above in the mandatory internal unit.

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (External)

This unit will develop the students knowledge and understanding of patterns of human growth and development. Students will explore the key aspects of growth and development, and the experience of health and wellbeing. Students will learn about factors that can influence human growth, development and human health. Some of these are inherited and some are acquired through environmental, social or financial factors during our lifespan. The students will learn about a number of theories and models to explain and interpret behavior through the human lifespan. In this unit, you will explore the impact of both predictable and unpredictable life events, and recognise how they impact on individuals. Students will study the interaction between the physical and psychological factors of the ageing process, and how this affects confidence and self-esteem, which in turn may determine how individuals will view their remaining years. If you have already completed the BTEC Tech Award, this unit builds on prior knowledge gained to completing written report on different clients for Component 1.

Assessment: The unit will be assessed through one examination of 90 marks lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. Students will be assessed through a number of short- and long-answer questions. Students will need to explore and relate to contexts and data presented. The questions will assess understanding of growth and development through the human lifespan, the factors that affect growth and development and the effects of ageing. This exam will be sat in the May/June of Year 12 with the possibility of a re-sit in the January of Year 13 if required.

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (Internal)

This unit introduces students to the values and issues that need to be considered when planning care and support that meet the needs of an individual in a Health and Social Care environment.

Assessment: This unit will be internally assessed. Students will receive a number of case studies and must then produce a set of case notes to demonstrate an understanding of the diverse care and support needs for two individuals and how these can be met. If students have already completed the BTEC Tech Award, this unit builds on prior knowledge gained through Component 2 and role play scenarios.

Year 13 BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care

There are two further units, one internal (optional) and one external (mandatory). Students must complete and achieve at Near Pass grade or above in the mandatory external unit and achieve a Pass or above in the internal unit.

Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care (external)

In this unit, students explore what it is like to work in the Health and Social Care sector, including the roles and responsibilities of workers and organisations. This will include maintaining the safety, and safeguarding, of individuals with health and social care needs; making sure that personal information is properly handled and preventing discrimination. An understanding of how workers are accountable both to the service users and the regulatory bodies will also be developed. If students have already completed the BTEC Tech Award, this unit builds on prior knowledge gained through Component 2 and also on knowledge gained from Unit 5 coursework.

Assessment: This unit will be assessed through one examination of 80 marks lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. Students will be assessed through a number of short- and long-answer questions. The paper consists of four sections, and each section is based on a different short scenario briefly explaining the situation of a person with health and social care needs. Each scenario is relevant to a different service user group. Each section of the paper is structured with questions of 2, 4, 6 and 8 marks. This exam will be sat in January of Year 13 allowing the possibility of a re-sit in May/June of required.

A further unit, internally assessed, will also be covered; but this will vary from year to year, depending on the interest of the students.

The choice is one unit from the following four: Sociological Perspectives, Psychological Perspectives, Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs or Physiological Disorders and their Care

Assessment: Assessment will vary depending on the unit chosen, but will mainly consist of students receiving a number of case studies and must then produce a set of case notes to demonstrate an understanding of the topics covered.

If assessments indicate working below expected progress in relation to school target grades, students are invited to attend intervention sessions both at lunch time and after school.

How can pupils progress in Health and Social Care?

Students can access this programme of study in Key Stage 5 without having studied it at Key Stage 4 – however it is obviously advantageous to have some background knowledge – this may come from having siblings/parents involved in the Health and Social Care profession.

Key Stage 5 Qualifications

At Key Stage 5, students can pursue various qualifications in Health and Social Care

New BTEC AAQ

The new BTEC AAQ (Applied Academic Qualification) in Health and Social Care offers a broad basis of study for the sector. It combines both internally assessed units (coursework) and externally assessed units (examinations) over two years. This qualification is designed to stretch students and provide them with a varied insight into the world of health and social care, emphasizing the importance of thoughtful interaction with vulnerable individuals

The AAQ, when combined with A Levels, offers an excellent route to university for degrees in nursing, midwifery, primary education, social work, and other areas involving public interaction. This qualification aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for higher education and careers in the fast-evolving health and social care sector.

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate and Diploma. These courses are equivalent to A Levels and cover a range of topics, including:

- **Building Positive Relationships in Health and Social Care**
- **Equality, Diversity, and Rights in Health and Social Care**
- **Health, Safety, and Security in Health and Social Care**

- **Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care**
- **Nutrition for Health**
- **Sexual Health, Reproduction, and Early Development Stages**

Assessment is a mix of externally set exams and internally assessed coursework. These qualifications help students develop practical skills and knowledge for careers in health, social care, and childcare

T Levels

T Levels are new, two-year courses designed to provide a mix of classroom learning and on-the-job experience. The Health T Level includes:

- **Core Knowledge and Skills:** Principles of good scientific and clinical practice, core science concepts, and understanding the healthcare sector.
- **Specialisms:** Students can choose to specialize in areas such as supporting health and wellbeing, providing person-centred care, and understanding diseases and disorders.

T Levels also include a minimum of 9 weeks of industry placement, giving students practical experience in real-world settings. These qualifications prepare students for roles such as healthcare assistant, care worker, and dental nurse, or for further study and higher-level apprenticeships

These pathways offer excellent opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in health and social care.

There are numerous career opportunities in the health and social care sector, catering to a wide range of skills and interests. Here are some key roles:

1. **Nurse:** Nurses care for, observe, treat, and promote the health of their patients. They work in various settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community health centres
2. **Care Worker:** Care workers assist individuals who are mentally or physically limited in their daily activities, such as washing, dressing, and feeding
3. **Healthcare Assistant (HCA):** HCAs support doctors and nurses by taking patient observations, assisting with mobility, and helping with personal hygiene.
4. **Social Worker:** Social workers help individuals manage life's challenges by providing emotional support and connecting them to community resources. They can specialize in areas like child and family services, adult care, or mental health
5. **Physiotherapist:** Physiotherapists help patients regain mobility and manage pain through physical therapy and rehabilitation exercises
6. **Occupational Therapist:** Occupational therapists assist people in performing daily activities and improving their quality of life, especially after illness or injury

7. **Radiographer:** Radiographers capture images to diagnose illnesses and work closely with doctors to provide accurate diagnoses
8. **Community Development Officer:** These professionals work within communities to tackle social, cultural, and economic disadvantages, empowering households to improve their lives
9. **Medical Secretary:** Medical secretaries handle administrative tasks for healthcare providers, such as scheduling appointments, managing patient records, and typing medical reports

How can pupils enrich their knowledge and understanding in Health and Social Care?

There are a multitude of documentaries on specific parts of the course and the news is often full of relevant information and stories related to Health and Social Care – sadly often highlighting when things go wrong and become major headlines. Students can also secure Work Experience Placements in the NHS, with childcare providers, or with care agencies.