

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (VOCATIONAL)

Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate). This is a two-year vocational course starting in Y12 comprising of an extended certificate qualification and is equivalent to one A-Level. Universities will accept the qualification for a wide range of degree courses, and it accrues UCAS points.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

This new Health and Social Care course offers an exciting and future-focused pathway for students who are passionate about people, wellbeing, and making a real difference. It is designed to support progression to higher education and graduate-level employment in health, social care, or related sectors. Through a balance of externally examined and internally assessed units, students will gain both theoretical knowledge and practical understanding of key areas such as human development across the lifespan, the biological foundations of health and illness, health promotion, and person-centred care practices.

The course goes beyond textbooks—students will explore real-world scenarios, case studies, and current health policies to understand the vital role professionals play in shaping lives.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

Assessment	Overview	Marks
1:20	1: Human lifespan and development - external	80
1:20	2: Human biology and health - external	80
90hrs	3: Principles of health and social care practice - internal	P/M/D
90hrs	5: Promoting health education - internal	P/M/D

Unit 1 covers human growth, development, and wellbeing across life stages, plus body functions. Unit 2 explores body systems and care ethics. Unit 3 focuses on communication, safeguarding, person-centred care, and health promotion, including planning and evaluating health education initiatives. In unit 5 you will design effective health promotion campaigns.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I LEARN?

This Level 3 course provides transferable knowledge and skills that prepare learners for progression to university. The transferable skills that universities value include:

- The ability to learn independently

- The ability to research actively and methodically
- Being able to give presentations and being active group members.

Learners can also benefit from opportunities for deep learning where they are able to make connections between units and select areas of interest for detailed study. They also provide a vocational context in which learners can develop the knowledge and skills required for high education including:

- Reading technical texts
- Effective writing
- Analytical skills
- Preparation for assessment methods used in degrees.

This qualification also provides employability skills such as cognitive and problem solving skills including: critical thinking, applying expert and creative solutions, and using systems and technology. Learners gain intrapersonal skills through communicating, working collaboratively and interpersonal skills including: self-management, adaptability and resilience.

CAREERS/FURTHER EDUCATION

This course is suitable for careers in the health and social care sector such as: nursing, midwifery, occupational health, physiotherapy, social care and psychology. It is also suitable for careers in teaching, educational studies and sports science. Many universities list Level 3 BTECs as part of the application criteria.

PREVIOUS GRADES

Exam Board: Pearson

	D*	D	M	P	U	X	Totals
2023	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
2024	4	1	2	2	0	0	9
2025	2	8	3	1	0	0	14

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 GCSE grades 4-9 including Mathematics and English Language
- Grade 4 in Biology/Chemistry/Physics or 4-4 in Combined Science

QUOTE

"An excellent introduction to the health and social care sector and relevant to so many professions."