

BTEC National Extended Certificate in Information Technology

(Equivalent to one A Level)

Course Description:

This qualification is designed for students who are interested in an introduction into the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. A Grade 4 in English Language and Maths preferred and an interest in IT.

Aims of the Course:

The objective of this qualification is to give you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills in IT systems, systems management and social media in business as well as data modelling and website development. This will enable you to progress to further study in the IT sector or other sectors.

Future Prospects:

You can progress on to a variety of degrees when combined with other suitable Level 3 qualifications. For example, the qualification supports entry to courses in ICT, Business, Software Development, Accounting and Finance, Computer Art, Software Development for Animation, etc. The qualification also enables students to develop knowledge and skills needed for entry-level roles related to IT, including vocational apprenticeship roles and trainee/entry-level roles such as a social media specialist, web/content developer, or business analyst.

Student Feedback:

"This is a course that complements other areas of study."

"I think having an IT qualification is vital in the world we live in nowadays."

Features of the Course:

Learners will study three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Information Technology Systems
- Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business

And a choice of optional units, including:

- Unit 5: Data Modelling
- Unit 6: Website Development

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Synoptic Unit

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems

Information Technology (IT) systems have a significant role in the world around us and play a part in almost everything we do. Having a sound understanding of how to select and use appropriate IT systems effectively, is of great benefit personally and professionally. You will explore the relationships between the hardware and software that form an IT system, the way systems work individually and together as well as the relationship between the user and the system. You will examine issues related to the use of IT systems and the impact that these have on organisations and individuals. In this unit you will draw on your learning from across your programme to complete assessment tasks.

This unit will give you a fundamental and synoptic understanding of all areas of IT.

Essential content:

Digital devices in IT systems (eg emerging technologies)

Transmitting data (eg connectivity, networks)

Online systems (eg online communities)

Protecting data

Impact of IT systems (eg online services, using and manipulating data)

Issues (eg legal, moral and ethical)

Other Mandatory Units

Unit 2: Creating systems to manage information

Learners study the design, creation, testing and evaluation of a relational database system to manage information. You will examine a given scenario and develop an effective design solution to produce a database system.

Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business

In this unit you will:

Explore the impact of social media on the ways in which businesses promote their products and services

Develop a plan to use social media in a business to meet requirements

Implement the use of social media in a business

Optional Units

Unit 5: Data Modelling

In this unit you will:

Investigate data modelling and how it can be used in the decision-making process

Design a data model to meet client requirements

Develop a data model to meet client requirements

Unit 6: Website Development

In this unit you will:

Understand the principles of website development

Design a website to meet client requirements

Develop a website to meet client requirements

Methods of Assessment:

Unit 1: This unit is externally assessed by a 2-hour written examination.

Unit 2: This unit is externally assessed by a set task. The set task will be completed under supervised conditions for 5 hours over 2 days.

Units 3, 5 and 6: These units are internally assessed through set tasks and coursework and moderated externally.