

BTEC L3 IT (AAQ) Extended Certificate



➤ Introduction

This qualification is equivalent to one A-Level, providing a solid foundation in IT. It's a vocational qualification, meaning it focuses on real-world applications and practical skills that are highly valued by employers and universities alike.

Unlike traditional exams, a significant portion of your assessment will involve completing practical assignments, projects, and coursework, allowing you to demonstrate your abilities in a hands-on way.

➤ What will I learn?

Information Technology Systems: You'll gain a deep understanding of the fundamental components of IT systems, including the intricate relationship between hardware (like processors, memory, and storage) and software (operating systems, applications).

Cyber Security and Incident Management: In an increasingly connected world, cyber security is paramount. This unit will teach you about the common types of cyber security attacks (e.g., phishing, malware, DDoS), the vulnerabilities that exist in networked systems, and how to identify and mitigate risks. You'll also learn the crucial steps involved in planning for and responding to security incidents, understanding the procedures for incident detection, recovery, and post-incident analysis.

Website Development: This unit focuses on the practical skills of designing and creating interactive websites. You'll delve into the development tools, techniques, and processes used in modern web development. You'll learn about fundamental web languages like HTML for structure, CSS for styling, and potentially JavaScript for interactivity.

Relational Database Development: You'll gain practical experience in developing relational database solutions, including understanding concepts like tables, relationships, and normalisation. You'll also learn how to use Database Management Systems (DBMS) and write queries to effectively manage, retrieve, and manipulate data, which is essential for informed decision-making.

➤ How will I be assessed?

Component	Type	Duration
Unit 1: Information Technology Systems	Exam	2hrs
Unit 2: Cyber Security and Incident Management	Exam	1hr 30mins
Unit 3: Website Development	NEA - Internally Assessed	
Unit 4: Relational Database Development	NEA - Internally Assessed	

➤ Opportunities

Focus on Applied IT: This BTEC directly focuses on practical, vocational IT skills. This means students are already building a relevant skillset for university IT courses (e.g., Cyber Security, Web Development, Network Engineering) or entry-level IT roles.

Specialised UCAS Points: The qualification's UCAS points are specifically recognised by universities for IT-related degree programs, giving students a clear pathway into these fields without needing a broader mix of subjects.

➤ Other subjects?

There are several combinations that work well. There is BTEC Business and A Level Maths; Also Media Studies, Physics, BTEC Science and Economics.

➤ Future Careers

This course will lead you to seek careers in web development, technical support, database development, cybersecurity expert or IT Security roles.

➤ Course Information

Course Code - 601/7575/8

Examination Board - Pearson Edexcel