Year 9 Options Curriculum

2025—2027

BTEC Level 1/2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science

Course Overview

The BTEC Level 1/2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science

can help you embark on a career in a Science related area. The subject can be the beginning of the journey to your career in science, such as becoming an environmental scientist, a food scientist, forensic scientist and a range of medical fields.

The Award offers a basic introduction to the applied science sector. On this course you'll be learning about a wide selection of topics including the study of living organisms, making useful scientific investigations, practical actions to protect the environment, healthy living and science in the world, to name a few.

Assessment

You will be assessed through a range of methods such as in-class assignments, practical tasks and externally assessed investigations. This course does not have an exam element to it and coursework is graded with a Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

Progression

On completion of this course learners can progress to an Extended Certificate in Applied Science or utilise this qualification to support an application for another further education course.

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The Level 1/2 Award requires 4 mandatory units, 3 of which are internally assessed and 1 externally assessed.

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science			
Unit	**Mandatory units**	**Assessment method**	**GLH**
1	Principles of Science	External	30
2	Chemistry and Our Earth	Internal	30
3	Energy and Our Universe	Internal	30
4	Biology and Our Environment	Internal	30

Unit 1: Principles of Science In this unit you will:

A explore cells, organs and genes

B explore the roles of the nervous and endocrine systems in homeostasis and communication

C explore atomic structure and the periodic table

D explore substances and chemical reactions

E explore the importance of energy stores, energy transfers and energy transformations

F explore the properties and applications of waves in the electromagnetic spectrum.

Unit 2: Chemistry and Our Earth In this unit you will:

A investigate chemical reactivity and bonding

B investigate how the uses of chemical substances depend on their chemical and physical properties

C investigate the factors involved in the rate of chemical reactions

D understand the factors that are affecting the Earth and its environment.

Unit 3: Energy and Our Universe In this unit you will:

A understand ionising radiation, its uses and sources

B know how electrical energy produced from different sources can be transferred to homes and industry

C know the components of the Solar System, the way the Universe is changing and the methods we use to explore space.

Unit 4: Biology and Our Environment In this unit you will:

A investigate the relationships that different organisms have with each other and with their environment

B demonstrate an understanding of the effects of human activity on the environment and how these effects can be measured C explore the factors that affect human health.