

BTEC Construction

Frequently Asked Questions

What units are studied and can any construction skill be chosen?

There are 4 units: Unit 1 is the written exam, Units 2 and 3 are compulsory and cannot be changed. The final unit is the optional unit and we deliver Carpentry & Joinery (Unit 5). This is due to constraints on facilities, tools and staffing. Unfortunately we cannot offer other units as every student has to study the same. This unit will give them some practical experience as well as developing skills such as accuracy, safely working with equipment and hand-eye co-ordination.

Is there a substantial amount of practical within the course?

No, not as much as we would like. Only one unit of the four studied has practical and the grading of this unit is not solely on the practical element. The focus of this unit is Carpentry and Joinery (Unit 5); the students will develop a skill set using tools and equipment associated with this area. They will also need to understand Health & Safety, including risk assessments. The students will also have to deliver an oral presentation for the conclusion of this unit.

Do I need to buy any extra resources or equipment?

No, the only thing we ask all students to have is an A4 ring binder with a set of subject dividers. Good quality drawing pencils and equipment are beneficial to allow the students to produce good quality drawings.

Would work experience within the construction industry be beneficial?

Absolutely, in fact it is highly recommended that students try to gain some on-site experience. We do have strong links with the Sherford Training Centre and, all being well, visits and training may be set up. The more exposure a student has with any form of construction project, no matter how small, the better their understanding will be.



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Which course should my son\daughter choose to take from BTEC Construction and GCSE Design & Technology?

This depends on what direction the students want to go in, what career aspirations they have and where their strongest skills lie. Both are very different courses, the main way to decide is to consider career pathway. If a student really wants to pursue a career in the construction industry, no matter the job role, then the BTEC course is most suitable. The BTEC focuses on the designing and construction of low rise buildings such as residential homes, retail parks and leisure facilities. This is the sole focus of the course and will develop an understanding of how buildings are built from the foundations to the roof, carefully considering site and client constraints. The course also involves the application of science and maths to construction, which is one of the units. The course is not a heavily based practical course and an important point to consider.

Can both the BTEC Construction and GCSE Design & Technology be studied together?

The two courses are very different but do complement each other. The GCSE course covers all material areas as well as developing designing and making skills. It focuses on the design and production of everyday products, whereas the BTEC course purely focuses on the materials, design and construction of low rise buildings. The two courses can be studied together but the main thing to consider is the fact that both courses contain a heavy element of assignment based work, some of which may need to be completed outside of lessons.

