

DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BTEC (Level 1/Level 2)

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is for learners who wish to develop their knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts rather than by reading textbooks.

What does the course cover?

The Award gives you the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a project-based assessment style, including:

- Developing key skills that prove your aptitude in Digital Information Technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data;
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working, such as project planning, the iterative and waterfall design processes, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct;
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the IT sector, such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.



The Award complements learning in GCSE programmes, such as the GCSE in Computer Science, by broadening experience and skills participation in different type of activities.

Components
1. Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
2. Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data
3. Effective Digital Working Practices

How is the course assessed?

One externally assessed examined component (Component 3) and two portfolio units. Grades available range from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction*. Candidates must achieve all components at Level 1 Pass or above, in order to be awarded a qualification. The overall grade is a direct aggregation of performance across individual components, but we take the exam in January of your Year 11 so you can retake it in the May if you need to improve your grade. Of course, if you hit the grade you need in January, you have just taken a lot of pressure from the summer!

What's the difference between Computer Science and IT?

IT and Computer Science are two distinct subjects, with different aims and objectives. You need to decide whether you want to be better at the technical elements of computer function and control – and that's a Computer Science course, or better at using the computers to achieve a specific design or communication task, in which case this is the course for you.

Do I need a computer at home?

No – but you will need to be prepared to put in an equal amount of time outside lessons as in class to make sure you understand the work and can apply it in your portfolio. The Assignments can feel like a hard slog, to be honest, but when you see what you've achieved that feels pretty cool! Coursework notes are kept in your own exercise book and on your network drive so you can refer to your experiences throughout your studies to help you learn what you need for the written exam.

Can I go on to A Level?

Yes – this course leads directly to the BTEC IT.

Want to know more? Contact Ms England in ICT