BTEC Applied Science at

Pearson
BTEC Level 3 National
Extended Certificate in
Applied Science

Credit: Monty Rakusen/Science Photo Library

About the Course:

The BTEC course followed at Tadcaster Grammar School is the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science. It is broadly equivalent to 1 A level. It will provide UCAS points in line with those for A levels for those wishing to do a University course. Alternatively it is well recognised by employers as a valuable and useful qualification suitable for entry into apprenticeships etc.

The course is graded using Pass/ Merit/ Distinction/ Distinction*

Pass equivalent to	A level grade E
Merit equivalent to	A level grade C
Distinction equivalent to	A level grade A
Distinction* equivalent to	A level grade A*

The Teaching Team:

Dr Burgess (BTEC Science Curriculum lead)
Mr Punt
Mrs Fullerton
Mr Betts
Mr Gomersal

Assessment Schedule:
Year 12-

You will have one unit (25%) of the course which will be assessed by three short exams – each exam is 40 minutes long. The exams will be the beginning of June. We will carry out practice/mock tests throughout the year as you complete units.

The other 25% of your work will be based on internally assessed coursework. We will provide continuous feedback and assessment throughout the year.

Year 13-

You will complete one unit (33%) of the course will be assessed by a practical exam followed by a written theory exam. The exams will be in May/June.

The other 17% of your work will be based on internally assessed coursework.

Mock Dates:

Yet to be confirmed

Year 12 Course Content:

Year 12 Unit 1 – Principles and Applications of Science I
These are the topics that will be in the end of year 12 exam

A Periodicity and properties of elements
B Structure and functions of cells and tissues
C Waves in communication

Year 12 Unit 2 – Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
These topics will be covered in the coursework

A Undertake titration and colorimetry to determine the concentration of solutions
B Undertake calorimetry to study cooling curves
C Undertake chromatographic techniques to identify components in mixtures
D Review personal development of scientific skills for laboratory work.

Year 13 Course Content:

Year 13 Topics

Unit 3 - Science Investigation Skills (externally assessed)

A Planning a scientific investigation
B Data collection, processing and analysis/interpretation
C Drawing conclusions and evaluation
D Enzymes in action
E Diffusion of molecules
F Plants and their environment
G Energy content of fuels
H Electrical circuits

There will be one final internally assessed coursework unit.
It will probably be Diseases and Infection, though there may be some flexibility depending on student preference.

Essential Hints & Tips for Success:

With good learning activities the understanding of the concepts covered in BTEC Applied Science is quite achievable, however the jump in difficulty from GCSE is large and it is normal even for GCSE students with high grades to find BTEC difficult. This means that you will very likely get much lower grades in the first assessments than you are used to achieving.

The best ways to overcome this are as follows:

For the examined content, make sure that you know what the topics are that you will need to be examined on. Keep your own TIDY notes. REVISE FOR MOCKS AND END OF TOPIC TESTS not just the final exam.

For the coursework content, COMPLETE YOUR WORK ON TIME. There are very strict rules on grading of coursework. You are only allowed ONE chance to re-submit your work, with limited feedback from your teacher.

NEVER share your work with others. This is plagiarism and exam boards may ban students who copy from getting their certificate.

THE BIGGEST MISTAKE THAT SOME STUDENTS MAKE IS NOT STARTING TO FOLLOW THE ADVICE GIVEN ABOVE FROM THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER IN YEAR 12.

Further Reading/Study Support:

VLE
Course Textbook
Various published revision guides

Exam Board and Information:

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science

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