

Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate)

The Pearson Level 3 BTEC National Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) in Applied Science (Extended Certificate) is a new qualification, first taught from September 2025. It is designed for students interested in science-related careers and higher education pathways, combining theory with practical applications. The qualification is equivalent in size to one A-Level.

The qualification consists of four mandatory units and one optional unit, assessed through a combination of external exams and internally assessed assignments.

Mandatory Units:

1. Principles and Applications of Biology
2. Principles and Applications of Chemistry
3. Principles and Applications of Physics
4. Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

Optional Unit (choose one):

- Scientific Investigation Skills

Assessment:

- External units: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics are typically assessed via written exams.
- Internal units: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques (coursework-based). Optional unit Scientific Investigation Skills is also assessed through coursework, including data handling and evaluation tasks.

Skills Developed:

- Application of scientific principles across biology, chemistry, and physics.
- Laboratory and practical techniques (chromatography, colorimetry, circuits, data analysis, safety).
- Research and investigative skills, including designing experiments and analysing results.
- Transferable skills: problem-solving, communication, critical thinking, and independent learning.

Career Pathways:

This qualification provides progression to higher education courses such as Biomedical Science, Forensic Science, and Environmental Science. It also prepares learners for apprenticeships and employment in roles such as laboratory technician or scientific assistant.

Who Is It For?

Students who want to pursue careers in science or progress to higher education. The course is suitable for those who enjoy practical science alongside academic study.