



Nobel Algarve
BRITISH
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

BTEC Options Booklet 2026/27







Introduction

Dear Students,

Congratulations on reaching an important stage in your academic journey: selecting your options for post-16 study. Joining the Sixth Form at Nobel Algarve British International School is an exciting opportunity to focus your studies on the subjects that will shape your future. Your choices now can influence your university options, career paths, and personal development, so it's essential to approach this decision thoughtfully.

Striking the Right Balance

A well-chosen combination of A-Level and Btec subjects is the key to keeping your options open while aligning with your aspirations. A broad subject base ensures that you develop a broad skill set and meet the requirements for a range of university courses or career paths. Avoid narrowing your focus too much unless you're absolutely certain about your future direction.

Play to Your Strengths

Choose subjects where you are most likely to achieve strong grades. These are typically the subjects you enjoy and excel in. All post-16 studies are challenging and require dedication, so selecting subjects you're passionate about will help you stay motivated and perform at your best. Avoid choosing a subject just because your friends are taking it - this is your journey, and your decisions should reflect your strengths and goals.

Seek Advice and Support

Don't make these decisions alone. Discuss your options with your parents, teachers, and peers. Your parents can provide insight into your long-term goals and interests, while your teachers can help you understand your strengths and the demands of each subject. Talking with friends can

also provide helpful perspectives, but remember to focus on what's right for you. You will find lots of help from our post-16 Careers Coordinators, Mr Green, so be sure to make a booking with him.

Consider Your Career and University Aspirations

Your post-16 choices should align with your future plans. Take some time to explore potential career paths and identify which subjects will support those goals. If you're considering university, research entrance requirements for the courses and the institutions you're interested in. Many universities have specific subject pre-requisites, so it's crucial to ensure your choices meet these criteria. Throughout your Sixth Form journey at Nobel, we provide tailored support to help you shape your future, with structured form time workshops and personalised one-to-one guidance for career planning and university applications.

Plan for Success

This is an opportunity to shape your future and take a step closer to achieving your dreams. Take your time, explore your options, and be sure to dream big! Together we will get this right and you will be making choices that set you on a path to success. We're here to support you every step of the way and wish you the very best as you prepare to join our Sixth Form Community.

Ian Walker
Head of School



Introduction to BTEC Qualifications in the Sixth Form in Nobel Algarve Lagoa

From this academic year, our Sixth Form is proud to introduce BTEC International Level 3 qualifications as part of our post-16 curriculum. These programmes provide a high-quality vocational pathway alongside traditional academic courses, offering students an alternative route that combines applied learning with strong academic expectations.

We offer the BTEC International Level 3 Diploma in Travel and Tourism, equivalent to two A-Levels, and the BTEC International Level 3 Extended Diploma, equivalent to three A-Levels, in Sport, Business, and Management. These qualifications carry UCAS tariff points and are widely recognised by universities and employers in the UK and internationally.

BTEC courses are designed for students who learn best through practical, hands-on approaches. Assessment is primarily coursework-based and includes projects, case studies, presentations, and collaborative tasks that reflect real-world contexts. Throughout their studies, students develop essential transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, independent research, and effective time management.

Our BTEC qualifications are taught by experienced staff who are committed to maintaining high standards and providing strong academic and pastoral support. Students will benefit from structured guidance, clear assessment criteria, and regular feedback to help them achieve their full potential.

Most UK universities recognise BTEC Level 3 qualifications as equivalent to A-Levels for entry into undergraduate degree programmes. As with all qualifications, some international universities and highly competitive courses may have additional entry requirements. Students and parents are therefore encouraged to research individual university criteria carefully and to seek guidance from our Sixth Form team when planning future pathways.

BTEC qualifications offer an excellent foundation for progression into higher education, apprenticeships, or employment. With their emphasis on applied learning and skill development, they provide a respected and valuable option for students seeking a practical and career-focused pathway within our Sixth Form.

We're here to support you every step of the way and wish you the very best as you prepare to join our Sixth Form community.

David Green

KS5 Co-ordinator & University Admissions



BTEC Grading Scale

Each unit within the BTEC is individually graded as: **Pass (P)**; **Merit (M)**; **Distinction (D)**

The overall qualification is then awarded as one of the following:

BTEC Grade	UCAS Tariff Points
DDD*	168
DDD	160
D*DD	152
DDD	144
DDM	128
DMM	112
MMM	96
MMP	80
MPP	64
PPP	48

Note: D* (Distinction Star) is awarded for outstanding performance in most or all units.

How Is the Final BTEC Grade Calculated?

Each unit contributes a number of points depending on:

1. The **grade** received (P/M/D)
2. The **size** of the unit (number of GLH)

The **total points** across all units determine the final qualification grade. Pearson uses a **points-based system** that maps to the final grades shown above.



Eligibility for Acceptance and Entry Requirements

We recognise that students come from a wide range of educational backgrounds and may have followed different curricula during their secondary education. For this reason, each application is considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account individual strengths, subject interests, prior learning experiences, and potential to succeed.

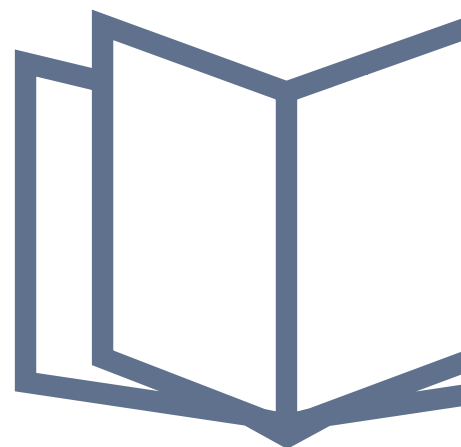
When assessing eligibility, we may consider:

- **A student's overall academic profile and progress**
- **Motivation, commitment, and suitability for a vocational learning pathway**

The **total points** across all units determine the final qualification grade. Pearson uses a **points-based system** that maps to the final grades shown above.

This inclusive approach allows us to ensure that students who are well suited to the applied, coursework-based nature of BTEC programmes are given appropriate consideration, even if their academic pathway does not follow a traditional IGCSE route.

Final decisions regarding acceptance onto a BTEC programme are made in consultation with the Sixth Form team, with the aim of placing students on the pathway that best supports their strengths, aspirations, and long-term progression.





BTEC Options

Sports

Pearson BTEC
International
Level 3 Extended
Diploma
Sport, Business
and Management
(Equivalent to 3
A-Levels)



Tourism

Pearson BTEC
International Level
3 Diploma
Travel and Tourism
(Equivalent to 2
A-Levels)





Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Extended Diploma Sport, Business and Management (Equivalent to 3 A-Levels)

The Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport, Business and Management is a vocational qualification designed for students who are interested in understanding how sport and business operate within real-world and professional contexts. Equivalent to three A-Levels, this course provides a strong foundation for progression to higher education, apprenticeships, or employment.

The course combines academic understanding with practical application, allowing students to explore key principles of sport, business, and management through applied learning. Assessment is primarily coursework-based, supporting students in developing independence, organisation, and professional skills alongside subject knowledge.

This qualification is particularly well suited to students who thrive in a structured, project-based learning environment and who are interested in leadership, enterprise, and the commercial aspects of sport and business.

Key Points

- **Equivalent to 3 A-Levels**
Carries UCAS tariff points and is widely recognised by universities and employers in the UK and other international institutions.
- **Coursework-Based Assessment**
Assessment is mainly through assignments, projects, case studies, presentations, and reports rather than final examinations.
- **Applied, Real-World Learning**
Learning is rooted in practical scenarios that reflect current industry practice.
- **Development of Transferable Skills**
Students develop communication, teamwork, problem-solving, research, leadership, and time management skills.
- **Ideal for Practical Learners**
Particularly suited to students who prefer continuous assessment and applied learning.



Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Extended Diploma Sport, Business and Management (Equivalent to 3 A-Levels)

Course Content and Modules

Students study a range of units that explore the relationship between sport, business, and management. Modules may include:

- **Principles of sport and business**
- **Marketing and promotion**
- **Leadership and management in organisations**
- **Finance and economics**
- **Event and project management**
- **Human resources and people management**
- **Entrepreneurship and enterprise**
- **Professional skills and personal development**

Progression and Careers

This qualification supports progression into a variety of post-18 pathways, including:

Higher Education

- Sport management
- Business and management
- Marketing and entrepreneurship
- Events management
- Sports science-related pathways
(depending on university requirements)

Careers and Apprenticeships

- Sports administration and management
- Business development and operations
- Marketing and communications
- Event coordination
- Leadership and management roles within sport or business organisations

Please note:

Specific units may vary depending on cohort needs and course development. All content is delivered in line with Pearson BTEC International specifications, ensuring academic rigour and recognised progression routes.



Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Diploma Travel and Tourism (Equivalent to 2 A-Levels)

The Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Diploma in Travel and Tourism is a vocational qualification designed for students who are interested in the global travel, tourism, and hospitality industry. Equivalent to two A-Levels, this course provides a strong foundation for progression to higher education, apprenticeships, or employment.

The course combines academic understanding with practical, industry-focused learning, enabling students to explore how the travel and tourism sector operates at local, national, and international levels. Assessment is primarily coursework-based, supporting the development of independence, organisation, and professional skills.

This qualification is particularly well suited to students who enjoy applied learning, independent research, and project-based work within a global and customer-focused industry.

Key Points

- **Equivalent to 2 A-Levels**
Carries UCAS tariff points and is widely recognised by universities and employers in the UK and internationally.
- **Coursework-Based Assessment**
Assessment is mainly through assignments, projects, reports, case studies, and presentations rather than final examinations.
- **Industry-Focused Learning**
Content reflects real-world practices within the travel and tourism sector.
- **Development of Transferable Skills**
Students develop communication, teamwork, research, organisation, problem-solving, and time management skills.
- **Ideal for Practical Learners**
Particularly suited to students who prefer continuous assessment and applied learning.



Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Diploma Travel and Tourism (Equivalent to 2 A-Levels)

Course Content and Modules

Students study a range of units that explore the key areas of the travel and tourism industry. Modules may include:

- The travel and tourism industry
- Worldwide travel and tourism destinations
- Customer service in travel and tourism
- Marketing for travel and tourism
- Sustainable and responsible tourism
- Tour operations and visitor experience
- Professional skills and personal development

Progression and Careers

This qualification supports progression into a variety of post-18 pathways, including:

Higher Education

- Tourism management
- Hospitality and hotel management
- Events management
- International business
- Geography and related degrees

Careers and Apprenticeships

- Travel consultancy and tour operations
- Airline, airport, and aviation services
- Hospitality and hotel management
- Events and visitor services
- Customer service and tourism operations

Please note:

Specific units may vary depending on cohort needs and course development. All content is delivered in line with Pearson BTEC International specifications, ensuring academic rigour and recognised progression routes.



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Shaping the world

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