



PARENTAL GUIDE TO  
OCR, BTEC, and  
OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

## **Parents Guide to OCR, BTECs and Other Qualifications**

### **What types of qualifications are offered at NRA ?**

As well as GCSE, A/S and A2 qualifications the Academy offers a range of other qualifications in order to offer the most appropriate style of learning for each student.

BTEC qualifications provided by Edexcel are the most widely used, but the Academy also offers OCR National, NCFE and NOCN courses. Whilst the exact structure of these differ in some ways, the general approach is consistent. They are more practical courses directly related to the world of work, but including the subject theory that lies behind work practices. As such they support students whether they are planning to seek employment at 16 or 18, or are looking to further or higher education.

### **How are students assessed ?**

Students complete these courses by tackling a number of varied tasks. This allows them to demonstrate their skill and knowledge in practical situations. Answers to tasks may be in written form, but it's just as likely they will be in other forms such as film clips, project proposals, business plans and structured databases. Students are always given clear guidelines so they know what they have to achieve and how to do this. Their work is marked by the teacher and moderated by the examination board. There is no final exam. Whilst some students thrive on the pressure of exams, others often fail to achieve their potential due to worries or nerves. In these courses progress is measured throughout the course, allowing students to gauge their own performance on a continuing basis, just like in a real workplace. As a result, some students are more engaged and motivated, as they can see the progress they've made through the course rather than waiting until the end to sit an exam.

## **Which course are offered at NRA ?**

### **(a) At Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11) :**

BTEC Extended Diploma in Art  
BTEC Extended Certificate in Construction  
BTEC Extended Diploma in Dance  
BTEC Extended Diploma in Hairdressing Services

BTEC Extended Diploma in Media  
BTEC Extended Diploma in Music  
BTEC Extended Diploma in Performing Arts  
BTEC Level 2 Certificate in WorkSkills  
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Animation  
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Developing Enterprise Skills  
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity  
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Music Technology  
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Photography  
NOCN Award in Leading Learning in Literacy  
OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Business  
OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT  
OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT  
OCR Level 2 National First Certificate in ICT  
OCR Level 2 National Certificate in ICT  
OCR Level 2 National Award in Science  
OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Science

### **(b) At Key Stage 5 (Years 12-13)**

BTEC Extended Certificate in Media  
BTEC Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism  
BTEC Extended Certificate in Public Services  
OCR Level 2 National Award in Business

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Art  
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Business  
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Dance  
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Media  
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Music  
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Personal and Business Finance  
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Science  
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Sport  
BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Media  
BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Performing Arts  
BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Science  
OCR Level 3 National Certificate in ICT

## What are these courses worth ?

KS4 and KS5 courses are given a points value. The table below gives a very simple breakdown of the points equivalence of each of these points in comparison to GCSE or A'level. **The Government is currently reviewing the points value of all courses.**

Type of course	Equivalent to :
BTEC Extended Certificate	Two GCSEs at A*-C level
BTEC Extended Diploma	Four GCSEs at A*-C level
BTEC Level 2 Certificate in WorkSkills	One GCSE at B grade
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Animation	Two GCSEs at B grade
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Developing Enterprise Skills	One GCSE at B grade
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity	One GCSE at B grade
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Music Technology	One GCSE at B grade
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Photography	One GCSE at B grade
OCR Level 2 National Award in Business	Two GCSEs at A*-C level
OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Business	Four GCSEs at A*-C level
OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT	One GCSE at A*-C level
OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT	Two GCSEs at A*-C level
OCR Level 2 National First Certificate in ICT	Three GCSEs at A*-C level
OCR Level 2 National Certificate in ICT	Four GCSEs at A*-C level
OCR Level 2 National Award in Science	Two GCSEs at A*-C level
OCR Level 2 National Certificate in Science	Four GCSEs at A*-C level
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma	One A'level
BTEC Level 3 Diploma	Two A'levels
OCR Level 3 National Certificate	One A'level

## How can I find out more ?

On this website you will find the following key documents which give further details on the types of courses described above :

- BTEC a : A guide for parents and learners
- OCR National Business brochure
- OCR National ICT qualification structure

- OCR National Science brochure

Further details, including the specification for each course can be found on the examination boards' websites :

<http://www.edexcel.com>

<http://www.ncfe.org.uk>

<http://www.nocn.org.uk>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk>