



Pearson
Edexcel

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Extended Project

Specification

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Choosing an appropriate project

The projects may be linked to work carried out in other qualifications (eg extending their understanding of a particular topic). However, learners may not simply resubmit work that has been or will be submitted for another qualification.

For some projects, learners may need to work in a group. In these cases each learner must have a clearly distinguished role and produce their own individual evidence for the entire project which can be assessed independently of others' contributions.

Project types

The following are examples of project types for each unit:

- **Unit 1: Dissertation** – a theoretical written project on any topic presenting an argument, eg research into a biological, historical or environmental issue
- **Unit 2: Investigation/Field Study** – a practical investigatory project involving the collection of data, eg a scientific investigation, a geographical study of erosion, a biological study of pollution, a statistical survey
- **Unit 3: Performance** – development of practical skills resulting in a performance, eg performing music, drama, sport
- **Unit 4: Artefact** – for example, making a painting or sculpture, designing a piece of furniture or a garment, creating a website, solving an engineering/construction problem, producing a piece of graphic design.

Assessment

This qualification is assessed by the tutor-assessor. Where marking for this specification is carried out by more than one marker in the centre, there must be a process of internal standardisation in order to ensure that there is consistent application of the criteria laid down in the marking grids.

Marks awarded by the centre will be subject to Pearson’s quality assurance processes. This is to ensure consistency with national standards. A sample of projects will be examined and marks will be adjusted where they are found to vary from the national standard.

In order to pass the qualification, the learner is required to present evidence for assessment that demonstrates what they are able to do. Evidence will be graded A*–E. Evidence that is insufficient to lead to the award of a certificate is recorded as Unclassified.

Grade descriptors can be found in *Annexe F*.

Assessment objectives and weightings

There are four assessment objectives for the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Extended Project. These detail the knowledge, skills and understanding that the learner is required to demonstrate in each unit. They are as detailed below, along with the approximate weighting that they are given in each unit.

Assessment objective	Marks available	Weighting
AO1 Manage Identify, design, plan and carry out a project, applying a range of skills, strategies and methods to achieve objectives.	9	17%
AO2 Use resources Research, critically select, organise and use information, and select and use a range of resources. Analyse data, apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any links, connections and complexities of the topic.	12	22%
AO3 Develop and realise Select and use a range of skills, including, where appropriate, new technologies and problem solving, to take decisions critically and achieve planned outcomes.	24	44%
AO4 Review Evaluate all aspects of the extended project, including outcomes in relation to stated objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present evidenced project outcomes and conclusions in an appropriate format.	9	17%
Total	54	100%

Unit 1: Dissertation

Level 3

Guided learning hours: 120

Introduction

The dissertation provides learners with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of a selected topic.

Unit 1: Dissertation differs from *Unit 2: Investigation/Field Study* in the way in which information is collected. In *Unit 1: Dissertation*, there is no requirement to use specific research instruments (for example measurements, experiments, observations, surveys, interviews, questionnaires) to collect data, and there is likely to be greater focus on secondary sources.

The unit requires the learner to plan, research, analyse information and then evaluate and review the project. The findings and recommendations will then be presented by the learner to a selected audience.

The unit requires learners to take an active role in managing the project and provides opportunities to develop skills in decision making, problem solving and communicating. It also introduces learners to the techniques and methods of research.

It is estimated that the dissertation produced will be 5000–6000 words in length. Learners will not be penalised for producing work outside the suggested word count, but they should ensure their word count allows them to meet the assessment objectives.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit a learner should:

- 1 Be able to identify, plan and manage a dissertation project
- 2 Be able to undertake research, collect evidence and select information using appropriate methodology
- 3 Be able to interpret evidence, draw conclusions and write up results into a finished dissertation
- 4 Be able to present findings, conclusions and an evaluation to an audience.

The assessment evidence presented by the learner must evidence all the above learning outcomes.

Unit summary

Learning outcome number	Learning outcome	Assessment
	The learner will:	The learner can:
1	Be able to identify, plan and manage a dissertation project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the main objectives for the project • provide an appropriate plan • use organisational skills and strategies appropriately.
2	Be able to undertake research, collect evidence and select information using appropriate methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • select relevant information from appropriate sources • obtain information • relate resources to the research question or hypothesis.
3	Be able to interpret evidence, draw conclusions and write up results into a finished dissertation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produce a dissertation using appropriate style and structure • interpret evidence gathered • discuss different perspectives • draw conclusions.
4	Be able to present findings, conclusions and an evaluation to an audience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review and evaluate the project and own learning • present the project outcomes in an organised manner, engaging with audience and responding to questions.

Unit 2: Investigation/Field Study

Level 3

Guided learning hours: 120

Introduction

The investigation/field study provides learners with the opportunity to carry out a practical investigative project. This project recognises the importance of collecting, analysing and evaluating data to answer a question or support a hypothesis.

The unit requires the learner to plan, carry out and evaluate the project to find out if the evidence supports their initial question or hypothesis. The validity, reliability and accuracy of the data must also be examined to ensure that the conclusion reached is robust. The learner will present their findings to a selected audience.

The investigation/field study requires the learner to manage the project and to take responsibility for adhering to safe working practices. It provides opportunities to develop skills in problem solving, decision making and communication. The learner is also introduced to the specialist techniques involved in an investigation/field study.

It is estimated that the investigation/field study will be 4000-5000 words in length, tending towards the lower end where significant quantities of quantitative data are involved. Learners will not be penalised for producing work outside the suggested word count, but they should ensure their word count allows them to meet the assessment objectives.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit a learner should:

- 1 Be able to identify, plan and manage an investigation or field study
- 2 Be able to undertake research, collect evidence and select information using appropriate methodology
- 3 Be able to interpret evidence, draw conclusions and write up results into a finished investigation or field study
- 4 Be able to present findings, conclusions and an evaluation to an audience.

The assessment evidence presented by the learner must evidence all the above learning outcomes.

Unit summary

Learning outcome number	Learning outcome	Assessment
	The learner will:	The learner can:
1	Be able to identify, plan and manage an investigation or field study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the main objectives for the project • provide an appropriate plan with risks identified • use organisational skills and strategies appropriately
2	Be able to undertake research, collect evidence and select information using appropriate methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • select relevant information from appropriate secondary research sources • obtain raw data or information • relate resources to the research question or hypothesis
3	Be able to analyse and interpret evidence, draw conclusions and write up results into a finished investigation or field study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write up the investigation/field study, using appropriate style and structure • interpret evidence gathered and present data appropriately • draw conclusions
4	Be able to present findings, conclusions and an evaluation to an audience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review and evaluate the project and own learning • present the project outcomes in an organised manner, engaging with audience and responding to questions.

Unit 3: Performance

Level 3

Guided learning hours: 120

Introduction

This unit provides learners with the opportunity to produce a performance for an audience.

The unit requires learners to plan, research, develop and evaluate the performance. Learners begin by identifying a project title and making a project plan. They will then research potential materials, information and techniques. They will apply these as part of the developmental process, which involves trying out different approaches, refining ideas and preparing for and rehearsing the performance. They then give the performance. Finally, learners will evaluate the project and present the outcomes to an audience.

Learners are required to provide written evidence to accompany the project. It is estimated that this will be 1500-3000 words in length. Learners will not be penalised for producing work outside the suggested word count, but they should ensure their word count allows them to meet the assessment objectives.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit a learner should:

- 1 Be able to identify, plan and manage a performance project
- 2 Be able to use resources to research and select prospective performance material and techniques
- 3 Be able to develop and interpret performance material within the context of a performance to an audience
- 4 Be able to present project outcomes and an evaluation to an audience.

The assessment evidence presented by the learner must evidence all the above learning outcomes.

Unit summary

Learning outcome number	Learning outcome	Assessment
	The learner will:	The learner can:
1	Be able to identify, plan and manage a performance project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the main objectives for the project • provide an appropriate plan • use organisational skills and strategies appropriately.
2	Be able to use resources to research and select prospective performance material and techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research relevant performance material and skills • select relevant material from valid sources • relate techniques to the performance project.
3	Be able to develop and interpret performance material within the context of a performance to an audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produce a well-rehearsed performance • show understanding of style and interpretation • demonstrate skills and creativity.
4	Be able to present project outcomes and an evaluation to an audience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review and evaluate the project and own learning • present the project outcomes in an organised manner, engaging with audience and responding to questions.

Unit 4: Artefact

Level 3

Guided learning hours: 120

Introduction

The unit requires learners to plan, research, develop and evaluate the production of an artefact.

The artefact may take many forms, including a finished working prototype, model, artwork or design. The way the artefact is presented will depend on the ideas and intentions of the learner and the form it takes: a sculpture may be intended for a specific site; an engineering model may require to be demonstrated in action to highlight its function; a website's purpose may be reflected through its use of colour, layout and form of navigation.

There are no expectations of size limits for the artefact — the size should be appropriate to the intention. Supporting evidence may be in any suitable form such as writing, illustrations, technical drawings, video or interactive media.

Learners begin by identifying a brief for their artefact and making a project plan. They will then research potential materials, information and techniques. They will apply these as part of the development process, which involves generating ideas, trying them out, choosing the best solution, refining and adapting the idea, and handing over the finished artefact to the tutor-assessor. They then evaluate their project and present the outcomes of the project to an audience.

Learners are required to provide written evidence to accompany the project. It is estimated that this will be 1500-3000 words in length. Learners will not be penalised for producing work outside the suggested word count, but they should ensure their word count allows them to meet the assessment objectives.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit a learner should:

- 1 Be able to identify, plan and manage the production of an artefact or design
- 2 Be able to research and select appropriate techniques and materials
- 3 Be able to produce an artefact or design, using appropriate techniques and materials
- 4 Be able to present project outcomes and an evaluation to an audience.

The assessment evidence presented by the learner must evidence all the above learning outcomes.

Unit summary

Learning outcome number	Learning outcome	Assessment
	The learner will:	The learner can:
1	Be able to identify, plan and manage the production of an artefact or design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the main objectives for the project • provide an appropriate plan • use organisational skills and strategies appropriately.
2	Be able to research and select appropriate techniques and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research materials, techniques and processes • select appropriate materials, techniques and processes • relate investigated processes to the project.
3	Be able to produce an artefact or design, using appropriate techniques and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create an artefact or design with appropriate materials, techniques and processes • show development of ideas and consideration of alternative designs • acknowledge creative influences.
4	Be able to present project outcomes and an evaluation to an audience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review and evaluate the project and own learning • present the project outcomes in an organised manner, engaging with audience and responding to questions.