

# NIACE Research and Development



## Key Findings



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### Developing Edexcel Qualifications to meet the needs of Adult Learners

#### Abstract

To provide Edexcel informed and substantiated advice on the development of both qualifications and internal structures that will enable the Foundation to address future needs of adult learners within the National Qualifications Framework.

#### Research methodology:

- ❖ Document searches
- ❖ Discussions with Edexcel staff
- ❖ Consultations with Edexcel post-16 advisory group

#### Key Findings

##### The main conclusions of the project are:

- ❖ All BTEC 'own-brand' qualifications within the 'vocationally-related' category of the National Qualifications Framework should be fully unitised by August 2001.
- ❖ A common set of technical specifications for all unitised should be adopted and applied to all BTEC own-brand qualifications by August 2001.
- ❖ Edexcel should develop an electronic databank of approved units, and establish procedures to ensure simple and rapid access to the databank for all centres approved to offer BTEC Qualification.
- ❖ Edexcel should establish a limited range of unit 'sizes' for this databank, based on the existing specifications of the national credit framework and the emerging

model of unit-based funding now being developed by the FEFC. In the first instance units should be of a notional 10 hours, 30 hours, 60 hours or 90 hours of learning.

- ❖ Edexcel should develop a common format for unit certification across all BTEC own-brand qualifications, supported by a transcript of learner achievement. If acceptable to QCA it is proposed that this unit certificate be referred to as a 'credit certificate.
- ❖ The requirements for award of all BTEC own-brand qualifications should be set out as 'rules of combination' for unit (or credit) achievement.
- ❖ Edexcel should establish a clear structure of titles for all BTEC own-brand qualifications on the model developed for the BTEC award and consistent with QCA's advice on titles.
- ❖ Edexcel should establish clear criteria for the use of the term 'National' within its revised structure of BTEC own-brand qualifications.
- ❖ Each individual qualification specification should set out any restrictions on credit transfer opportunities for learners.
- ❖ Each individual qualification specification should set out any restrictions on exemption from credit (or unit) certification based on the achievement of qualifications (or parts of qualifications) offered by other Awarding Bodies.

## Recommendations

All the above recommendations can be taken up by Edexcel within the framework for accreditation of qualifications established by QCA. It is also assumed that Edexcel will wish to consult periodically with QCA colleagues to ensure that these proposals will be acceptable to the regulatory authorities.

## Output

- ❖ Wilson, P. (1999) *"Developing Edexcel Qualifications to meet the needs of Adult Learners"*. NIACE: Leicester.

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**Project Manager: Peter Wilson**

**Email: [peter.wilson@niace.org.uk](mailto:peter.wilson@niace.org.uk)**

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**niace**  
promoting adult learning

21 De Montfort Street  
Leicester LE1 7GE

Tel: +44 (0)116 204 4200/1  
Fax: +44 (0)116 2854514  
Website: [www.niace.org.uk](http://www.niace.org.uk)

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