

EDEXCEL
FOUNDATION



BTEC Higher Nationals in Computing

Grading Detail

This **Assessment Support** document lists the key characteristics of assessment, describes how each unit should be graded, and how to use grade descriptors.

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1.0 ASSESSMENT

The key characteristics of assessment should be validity, reliability and fitness for purpose. Edexcel encourages centres to use a variety of traditional and innovative assessment methods, including case studies, assignments, time-constrained assessments and work-based projects.

Centres should ensure that the assessment process:

- records each student's achievement in relation to the specified outcomes
- identifies to tutors and students areas where further development of knowledge, understanding or skill are needed
- documents the process for both tutors and students.

All outcomes in the programme must be assessed. In order to meet this requirement, centres should maintain a record of assessment for each student detailing the evidence evaluated against the required unit outcomes. These records must be available for scrutiny by the external verifier/examiner.

1.1 Grading Higher National units

Each unit will be graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction. A Pass is awarded for the achievement of all outcomes against the specified assessment criteria. Merit and Distinction grades are awarded for higher level achievement.

1.2 Pass

A **Pass** grade is achieved by meeting all the requirements defined in the assessment criteria for each unit.

Merit	Distinction
<p>In order to achieve a merit the student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a range of methods and techniques to collect, analyse and process information/data • apply and analyse detailed knowledge and skills, using relevant theories and techniques • coherently present and communicate work using technical language accurately 	<p>In order to achieve a distinction the student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check validity when collecting, analysing and processing complex information/data • evaluate and synthesise relevant theories and techniques to generate and justify valid conclusions • show an individual approach in presenting and communicating work coherently, using technical language fluently

1.3 Using grade descriptors

The grade descriptors listed are for grading the total evidence produced for each unit. In order to do this, the descriptor should be contextualised and incorporated into the design of assessment activities. Some units may not give the opportunity for the use of all the features of the Merit or Distinction grade descriptors. Consequently, centres should select the appropriate features of the grade descriptors for those units. Students' work should then be assessed using the assessment criteria and contextualised grade descriptors.