

Pearson BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care National Extended Certificate

Why study Health and Social Care at The Sixth Form at Ridgewood?

- Studying Health and Social Care Level 3 National Extended Certificate will provide an introduction to the sector.
- It is for students who are interested in learning about the health and social care sector as part of a balanced study programme. It is equivalent to one A level.
- The qualification supports access to a range of higher education courses possibly, but not exclusively, in health and social care, if taken alongside further Level 3 qualifications.
- We are a new team made up of three specialist teachers from a range of variety of different backgrounds with extensive experience of Health and Social Care related areas.
- We are able to work collaboratively with colleagues from different health and social care settings along with colleagues from universities.

What topics will I study in this subject?

Topic	What this means
Human lifespan development	This unit covers physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan and the factors affecting the development and the effects of ageing.
Working in health and social care	This unit explores what it is like to work in the health and social care sector, including roles and responsibilities of workers and organisations.
Meeting the needs of individual care and support needs	The focus of this unit is on the principles and practicalities that underpin meeting individuals' care disciplines.
Sociological perspectives	Learners study the application of sociological approaches to health and social care, and explore social inequalities, demographic change, and patterns and trends in social groups.

What skills will I need in this subject?

Skill	What this skill involves in this subject
Analysis	Your lessons and independent study work will involve analysis. This means you will be given data and information that you will need to research and you will be required to write at length about your findings. You will need to give detailed explanations and justify your choices.
Research skills	As part of your coursework you will be expected to use research skills to investigate different areas of health and social care. You will be presented with areas to research, use a variety of sources, and justify their relevance.
Evaluative skills	Students will evaluate the impact and effectiveness of services in meeting the needs of different service users and be expected to make justified recommendations underpinned by health and social care concepts and principles.

What will my lessons involve?

- We will discuss key terminology and identify areas that you must independently research.
- In theory lessons you will listen to key information about a topic area and create sets of notes to support your coursework or revision for the exam.
- You will conduct independent research using a variety of sources including internet-based health and social care resources, reports, statistical data and websites and the wealth of health and social care books and guides we have available in the Sixth Form.
- A large proportion of lessons will be spent completing coursework in controlled assessment conditions. Some of this time will be spent researching a variety of sources as well as completing extended writing tasks and practical application of skills.
- Some lessons will involve listening to specialist speakers.
- You will have the opportunity to have some practical activities, examples being the use of mobility aids, walkers, wheelchairs and the possibility of using interactive babies.

What will my independent study involve?

- In order to gain the highest grades in the exam you must complete at least 1 hour of independent study for every lesson. During these sessions you are expected to produce revision resources that will prepare you for the exams.
- In class you will have identified your gaps in knowledge so it will be clear which areas you need to work on. Examples of this are creating mind maps, creating revision flash cards and self-quizzing.
- You may also have to complete work collaboratively such as completing a group presentation on a given area of the exam.
- For coursework, your independent study will involve research and exploration of areas related to the content and scenarios presented in the assignment brief.

How will I be assessed?

Percentage exam assessment: 58%

Percentage coursework assessment: 42%

Assessment	Details of assessment
Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development	External assessment written exam, 1 hours 30 minutes, 25% of the overall mark. Topics covered are human growth and development, factors affecting human growth and development, effects of ageing. There are some multiple choice and short answers and extended answers throughout the paper.
Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care	External assessment written exam, 1 hours 30 minutes, 33% of the overall mark. Students will be assessed through a number of short and long answer questions. The paper consists of four sections, and each section is based on a different short scenario briefly explaining the situation of a person with health and social care needs. Each scenario is relevant to a different service user group.
Unit 5: Meeting the Needs of Individual Care and Support Needs	Internal assessment coursework, worth 25% of the overall mark. The assignment brief is written, set and marked by Ridgewood and externally verified by the exam board.
Unit 10: Sociological Perspectives	Internal assessment coursework, worth 17% of the overall mark. The assignment brief is written, set and marked by Ridgewood and externally verified by the exam board.

How do I know this is the right course for me?

- You will be a strong independent learner who can analyse written and numerical information accurately.
 - You will relish the challenges of researching, conducting and analysing data.
 - You will enjoy working collaboratively and prefer a combination of coursework and exam. One of the challenges is time management as there are lots of deadlines and managing both coursework and exam content at the same time can be difficult. It is important that you plan from the very beginning of the course your independent study time in school and at home so that you have a clear plan of when you will complete work. This is especially important if your combination of subjects means that you have other coursework to complete.
 - This course is ideal for students who wish to go into a career in the caring profession or pursuing a career in health and social care sector.
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