INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNICAL BACCALAUREATE MEASURE FOR 16-19 YEAR OLDS.

Overview

The Government is introducing a new school and college performance table measure which recognises the highest level of technical training achieved by students aged 16-19. This will be known as the Technical Baccalaureate Measure. It will recognise the achievement of students taking advanced (Level 3) programmes which include a DfE approved occupational qualification, core maths, and an extended project. It will be introduced for courses beginning in September 2014, for reporting in the 16-19 performance tables from 2016.

Establishing a measure for excellence in technical provision will end the perception that vocational education in the UK is a poor second to academic study. By recognising excellence, it will incentivise the development of the highest value provision and encourage the most able students to study demanding technical study programmes.

Students who achieve the qualifications that are included in the Technical Baccalaureate Measure will be equipped to apply for technician roles and higher apprenticeships in a wide range of industry sectors. Alternatively, they could enter professional training or university.

Who is it aimed at?

The Technical Baccalaureate Measure will be aimed at ambitious, talented students who want to pursue a technical career. It will give young people the opportunity to be stretched and demonstrate their personal best.

The group most likely to opt for qualifications included in the Technical Baccalaureate Measure are those who choose to study advanced vocational qualifications having already achieved a grade C or above in GCSE maths. This means that over time, and as standards are raised, the proportion of students able to study at advanced level is likely to increase further.

The qualifications included in the Technical Baccalaureate Measure will be most suited for
young people interested in occupations that require significant theory and knowledge acquisition, such as:

- STEM technicians (e.g. lab technicians, IT technicians, various engineering technician roles, construction professionals)
- Service technicians (e.g. retail and hospitality management, personal services, junior accounting positions)
- Creative technicians (e.g. digital media, other media, creative industries, sport industry, material/textiles, design)

**What does it include?**

The Technical Baccalaureate Measure is made up of three components.

To achieve the measure, a student would need to successfully complete an advanced (Level 3) programme of at least one DfE approved Occupational Qualification, Level 3 maths qualification(s), and an Extended Project.

i) **Occupational Qualifications**

At the core of the new Technical Baccalaureate Measure will be the study of qualifications which are recognised and valued by industry. In November 2013 the Government will publish details of the advanced level occupational and other qualifications for 16-19 year olds which will ‘count’ towards reformed performance tables and the Technical Baccalaureate Measure.

The Government is currently consulting on a process for identifying vocational qualifications that are genuinely ‘high value’. Further information on this can be found at:


As part of this process, the Government is asking professional and industry bodies to endorse occupational qualifications that prepare a young person for a specific job role, *and are intended for students who have a clear idea about an occupation they want to pursue.*
Some qualifications will prepare a student for a specific job role by confirming and in some cases certifying occupational competence. Others may provide a route into a specialist degree or a higher education course that qualifies entry to an occupation (many health and engineering professions, for example).

ii) Core Maths

Many aspects of technical education require the understanding and ability to apply maths, and there is evidence that those with Level 3 maths benefit from improved employment prospects and higher wages.

Therefore the Technical Baccalaureate Measure includes the study of relevant core maths qualifications at Level 3. This means students will need to have achieved a GCSE A*-C in English and maths before enrolling on a programme which meets the standard set by the new measure.

Further information about the core maths requirement for the Technical Baccalaureate Measure will be published by the Department in due course. From 2014, A level, AS level and the International Baccalaureate maths qualifications are expected to be included alongside other more applied maths qualifications such as Mathematics for Engineering. A number of new maths qualifications are currently being developed by awarding organisations and may also be included.

iii) The Extended Project

The Extended Project will develop and test students’ skills in extended writing, communication, research, self-discipline and self-motivation. Such skills are in high demand by industry and academia. The Extended Project also gives students the opportunity to undertake research projects with an industry focus relevant to their vocational programme, encouraging them to explore further aspects of the occupation to equip them with a breadth of knowledge and understanding to reinforce their employability.
**Timescales**

The consultation on 16-19 vocational qualifications will close on 10 May. Details of the approved Occupational Qualifications which will count towards the Technical Baccalaureate Measure are expected to be published in November 2013. The Technical Baccalaureate Measure will be introduced alongside the teaching of these qualifications from September 2014. The measure will first be reported in the 2016 Performance Tables, due to be published in January 2017.

The Government’s forthcoming 16-19 consultation will propose further detail on how the Technical Baccalaureate Measure will operate alongside wider 16-19 accountability reforms.