

# Health & Social Care

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

## Where do I start?

5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above including grade 5 in English and 4 in Biology (or Science). You do not need to have studied Health and Social Care at GCSE. Where BTEC Health and Social Care has been studied, at least a Level 2 needs to have been achieved.

## Health and Social Care – about the subject:

The content of this qualification has been designed to ensure it supports progression towards careers across the whole Health and Social Care industry as well as higher study at University. The course has been planned in close connection with potential employers and professional bodies to ensure that learners develop the vocational skills required for this vast and growing industry. The Health and Social Care industry is one of the fastest growing industries in modern society and has a wide range of employment opportunities.

## What type of learner chooses Health and Social Care?

Health and Social Care is one of the largest employment sectors in the UK and opportunities are buoyant. You should choose the course if you are interested in exploring these areas as potential career options or you just have an interest in health and social care and want to combine it with other subjects for a broad and balanced curriculum in the sixth form.

## What aspects of the subject will I be studying?

There are 3 mandatory units and 1 optional unit that will be decided at the start of the course.

Mandatory Units:

- **Unit 1:** Human Lifespan Development. In this unit you will examine physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan, the interaction between biological and social factors in health and well-being and how health care professionals provide effective care.
- **Unit 2:** Human Biology and Health. You will explore the organisation, structure and normal physiological functioning of the human body, and the effect on health of common disorders of the body systems.



- **Unit 3:** Health and Social Care Practice. In this unit you will focus on the principles that underpin meeting the care and support needs of individuals, which are the foundation of all services within health and social care.
- **Unit 7:** Health Science. In this unit you will cover the key microbiological concepts relevant to the field of health science and the role of microbiology in the diagnosis and spread of disease on a local, national and international scale.

## What are the career/higher education prospects?

One of the units, 'Health and Social Care Practice' will explore the sector as a whole and give you a good understanding of what it might be like to work in it. You will gain an understanding of a range of career options within the sector. Some examples include:

Social worker, Paramedical science, Nursing and Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, Play Therapist, Residential Care Worker, Youth, care or support work, Art Therapist, Teaching, SEN Teaching, Mental Health Nursing.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses, for example:

- BSc (Hons) in Nursing; Social Work; Physiotherapy; Occupational Therapy; Speech Therapy; Health and Social Care.

## How is the course assessed?

You will apply learning through practical assessments alongside exams. BTEC Nationals use a combination of assessment styles consisting of Examinations and Coursework.