



Learner / Pre-learner

Who are a²om?

a²om stands for Alpha to Omega Motoring; it's basically Greek for the "A to Z" of motoring. The a²om team have developed some nifty software and a comprehensive syllabus that helps you become a better driver and ultimately a safer one too. The a²om vision is to save lives on the road by developing skills and improving attitudes – that means starting now, before you've even passed your test.

Why is the BTEC necessary?

Do you know anyone that has been killed or badly hurt in a car crash? Most people between 15 and 25 know at least one person who has, and that's not surprising because 1 in 5 new drivers will crash within a year of passing their test. The a²om BTEC in Driving Science has been designed to make you a better driver from day 1, so after passing your test you will be above the required standard and safer on the road.

How does it work?

The a²om BTEC in Driving Science integrates into your normal driving lessons; starting as early as your first lesson. Why? Well because there's a lot to cover! You'll be learning material straight from the European Goals for Driver Education – that's basically the best you can get. The 5 unit syllabus covers the main aspects of driving and one of the units (including driving at night, motorways and rural roads) must be completed after you've passed your DSA driving test. If you're thinking this is just going to slow you down, think again! You will be learning advanced skills in a structured course, so you could be test-ready sooner and more likely to pass first time.

Is it a course or do I have to do a test?

The BTEC is a course that ends with a qualification, so there has to be some form of assessment. Remember, before giving you a discount, insurers will want to know that you've learnt to drive to an advanced standard. At the end of each unit you must be able to complete two tasks, on topics you've covered already. They could be in-car with your instructor, or online. Whichever, it doesn't matter because you'll only be asked to complete them when you are ready and you're allowed unlimited retakes until you get it right!

Who can teach the BTEC?

Only a²om approved driving instructors trained by us can deliver this course. If you're already learning and your instructor isn't a²om approved, you could ask them to have a look at the website and get onboard. Even if you're part-way through learning, you can still jump on the BTEC and get all the benefits because you already have some driving experience you should be able to accelerate through the syllabus and it won't hold you back from taking your practical DSA test.

What is a BTEC?

A BTEC Intermediate level is an academic qualification equivalent to GCSE level. It is accredited by Edexcel, the UK's largest awarding body. Edexcel provide academic and vocational qualifications to more than 25,000 places of learning here and in over 100 countries worldwide. In the UK, Edexcel offers qualifications and testing in more than 24,000 schools, 450 further education colleges, more than 80 higher education institutions, 600 public and private sector employers and, increasingly, e-learning providers. Edexcel will verify the quality of the course and its delivery.

I'm already learning – can my ADI teach me the BTEC?

Only a²om trained driving instructors can teach the BTEC in Driving Science. If you are being taught by someone else, you will not be able to do the BTEC. You have two options: you can either contact a²om and they can suggest local a²om trained driving instructors for you to switch to, or you can mention the a²om BTEC to your current instructor and suggest that he/she attends an a²om training day.

How much will it cost?

It will cost you **£175**. The BTEC integrates into your normal driving lessons, so you will still have to pay for them as usual. Remember though, post-test elements like motorway and driving at night are included and the great financial benefits that come with the qualification should more than cover the cost of the course itself.

How will it improve my driving?

Believe it or not, the front part of our brains doesn't fully develop until we're about 25 and when you consider this part of the brain controls things like impulse, emotion, risk-management and eye movement, it's easy to see why so many young drivers are coming unstuck. Add to this the fact that 19 out of 20 crashes are down to attitude rather than driving technique and it's clearer still. The a²om BTEC has been designed to stimulate development of your brain's frontal lobe, it will accelerate your competence in driving and make you more able to spot and deal with hazards as they unfold.

How can it save me money?

One word – insurance. The only reason insurance for young drivers is so expensive is because of all the insurance claims they make! a²om have partnered up with a number of insurance companies who see that by passing the BTEC you'd be less likely to make a claim, so in turn they'll cut the cost of your premium by as much as 50%. If you want to find out how much you could save exactly, email btcecinsurance@a2om.com with your insurance details and we'll help you find out.

What other benefits are there?

Well the BTEC will look great on your CV for a start – even if you're on for three As at A-level. When you're in a job interview, up against 11 others with similar grades and the interviewer is looking for something that stands out, just maybe they'll pick up on this qualification and think you're that little bit different from the rest. You'll also get some motorway experience because this is included in the post-test module giving you added confidence when you have to hit the M-roads alone, or perhaps worse, with a car full of people. If this isn't enough, BTEC graduates are automatically given membership to a new young driver motoring club (so new the name has yet to be decided!) with many motoring and lifestyle benefits and discounts – watch this space!

What is the e-learning suite all about?

The a²om e-learning suite is split into two sections: **a²om highway** and **a²om mind**.

a²om highway is a fully interactive, on-line learning environment, which makes the theory of driving fun and stimulating. It will develop your knowledge and challenge your attitudes in relation to driver behaviour.

a²om mind is designed to accelerate a new driver's ability to manage risk. You will use our computer-based programme to practise key skills that will teach you to identify and deal with all kinds of risky situations.

It also includes mock DSA practical theory and hazard perception tests. The a²om e-learning suite is a beneficial educational tool and builds your experience of the risks of driving from the comfort of the classroom or from home.

How do I enrol?

It couldn't be easier to enrol on the a²om BTEC in Driving Science. All you need to do is go to www.a2om.com/btec. Alternatively, you can sign up with a local a²om trained driving instructor. You will be given log-in details, which will let you access the e-learning suite immediately.