

inspired
excited
Get ready
for career
conversations
ideas
informed

Qualifications



✕ **Bachelor Degrees**

✕ **Higher Education**

✕ **Masters Degrees**

✕ **GCSEs**

✕ **Apprenticeships**

✕ **BTECs**

✕ **Vocational Courses**

✕ **A Levels**

✕ **Further Education**

✕ **T Levels**

GCSEs, A Levels, BTECs, T Levels, Vocational Courses, Apprenticeships, Bachelor Degrees, Masters Degrees, Further Education, Higher Education.

What do they all mean?

Ok, here's what you need to know.

A Levels

A Levels are subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, training, work or further study.

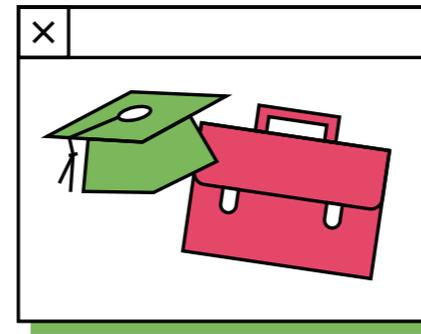
They are usually studied over two years.



“But can’t you only choose from a few subjects?”

While it’s true that the most popular A Levels are maths, English and biology, there are many more options to choose from.

A Levels

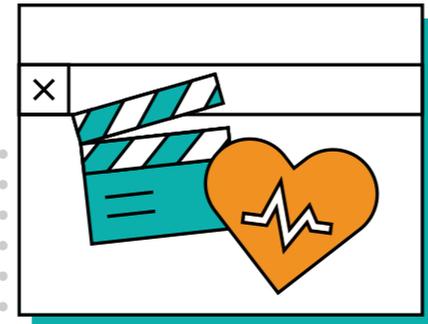


- Subject based Qualifications
- Usually studied over two years
- Can be studied at sixth form or college





- Focus on practical skills
- There are a range of levels
- Usually assessed through coursework

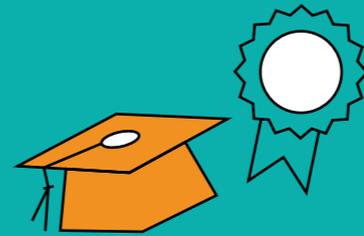


BTECs

BTECs

BTEC qualifications are a flexible option that focus on more practical skills. They come in a range of 'levels' and are continuously assessed.

They are usually assessed through coursework.



“Can you go to university with BTEC qualifications?”

BTECs are awarded the same UCAS points as A Levels and do not limit those wanting to go to university.

T Levels

T Levels are brand new courses - so don't worry if you haven't heard of them!

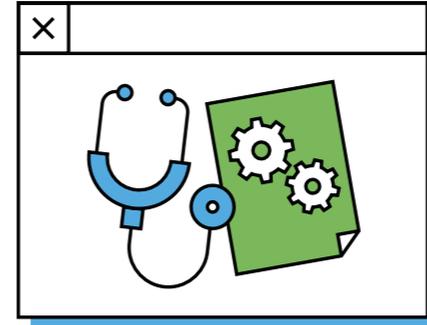
They are the equivalent to three A Levels and are studied over two years.

T Level courses include classroom learning and 'on the job' experience in an industry placement.

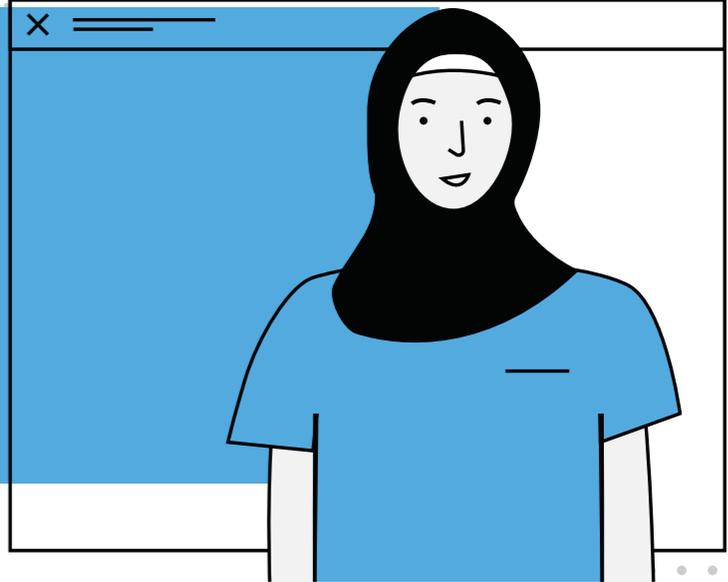
“Are T Levels just replacing A Levels?”

T Levels are an alternative to A levels, apprenticeships and other 16 to 19 courses and are equivalent to three A levels.

T Levels

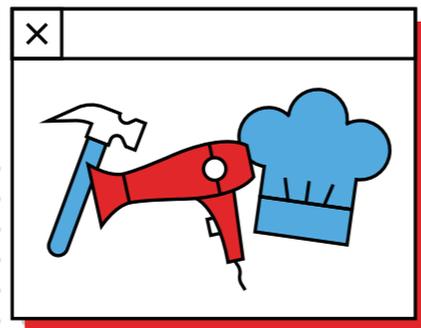


- New course introduced in 2020
- Equivalent to three A Levels
- Include classroom learning and 'on the job' experience





- Relate to a specific job
- Offered at Further Education (FE) Colleges
- Involve learning in real situations



Vocational Courses

Vocational Courses

Vocational Courses relate to a specific job, such as becoming a joiner, healthcare assistant or chef.

These courses are usually offered at Further Education (FE) Colleges and involve learning in real situations.

Those who study a vocational course can gain certificate and diploma qualifications.

Popular options include: engineering, construction and care vocational courses.

“But don’t people who do these courses go onto lower paid jobs?”

Today’s vocational courses are no longer limited to traditional subjects like construction or hairdressing (although many people do study these subjects and go on to find very well-paid work!) These days, the options are limitless.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a popular option and come in four levels; Intermediate, Advanced, Higher and Degree. These qualifications are equal to GCSEs and A Levels.

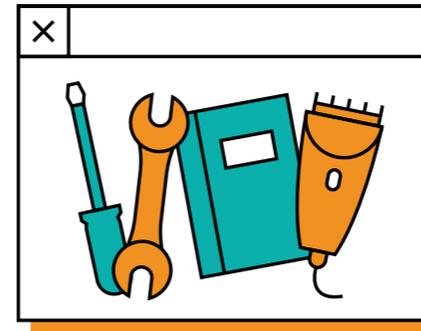
Those choosing this option need to ensure that they find an employer and training provider to take them on.

Apprenticeships include accountancy, advertising, public services and electrical installation.

“Are apprenticeships only useful for trades and manual labour?”

Nowadays there are hundreds of different apprenticeships and they're not always less academic than other qualifications.

Apprenticeships



- Learning on the job
- There are four levels
- Available in a variety of sectors



Qualification Level				
Level 8	Doctorate (PhD)			
Level 7	Masters Degree (MA, MSc, MPhil)			
Level 6	Bachelor Degree (BA, BSc)	Foundation Degree		Degree Apprenticeship
Level 5			Higher National Diploma	Higher Apprenticeship
Level 4			Higher National Certificate	
Level 3	A Level	Level 3 Diploma	Level 3 Certificate	Advanced Apprenticeship
Level 2	GCSE (Grades 9 – 4)	Level 1 & 2 Award / Certificate / Diploma		Intermediate Apprenticeship
Level 1	GCSE (Grades 4 – 1)	BTEC & Vocational Qualifications		
Entry Level	Entry Level Courses			

All qualifications have a level that ranges from Entry Level to Level 8. Each level is based on the difficulty of the qualification.

Useful links

For more information about post-16 qualifications, visit:

 ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications 

For more information about T Levels, visit:

 tlevels.gov.uk 

Remember, these qualifications are brand new for September 2020.

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FUTUREGOALS

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