

A GUIDE TO T LEVELS

<https://www.ebpsouth.co.uk/>

T Levels were launched in September 2020 in a small number of colleges. Further T Levels have been launched each year. T Levels follow on from your GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A levels.

These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and gives you the skills and knowledge to succeed in the workplace.

The 'T' in T Levels stands for Technical; these qualifications introduce a new system of technical education to provide a high-quality technical option for learners aged 16–19. T Levels bring together classroom learning for 80% of your time alongside an extended work placement taking at least 20% or 45 days of your time with a local employer to get you work ready.

How do they work?

T Levels consist of several sections:



1. **The Technical Qualification (TQ)** – this is the main, classroom-based part of the qualification. This is where students will be able to learn about their chosen sectors through a curriculum designed by employers. This technical qualification will have two parts:

1.1. **Core theory** – this is the core knowledge and skills relevant to all occupations covered by the T Level.

1.2. **Occupational specialism** – this is the knowledge and hands-on or practical/specialist skills needed to do a particular occupation or career.



2. **The Industry Placement** – this placement will be a minimum of 315 hours (45 days) overall and will give students practical insights into their chosen sector and an opportunity to embed the knowledge and skills that they have gained in the classroom.



3. **English, maths and digital** provision is built into the classroom-based element of the T Level. The programme will also include **employability, enrichment and pastoral** activities, and other industry requirements for work in that occupation, for example Health and Safety qualifications.



4. **Transferable workplace skills** – those skills that are required to work in any workplace environment.

How T Levels will work with other post-16 choices:

3. T Levels will become one of the choices for students after GCSEs alongside:

- Apprenticeships: for students who wish to learn a specific occupation 'on the job.'
- A-levels: for students who wish to continue academic education.
- Other Level 3 qualifications, including **Advanced Academic Qualifications (AAQs) (Vocational) V Levels from September 2027**, and technical qualifications approved by Skills England, where available, as well as vocational qualifications such as **BTECs and CTECs**

3. <https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/qualifications/>

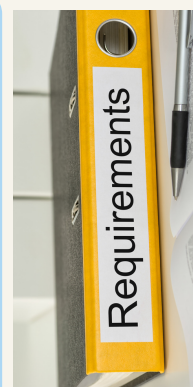


Who should study for a T Level?

T Levels are ideal if you are moving on from GCSE studies, enjoy classroom learning and want to experience an industry through the in-depth 45-day industry placement. The T Level is equivalent to 3 A levels and focuses on vocational skills and can help students into skilled employment, higher study or an apprenticeship.

What are the entry requirements?

- They are Level 3 qualifications so the entry requirements will be similar to A levels or current Level 3 technical and vocational qualifications such as BTEC/OCR Level 3 Extended Diploma, NVQ Level 3 or VRQ/NVQ.
- Entry requirements are set by individual schools and colleges. Many providers typically ask for several GCSEs at grade 4 or above, often including English and Maths, but requirements vary.
- **It is important to check directly with each provider before applying.**



Qualification Reform: The Move Towards T Levels and V Levels.

Many BTECs and CTECs are being replaced in phases as England moves towards a system centred on A Levels, T Levels and the new V Levels, which start from September 2027.

T Level Foundation Year:

For students who don't meet the entry requirements above, some local providers offering T Levels will also be offering a one-year T Level Foundation Year programme which will be targeted at young people who are not ready to start a T Level at age 16, but who can realistically be expected to complete a T Level by age 19, or by the age of 24 for students with an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan).

- <https://support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/5622112789138-What-is-the-T-Level-Foundation-Year>
- <https://support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/18918475495314-T-Level-Foundation-Year-learner-videos>

What occupational areas and T Level pathways are available from September 2026:

Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care



Animal Care and Management Pathway
Agriculture, Land Management and Production Pathway

Business and Administration



Management and Administration Pathway

Creative and Design



Media Broadcast and Production Pathway
Craft and Design Pathway

Construction



Design, Surveying & Planning for Construction Pathway
Building Services Engineering and Construction Pathway

Education and Early Years



Education and Early Years Pathway

Digital



Digital Data Analytics Pathway
Digital Software Development Pathway
Digital Support and Security Pathway

Engineering and Manufacturing



Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing Pathway
Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control Pathway
Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing Pathway

What occupational areas and T Level pathways are available from September 2026:

Health and Science



Health Pathway
Science Pathway
Social Care Pathway (Coming September 2028)

Legal, Finance and Accounting



Finance Pathway (Last intake September 2026)
Accounting Pathway
Legal Services Pathway

Sales, Marketing and Procurement



Marketing Pathway

Choosing Your T Level Pathway

You will choose an occupational area and specific pathway to take at college, during the course you will also have to choose an occupational specialism. For example you would choose:

- Occupational Area: Education and Early Years
- Pathway: Education and Early Years
- Occupational Specialism: Early Years Education or Teaching Assistant

Apprenticeships, T Levels and many other technical qualifications are based on occupations recognised by employers. Skills England's Occupational Maps bring these together to help students explore career pathways, progression opportunities and related qualifications.

You can explore this further using:

- <https://occupational-maps.skillsengland.education.gov.uk/>

T Levels continue to develop and new qualifications may be introduced over time. For the latest information on available, withdrawn and upcoming T Levels, visit:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/available-withdrawn-and-upcoming-t-levels>

How will T Levels be graded?

Assessment varies between T Levels but generally includes examinations, employer-set projects and assessment of occupational specialism knowledge and skills. Students must also successfully complete their industry placement in order to achieve the full qualification.

Students who pass all the elements of their T Level will gain a nationally recognised certificate showing an overall grade of pass, merit, distinction or distinction*. It will also detail what students have achieved on the course.

The T Level certificate will include:

- An overall grade for the T Level will be given as pass, merit, distinction or distinction*.
 - A separate grade for the core component and employer set project, using A* to E.
 - A separate grade for the occupational specialism and synoptic assessment, shown as pass, merit, distinction.
 - Details of the industry placement and its completion.
 - Any additional mandatory requirements of that specific T Level.
 - Achievement of GCSE Maths & English at Grade 4 or above will also be acknowledged on the T Level certificate.

In order to pass the qualification, students must have fully completed the industry placement element of the course and gained the necessary level of work experience which will be validated by the employer.

Final Thoughts: Is a T Level Right for You?

T Levels can be an excellent pathway for students who enjoy practical learning, developing technical skills, and gaining valuable industry experience alongside their studies. However, it is important to remember that they are just one of several post-16 pathways available.

Before choosing a T Level, take time to think about your long-term goals and research where the qualification can lead. Consider whether your future plans involve employment, an apprenticeship, a higher apprenticeship, university, or another route into your chosen career. Different pathways can offer different opportunities, and the best choice will depend on your interests, strengths, and ambitions.

Remember: a well-informed decision today can help create a clearer pathway to your future success. Speak to your teachers, careers adviser, parents/carers, and employers to ensure you understand all of your options before making your final choice.

Explore your options, understand your destination, and choose the pathway that is right for you

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