

T LEVELS: WHAT ARE THEY & WHO ARE THEY FOR?

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Department
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TODAY'S TEAM



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T LEVELS – WHAT ARE THEY AND WHO ARE THEY FOR?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session you will:

- Understand why T Levels (& the T Level Foundation Year) were introduced
- Be aware of the range of T Levels and their implementation timeline
- Understand the key structure, content, assessment and grading of T Levels
- Be aware of the performance and progression data from the first cohorts of T level students
- Be clear about the defunding process for other Level 3 technical qualifications
- Be aware of new level 3 qualifications (AAQs) timeline
- Consider what the students you work with need to understand about T Levels and other new quals, in order for them to be able to make effective and fully-informed post-16 choices
- Be aware of how the introduction of T Levels may impact on your local schools' post-16 curriculum strategy

At present there are broadly four options post-16

ACADEMIC

A Levels

Subject-based qualifications delivered over 2 years by school sixth-forms, sixth-form colleges and FE colleges.

Mainly terminally assessed.

VOCATIONAL

Applied Generals

Subject-based delivered over 2-3 years.

Often “mixed” with A Levels.

Combination of internally assessed coursework and external assessments.

(Business 20% , Sport & HSC 15%, Science 10%)

TECHNICAL

T Levels

Classroom based programmes delivered over 2 years by mainly FE providers (80% in provider and 20% on the job).

Variety of assessment methods.

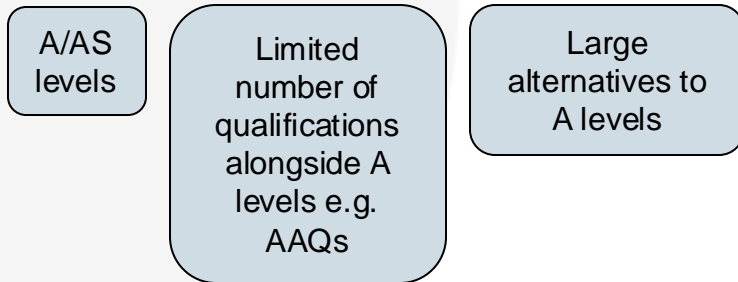
Apprenticeships

Work based training for a minimum of 12 months (80% on the job and 20% off the job).

On the job assessment + end point assessment.

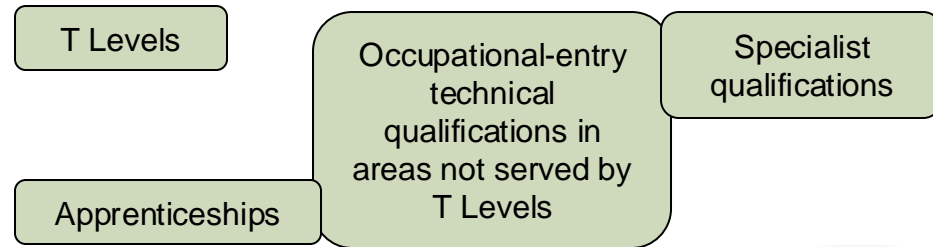
Academic landscape for 16-19 year olds

Qualifications that support students to progress onto and achieve high quality FE and HE academic courses.



Technical landscape for 16 to 19 year olds

Qualifications that provide the knowledge, skills and behaviours students need to progress to skilled employment or higher technical study.



01

**T LEVELS – WHAT
ARE THEY?**

T LEVELS – AN INTRODUCTION



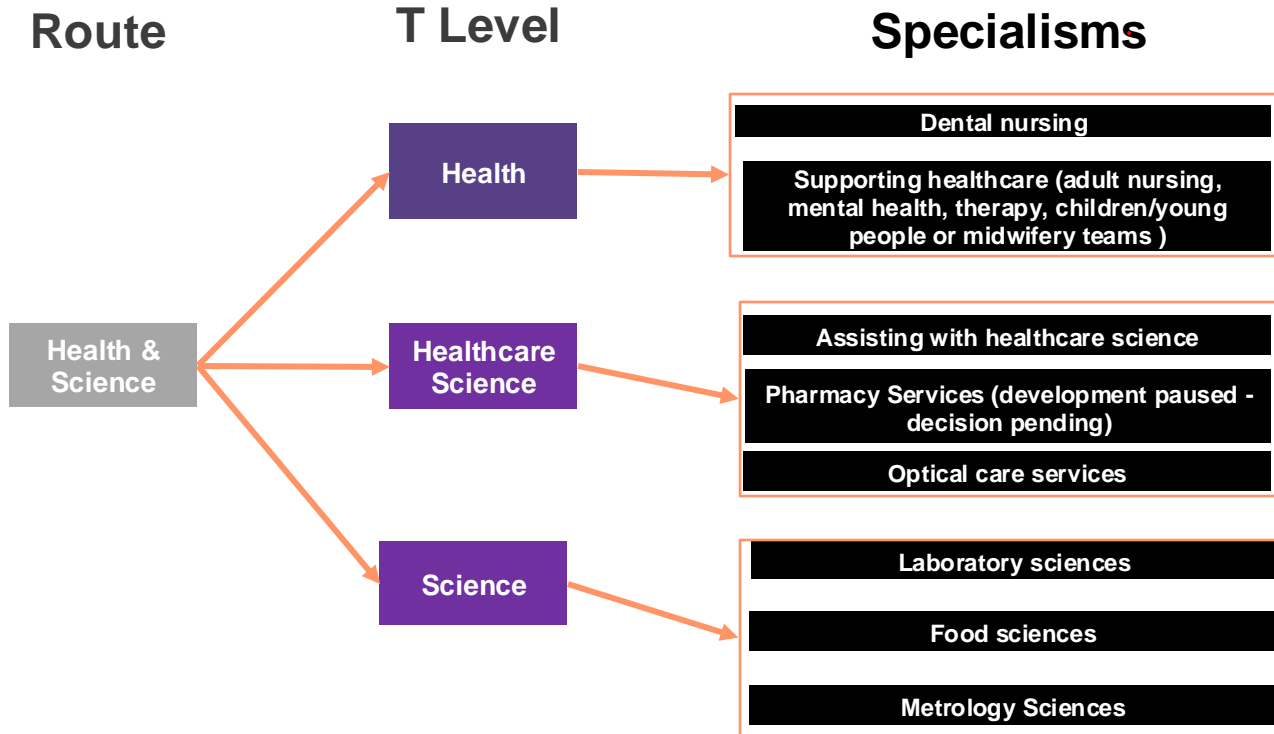
T LEVEL ROLLOUT

T Levels started 2020
started 2021/ started 2022

T Levels for 2023 delivery/ 2024
delivery/ 2025 delivery

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ANIMAL CARE ROUTE	BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ROUTE	CATERING AND HOSPITALITY ROUTE	CONSTRUCTION	CREATIVE AND DESIGN ROUTE
Agriculture, Land Management and Production	Human Resources replaced by Sales, marketing and procurement	Catering (deferred to beyond Sep 2025)	Building Services Engineering for Construction	Craft and Design
Animal Care and Management	Management and Administration		Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction	Media Broadcast and Production
			Onsite Construction	

DIGITAL ROUTE	EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE ROUTE	ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING ROUTE	HAIR AND BEAUTY ROUTE	HEALTH AND SCIENCE ROUTE	LEGAL, FINANCE & ACCOUNTING ROUTE
Digital Business Services	Education and Early Years	Engineering and Manufacturing Design and Development	(Hair), Beauty and Aesthetics (deferred to beyond 2025)	Health	Accounting
Digital Production, Design and Development		Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing		Healthcare Science	Finance
Digital Support Services		Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control		Science	Legal Services



T LEVELS TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION



T LEVEL PROGRAMME - SUMMARY

maximum 1800 Hrs over 2 years

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION (TQ) 900-1400 GLH

CORE

- Up to half the qualification
- Knowledge and understanding of the concepts, theories and principles relevant to that sector
- Assessed through an external examination and a substantial project

OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALISM

- At least half of the qualification
- Knowledge and skills required to enter employment in that occupational specialism
- As close to full competence as possible
- English, maths and digital competence integrated where relevant

T LEVEL INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

- Between 315-420 hours
- Undertaken with an external employer
- Chance to apply skills and apply knowledge in a workplace environment
- Support for travel and subsistence costs but employers not expected to pay students

ENGLISH AND MATHS REQUIREMENTS

- **Students no longer required to achieve a level 2 in English and maths (but must meet condition of funding)**

ADDITIONAL MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- Occupation-specific requirements included where possible if essential to enter employment

THE INSTITUTE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (IFATE) HAS WORKED WITH EMPLOYERS, PROVIDERS, AND INDUSTRY EXPERTS TO DEVELOP **PROGRESSION PROFILES**, WHICH ILLUSTRATE THE RANGE OF PROGRESSION OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF A T LEVEL

EDUCATION & EARLY YEARS T LEVEL (NCFE)

“Suitable for anyone wanting a career in early years education, childcare or assisting teaching. Students can progress into roles such as:

NURSERY WORKER

TEACHING ASSISTANT

LEARNING MENTOR

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TEACHING ASSISTANT

PLAYWORKER

PORTAGE HOME VISITOR

Students can also use this T Level to do a related higher-level apprenticeship or degree course.

GRADING AND CERTIFICATION – SUMMARY

- An **overall grade** of pass, merit, distinction or distinction*
- A separate grade for the **core** component, using A* to E
- A separate grade for the **occupational specialism**, pass, merit or distinction
- Overall T Level grade calculated from core & specialism

(Certificate will include confirmation that student has completed the industry placement and met any additional mandatory requirements)

(Students who do not pass all elements of their T Level will get a **T Level statement of achievement**)

HOW MANY STUDENTS ATTAINED A DISTINCTION* LAST SUMMER?
(out of approximately 7,300 finishers)

GRADING AND CERTIFICATION

- **Just 14 students attained a Distinction * last summer**
- **Approximately 0.19% (compared to 5% VTQs D*D*D*)**
- **Dis* only in 7 out of 16 T levels**

T LEVELS RESULTS

Retained and passed by routes

	Starts in 2022	Results	Completion 2024
Business and administration	1200	846	71%
Construction	1600	1142	71%
Digital	1750	1363	78%
Education and early years	2150	1533	71%
Engineering and manufacturing	1500	1128	75%
Finance and accounting	200	131	66%
Health and science	1800	1237	69%
Overall	10253	7262	71%

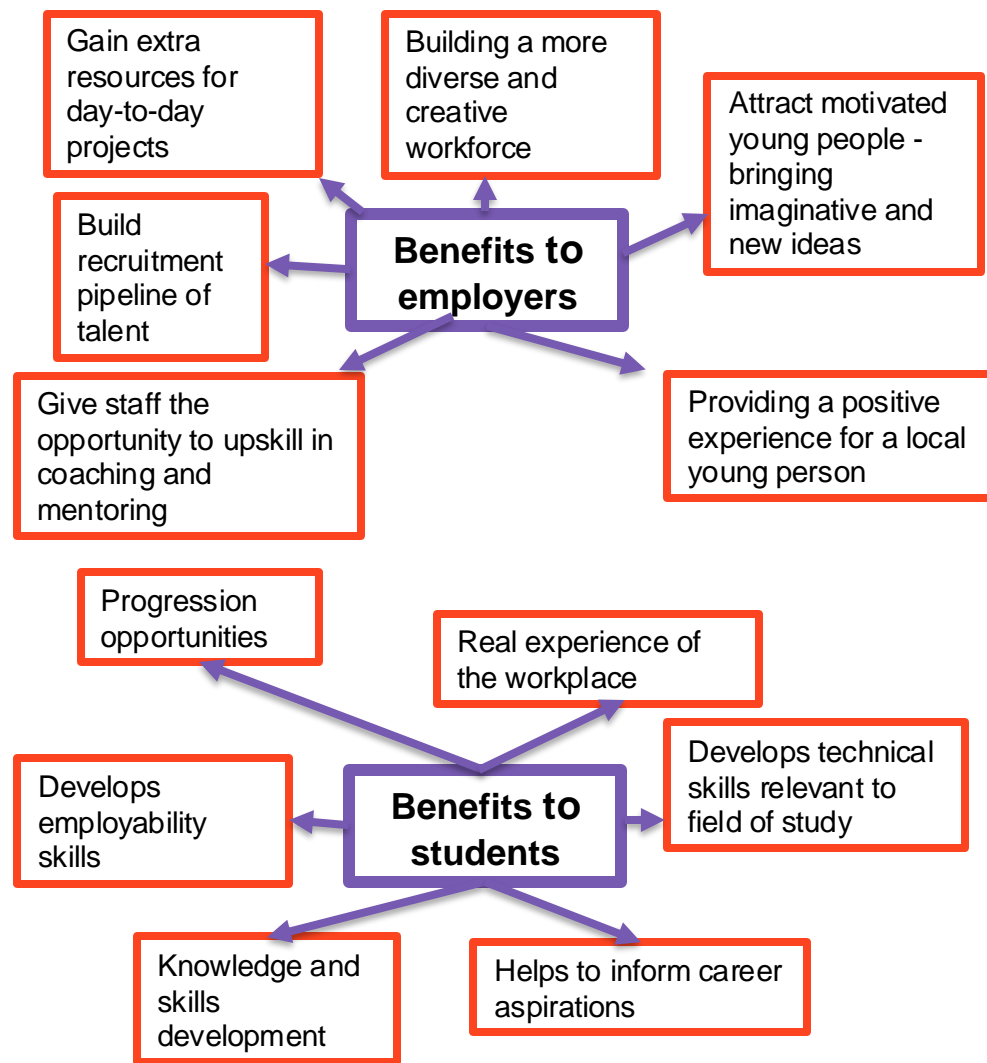
Source: JCQ

*See note at end of article for explanation of difference in overall figures

T LEVELS INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

- **Minimum of 315 hours** (approx. 45 working days)
- **Occupationally specific** – focussed on developing practical and technical skills required for the profession or trade that the student is studying for
- **Real environment** – placement should be with an employer in a real life working environment
- Extensive research and engagement with stakeholders – and **pilot programme tested different models**
- **T Level provider** is responsible for finding the placement
- There is **no legal requirement or expectation that T Level students will be paid** – but employers can choose to if they wish.



INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS - AMENDMENTS OVER TIME

- Allowing most students **to work with up to 2 employers**
- Allowing a small proportion of **occupationally relevant work tasters to count** towards placement
- Allowing **part time work to count** as long as it is occupationally relevant and at the right level
- On some T levels a certain % of placement hours may be **delivered remotely**
- Using **on-site facilities for SEND students** for part of the placement, and for all of the placement for those in Young Offenders Institutes.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT

The one-year employer support fund to employers offering placements in 2023/24 financial year (costs such as admin, training staff who will supervise learners or tangible costs e.g. personal protective equipment or vaccinations) **has finished** – no news yet on its replacement, if any.

What is the advice to give students on which post-16 pathway to take?

- What should be the GCSE grade profile for T Level students?
- What should be the GCSE grade profile for new AAQ students?
- What should be the GCSE grade profile for mixing and matching A levels and AAQ students?

Student entry requirements/data

- Av. GCSE score of A level students = 6.47
- Av. GCSE score of mixed (A level/AGQ students) = 5.42
- Av. GCSE score of AGQ students = 4.90

- **A level students** 97.8% with Maths GCSE pass 99.5% have a pass in English
- **T level students** 93% of students have Maths 96% of students have English
- **AGQ only (not mixed)** 75.7% of students have Maths 84.3% of students have English

• Student numbers finishing programme:

• A level only = 284,380 AGQ only = 119,853 Mixed A and AGQ = 61,024 T levels = 3,400

• Source: [National data](#) on prior attainment summer 2023

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**T LEVEL STUDENT
DESTINATIONS**

UCAS Tariff

How T-level grades compare to A-levels

UCAS tariff points	T Level overall grade	A level
168	Distinction*	A*A*A*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on core component)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on core component)	DDD

Are universities accepting T Level students?

- **Approximately 130 HE providers (includes FE colleges) have indicated that they do accept T-levels for entry**
- **Approximately half of the 24 Russell group universities**
- **Many universities only offer 1 or 2 courses though**

WHAT % OF THE FIRST COHORT OF T LEVEL STUDENTS ENDED UP GOING TO UNIVERSITY IN 2022?

What happened summer 2022?

➤ **44% of T Level students went to uni in 2022**

What % of T Level students ended up going to university in 2022?

- **44% of T Level students went to uni in 2022**
- **Was it higher or lower in 2023?**
- **36% of T Level students went to uni in 2023**
- **Was it higher or lower this summer?**
- **35% of T Level students went to uni in 2024**

Where did the others go? (44% university)

10% Degree apprenticeships

3% Other apprenticeships

40% Paid work (quarter with their placement employer)

3% Unknown

75% of post-T level completers said they were “fulfilled” in their current situation a year later

Destination data for all 16-18 leavers (based on 2021/22 leavers)

Sustained educational destinations	45% national average
Sustained employment	28% national average
Sustained apprenticeships	7% national average

03

BTEC DEFUNDING

So exactly what is happening with AGQ defunding?

Defunding of all level 3 quals apart from A levels or T levels*

Introduction of Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) (& ATQs)

first starts on these in Sep 2025 and Sep 2026

***also IB, core maths, EPQ**

HOW MANY DIFFERENT SUBJECT AREAS FOR THE NEW AAQS (SINGLE) WILL THERE BE?

- **Small** AAQs (1 A level equiv.) **will only be funded in eight areas:**

Science/Engineering (2025)

IT/Computing (2025)

HSC (2025)

Art/craft/design (2026)

Music/creative arts (2026)

Media (creative/digital) (2026)

Sport (2026)

Uniformed services (2026)

HOW MANY DIFFERENT SUBJECT AREAS FOR THE LARGE (DOUBLE OR TRIPLE) AAQS WILL THERE BE?

- **Large** AAQs (2+ A level equiv.) will **only be funded in three subject areas**

performing arts
sport areas
craft areas

AAQS/ATQS (16-19)

Cycle 1 (first teaching 2025) - approved	Cycle 2 (first teaching 2026) - provisional	
<p><u>Small AAQs</u> Applied Science (P/O) Health and Social Care (P/N/O) Medical Science (P/W) IT (P/O) Computing (P/O) Engineering (P/O) Construction (P) Early Childhood (P) Human Biology (O)</p>	<p><u>Small AAQs</u> Art, Craft and Design Creative Media Production Cyber-Security/Digital Networking (C) Digital Games Production Digital Music Production Enterprise & Innovation (C) Financial Studies Marketing Mental Health and Wellbeing (C) Music Performance Performing Arts Sport Sport and Exercise Science Sustainability Travel and Tourism</p>	<p><u>Large AAQs</u> Art, Design and Media Music Performing Arts Production Arts Sport Sport and Exercise Science</p>
<p><u>Small ATQs</u> Fitness</p> <p><u>IB Quals (HL &SL)</u></p>	<p>Sport and Exercise Science Uniformed Protective Services</p>	<p><u>Large ATQs</u> Event Management Sports Coaching Protective Services</p>
<p>Biology, Chemistry, Physics & Sports exercise</p>	<p>Uniformed Protective Services</p>	

But what about “pause and review”?

Short-term “L3 review”

To report by xmas

Longer-term “Curriculum and Assessment Review”

Interim report early 2025. Interim findings and key areas for further work. Final report with recommendations Autumn 2025.

*also IB, core maths, EPQ

Open Evenings in October/November - study programme uncertainties

You are presently unable to advise year 11 students of their sixth form options from Sep 2025:

Could a student take 2 (or even 3) AAQs?

Could a student take more than one AAQ in the same sector subject area (SSA) e.g. AAQ Health & Social Care and AAQ Medical Science?

Could a student combine more than one AAQ and A level in the same sector subject area (SSA) e.g. AAQ Health & Social Care and A level biology?

Could a student combine a new AAQ with a *legacy* AGQ e.g. could a student take AAQ computing along with BTEC business?

Definitive advice may only be available with the publication of the “2025-26 Study Programmes Guidance”, usually published in May. **There is possibility that this advice may be published at same time as the interim level 3 report in December – ASCL’s big push.**

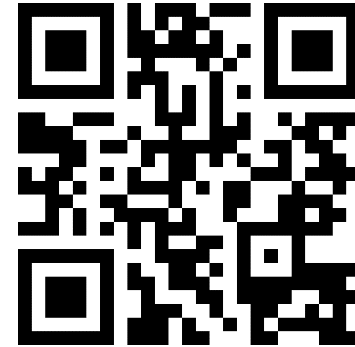
So schools and colleges that are presently running AGQs are need to make strategic decisions

- **To run one or more T levels?**
- **To focus on the new AAQs areas – singles or large?**
- **To just focus on A levels?**
- **To work in partnership with other schools/FE colleges?**
- **To close the sixth form?**
- **To defer decisions until xmas.....**

KEY AREAS OF UNDERSTANDING - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – [T LEVELS ACTION PLAN](#)

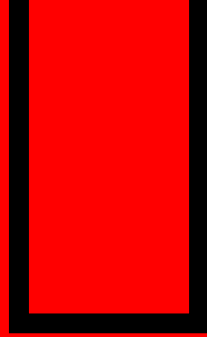
- Who are the present and planned providers of T Level and foundation year? [All providers](#)
- What resources are available for teachers and careers advisers? [Resources](#)
- Where can you and your students view student voice experiences [student voice](#)
- How can you get support for [industry placements](#) and designing an [employer engagement strategy](#)
- How are T Levels funded? [Funding](#)
- Lists of quals to be defunded from 2024-25 ([waves 1 & 2](#)) - ([wave 3](#)) ([wave 4](#))
- List of new [AAQs and ATQs](#) for September 2025 start

YOUR OPINION IS NEEDED!



You will receive a short survey on today's session by email. Please take a few minutes to complete it. The feedback is really appreciated and helps us to continue to deliver this free-of-charge training.

<https://emea.dcv.ms/pcDFMNmoT5>



THANK YOU

