

Sixth Form College

A Levels (Level 3) are offered at sixth forms and colleges.

You usually study between three and four subjects (check with the sixth form or college to confirm their offer).

You study A Levels for two years (if the sixth form or college offers AS Levels, they are studied for one year).

You may be able to combine A Levels with other qualifications, such as BTECs and Cambridge Technical's.

As well as studying subjects you know in more detail, you can start new subjects such as economics, media studies or sociology.

Include theory and written work and are mainly assessed by exams.

A Levels prepare you for higher education / university (HE) and employment. You may need specific subjects and grades for some courses and careers – see entry requirements

UCAS.COM - <https://www.ucas.com/>

Find out more about A-Levels - <https://www.careerpivot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16/a-levels>

Further Education College – BTEC'S

Are related to particular fields of employment such as business, construction, engineering and ICT.

Some are in more specific job areas, such as hairdressing, accounting, professional cookery, plumbing etc.

BTEC Nationals (Level 3) can lead on to higher education/ university courses as well as employment.

Find out more about BTECs - <https://www.careerpivot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16/vocational-qualifications>

T-Levels

These are 2-year technical courses equivalent to 3 A levels. Developed with employers, they are designed to provide the skills and knowledge required to get into a technical career.

T Levels combine classroom learning with an industry placement (at least 45 days).

T Levels can lead to skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

Find out more about T-Levels - <https://www.careerpivot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16/t-levels>

UCAS TARIFF POINTS	TLEVEL OVERALL GRADE	A LEVEL
168	Distinction* (A* on the core and distinction in the occupational specialism)	AAA*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on the core)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on the core)	DDD

Apprenticeships

There are opportunities for apprenticeships at all ages (16+).

As an apprentice you would be employed to do a job and would continue your studies towards a qualification in a related apprenticeship standard.

You will gain knowledge, skills and behaviours to support you in progressing into your chosen career or to a higher or degree apprenticeship.

Recommended websites

Apprenticeships.gov.uk -

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

Findapprenticeships.gov.uk - <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/>

Amazingapprenticeships.com -

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

UCAS.COM - <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships>

Indeed.com - <https://uk.indeed.com>

Apprenticeship Levels

NAME	LEVEL	EQUIVALENT
INTERMEDIATE	2	5 GCSE passes at grade A*-C or 9-4
ADVANCED	3	2 A Level passes, Level 3 Diploma, International Baccalaureate
HIGHER	4,5,6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
DEGREE	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Find out more about Apprenticeships -

<https://www.careerpivot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16/apprenticeships>

Employment / Volunteering

Until the age of 18 you have to stay in some form of education. Another option is to go into full time paid employment, self-employment or volunteering for a minimum of 20 hours each week.

If you are under 18, this must also include accredited training. An example of this would be working in retail and completing an NVQ in customer service alongside.

The training aspect must equate to 280 hours and be a nationally recognised qualification.

Looking for work can take time, commitment and organisation.

You can look for vacancies online, through word of mouth, on company websites and via social media.

It's a good idea to prepare a CV that you amend for each job accordingly.

To research regulated qualifications that you could take alongside your full-time employment or volunteering look at [Gov.uk/ofqual](https://www.gov.uk/ofqual)

Find out more about employment/volunteering
Careerpivot.org.uk - <https://www.careerpivot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16/work-or-voluntary-work-route>

What are qualification levels?

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are eight qualification levels (1 – 8) plus an entry level qualification for those just starting. Generally, the higher the level, the more difficult the qualification is. Levels 1–3 are typically taught in schools and colleges. With so many different qualifications, it can be hard to know what they mean and where they might lead to next. To help you understand, we've created the summary (on the left) of what the qualifications and levels mean highlighting academic, vocational and work-based routes to higher education.

LEVEL	QUALIFICATION		
	WORK-BASED	VOCATIONAL	ACADEMIC
8	Level 8 NVQ	Level 8 award, Certificate, Diploma Level 8 NVQ Doctorate	Level 8 award, Certificate, Diploma, Doctorate
7	Degree Apprenticeship Level 7 NVQ	Level 7 award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 7 NVQ Masters Degree, Postgraduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma	Level 7 award, Certificate, Diploma, Masters Degree, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
6	Degree Apprenticeship Level 6 NVQ	Level 6 award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 6 NVQ, Degree with Honours, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma	Level 6 award, Certificate, Diploma, Degree with Honours, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma
5	Higher Apprenticeship Level 5 NVQ	Level 5 award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 5 NVQ, Higher National Diploma (HND) Foundation Degree	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
4	Higher Apprenticeship Level 4 NVQ	Level 4 award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 4 NVQ, Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
3	Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3 NVQ	Level 3 award, Certificate, Diploma, Lvl 3 National Certificate, National Diploma Lvl 3 NVQ, Tech Lvl (T Lvl)	AS Level A Level
2	Intermediate Apprenticeship Level 2 NVQ	Level 2 award, Certificate, Diploma, Lvl 2 National Certificate, National Diploma Lvl 2 NVQ	GCSE Grades 9 – 4 Level 2 Essential Skills, Level 2 Functional Skills
1	Traineeship Level 1 NVQ	Level 1 NVQ Level 1 Award, Certificate, Diploma	GCSE Grades 3 – 1 Level 1 Essential Skills, Level 1 Functional Skills
ENTRY	ENTRY LEVEL AWARD, CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA, FUNCTIONAL SKILLS, ESSENTIAL SKILLS, SKILLS FOR LIFE		

GCSE's

NEW GRADING	OLD GRADING
9	High A*
8	Low A* or High A Grade
7	Low A Grade
6	High B Grade
5	Low B or High C Grade
4	Low C Grade
3	D or High E Grade
2	Low F or G Grade
1	Low F or G Grade
U	U

Useful career websites

Careerpilot - <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk>

National Careers Service - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

NCS Skills Assessment - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/discover-your-skills-and-careers/>

Buzz Quiz - <https://ambition.northeast-ca.gov.uk/buzz>

Prospects Careers - <https://www.prospects.ac.uk>

Find an Apprenticeship - <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

Indeed Jobs / Apprenticeships - <https://uk.indeed.com/>

University - UCAS Careers - <https://www.ucas.com/careers>

Russell Group - <https://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/>

Notes