

What's your next move?

Options after GCSEs

Levels are designed to reflect the level of complexity of qualifications and apprenticeships, allowing people to draw comparisons and understand where they sit in relation to other options which are available. There are 8 qualifications plus entry level, with higher levels offering the highest difficulty.

Find out more about the different levels at www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean.

Visit www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk for information about careers, training and work.



Qualification	Description	Length of time?	Assessment?	Level of Study?	Awards UCAS points?	Entry requirements?	Work Experience ?	What does it lead to?
Apprenticeships www.apprenticeships.gov.uk	A real job with training salary.	1 Year min	Apprenticeship dependent (Inc. demonstrations, presentations and/or exams)	Level 2/3 (with possibility to progress through to level 7)	No	Employer dependent Age 16+ Evidence of interest and ability to complete	Yes (paid job, with at least 20% off the job training)	*Higher level or degree level apprenticeship *University/College *Work
A-Levels	An academic qualification, similar in style to GCSEs, that prepares you for further study	2 Years	Mostly exams at the end of the course	3	Yes	For individual schools and colleges to decide (commonly 5 GCSEs at grades 4 and above)	No	*Apprenticeships *University/College *Work
T-Levels www.tlevels.gov.uk	A technical study programme, equivalent to 3 A levels, with an industry placement that makes up 20% of the course. T levels are designed to give you the skills that employers need.	2 Years	Exams, projects and practical assignments	3	Yes	Set by each school/college	Yes (80-% classroom, 20% work)	*Apprenticeships *University/College *Work
Technical / Vocational qualifications	Qualifications which teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be in.	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework and exams)	1+	Some (course and awarding body dependent)	Course dependent	Course dependent	*Apprenticeship *College *Work
Applied qualifications	Qualifications that prepare you for further study by combining academic learning with practical skills to give you a broad view of working in a sector.	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework and exams)	3	Yes	Set by each school/college	Course dependent	*Apprenticeships *University/College *Work
Traineeships	A work focused study programme that prepares you for an apprenticeship or work	6 weeks – 6 months	A formal job or exit interview with written feedback. Coursework and exams are course dependent	N/A	No	Have little to no work experience and qualified below level 3	Yes	*Apprenticeship *Work