



A LEVEL

What are they?

A levels are subject-based qualifications usually taught in classrooms and assessed by exams.

Subjects you can take

There are more than 40 different A level subjects to choose from.

Most people choose 3 subjects to study but you can take more or fewer. You can also study for a BTEC or other qualification at the same time.

To decide which subjects to take at A level, you should consider which subjects:

- you're good at or you would enjoy
- you might need for a certain job or further study after A levels
- will help you keep your options open if you're not sure what you want to do in the future

Entry Requirements

To take an A level, you normally need at least:

5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4

grade 6 in the subjects you want to study

- You should check with the school or college where you'd like to study to find out exactly what you'll need.

Qualification you will earn

You'll get a level 3 qualification from each A level you take.

A levels are also worth UCAS points which you use to apply to university or another type of higher education.

After A Levels

After you've finished your A levels you could:

- apply to university or another type of higher education
- do a higher level apprenticeship
- find work or join a school leaver scheme





T LEVEL

What are they?

A T Level takes 2 years and gives you a mix of learning in the classroom and a minimum 9 week placement with an employer. This means you'll learn what a real career is like while you study.

Subjects you can take

There are many different T Level subjects available and they continue to grow. You can choose from subjects in the following areas:

- agriculture, environment and animal care
- business and administration
- construction, engineering and manufacturing
- digital, creative and design
- education and early years
- health and science
- legal, finance and accounting

Entry Requirements

To start a T Level, you'll need to be 16 to 19 years old and live in England.

Schools and colleges set their own entry requirements, so you need to check their websites to find out what GCSE grades you need.

Qualification you will earn

You'll get a level 3 qualification from your T Level.

A T Level is also worth UCAS points which you use to apply to university or another type of higher education.

After T Levels

After you've finished your T Level you could:

- apply to university or another type of higher education
- do a higher level apprenticeship
- find work related to the T Level you took





VOCATIONAL

What are they?

Practical qualifications designed to give you the skills and experience you need for a certain job. They might be for you if you have a strong interest in working in a particular industry.

There are a few different types and levels of VTQs, including:

- BTEC diplomas: level 1 to 7 qualifications
- Cambridge Nationals: level 1 and 2 qualifications
- Cambridge Technicals: level 2 and 3 qualifications
- T Levels: level 3 qualifications

Subjects you can take

There are over 2,000 different subjects available across the different VTQs.

Each subject focuses on a specific job or a broad employment area, such as childcare, engineering or IT.

Entry Requirements

To start a vocational qualification you'll need to:

- be 16 or over
- live in England
- not already be in full time education

The grades you'll need to have will depend on the level and type of course you're applying for.

Qualification you will earn

You'll get a level 1, 2 or 3 qualification from your vocational course.

Students achieving standard pass or above in GCSE start at a Level 3 qualification level.

After T Levels

After completing a vocational qualification you could:

- go straight into work
- start a type of higher education
- do an apprenticeship





APPRENTICESHIP

What are they?

Apprenticeships are real jobs that combine work with training and study. You'll earn a wage, gain skills and have the opportunity to put what you learn into practice.

As an apprentice you'll:

- earn a wage and get holiday pay
- develop the skills you need for the job
- work on the job for around 80% of your apprenticeship
- get time for study related to your role, either at your place of work, a college, a training provider or online
- be on a career path with lots of future potential

Subjects you can take

There are over 700 types of apprenticeships in different areas of work.

So no matter what career you're interested in, there's likely to be an apprenticeship for you.

Entry Requirements

To start an apprenticeship, you'll need to:

- be 16 or over
- live in England
- not already be in full time education
- You can apply for an apprenticeship while you're still at school.

To apply for some apprenticeships, you might need to have certain qualifications, such as GCSE English or maths. If there are any additional entry requirements, they will be listed in the apprenticeship application details.

Qualification you will earn

You'll earn a qualification from your apprenticeship. Some apprenticeships might also give you an additional qualification, like a diploma.

The different apprenticeship qualifications levels are: foundation apprenticeship: level 2, intermediate: level advanced: level 3, higher: level 4 or 5, degree: level 6 or 7.

It takes between 8 months and 5 years to complete an apprenticeship, depending on the level.

After Apprenticeships

Depending on the level you took, when you've finished your apprenticeship you could:

- get another job with the same company you did your apprenticeship at
- find a job with a different employer
- do another apprenticeship at a higher level or in a different industry to try something different
- go to university or another type of higher education





COMBINING WORK AND STUDY

The Rules

Although you must remain in either education or training until you turn 18, this does not mean that you cannot earn a wage or gain work experience at the same time.

There are several options, such as apprenticeships as outlined above, volunteering or working part-time for 20 or more hours per week.

Volunteering

Volunteering after leaving school may not be paid work, but can help you to gain valuable skills and experience which will look great on your CV or university application and help you decide if that industry or role is right for you.

There are also some opportunities to earn a qualification whilst volunteering.

Working Part Time

Working part-time alongside study or training can help you to earn money, whilst continuing to work towards your qualifications.

As well as a wage, you'll gain real-life experience of the workplace and can get a feel for whether this type of work would suit you in the future.

Not in Employment, Education or Training

NEET stands for "Not in Education, Employment, or Training."

It refers to people—usually young adults—who are not studying, not working, and not learning job skills.

Problems that arise from being NEET:

1. **No income or financial independence;** Makes it hard to afford basic needs and creates long-term money stress.
2. **Skills stop developing;** Without college or work, it's easy to fall behind in knowledge, job experience, and workplace skills.
3. **Harder to get a job later;** Long gaps in activity can make employers hesitant, creating a cycle that's hard to break.
4. **Social isolation;** College and work give structure, friends, and social interaction. Without them, loneliness and mental health issues can increase.
5. **Loss of routine and motivation;** Lack of daily goals can lead to boredom, low self-esteem, and depression.



Our aim is that no students become NEET.

