



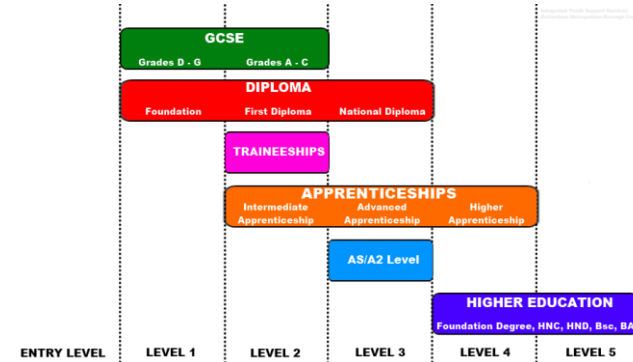
Qualifications Explained

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Qualifications?



- ▶ Qualifications are seen as a measurement of educational attainment
- ▶ They are used by post 16 providers to see if a young person meets the criteria to study a particular course level
- ▶ Employers may ask for certain qualifications when they recruit new staff
- ▶ The level of qualification needed depends on the type of job a person wants to do
- ▶ Professional jobs may need professional qualifications. That is, qualifications which are specifically needed by the industry e.g. teaching, engineering, health, IT



The different qualification levels

Qualifications come in different levels

- ▶ Pre Entry/Entry/Level 1
- ▶ Level 2
- ▶ Level 3
- ▶ Level 4
- ▶ Level 5
- ▶ Level 6
- ▶ Level 7
- ▶ Level 8
- ▶ And higher!





Pre Entry/Entry/Level 1



- ▶ These qualifications are available if a young person doesn't have GCSEs or has grades below D/E
- ▶ It's important to show that they show interest in the subject area
- ▶ If they are studying at a vocational college, they may be able to do Functional Skills in Literacy and Numeracy
- ▶ Traineeships - if they don't have the required GCSE levels for an Apprenticeship they might be able to do a Traineeship. This builds in some literacy and numeracy and also offers a chance to do work experience. Then when they are ready they can apply for apprenticeships.



Level 2 Qualifications



- ▶ GCSEs - employers generally want to know a young person has English and Maths or their equivalent Functional Skills
- ▶ Level 2 Diplomas - These are the equivalent of 4 GCSEs (grades A-C). Diplomas are assessed as: Pass, Merit and Distinction. A Distinction is equivalent to an A grade and a Pass is equivalent to a C grade. Level 2 Diplomas are 1 year courses.
- ▶ Functional skills - these can be offered alongside a vocational college course. They are known as Literacy and Numeracy Functional Skills
- ▶ Apprenticeships - Level 2 Apprenticeships. This is work and study at the same time. A person may work for 4 days and study for one day. Their study day could be at a training centre like Cambridge Regional College or West Suffolk College. You may also have training at your place of work. Either way, they will be assessed on their ability to do certain tasks. They will gain their technical or work-related qualifications.



Level 3 Qualifications



- ▶ A Levels - these are Advanced Level qualifications. They offer a more academic route of study. Some university courses will only consider A levels as entry criteria e.g. Medicine. A Levels are 2 year courses with exams at the end of the 2 years.
- ▶ Level 3 Diplomas - These are the equivalent of A Levels. An Extended Diploma is equivalent to 3 A Levels. Achieving 3 Distinctions is equivalent to gaining 3 A Levels at A grade. Diplomas are assessed by: coursework, internal and external assessments. Level 3 Diplomas are 2 year courses with continuous assessment. Many university courses accept Level 3 Diplomas as entry criteria for degree courses
- ▶ International Baccalaureate (IB) - possible alternative to A levels as this qualification is very academic. A person studies 6 subjects - 3 Standards and 3 Highers plus a Core of Theory of Knowledge, an Extended Essay and activities through Creativity, Action and Service.
- ▶ Advanced Apprenticeships - These are equivalent to Level 3 study. They can be 2 or more years depending on the industry requirements. It is possible to progress to higher education.

T Levels

T-LEVELS

- ▶ T Levels are new courses coming in September 2020, which will follow 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 prepares students for work.
- ▶ T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and ‘on-the-job’ experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.



Level 4 and 5 Qualifications



- ▶ Level 4 can be Higher National Certificates
- ▶ Level 5 can be Higher National Diplomas
- ▶ Some HNCs or HNDs can take a person to the second or third level of a degree
- ▶ Higher Level Apprenticeships are equivalent to a Foundation Degree or the first/second year of a university degree
- ▶ Foundation Degrees are Level 5 qualifications. These combine academic study with workplace learning. Employers have helped to design Foundation Degrees. With extra study it may be possible to upgrade to a honours degree from a Foundation Degree



Level 6 Qualifications



- ▶ When a person gains a degree they have a Level 6 qualification
- ▶ Some employers may want their employees to gain professional qualifications which are equivalent to a degree
- ▶ It may be possible to do a Degree Apprenticeship



Level 7 and Level 8



- ▶ These are post-graduate qualifications
- ▶ An example of a Level 7 qualification is a Masters Degree
- ▶ It is possible to do a Level 7 Apprenticeship
- ▶ An example of a Level 8 qualification is a Doctoral Degree such as a PhD, DPhil, EdD
- ▶ It is possible to gain a higher level qualification such as a professorship.



Thank you for listening

If your son or daughter would like to book a career guidance interview please ask their Form Tutor or their Head of Year to email Dr Simpson.

