**Qualification levels**

The table below shows some examples of qualifications at each level under the various frameworks. The list is not exhaustive.

| **Qualification level** | **Examples of qualifications** | **What they give you** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Entry** | * Entry level awards, certificates and diplomas * Essential skills at entry level | * basic knowledge and skills * ability to apply learning in everyday situations * not geared towards specific occupations |
| **1** | * GCSE grades D-G (and grades 3 to 1 in England) * level one awards, diplomas and certificates * Key Skills level 1 * NVQs * Essential Skills * Music grades 1 to 3 | * basic knowledge and skills * ability to apply learning with guidance or supervision * may be linked to job competence |
| **2** | * GCSE grades A\*- C (and grades 4 to 9 in England) * intermediate apprenticeships * Level 2 awards, diplomas and certificates * OCR Nationals * NVQs * Essential Skills * Music grades 4 and 5 * O level - grades A-C | * good knowledge and understanding of a subject * ability to do a variety of tasks with some guidance or supervision * suitable for many job roles |
| **3** | * AS and A levels * Access to Higher Education diploma * advanced apprenticeship * International Baccalaureate * NVQs * BTEC diplomas, certificates and awards * BTEC Nationals * OCR Nationals * Music grades 6 to 8 | * ability to gain or apply a range of knowledge, skills and understanding at a detailed level * appropriate if you plan to go to university, work independently or (in some cases) supervise and train others in their field of work |
| **4** | * NVQs * BTEC Professional diplomas, certificates and awards * HNCs * Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE) * Higher apprenticeship | * specialist learning, involving detailed analysis of a high level of information and knowledge in an area of work or study * ​suitable for people working in technical and professional jobs, and/or managing and developing others |
| **5** | * HNDs * NVQs * BTEC Professional diplomas, certificates and awards * Foundation degrees * Diploma of higher education (DipHE) | * ability to increase the depth of knowledge and understanding of an area of work or study, so you can respond to complex problems and situations * involves high level of work expertise and competence in managing and training others * suitable for people working as higher grade technicians, professionals or managers |
| **6** | * Bachelor's degrees * Professional Graduate Certificate in Education * Graduate diplomas * BTEC Advanced Professional diplomas, certificates and awards * degree apprenticeship | * a specialist, high-level knowledge of an area of work or study, to allow you to use your own ideas and research in response to complex problems and situations * suitable for people working as knowledge-based professionals or in professional management positions |
| **7** | * Master's degrees * Postgraduate Certificate in Education * BTEC Advanced Professional diplomas, certificates and awards | * highly developed and complex levels of knowledge, enabling you to develop original responses to complicated and unpredictable problems and situations * suitable for senior professionals and managers |
| **8** | * Doctoral degrees * specialist awards, certificates and diplomas | * opportunity to develop new and creative approaches that extend or redefine existing knowledge or professional practice * suitable for leading experts or practitioners in a particular field |

Source [GOV.UK: What qualification levels mean](https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels)