**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)