



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Entry level awards, certificates and diplomasEssential skills at entry level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">basic knowledge and skillsability to apply learning in everyday situationsnot geared towards specific occupations
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GCSE grades D-G (and grades 3 to 1 in England)level one awards, diplomas and certificatesKey Skills level 1NVQsEssential SkillsMusic grades 1 to 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">basic knowledge and skillsability to apply learning with guidance or supervisionmay be linked to job competence
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GCSE grades A*- C (and grades 4 to 9 in England)intermediate apprenticeshipsLevel 2 awards, diplomas and certificatesOCR NationalsNVQsEssential SkillsMusic grades 4 and 5O level - grades A-C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">good knowledge and understanding of a subjectability to do a variety of tasks with some guidance or supervisionsuitable for many job roles
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AS and A levelsAccess to Higher Education diplomaadvanced apprenticeshipInternational BaccalaureateNVQsBTEC diplomas, certificates and awardsBTEC NationalsOCR NationalsMusic grades 6 to 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ability to gain or apply a range of knowledge, skills and understanding at a detailed levelappropriate if you plan to go to university, work independently or (in some cases) supervise and train others in their field of work





Qualification level	Examples of qualifications	What they give you
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NVQs • BTEC Professional diplomas, certificates and awards • HNCs • Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE) • Higher apprenticeship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HNDs • NVQs • BTEC Professional diplomas, certificates and awards • Foundation degrees • Diploma of higher education (DipHE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's degrees • Professional Graduate Certificate in Education • Graduate diplomas • BTEC Advanced Professional diplomas, certificates and awards • degree apprenticeship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degrees • Postgraduate Certificate in Education • BTEC Advanced Professional diplomas, certificates and awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctoral degrees • specialist awards, certificates and diplomas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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/government/publications/what-qualification-levels-mean)