

Qualification levels

Entry level

Each entry level qualification is available at three sub-levels - 1, 2 and 3. Entry level 3 is the most difficult.

Entry level qualifications are:

- Entry level award
- Entry level certificate (ELC)
- Entry level diploma
- Entry level English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- Entry level essential skills
- Entry level functional skills
- Skills for Life

Level 1

Level 1 qualifications are:

- First certificate
- Gcse - grades 3, 2, 1 or grades d, e, f, g
- Level 1 award
- Level 1 certificate
- Level 1 diploma
- Level 1 ESOL
- Level 1 essential skills
- Level 1 functional skills
- Level 1 national vocational qualification (NVQ)
- Music grades 1, 2 and 3

Level 2

Level 2 qualifications are:

- CSE - grade 1
- GCSE - grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 or grades A*, A, B, C
- Intermediate apprenticeship
- Level 2 award
- Level 2 certificate
- Level 2 diploma
- Level 2 ESOL
- Level 2 essential skills
- Level 2 functional skills
- Level 2 national certificate
- Level 2 national diploma

- Level 2 NVQ
- Music grades 4 and 5
- O level - grade A, B or C

Level 3

Level 3 qualifications are:

- A level
- Access to higher education diploma
- Advanced apprenticeship
- Applied general
- AS level
- International Baccalaureate diploma
- Level 3 award
- Level 3 certificate
- Level 3 diploma
- Level 3 ESOL
- Level 3 national certificate
- Level 3 national diploma
- Level 3 NVQ
- Music grades 6, 7 and 8
- Tech level

Level 4

Level 4 qualifications are:

- Certificate of higher education (certhe)
- Higher apprenticeship
- Higher national certificate (HNC)
- Level 4 award
- Level 4 certificate
- Level 4 diploma
- Level 4 NVQ

Level 5

Level 5 qualifications are:

- Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
- Foundation degree
- Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Level 5 award
- Level 5 certificate
- Level 5 diploma
- Level 5 NVQ

Level 6

Level 6 qualifications are:

- Degree apprenticeship
- Degree with honours - for example Bachelor of the Arts (BA) honours, Bachelor of Science (BSc) honours
- Graduate certificate
- Graduate diploma
- Level 6 award
- Level 6 certificate
- Level 6 diploma
- Level 6 NVQ
- Ordinary degree without honours

Level 7

Level 7 qualifications are:

- Integrated master's degree, for example Master of Engineering (MEng)
- Level 7 award
- Level 7 certificate
- Level 7 diploma
- Level 7 NVQ
- Master's degree, for example Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc)
- Postgraduate certificate
- Postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE)
- Postgraduate diploma

Level 8

Level 8 qualifications are:

- Doctorate, for example Doctor of Philosophy (PhD or DPhil)
- Level 8 award
- Level 8 certificate
- Level 8 diploma