

## Guide to Qualification Levels

There are 8 qualification levels that are used in education and work to compare different qualifications. They also show how one qualification can lead to another.

Level	Qualification examples
Entry (levels 1-3)	Entry Level Award, Certificate, Diploma English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Skills for Life Functional Skills (English, maths, ICT) Essential Skills
1	GCSEs (grades D-G or 3-1) Technical Award Level 1 Award, Certificate, Diploma (City & Guilds, CASHE, OCR, BTEC/Edexcel/Pearson) English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) NVQ Level 1 First Certificate Functional Skills Essential Skills Music (Grades 1-3)
2	GCSEs (Grades A*-C or 9-4) O Levels (Grades A-C) Technical Award Level 2 Award, Certificate, Diploma (City & Guilds, CACHE, OCR, BTEC/Edexcel/Pearson) English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) NVQ Level 2 National Certificate/Diploma Intermediate Apprenticeship Functional Skills Essential Skills Music (Grades 4-5)
3	A Levels (Grades A-E) AS Levels (Grades A-E) Award, Certificate, Diploma (City & Guilds, CACHE, OCR, BTEC/Edexcel/Pearson) English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Foundation Diploma (Art & Design) NVQ Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship National Certificate/Diploma International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Music (Grades 6-8)
4	Higher National Certificate (HNC) Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Higher Apprenticeship
5	Higher National Diploma (HND) Diploma of Higher Education (CertHE) Foundation Degree NVQ Level 4
6	Degree with Honours (e.g. BA Hons, BSc Hons) Degree Apprenticeship Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma Ordinary Degree (without Honours)
7	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma Master's Degree (e.g. MA, MSc, MBA, MPhil) Integrated Master's Degree (e.g. MEng) Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) NVQ Level 5
8	Doctorate (e.g. PhD, DPhil, EdD, DClínPsy)