Department for Education

The new qualification landscape at Level 3

Route	Funding	Level 3 qualification types	Requirements		
Technical qualifications Primarily designed to support progression to skilled employment/ further technical training	16-19 only	**T Levels**			
	16-19 and adult	**Occupational Entry:** Quals delivering competence against an occupational standard not covered by T Levels	Aligns to occupational standard	Alternative approval test	Employer demand test and Ofqual conditions
		Additional Specialist: Specialist technical qualifications	Builds on occupational standard	Additional specialist competence test	
		Cross-Cutting: Smaller technical qualifications offering transferable skills e.g. Health and Safety, Leadership and management	Selectively covers occupational standard	Significant outcomes test	
	Adult only	**Occupational Entry:** Quals delivering competence against an occupational standard covered by T Levels	Aligns to occupational standard	Alternative approval test	
		Occupational Entry: Quals delivering competence for occupations without a standard but where there is employer demand	No link to occupational standard	Significant outcomes test	
Clear distinction between technical and academic qualifications					
Academic qualifications Primarily designed to support progression to further/higher education	16-19 and adult	**A/AS levels**			
		Small AAQ (1 x A level size) quals that can be taken in a mixed study programme alongside A levels. Includes subjects where there are A levels if they are priority areas (e.g. STEM) and subjects A levels don't cover that support HE progression (e.g. health and social care)	• Supports progression to higher education • Is necessary • Meets titling requirements • Meets size requirements • Is in a specified SSA • Meets requirements for mandatory content • Meets Ofqual conditions (Ofqual will feedback to DfE)		
		Large AAQ (3 x A level size) quals that can be taken as an alternative to A levels in areas less well-served by A levels, supporting progression to HE. Includes subjects like performing arts, but will not overlap with a T Level			
		Other academic qualifications*: **IB Diploma,** Access to HE Diploma, Core Maths, Performing Arts Graded Examinations, Advanced Extension Awards, Extended Project Qualifications.			