

# What are AAQs?

Studying an Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) in September 2025 may be a great option for your child, and a qualification they may not be aware of yet.

Read on to learn more about AAQs and to see if AAQs are the right route for them.

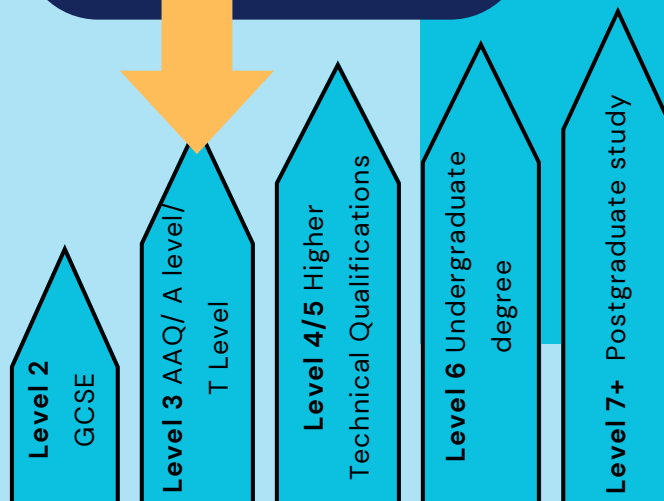
AAQs are new qualifications that will be available from 1 August 2025. They offer an academic qualification with elements of applied learning in a range of subjects at level 3. AAQs also attract UCAS tariff points.

AAQs have been mainly designed to help your child to enter higher education but can also prepare them for apprenticeships and work. Your child can study them after their GCSEs and small AAQs range in size from 150-450 guided learning hours (GLH). For comparison an A level is 360 GLH.

At least 60% of the content covered by an AAQ will be mandatory/set with some AAQs offering optional modules in addition to the core content. AAQs also offer various assessment methods.

## Where do AAQs fit?

AAQs are level 3 qualifications, designed to be studied alongside A levels.



## Where can AAQs take your child?

After studying an AAQ, your child could progress to higher education, an apprenticeship or into employment.

## SUBJECTS AVAILABLE:

Building and construction  
Child development and well-being  
Engineering  
Health & social care  
ICT practitioners  
Science

# Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) Guide for Parents

## What do AAQs offer?

**Varied study options:** AAQs are available in subjects not usually covered by A levels, like Engineering, Medical and Applied Science and Health and Social care, providing a broader range of study areas.

**Preparation for Higher Education:** AAQs are designed to support progression to higher-level academic study, equipping your child with the necessary knowledge and skills for university courses.

**Balance of academic and applied learning:** AAQs contain space for applied learning as well as more traditional academic learning, and they provide scope for a variety of assessment methods, further meeting your child's needs.

**Flexible study combinations:** your child can study small AAQs alongside A levels, allowing for a more personalised educational pathway.

AVAILABLE  
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