



Department
for Education



WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT REFORMING POST-16 TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS?

England's post-16
qualifications
system must
respond to a
changing world.



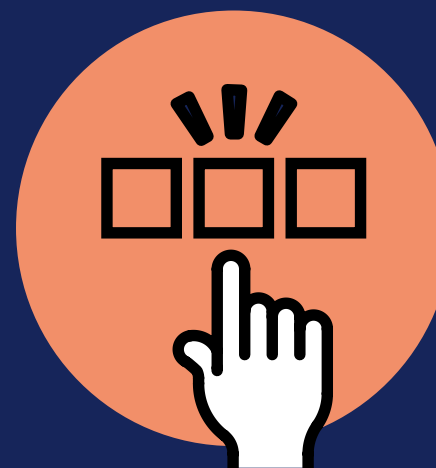
Nearly 900,000 additional
skilled workers will be
needed in priority sectors
by 2030.



Around 1 million young
people are not in
education, employment
or training.



Skills shortages, complex
career routes and
technology and AI are all
reshaping the labour market.



We want to give young
people a broad range of
options.

OUR AMBITION



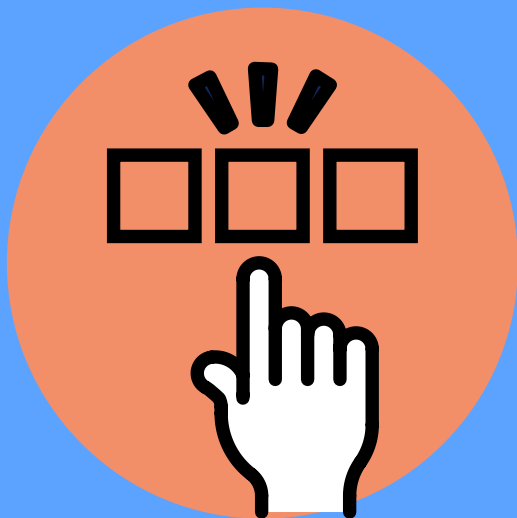
Strong progression

Support progression into further study, apprenticeships or employment



Equal value

Make academic, vocational and technical options equally valued.



Clarity of choice

Give every young person clear choices so they can plan confidently for their future.

What will change?

The reformed system will offer clear pathways at every stage:



At level 3:

- A Levels – Academic
- V Levels – Vocational
- T Levels – Technical
- Apprenticeships

This is the biggest reform to vocational education in a generation and a key part of supporting economic growth and opportunity.

At level 2



- Foundation Certificate (part of the Further Study Pathway) – preparing for studying V Levels, T Levels and A Levels.
- Occupational Certificate (part of the Occupational Pathway) – preparing for skilled employment.
- Foundation Apprenticeships

These changes will help students choose the option that suits them best.

This is the biggest reform to vocational education in a generation and a key part of supporting economic growth and opportunity.