

Technical and Vocational Qualifications (TVQ) Asset pack

Supporting providers to communicate new post-16 qualification pathways.

Resources to help explain:

- V Levels
- Foundation Certificates
- Occupational Certificates
- T Levels

Includes ready-to-use copy, posters, leaflets, social media assets and guidance for engaging students, parents, carers and employers.



Department
for Education

OCCUPATIONAL
CERTIFICATES

FOUNDATION
CERTIFICATES

OFFICIAL

V LEVELS **T-LEVELS**

Introduction

In 2026, The Department for Education published the Post-16 Pathways Implementation plan which sets out the delivery of new V Levels, level 2 pathways and T levels that will be available to teach from 2027.

This asset pack has been created to help and support explaining these as post-16 options to students, parents and employers. These materials and social media assets provide content to:

- Highlight and explain these newly reformed qualifications
- Be integrated into the communications activity of education and training providers

It includes ready-to-use messaging, downloadable assets and practical guidance to support consistent communication.



Who is this pack for?

This pack is designed for:

- Schools and academies, including those with sixth form provision
- Further education colleges
- Sixth form colleges
- Independent training providers
- Careers leaders and careers advisers
- School and college communications teams

What does the pack include?

The pack includes:

- Key messages and background information
- Ready to use newsletter and website copy
- Employer engagement content
- Frequently asked questions
- Explainer leaflets
- Posters and visual assets
- Social media content and stories
- Links to further resources

Quick start guide

If you're new to communicating post-16 pathways, start with:

- Background
- Key messages
- Communication guidance

Then select assets that best suit your audience and channels.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Use story assets and prepared captions
- Add provider-specific course links
- Post one awareness message per week
- Signpost students to further information e.g. GOV.UK guidance

OPEN DAYS AND CAREERS EVENTS

- Display and use pathway posters
- Print explainers
- Use FAQs on information stands

STAFF BRIEFINGS

- Share key messages
- Share explainers to support understanding
- Familiarise teachers and advisers with progression routes



WEBSITE

- Update your website
- Add a 'New qualifications from 2027' page
- Use the copy provided (slide 7)
- Include local course information
- Link to FAQs, explainers and GOV.UK

PRINT AND DISPLAY IN HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS

- Reception
- Careers hub
- Sixth form/common room
- Year 10/11 spaces

EMAIL/NEWSLETTER UPDATE

- Use story assets and prepared captions
- Add provider-specific course links
- Post one awareness message per week
- Signpost students to further information e.g. GOV.UK guidance

RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGNS

- Copy, paste and adapt the newsletter text (slide 7)
- Add your planned qualifications
- Send to parents, carers and students
- Include GOV.UK and provider links



Background

Clearer routes and choice. Qualifications that reflect different strengths and ambitions.

The government is reforming post-16 qualifications to create a clearer system that supports progression into further study, skilled employment, further training and higher-level learning.

These reforms recognise that young people have different strengths, interests and ambitions, and aim to ensure every student can find a pathway that is right for them.

Why reform is needed

- England's post-16 qualifications system must respond to a changing world.
- Employers are facing skills shortages, young people are navigating increasingly complex career routes, and technology and artificial intelligence are reshaping the labour market.
- Nearly 900,000 additional skilled workers will be needed in priority sectors by 2030.

From **2027**, post-16 students will have access to:

- **New V Levels**, which will provide a high-quality **vocational** route alongside existing **A Levels (academic)** and **T Levels (technical)** at level 3.
- **Level 2 pathways** through **Foundation Certificates** and **Occupational Certificates** into **further study** at **level 3** or **skilled work**.

The reforms are designed to:

- Create a clearer qualifications system to give young people clear choices at age 16.
- Support progression into further study, training and skilled employment
- Create a system where academic, technical and vocational pathways are equally valued.
- Help every student access a pathway that suits their goals.

Key messages



Clear routes: every young person deserves a clear path to success.

Young people should be able to see where their choices could lead. The new post-16 pathways provide clearer routes into further study, apprenticeships, higher education and skilled employment.



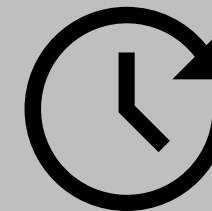
Valued pathways: every route matters.

Academic, technical and vocational pathways will be valued equally, recognising different talents and strengths and giving young people confidence that their chosen route matters.



Strong progression: supporting every step into the future.

Qualifications are designed to help young people to progress and move forward towards further learning, apprenticeships, university or employment.



Skills for future careers: building skills, confidence and opportunity.

Designed with employers and higher education, these qualifications help young people gain knowledge, skills and experience needed for higher level study and skilled jobs in a changing economy.

1

- **Be clear** – use plain English and avoid technical language wherever possible.
- **Focus on opportunities** – talk about where the qualifications can lead rather than how the reforms work.
- **Build confidence** – many parents and students will be hearing about these qualifications for the first time.
- **Use reassuring language** – students care about future opportunities and want to know where qualifications can lead, parents want confidence in progression opportunities, employers want reassurance about skills, standards and readiness for work.
- **Signpost to official information** – direct audiences to GOV.UK for detailed guidance and updates.
- **Use and adapt the materials** – for open days, careers fairs, parent/carer evenings, school outreach, websites and social media.
- **Accessibility** – Make sure your content is accessible. Follow GOV.UK and DfE accessibility guidance when publishing online content and printed materials.

2

Before publishing communications, ask:

- ✓ Would someone with no knowledge of qualifications reform understand this?
- ✓ Does this explain benefits clearly?
- ✓ Have we avoided jargon?
- ✓ Have we directed people to official information?
- ✓ Does this sound encouraging and accessible?

Guidance

Branding

V Level, Foundation Certificates and Occupational Certificate logos for use in print and online.

This download includes logos in a range of brand colours.

V Level logos are available to download [**here**](#).

Foundation Certificate logos are available to download [**here**](#).

Occupational Certificate logos are available to download [**here**](#).

T Level logos are available to download [**here**](#).

V LEVELS

***FOUNDATION
CERTIFICATES***

A black arrow pointing upwards, starting from the right side of the 'FOUNDATION CERTIFICATES' text and ending at the right side of the 'OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATES' text.

***OCCUPATIONAL
CERTIFICATES***

A black arrow pointing upwards, starting from the right side of the 'OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATES' text and ending at the right side of the 'T-LEVELS' text.

T-LEVELS

Newsletter/web copy

This is copy that you can include in your newsletter or Intranet or on your website to help to explain Post-16 Qualifications.

New post-16 qualifications are coming in 2027

From September 2027, students will have access to new qualifications designed to provide clear routes into further study, training, higher education and skilled employment. Every young person is different, and these qualifications are designed to give students clear choices that match their strengths, interests and ambitions.

These reforms are being introduced at a time when employers are facing skills shortages and technology is transforming the workplace. The new pathways are designed to help young people develop the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to progress into further study and future careers.

Alongside A Levels (academic) and T Levels (technical), new vocational qualifications called V Levels will become available, offering students a vocational, high-quality route to future opportunities.

New Foundation Certificates and Occupational Certificates at level 2 will support students to build knowledge, skills and confidence before progressing to level 3 study or skilled employment.

- We will be offering: [INSERT QUALIFICATIONS]
- Find out more[Website]
- Contact[Email]

Employer engagement template

Employers play an important role in helping students understand and progress into future careers.

Use the template as provided or adapt it to reflect local priorities and employer partnerships.

By working with providers, employers can:

- Raise awareness of career opportunities
- Support students through employer encounters
- Help students understand workplace expectations
- Strengthen links between education and employment

Editable employer letter

Parent/carer and student Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document



Download this FAQ document which includes questions and answers that we expect parents and students may ask.

Top questions include:

What is a V Level?
How are V Levels different from T Levels?
Can I progress to university?
What are Foundation Certificates?
What are Occupational Certificates?

This can be downloaded and shared using social media assets or printed and used at open events when promoting the new qualifications – **FAQ Parents/ carers and students**

Purpose: explainers and posters

These explainer leaflets, posters and FAQ provide an accessible introduction to key aspects of post-16 qualifications reform.

These assets can be:

- Displayed at open events
- Shared on websites and virtual learning environments
- Included in presentations
- Printed for schools, colleges and careers events

Audience

- Students
- Parents and carers
- Staff members, including careers professionals
- Employers

Format

These are available in a range of formats including A4 print ready and PDF formats. They can be downloaded by using the download and publish button.

Explainers

Purpose: provides detailed information leaflets to explain V Levels, Foundation and Occupational Certificates.

Formats available: PDF

[Download V Levels leaflet](#)

[Download Foundation Certificate leaflet](#)

[Download Occupational Certificate leaflet](#)

What is the Foundation Certificate?

The Foundation Certificate is a one-year Level 2 qualification, for students who after their GCSEs, want to progress to level 3 and would benefit from the support and preparation the programme provides to get ready for the next level.

Foundation Certificates provide a broad introduction to the subject, to help inform student choice about the career they want to pursue and which further study option will get them there, including V Levels, T Levels or A Levels.

Foundation Certificates will be available from 2027.

What can you do with a Foundation Certificate?

After completing a Foundation Certificate you can progress to a range of next steps, including V Levels, T Levels and A Levels. You will need to meet your provider's entry requirements for these qualifications.

 Department for Education

AVAILABLE FROM AUGUST 2027

SUBJECTS AVAILABLE IN 2027:
Digital Systems and Data Education

Guide to the Foundation Certificate

The Foundation Certificate is focused on building strong foundations to support progression into further study.

What to expect from a Foundation Certificate

- **A stepping stone to level 3 study:** prepare for your next step whether that's to progress to V Levels, T Levels, A Levels or other courses.
- **Build relevant knowledge and practical skills:** develop the understanding and skills you need to help you decide on your future study options and career path.
- **Learn through real-world practical activities:** get involved in hands-on, work-related tasks that help you apply what you learn in realistic situations and put theory into practice.
- **A supportive and flexible study programme:** typically one-year, with English and/or maths alongside if needed. You'll take part in enrichment and personal development activities, to build confidence and prepare you for future success.

 Department for Education

What is an Occupational Certificate?

The Occupational Certificate is a two year qualification, for students who after their GCSEs, are clear about the type of work they want to move into and need job-focused preparation.

Occupational Certificates provide students with practical, job-focused learning that builds the skills and knowledge needed for specific roles, aligned to employer standards.

Occupational Certificates will be available from 2027.

What can you do with an Occupational Certificate?

After studying an Occupational Certificate, a student could progress into related skilled work or an apprenticeship.

 Department for Education

AVAILABLE FROM AUGUST 2027

SUBJECTS AVAILABLE IN 2027:
Early Years Practitioner
Culinary Skills
Hospitality

Guide to the Occupational Certificate

The Occupational Certificate prepares students for specific careers, offering job-focused training and a clear route into skilled work or apprenticeships.

What do Occupational Certificates offer?

- **Designed for real jobs and practical skills:** Occupational Certificates focus on the knowledge and hands-on skills needed for specific roles, with content aligned to employer-defined occupational standards.
- **A clear route into employment or apprenticeships:** these qualifications prepare students for skilled work or progression into apprenticeships, giving them the experience and confidence to enter the workplace.
- **In-depth learning over two years:** studied as part of a two-year programme, they allow students time to build technical skills, alongside English, maths, wider employability and personal development.

 Department for Education

What are V Levels?

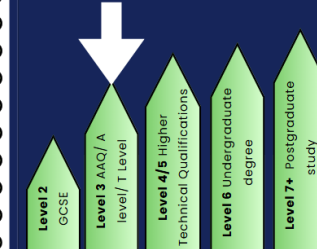
V Levels are a new flagship vocational qualification that sit alongside A Levels and T Levels. They are designed for students who want vocational learning, real-world skills, and the flexibility to keep their options open. V Levels will be available from 2027.

What can you do with a V Level?
After studying a V Level, a student could progress into related higher education or work-based training, including apprenticeships.

 Department for Education

Where do V Levels fit?

V Levels are level 3 qualifications, the same level as A Levels and T Levels.



SUBJECTS AVAILABLE IN 2027:
Accounting and Finance
Digital Systems and Data Education

AVAILABLE FROM AUGUST 2027

 Department for Education

Guide to V Levels

What do V Levels offer?

- **A flexible, career-focused alternative at level 3:** V Levels are broad, vocational qualifications (the same size as an A Level) that combine applied learning with sector-based knowledge, helping students explore careers without specialising too early.
- **Build skills that employers and higher education value:** Designed with employers and higher education, V Levels develop practical, transferable skills linked to real jobs, supporting strong progression into higher education or work-based training including apprenticeships.
- **Clear, high-quality pathways for future success:** V Levels can be taken as a full study programme or combined with other qualifications. They are designed so students can progress as successfully as with A levels, giving clear and flexible routes to their next step.

Posters: Why is the Government reforming post-16 qualifications?

Purpose: provides an overview as to why the Government is reforming post-16 qualifications.

Formats available: PDF

[Download PDF](#)

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

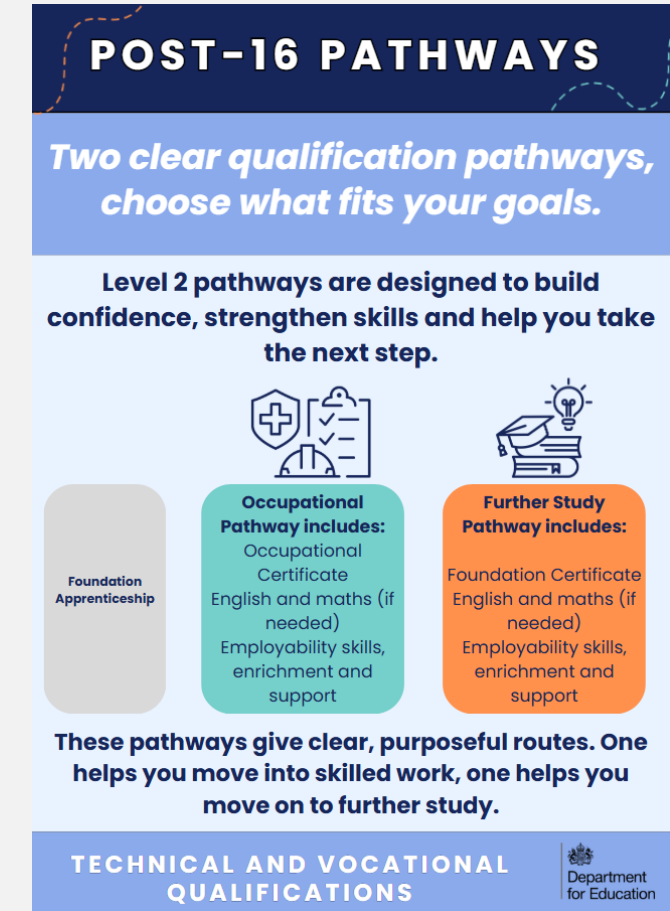
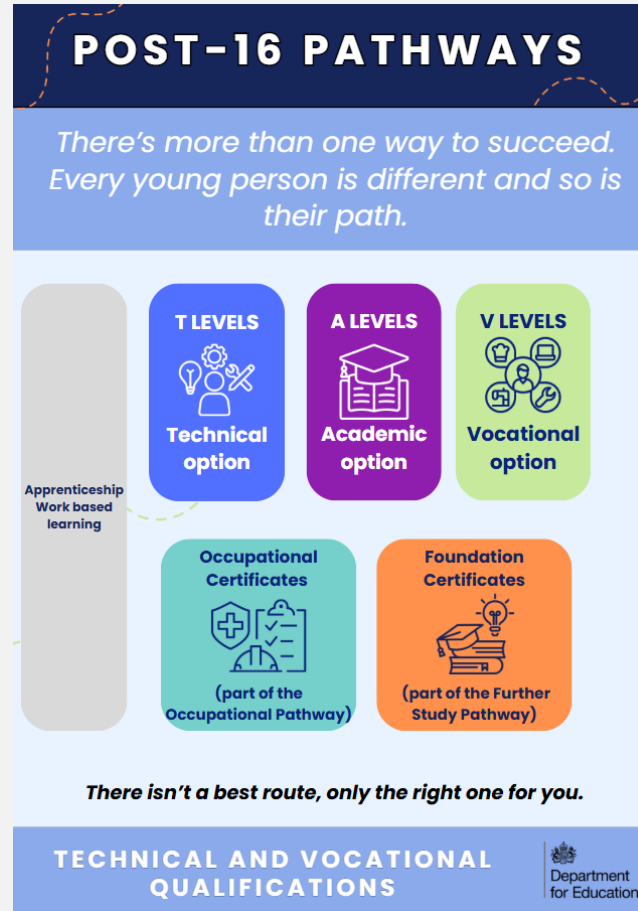
Posters: What are the new Post-16 pathways?

Purpose: provides information to explain V Levels, Foundation and Occupational Certificates.

Formats available: A4 print, PDF

[Download PDF](#)

[Download JPEG](#)



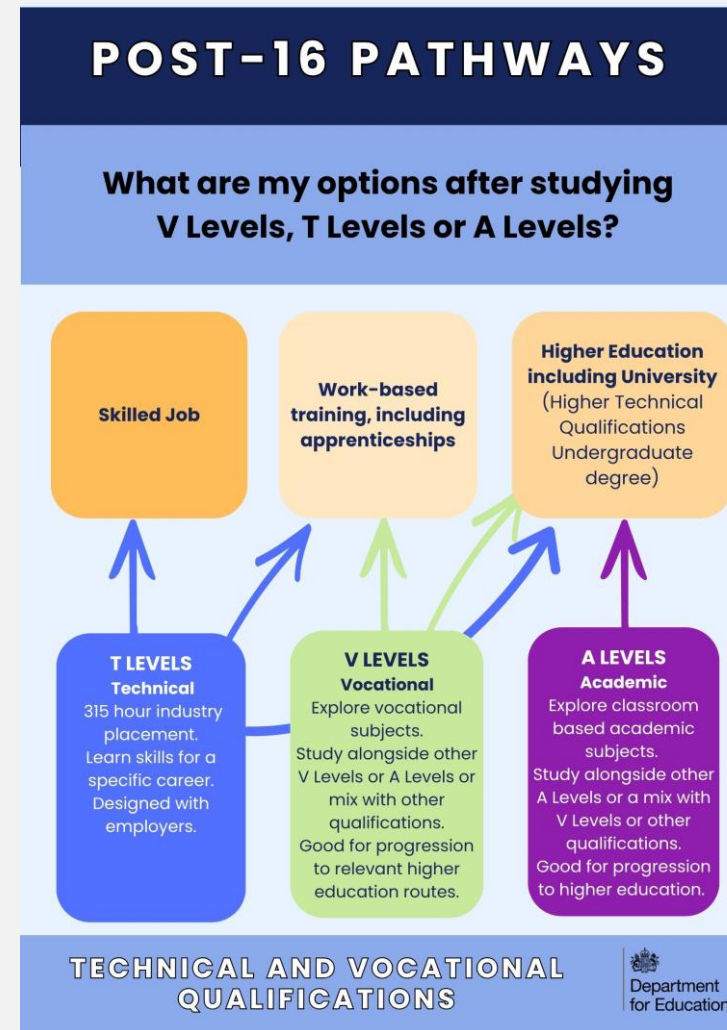
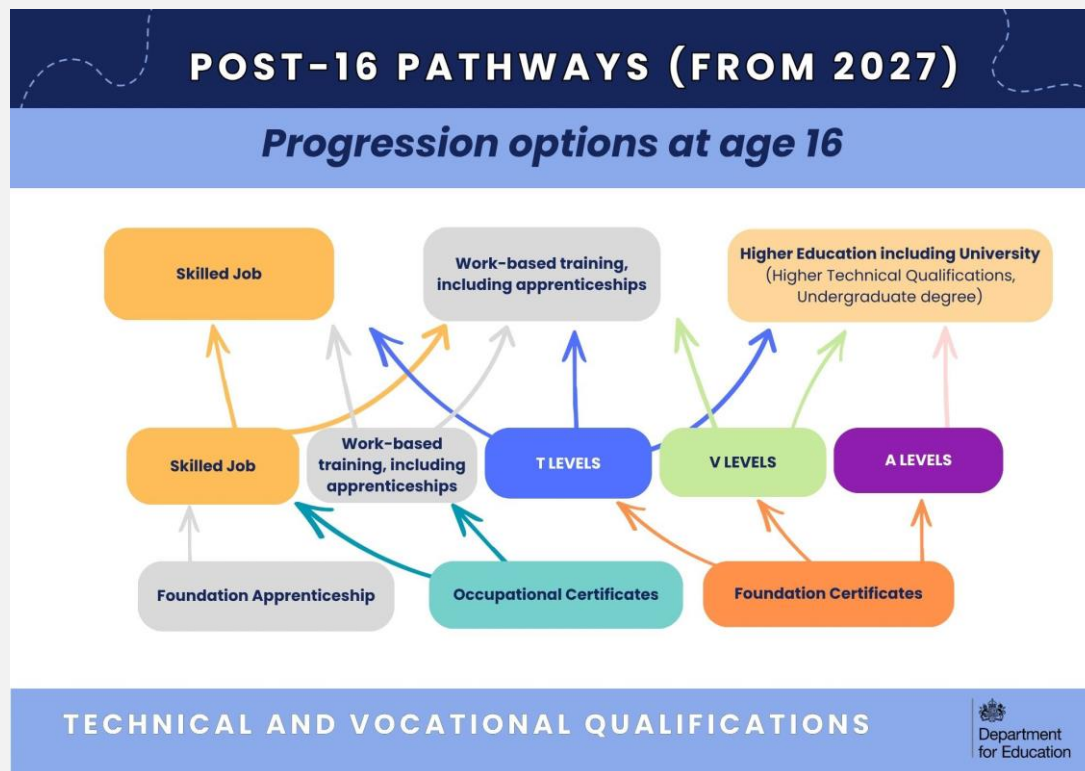
Posters: Progression from new Post-16 pathways.

Purpose: posters to explain progression from technical and vocational qualifications.

Formats available: A4 print, PDF

[Download PDF](#)

[Download JPEG](#)



Posters: V Levels

Purpose: posters to explain V Levels
– what they are and who they are for.

Formats available: A4 print, PDF

[Download PDF](#)

[Download JPEG](#)

WHAT IS A V LEVEL? NEW

V Levels explained

A new vocational choice after GCSEs



A new option for 16 year olds from 2027.

Focus on vocational subjects, with applied learning and assessment that helps you show both your knowledge and skills.



Can be taken alongside other V Levels or A Levels, as well as English and maths if needed.



Designed to help you explore careers.

Why it matters:
More choice
More flexibility
More ways to find what suits you.



Support progression to related higher education or work-based training, including apprenticeships.

V LEVELS

Department for Education

POST-16 PATHWAYS

Who are V Levels for?

V Levels are ideal for students who:

- Want real-world skills without specialising too narrowly.
- Are aiming for higher education or work-based training and want applied learning.
- Want flexibility while exploring future career options.




V LEVELS

Department for Education

POST-16 PATHWAYS

What are V Levels?



V Levels are a new flagship vocational qualification for 16–18 year olds that sit alongside A Levels and T Levels.



Designed for students who want vocational learning, real-world skills, and the flexibility to keep their options open.

Available from 2027.

V LEVELS

Department for Education

POST-16 PATHWAYS

What makes V Levels the vocational option?

Focused on practical, work-related use of knowledge and real-world skills.



V Levels will be linked to employer job standards, giving employers confidence in what students have learned.



V LEVELS

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Posters: Foundation Certificate

Purpose: posters to explain the Foundation Certificate – what it is and who it is for.

Formats available: A4 print, PDF

[Download PDF](#)

[Download JPEG](#)

LEVEL 2: FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE **NEW**

A clear route towards level 3

Get ready for A Levels, V Levels or T Levels


A new option for 16 year olds from 2027.

Prepares students for level 3 study so ideal for students who would benefit from an additional year of structured preparation.


Learn in an applied way, with assessment that helps you show both your knowledge and skills.

Includes continued study of English and maths where required.


It is designed to give students time to build confidence, knowledge and skills, so they are ready for level 3 study.


Progression is subject to provider entry requirements, but the pathway is designed to give students the strongest possible foundation to succeed at level 3.

Department for Education **FOUNDATION CERTIFICATES**

POST-16 PATHWAYS

Who is the Foundation Certificate for?

This pathway is for students who:

- Need more time before moving to level 3.
- Want to progress to V Levels, T Levels or A Levels.
- Would benefit from an additional year of structured preparation.
- Need to strengthen English and/or maths alongside their main studies.



Department for Education **FOUNDATION CERTIFICATES**

POST-16 PATHWAYS

What is the Foundation Certificate?

The **Foundation Certificate** supports progression to level 3. Designed to give students time to build knowledge, skills and confidence so you are ready for level 3 study. It provides a strong preparation for moving on to V Levels, T Levels or A Levels. It will help you improve key skills like English and maths. Available from 2027.



Department for Education **FOUNDATION CERTIFICATES**

Posters: Occupational Certificate

Purpose: posters to explain the Occupational Certificate – what it is and who it is for.

Formats available: A4 print, PDF

[Download PDF](#)

[Download JPEG](#)

LEVEL 2: OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATE NEW

A direct route into skilled employment

Start building your skills for a skilled job.



Prepares you with the practical skills needed in a specific job.

Develop practical, real-world skills through applied learning, with assessment that helps you show both your knowledge and skills.



It is aligned to employer job standard, so you know you are learning what employers need.



Provides time for English and maths study as well as wider enrichment.

Ideal for students looking for a structured route into work, with support over two years to build your skills and confidence.



Supports progression to skilled employment and apprenticeships.

 Department for Education **OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATES**

POST-16 PATHWAYS

What is the Occupational Certificate?

The **Occupational Certificate** is designed for students who are clear about the type of work they want to move into and need job-focused preparation.

The **Occupational Certificate** is part of a structured two-year programme.

The **Occupational Certificate** will be available from 2027.




 Department for Education **OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATES**

POST-16 PATHWAYS

Who is the Occupational Certificate for?

The Occupational Certificate is suited to students who:

- Know what kind of job or career they want to work towards.
- Want a clear and structured route into employment.
- Would like to build English and maths skills.
- Would benefit from two years of support to develop skills, confidence and workplace readiness.




 Department for Education **OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATES**

Posters: Occupational Certificates and Foundation Certificates

Purpose: : posters to explain what the Foundation and Occupational Certificate offer.

Formats available: A4 print, PDF

[Download PDF](#)

[Download JPEG](#)

POST-16 PATHWAYS

What is a Foundation Certificate?
Get ready for A Levels, V Levels or T Levels

A Foundation Certificate helps you:

- Build knowledge and confidence
- Progress to A Levels, T Levels or V Levels
- Designed for students who need more preparation time - opening your options, not limiting them!



A strong bridge to your next step.

 **FOUNDATION CERTIFICATES**

POST-16 PATHWAYS

What is an Occupational Certificate?
Start building your skills for a skilled job.

An Occupational Certificate helps you:

- Learn practical, job-ready skills towards a specific job.
- Prepare for employment or apprenticeships.
- Helps you improve key skills like English and maths.
- Designed with employers for real jobs.



Start your journey into work with confidence.

 **OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATES**

Social media guidance

The following social media assets have been developed to increase awareness and understanding of the new qualifications available from 2027.

When posting:

- Focus on student benefits: what students can achieve, where the qualification could lead, confidence and future opportunities and realworld skills and careers
- Use future-skills messages: explain how qualifications support careers in a changing economy and help address skills shortages in key sectors.
- Include a call to action.
- Link to your website or GOV.UK guidance.
- Tailor messages for your audience.
- Include provider-specific course information where relevant.

Suggested hashtags:

**#Post16Pathways #VLevels #TechnicalEducation #SkillsForCareers #F-cert
#OccCert #TLevels #VocationalEducation**

Social media copy: V Levels – Download

Copy	Image
Thinking about your next step after GCSEs? Everyone has different strengths and ambitions. V Levels are new vocational qualifications launching from 2027, helping students develop practical skills, explore future career interests and progress into higher level study or work-related training, including apprenticeships. We are offering V Levels in [INSERT SUBJECT/S] from September 2027. Find out more [INSERT DETAILS] #vocationalqualifications #Vlevels #post16pathways	 POST-16 PATHWAYS What are V Levels? V Levels are a new flagship vocational qualification for 16–18 year olds that sit alongside T Levels and A Levels. Designed for students who want vocational learning, real-world skills, and the flexibility to keep their options open. V LEVELS Department for Education
Want a qualification that combines applied learning with progression opportunities? V Levels could be the right route for you. Visit [LINK] to discover the courses available at [PROVIDER]. #SkillsForCareers #Vlevels #vocationalqualifications What are V Levels? V Levels are new vocational qualifications– we are offering V Levels in [INSERT SUBJECT/S] from September 2027. Visit [INSERT WEBSITE] or contact us [INSERT CONTACT DETAILS] to find out more #vocationalqualifications #Vlevels	 POST-16 PATHWAYS Who are V Levels for? V Levels are ideal for students who: - Want real-world skills without specialising too narrowly. - Are aiming for higher education or work-based training and want applied learning. - Want flexibility while exploring future career options. V LEVELS Department for Education

Download social media stories: V Levels

POST-16 PATHWAYS

Who are V Levels for?

V Levels are ideal for students who:

Want real-world skills without specialising too narrowly.

Are aiming for higher education or work-based training and want applied learning.

Want flexibility while exploring future career options.

V LEVELS

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Department for Education

POST-16 PATHWAYS

What makes V Levels the vocational option?

Focused on practical, work-related use of knowledge and real-world skills.

V Levels will be linked to employer job standards, giving employers confidence in what students have learned.

V LEVELS

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Department for Education

POST-16 PATHWAYS

What are V Levels?

V Levels are a new flagship vocational qualification for 16-18 year olds that sit alongside T Levels and A Levels.

Designed for students who want vocational learning, real-world skills, and the flexibility to keep their options open.

V LEVELS

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Department for Education

Social media copy: Foundation Certificates – Download

Copy	Image
Not quite ready for level 3 study? A Foundation Certificate can help you build knowledge, skills and confidence and take the next step towards level 3 study. Find out more: [LINK] #FoundationCertificate #Post16Pathways #vocationalqualifications #F-Certs	
Foundation Certificates are designed to support successful progression. They can provide the stepping stone many students need before taking their next step. FIND OUT MORE [LINK] #FoundationCertificate #Post16Pathways #vocationalqualifications #F-Certs	
What is a Foundation Certificate? Foundation Certificates are new qualifications to support you to the study of V Levels, T Levels and A Levels – we are offering Foundation Certificates in [INSERT SUBJECT/S] from September 2027. Visit [INSERT WEBSITE] or contact us [INSERT CONTACT DETAILS] to find out more #vocationalqualifications #F-Certs	

Download social media stories: Foundation Certificate

POST-16 PATHWAYS

What is a Foundation Certificate?



The **Foundation Certificate** supports progression to V Levels, T Levels and A Levels. Designed to give students time to build knowledge, skills and confidence so you are ready for level 3 study.



Get ready for A Levels, V Levels or T Levels

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

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What is a Foundation Certificate?

Get ready for A Levels, V Levels or T Levels

A Foundation Certificate helps you:

- Build knowledge and confidence
- Progress to V Levels, T Levels or A Levels
- Designed for students who need more preparation time - opening your options, not limiting them!




A strong bridge to your next step.

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

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POST-16 PATHWAYS

Who is the Foundation Certificate for?

This pathway is for students who:

- Need more time before moving to level 3.
- Want to progress to V Levels, T Levels or A Levels.
- Would benefit from an additional year of structured preparation.
- Need to strengthen English and/or maths alongside their main studies.




Get ready for A Levels, V Levels or T Levels

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

FOUNDATION CERTIFICATES

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Social media copy: Occupational Certificates – Download

Copy	Image
Looking to develop skills for a skilled job? Occupational Certificates are designed to help students develop practical skills, build confidence and prepare for skilled jobs and future progression opportunities. Learn more: [LINK] #OccupationalCertificates #SkillsForCareers #technicalqualifications #OccCerts	 The graphic features a dark blue header with 'POST-16 PATHWAYS' in white. Below is a teal section titled 'Who is the Occupational Certificate for?'. The main body is white with a list of bullet points: 'The Occupational Certificate is suited to students who: • Know what kind of job or career they want to work towards. • Want a clear and structured route into employment. • Would like to build English and maths skills. • Would benefit from two years of support to develop skills, confidence and workplace readiness.' To the right of the text is a photo of three students in a kitchen. At the bottom is a blue footer with 'OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATES' and the Department for Education logo.
Occupational Certificates offer a recognised route into work and future progression opportunities. Find out whether this pathway is right for you. #OccupationalCertificates #SkillsForCareers #technicalqualifications #OccCerts	 The graphic features a dark blue header with 'POST-16 PATHWAYS' in white. Below is a teal section titled 'What is the Occupational Certificate?'. The main body is white with three paragraphs: 'The Occupational Certificate is designed for students who are clear about the type of work they want to move into and need job-focused preparation.', 'The Occupational Certificate is part of a structured two-year programme.', and 'The Occupational Certificate will be available from 2027.' To the right of the text is a photo of a student in a kitchen. At the bottom is a blue footer with 'OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATES' and the Department for Education logo.
What are Occupational Certificates? Occupational Certificates are new qualifications to support you into entry-level skilled work- we are offering Occupational Certificates in [INSERT SUBJECT/S] from September 2027. Visit [INSERT WEBSITE] or contact us [INSERT CONTACT DETAILS] to find out more #technicalqualifications #OccCerts	 The graphic features a dark blue header with 'POST-16 PATHWAYS' in white. Below is a teal section titled 'What is an Occupational Certificate? Start building your skills for a skilled job.' The main body is white with a list of bullet points: 'An Occupational Certificate helps you: • Learn practical, job-ready skills towards a specific job. • Prepare for employment or apprenticeships. • Helps you improve key skills like English and maths. • Designed with employers for real jobs.' To the right of the text is a photo of a student in a kitchen. At the bottom is a blue footer with 'OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATES' and the Department for Education logo.

Download social media stories: Occupational Certificate

POST-16 PATHWAYS

Who is the Occupational Certificate for?

The **Occupational Certificate** is suited to students who:

- Know what kind of job or career they want to work towards.
- Want a clear and structured route into employment.
- Would like to build English and maths skills.
- Would benefit from two years of support to develop skills, confidence and workplace readiness.



**OCCUPATIONAL
CERTIFICATES**



POST-16 PATHWAYS

*What is an Occupational Certificate?
Start building your skills for a skilled job.*

An **Occupational Certificate** helps you:

Learn practical, job-ready skills towards a specific job.

Prepare for employment or apprenticeships.

Helps you improve key skills like English and maths.

Designed with employers for real jobs.



**OCCUPATIONAL
CERTIFICATES**



POST-16 PATHWAYS

What is the Occupational Certificate?

The **Occupational Certificate** is designed for students who are clear about the type of work they want to move into and need job-focused preparation.

The **Occupational Certificate** is part of a structured two-year programme.

The **Occupational Certificate** will be available from 2027.



**OCCUPATIONAL
CERTIFICATES**



Subject content posters: Level 2

Purpose: : posters to explain what the Foundation and Occupational Certificate offer.

Formats available: A4 print

[Download JPEG](#)

POST-16 PATHWAYS Occupational Certificate: HOSPITALITY <i>Ideal for students who enjoy working with people, creating positive customer experiences and being part of a busy, professional team.</i> Available from 2027	POST-16 PATHWAYS Occupational Certificate: EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER <i>Ideal for students who enjoy working with babies and young children and want a direct route into the early years sector.</i> Available from 2027	POST-16 PATHWAYS Occupational Certificate: CULINARY SKILLS <i>Ideal for students who enjoy practical learning, cooking, baking and working in fast-paced, creative environments.</i> Available from 2027	POST-16 PATHWAYS Foundation Certificate: DIGITAL SYSTEMS AND DATA <i>Ideal for students who enjoy technology and want a practical introduction to digital skills before progressing to level 3 study.</i> Available from 2027	POST-16 PATHWAYS Foundation Certificate: EDUCATION <i>Ideal for students who enjoy helping others learn, develop and succeed and are interested in working in educational settings.</i> Available from 2027
What is this course? This practical qualification prepares students for customer-facing roles across the hospitality sector. Students develop professional customer service, teamwork and hospitality skills while learning how successful hospitality businesses operate. Pathways available Food & Beverage pathway – Food & Beverage Assistant, Food and Beverage Team member, Bartender, Waiter/Waitress Accommodation pathway – Hospitality team member, Hospitality Accommodation team member, General assistant Skills you'll develop • Customer service • Communication • Teamwork • Professionalism • Time management • Problem solving • Digital skills • Numeracy and cash handling You will learn how to: • Deliver excellent customer service • Communicate confidently with guests and customers • Support food and drink service • Handle payments and transactions • Work effectively as part of a team • Support sustainable and efficient operations • Maintain safety, hygiene and professional standards Food & Beverage pathway – students will learn how to: • Serve food and drinks professionally • Support ordering and service operations • Promote products and improve customer experience • Tailor communication to different customers • Respond to feedback and service issues Accommodation pathway – students will learn how to: • Support guest services and reception activities • Prepare and maintain guest accommodation • Manage guest requests and room services • Follow professional cleaning standards • Support food and beverage service where required • Enhance guest satisfaction and loyalty Progression – this qualification can lead to: • Food and Beverage Team Member • Hotel Assistant • Front of House Assistant • Accommodation Team Member • Guest Services Assistant • Hospitality Apprenticeships	What is this course? A career-focused qualification that prepares students to work with babies and young children in early years settings such as nurseries, pre-schools and reception classes. Practical experience Includes significant workplace experience to help build real-world skills and confidence. You will learn about: • Child development from birth to age 5 • Safeguarding and child protection • Working with families and professionals • Environmental sustainability in childcare • Responding appropriately to first-aid situations • Supporting learning through play Skills you'll develop • Communication and teamwork • Caring and professional behaviour • Problem solving • Observation skills • Responsibility Progression – this qualification can lead to: • Employment as an Early Years Practitioner • Careers supporting children's learning and development • Apprenticeships in the early years sector	What is this course? Love cooking, baking and creating great food? This practical qualification prepares students for careers in professional kitchens, bakeries and food production environments. You'll work as part of a team to prepare, cook and finish a wide range of food items from fresh across all sections in a kitchen/bakery. You will learn how to: • Prepare, cook and present a wide range of dishes • Bake breads, pastries, cakes and desserts • Use kitchen equipment and knives safely and effectively • Prepare ingredients and manage food preparation processes • Store, rotate and manage stock correctly • Reduce waste and work sustainably • Follow food safety, hygiene and allergen regulations Skills you'll develop • Food preparation and cooking techniques • Baking and pastry skills • Time management • Teamwork and communication • Organisation and planning • Problem solving • Attention to detail Typical practical activities: Preparing soups and salads, pasta and rice dishes, meat, fish and poultry dishes, sauces and stocks, bread products, cakes, cookies and desserts and plant-based and specialist dishes. Career opportunities – this qualification can lead to: • Commis Chef • Production Chef • Baker • Kitchen Assistant • Catering Assistant • Apprenticeships within the hospitality and catering sector	What is this course? Are you interested in technology, data, cyber security and programming? This course introduces the key skills used in today's digital world and helps prepare you for further study at level 3. Skills you'll develop • Digital systems literacy • Data interpretation • Problem solving • Communication • Planning and self-management • Evaluating and investigating using digital on-line tools You will learn how to: • Work with data in a digital context • Configure and secure digital systems • Plan, test and develop simple programs • Set up hardware and software components and systems • Research digital information and make evidence-based recommendations Progression – this qualification can lead to: • Digital Systems & Data V Level • Digital T Levels • A Level Computer Science • Apprenticeships • Careers in IT, cyber security, software development and data analysis	What is this course? This course introduces students to teaching methods and education practice across various age groups and in different education settings. It is designed to prepare students interested in pursuing further study in education, early years or child development. Skills you'll develop • Communication • Planning • Organisation • Teamwork • Observation • Decision making You will learn how to: • Plan learning activities • Communicate with learners, families and professionals • Support inclusion and participation for all learners • Carry out risk assessments and promote safety • Interpret assessment information to support student progress Progression – this qualification can lead to: • Education V Level • T Level Education & Early Years • Apprenticeships • Further study in teaching, education, childcare or child development

Subject content posters: V Levels

Purpose: : posters to explain what the Foundation and Occupational Certificate offer.

Formats available: A4 print

[Download JPEG](#)

POST-16 PATHWAYS

Available from 2027

V Level:
DIGITAL SYSTEMS AND DATA

Ideal for students who enjoy technology, problem solving and using digital tools to improve the way people and organisations work.

What is this course?
 A practical and applied digital qualification designed to develop knowledge and skills in data, cyber security, systems and digital solutions.

Skills you'll develop

- Data analysis
- Cyber security awareness
- Technical problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Collaboration
- Professional communication




You will learn how to:

- Analyse and present data to support decision making
- Identify and respond to cyber security threats
- Configure, test and maintain digital systems
- Design digital solutions to meet user needs
- Work responsibly with AI and emerging technologies



Progression – this qualification can lead to:

- University courses in Computing, IT or Data Science
- Higher or Degree Apprenticeships
- After further study, IT-related careers


V LEVELS

POST-16 PATHWAYS

Available from 2027

V Level:
ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Ideal for students who enjoy working with numbers, solving problems and understanding how organisations make financial decisions.

What is this course?
 A practical qualification that helps students understand how organisations manage money, make financial decisions and measure success.

Skills you'll develop:

- Numerical reasoning
- Analytical thinking
- Decision making
- Business awareness
- Professional communication
- Problem solving




You will learn how to:

- Interpret financial information
- Analyse business performance
- Use financial data to support decision making
- Understand ethics and professional responsibilities
- Present financial information clearly to different audiences



Topics include:

- Profit and loss
- Financial statements
- Budgeting
- Business performance
- Investment decisions
- Financial ethics
- Digital finance tools

Progression – this qualification can lead to:

- Accounting and Finance degrees
- Business and Economics courses
- Higher and Degree Apprenticeships
- After further study, careers in accounting, banking, business and finance


V LEVELS

POST-16 PATHWAYS

Available from 2027

V Level:
EDUCATION

Ideal for students who want to make a positive difference to learning and development.

What is this course?
 A practical qualification that develops knowledge and skills used across education settings from early years through to adult learning.

Skills you'll develop

- Professional communication
- Lesson planning
- Inclusion and learner support
- Critical thinking
- Observation and evaluation
- Reflective practice




You will learn how to:

- Plan engaging learning sessions
- Work with parents, carers and professionals
- Adapt learning to support inclusion
- Assess risks and promote safe learning environments
- Use assessment information to support learner progress



Progression – this qualification can lead to:

- Higher education
- Teaching Assistant Apprenticeships
- Pathways into employment in early years and education, after taking a related degree

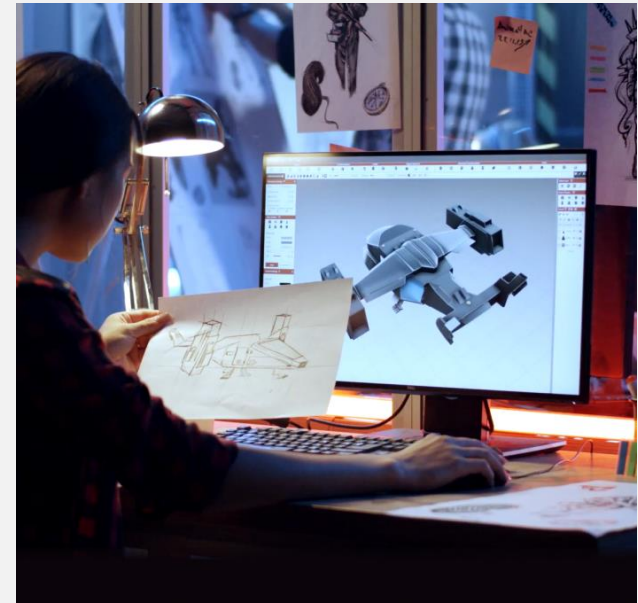

V LEVELS

Further support

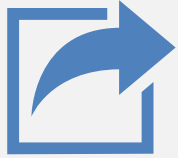
Access the full support pack including pathway maps, student journeys and qualification guides (alongside this resource):

1. Resources to use with teachers, parents, careers professionals and students
2. A selection of downloadable documents to explain the new qualifications including route-by-route information, curriculum pathways, progression options and student journeys
3. Landscape documents showing the qualification landscape for levels 2 and 3 for 2027 onwards
4. Implementation timeline downloads
5. Links to further support

[Click here to find out more](#)



Next steps



Brief staff
and careers
advisers



Update your
website



Share images
on social
media that
explain about
the new
qualifications



Use the
resources we
have developed
to support with
implementation

[Click here](#)



Start
awareness
activity e.g.
newsletter
content

[Click here](#)



Sign up and
share our
mailing list
sign up link
with your
contacts

[Click here](#)

Want to know more?

- If you want to request any additional information, please contact: **qualifications.reform@education.gov.uk**
- To find out more visit: **[Post-16 pathways webpages](#)**
- Click to access the resources in the **[Support pack](#)**
- **[Sign up](#)** to our mailing list for regular updates

