

Qualification levels

The table below shows some examples of qualifications at each level under the various frameworks. The list is not exhaustive.

Qualification level	Examples of qualifications	What they give you
Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry level awards, certificates and diplomas • Essential skills at entry level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic knowledge and skills • ability to apply learning in everyday situations • not geared towards specific occupations
One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE grades D-G (and grades 3 to 1 in England) • level one awards, diplomas and certificates • Key Skills level 1 • NVQs • Essential Skills • Music grades 1 to 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic knowledge and skills • ability to apply learning with guidance or supervision • may be linked to job competence
Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE grades A*- C (and grades 4 to 9 in England) • intermediate apprenticeships • Level 2 awards, diplomas and certificates • OCR Nationals • NVQs • Essential Skills • Music grades 4 and 5 • O level - grades A-C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good knowledge and understanding of a subject • ability to do a variety of tasks with some guidance or supervision • suitable for many job roles
Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS and A levels • Access to Higher Education diploma • advanced apprenticeship • International Baccalaureate • NVQs • BTEC diplomas, certificates and awards • BTEC Nationals • OCR Nationals • Music grades 6 to 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ability to gain or apply a range of knowledge, skills and understanding at a detailed level • appropriate if you plan to go to university, work independently or (in some cases) supervise and train others in their field of work
Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NVQs • BTEC Professional diplomas, certificates and awards • HNCs • Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE) • Higher apprenticeship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specialist learning, involving detailed analysis of a high level of information and knowledge in an area of work or study • suitable for people working in technical and professional jobs, and/or managing and developing others