



ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES

T Level overview

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Agenda



- T Levels
- Rationale
- T Level overview
- Assessment, grading and progression
- T levels one year on
- T Levels in context
- Level 3 review
- Questions

Skills Plan Rationale

Skills Plan rationale

Raising productivity &
meeting the skills gap

'Academic' path = well
understood

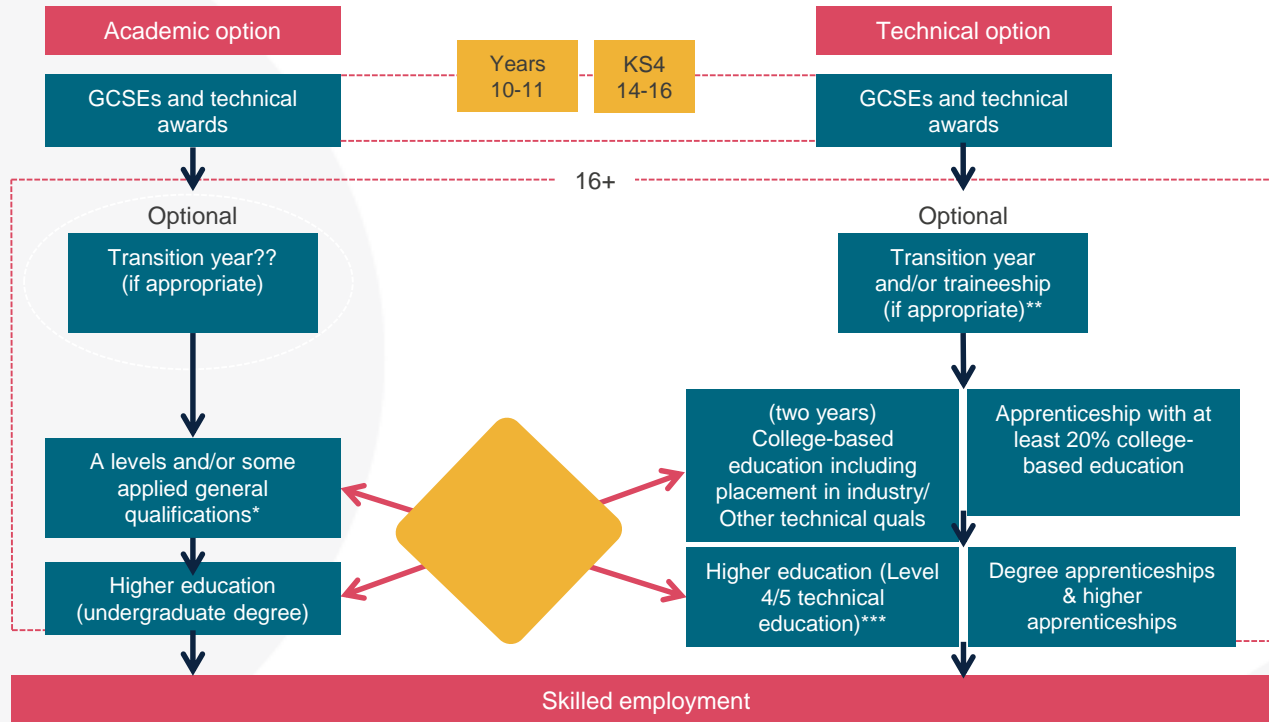
Technical/vocational
path = complex

Skills Plan Overview

Independent Panel – Review of Technical Education

- Led by Lord Sainsbury - advised Ministers on improving the quality of technical education in England. The expert panel found a compelling case for change and recommended comprehensive reform:
- The development of **15 technical routes**, encompassing all employment-based and college-based training (apprenticeships and T Levels)
- The development of **new flagship technical education programmes (T Levels)** to be delivered through **exclusive license**
- A **radical streamlining of existing technical qualifications**, aiming to **simplify the system** for students and employers
- **Government accepted all recommendations** in the 2016 Skills Plan, and committed to deliver first T Levels from September 2020

How the academic and technical options will work



*Some students will move directly from A Levels and/or applied general qualifications to degree and higher apprenticeships.

** Where a student does both, the traineeship will follow the transition year. Students doing both the transition year and a traineeship may progress directly to employment.

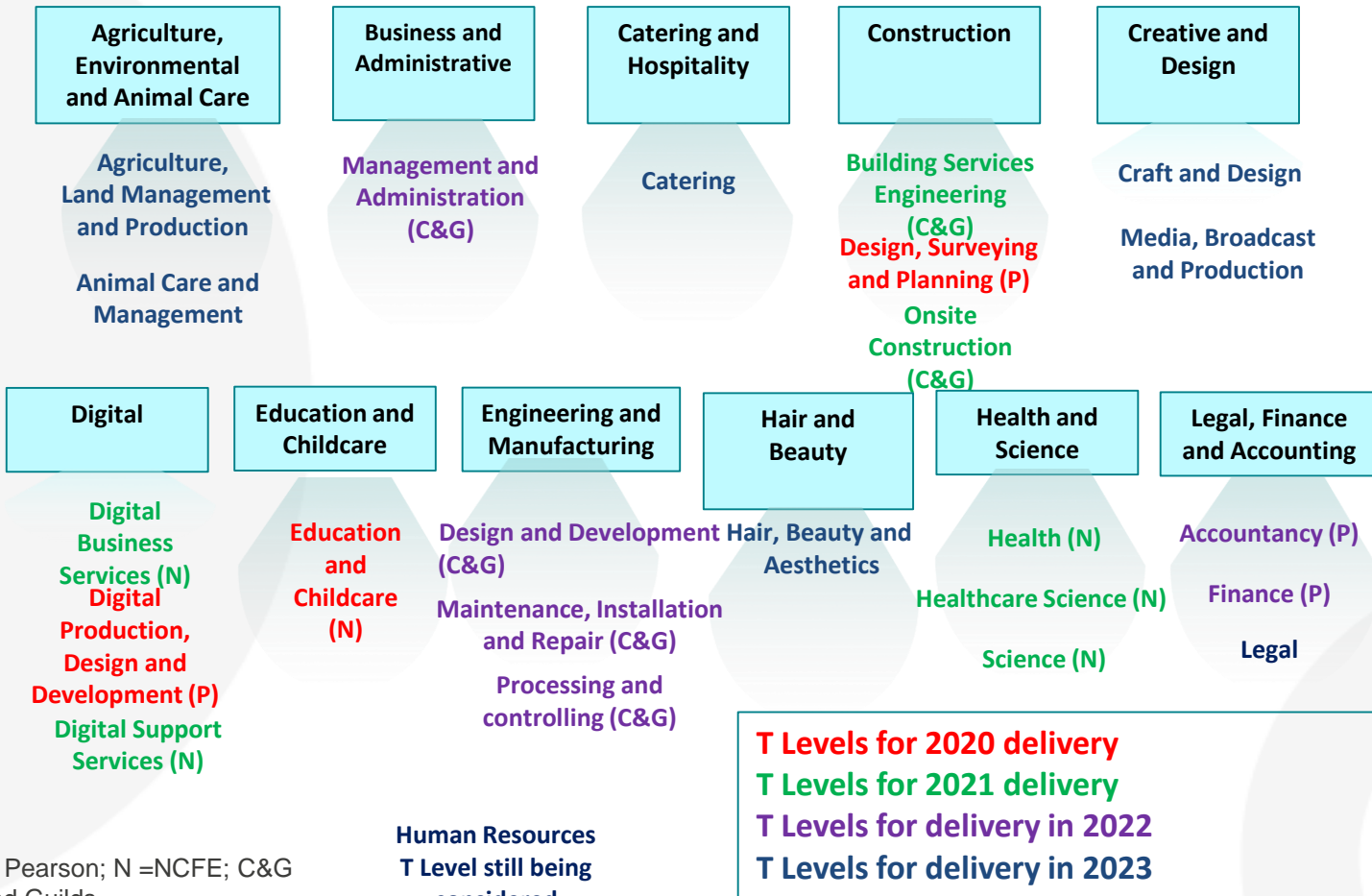
*** HNC, HND, Foundation Degree

T levels

T Levels are...

- New, **two year technical education courses** for 16-19 yr olds that will follow GCSEs
- Developed **in collaboration with employers**, so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work
- Course includes **a mixture of classroom learning (80%) and 'on-the-job' experience (20%)** during an industry placement of a minimum of 45 days
- Qualifications comprise a **core component** and one or more **occupational specialisms**
- Progression options include **skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship** (T Levels will attract UCAS points)
- More rigorous and substantial than most existing technical qualifications, with longer teaching time – **one T Level is comparable in size to 3 A levels.**

Rollout of T Levels from 2020 onwards



AOs: P= Pearson; N =NCFE; C&G = City and Guilds

T LEVEL PROGRAMME

1800 Hrs over 2 years

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION (TQ)

900 -1400 GLH

CORE

- Up to half the qualification
- Knowledge and understanding of the concepts, theories and principles relevant to that sector
- Assessed through an external examination and a substantial project

OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALISM

- At least half of the qualification
- Knowledge and skills required to enter employment in that occupational specialism
- As close to full competence as possible
- English, maths and digital competence integrated where relevant

T LEVEL INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

- Between 315-420 hours
- Undertaken with an external employer
- Chance to apply skills and apply knowledge in a workplace environment
- Support for travel and subsistence costs but employers not expected to pay students

ENGLISH AND MATHS REQUIREMENTS

- Students required to achieve a level 2 in English and maths.
- Either GCSE (grade 4 and above) or level 2 Functional Skills (pass)

ADDITIONAL MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

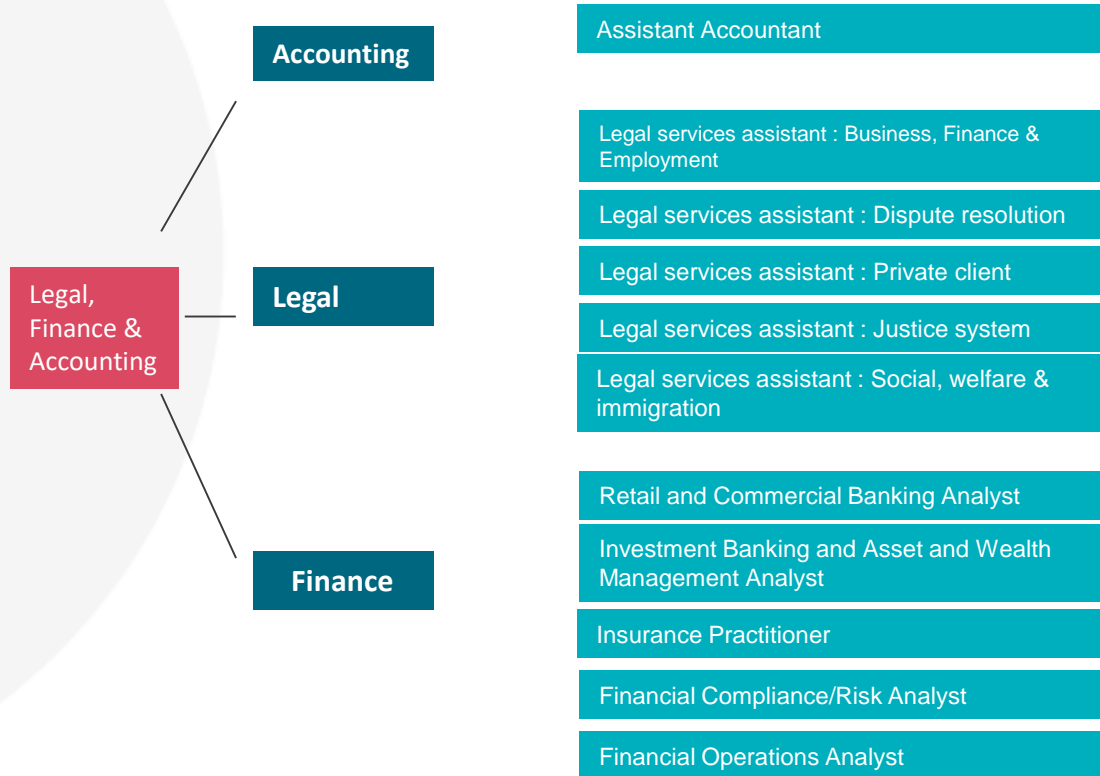
- Occupation-specific requirements, included where possible if essential to enter employment

Route, T Level pathway & specialisms

Route

T Level

Specialisms



Assessment, grading and progression

Technical Qualification: content, assessment and grading overview

Core

- Core knowledge exams typically no more than a third (can be as low as 12%) of marks.
- Employer Set Project focus on employability skills in occupational contexts up to 20% of the marks.
- Graded A*-E and fully compensatory.

Occupational Specialisms

- Performance outcomes set by employers always occupationally specific
- To be valid assessment must also be occupationally specific applied and practical.
- To Pass students need to be competent – in line with employer expectations, which will be exemplified
- Graded PMD as pass threshold will need to attest to competence

T LEVELS: OVERALL GRADING



We are introducing ‘Look up tables’ for T Levels to make it easier to see how higher overall T Level Grades are derived from the TQ components.

		Occupational Specialism Grade		
		Distinction	Merit	Pass
Core Component Grade	A*	Distinction*	Distinction	Distinction
	A	Distinction	Distinction	Merit
	B	Distinction	Merit	Merit
	C	Merit	Merit	Pass
	D	Merit	Pass	Pass
	E	Pass	Pass	Pass

Overall T Level Grade

We are also introducing a Distinction* overall grade.

- Help admissions practitioners better determine suitability for HE pathways.
- Recognise the exceptional achievement of the highest T Level performers.

T LEVELS: OVERALL GRADING

To ensure fairness, the table would look different for different T Levels depending on the size of the Core Component and Occupational specialisms. For example:

Core 50%/Occupational Specialism(s) 50%

	Dst	M	P
A*	Dst*	Dst	Dst
A	Dst	Dst	M
B	Dst	M	M
C	M	M	P
D	M	P	P
E	P	P	P

Core 40%/Occupational Specialism(s) 60%

	Dst	M	P
A*	Dst*	Dst	M
A	Dst	Dst	M
B	Dst	M	M
C	Dst	M	P
D	M	P	P
E	P	P	P

Core 30%/Occupational Specialism(s) 70%

	Dst	M	P
A*	Dst*	Dst	M
A	Dst	Dst	M
B	Dst	M	P
C	Dst	M	P
D	M	P	P
E	M	P	P

- There will be just **one** look up table for each T Level.
- And there will always be the same instances of each grade available in each look up table: six Passes, six Merits, five Distinctions and one Distinction*.
- To be awarded a Distinction*, the student must achieve an A* in the Core and a Distinction in the Occupational Specialism(s).

UCAS Points

UCAS tariff points

T Levels will provide several progression options to students. These include skilled employment, an apprenticeship and higher education.

To help T Level students get into higher education, UCAS tariff points will be allocated to T Levels.

UCAS points will only be allocated to the overall T Level grade. Students must achieve at least an overall pass grade to receive UCAS points.

UCAS tariff points	T Level overall grade	A level
168	Distinction* (A* on the core and distinction in the occupational specialism)	AAA*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on the core)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on the core)	DDD

T LEVELS: STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT

 Institute for Apprenticeships
& Technical Education

T Level Statement of Achievement

Construction: Design, Surveying and Planning

This is to certify that

Anne Other

has achieved the following T Level components

Technical Qualification Core: Design, Surveying and Planning	GRADE B
Other Additional Certification Health and Safety Certificate (Level 2)	

The named recipient has also successfully completed the minimum requirements for English and Mathematics.

Awarded on
25th October 2022

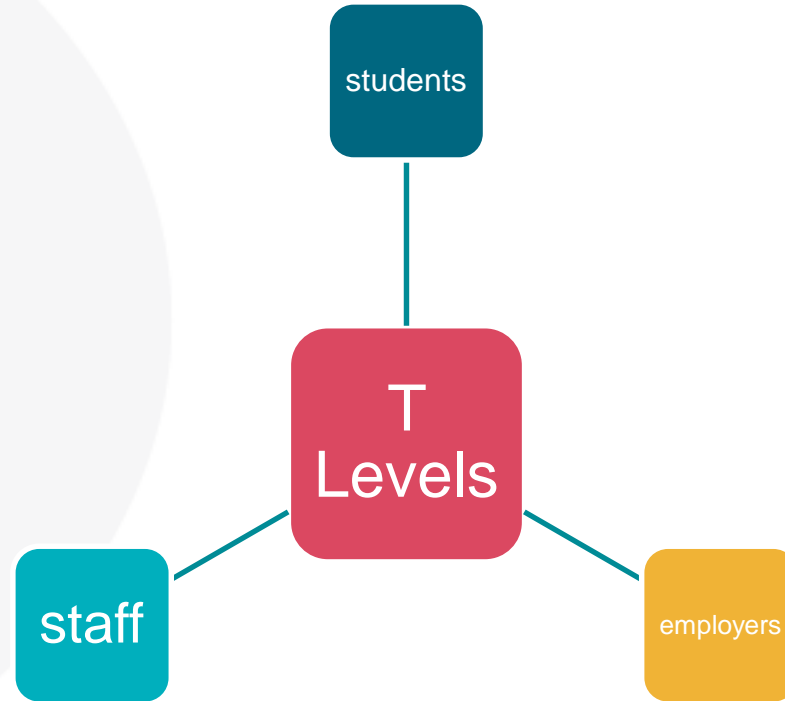
Signed


Chair, The Institute for
Apprenticeships and
Technical Education

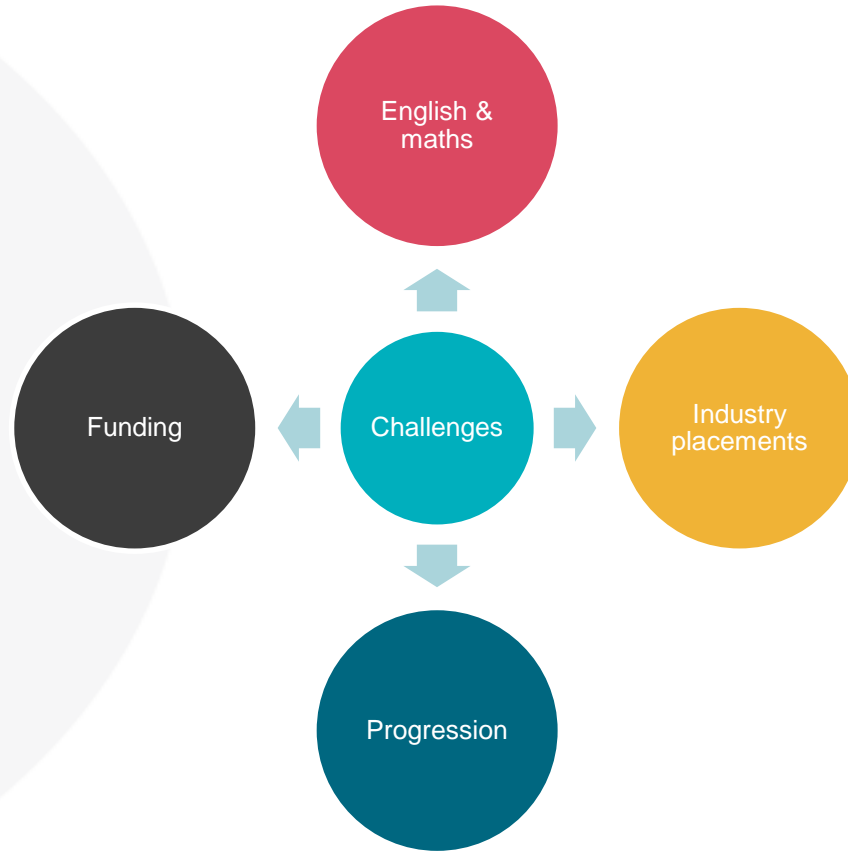
- If students leave the course early or do not pass a T Level overall they will be issued with a statement of achievement.
- This indicates what students have achieved.
- The back of the statement will describe what is required to pass a T Level.
- Separate UCAS Tariff points will not be allocated to the TQ components.

T Levels – one year on

Despite the pandemic T Levels have had a positive impact on...



but there are still some challenges...



T Levels in context

T Levels in context

- **T Level Transition Programme** (targeted at students who are not ready to start a T Level but have potential to progress to one) - phased implementation starts with a small number of providers from this September.
- **Review of qualifications at level 3 and below** continues - aiming to simplify the qualifications landscape. Second stage will consult on firm proposals for change and criteria for funding
- The consultation on **Higher Technical Education** (levels 4-5) in England closed on 29 September 2019. Government response published July 2020
- **FE reform programme** - White Paper aimed at delivering ambitious reform for the FE sector.

T Level transition programme

- T Level Transition Programme is a type of 16-19 study programme (not a qualification in its own right), tailored to **prepare students for T Levels.**
- The guiding framework for post-16 providers includes
 - **key components that are nationally set**
 - **flexibility for providers to package their transition programme at a local level** to meet the needs of their students.

Core components

A diagnostic and guidance period

- Assess individual needs and help students decide which T Level route to prepare for

English and maths

- For those without at least a GCSE grade 4 in English and/or maths

Work experience and preparation

- Help prepare for T Level Industry Placement

Introductory technical skills

- Tailored to students' chosen T Level route

Pastoral support and personal development

- Address barriers, wider support needs and develop study skills

Higher technical qualifications

- Higher Technical Qualifications are level 4 or 5 qualifications that have been quality marked by the Institute to indicate their alignment to employer-led occupational standards.
- New or existing level 4 or 5 qualifications submitted to the approvals process will receive a quality-mark if the qualification satisfies the Institute's approvals criteria.
- Higher Technical Qualifications align to existing occupational standards, providing learners with entry-level competence and allowing them to enter their chosen profession or progress onto higher education.

Level 3 review

Review of qualifications

14 July: DfE published:

[consultation response](#)

[policy document](#) – Key read

[impact assessment](#)

[Guidance for post 16 providers](#)

[Approvals process for qualifications which sit alongside T levels and A Levels](#)

There will be a further consultation on Level 2 and below in the autumn term.

DfE Review plans for academic and technical landscape: 16 to 18

Technical landscape: 16 - 18			Academic Landscape: 16 – 18*			
T Levels	Occupational–entry technical qualifications in areas not served by T Levels Eg Travel and tourism**	Specialist qualifications eg low carbon construction design	Apprenticeships	AS/A levels	Small qualifications alongside A Levels e.g. x1 A Level in size or core maths, EPQ	Large alternatives to A levels 'support progression to specialist HE' e.g. Creative and Performing Arts or Access courses

*Review: [Additional guidance for providers](#):

We have not pre-judged which subject areas will be funded in future but there are a number of areas where we see a clear **role for qualifications alongside A levels and T Levels**. **These include performing and creative arts, sport and STEM** subjects..... the review has not looked at qualifications on a subject by subject basis and this list simply reflects some of the areas where we found evidence submitted through the consultation to be particularly persuasive (p6)

** see p28 of [policy document](#)

DfE Review plans for academic and technical landscape for adults

Technical landscape: 19+

T Levels?	T level occupational specialisms (OS)?	Competence based technical occupations	Qualifications providing cross sectoral skills	Apprenticeships
Being considered via spending review: two year programme with flexibilities or OS as stand alone		A range of qualifications leading to skilled employment	Qualifications offering transferable skills	

Academic landscape 19+

Access to the same range of qualifications as 16 to 18 including funding for Access courses.

Timeline showing removal of existing qualifications and introduction of reformed qualifications alongside rollout of T Levels

Timeline for national rollout of T Levels

Wave 1 pathways:

- Digital production, design and development
- Design, surveying and planning for construction
- Education and childcare

Wave 2 pathways:

- Building services engineering for construction
- Onsite construction
- Digital business services
- Digital support services
- Health
- Healthcare science
- Science

Wave 3 pathways:

- Maintenance, installation and repair
- Engineering design and development
- Manufacturing, processing and control
- Accounting
- Finance
- Management and administration

Wave 4 pathways:

- Legal
- Agriculture, land management and production
- Animal care and management
- Catering
- Craft and design
- Hair, beauty and aesthetics
- Media, broadcast and production

National rollout of all planned T Levels

From 2024/25 all providers can deliver all planned T Levels irrespective of Ofsted rating.

Timeline for introduction of new, reformed level 3 qualifications

Reformed technical qualifications enabling entry into occupations in the Digital route introduced from 1 August 2023

Reformed technical and academic qualifications introduced that align to Wave 1 and 2 routes and Wave 3 Engineering and Manufacturing route from 1 August 2024

Reformed technical and academic qualifications introduced that align to remaining Wave 3 and 4 routes from 1 August 2025

2020/21

2021/22

2022/23

2023/24

2024/25

2025/26

Timeline for removal of existing level 3 qualifications

Qualifications with no publicly funded enrolments defunded from 1 August 2021

Qualifications with no or low publicly funded enrolments defunded from 1 August 2022

Technical qualifications that overlap with Wave 1 and 2 T Levels defunded from 1 August 2023

Technical qualifications that overlap with Wave 3 and 4 T Levels defunded from 1 August 2024

All other technical and academic qualifications that do not have a place in the new landscape defunded

Confirmation on which qualifications will be defunded by summer 2022

What are we asking for?

1. **Pace** of reform needs to be evolutionary, working with colleges & others to learn more about and evaluate T Levels and Transition including impact of English and maths exit requirements
2. **Defunding** of L3 qualifications only when T Level dominates that pathway
3. **Analysis** of the **scale of industry placements required** and an overarching strategy to achieve this.
4. **Increased funding** & hours for pre-T Level **transition programmes**
5. **Clarity on the criteria** for L3 qualifications which can continue to be funded

David Hughes [TES blog](#) here

Further reading & T Level survey

Useful documents

- Gov.uk [T level overview](#)
- Ncfe – [HE info pack](#)
- City & Guilds – [T level overview](#)
- Pearson – [T Level overview](#)

T Level survey

Higher Education Survey on T Levels

- The Department for Education is running a survey for all UK Universities, to understand more about their approach to T Levels.
- The survey is for admissions staff to complete and will ask about whether your institution intends to accept T Levels, and which HE courses T Level students will therefore be able to progress on to. The link to the survey is [available here](#) and should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.
- The Department values your participation in this and asks that you complete it by a deadline of 17 September. This will then allow schools, colleges, and T Level students to be more confident as they begin the UCAS process for application to higher education.
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