

The nine levels of qualifications

Entry level	Entry level award, certificate or diploma. Each entry level qualification is available at three sub-levels. Entry level 3 is the most difficult.	Year 11 (KS4)
Level 1	GCSE grades 3, 2 or 1 National vocational qualification (NVQ) level 1 award/diploma/certificate	
Level 2	GCSE grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 and 4 Intermediate apprenticeship Level 2 national diploma Level 2 NVQ, level 2 award/diploma/certificate	
Level 3	A level International baccalaureate diploma Level 3 national diploma Level 3 NVQ, level 3 award/diploma/certificate	Year 11 – 13 KS3 – 4 FE college
Level 4	Certificate of higher education CertHE, Higher apprenticeship Higher national certificate (HNC) Level 4 NVQ, level 4 award/diploma/certificate	University, HE College, workplace
Level 5	Diploma of higher education (DipHE) Foundation degree Higher national diploma (HND) Level 5 NVQ level 5 award/diploma/certificate	
Level 6	Degree apprenticeships Degree with/without honours (BSc Hons, BA Hons) level 6 award/diploma/certificate	
Level 7	Integrated master's degree (MEng) Level 7 NVQ Master's degree (MSc) Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) Postgraduate diploma level 7 award/diploma/certificate	
Level 8	Doctorate (PhD or DPhil) Level 8 award/diploma/certificate	