Pearson

V Level in Education

Your quick guide



2026

V Levels: key features at a glance

Feature	What a V Level is
Purpose	A broad, classroom-based vocational qualification for students who want to explore a range of routes – the third level 3 pathway alongside A Levels and T Levels.
Size	360 GLH, the same size as one A Level, taken over 2 years and studied alongside other V Levels, A Levels or an English or maths retake.
Content	Set nationally and linked to occupational standards, blending applied learning with practical assessment.
Structure and assessment	Modular with a terminal examination and mandatory synopticity. 40% examination, set and marked by the awarding organisation; 60% non-exam assessment (NEA), marked numerically and moderated. One NEA window and one examination a year. First NEA submission May 2028. First external assessment summer 2029.
Grading	A*–E plus a P 'pass' grade below E, and U for unclassified. Comparable grade boundaries maintain standards over time; UCAS tariff matches A Level grades, with P at 12 points.
Progression	Supports progression to related higher education, apprenticeships or employment.

Source: Post-16 pathways: implementation plan – GOV.UK; V Levels: requirements and guidance – Ofqual

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V Level in Education

360 GLH • 2-year programme • terminal examination

UNIT 1

Inclusive planning and Safe Practice

30% • 108 GLH

NEA

Centre marked and

Pearson moderated.

Duration: 11 hours

NEA release: 1 Sep 2027

UNIT 2

Communication and Assessment for Progress

30% • 108 GLH

NEA

Centre marked and

Pearson moderated.

Duration: 11 hours

NEA release: 1 Sep 2028

UNIT 3

Education Practice: Core Principles

40% • 144 GLH

Terminal examination

Pearson marked.

Duration: 2 hours 15 minutes

Taken in the final assessment series

First availability: May/June 2029

60% Pearson-set NEA, centre marked and Pearson moderated

40% Pearson-set and marked examination

Assessment durations and NEA release dates are subject to confirmation pending regulatory approval.

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V Level units and assessment types

Two non-exam assessment (NEA) units and one examined unit.

UNIT 1

Inclusive Planning and Safe Practice

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Students will cover how to plan learning carefully so that activities are purposeful, safe and appropriate for different learners. This unit develops learners' understanding of how knowledge of learning, development, assessment and professional responsibilities informs the planning of effective learning experiences.

UNIT 2

Communication and Assessment for Progress

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Allows the student to explore a range of communication techniques that can be used to communicate purposefully. These include verbal, visual, and written methods, as well as the use of technology. By using engaging activities and vocational scenarios, students will learn the principles of effective communication. The unit will focus on the importance of adhering to legal requirements and sharing information securely.

Students will learn about the different types of assessment and how this is used to measure learning and acquire the skills needed to assess the strengths and limitations of a range of assessments.

UNIT 3

Education Practice: Core Principles

Examined assessment

Students develop knowledge and understanding of the legislation, theories, principles and approaches that underpin effective education practice, including cognitive science, human development, reflective practice, inclusion, assessment, feedback, positive relationships and technology. They will apply this to educational settings from early years to adult learning, developing the analytical and evaluative skills needed to make reasoned judgements about supporting learning, participation and progress.

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Overview of Assessment

From first teaching to certification, with retakes available if needed.

1. Teach

Build the knowledge and applied skills in the specification, with synoptic content signposted along the way.

2. Complete NEA

NEA can be completed in both years of the qualification as students develop their applied knowledge and skills.

3. Enter for final exam

Students are entered to take the terminal examination in the series that they will certificate.

5 steps

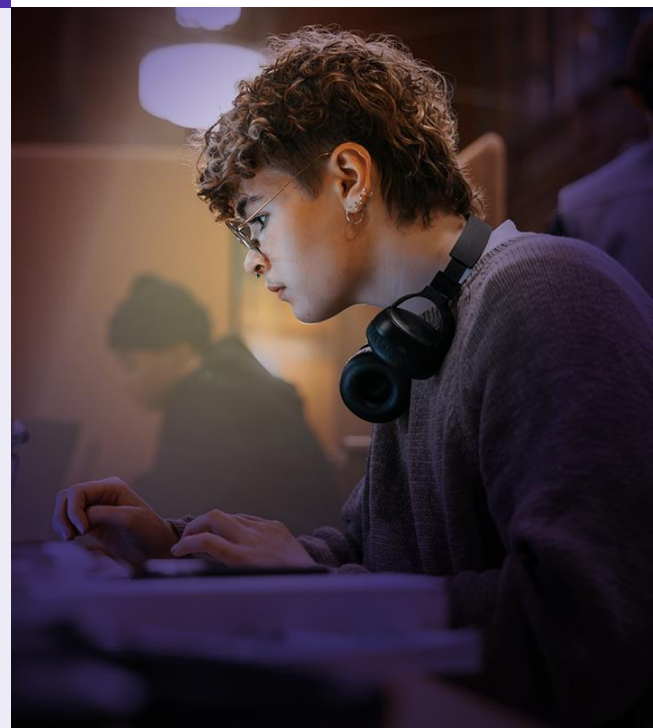
from first teaching to certification

4. Take the examination

Students take the Pearson-set examination at the timetabled date and time.

5. Certificate

Pearson combines unit UMS marks to determine the qualification grade.



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V Levels: assessment rules



NEA results can carry forward to a new registration if a student needs to retake the exam.

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Examinations

Availability: One May/June series each year

First assessment: May 2029

First Results: August 2029

Terminal rule: the examined assessment must be taken in the students' final assessment series.

Entries: Enter students for the relevant assessment series.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Availability: One annual window.

First-year NEAs released: September 2027.

All NEAs released from: September from 2028.

Submission deadline: 15 May each year.

Centres must use the current year's Pearson NEA without adaptation.

NEA Resubmission and retakes

Resubmission: Programme Lead may approve one per unit before moderation. Complete and re-mark by 15 May. No cap on marks.

Retakes: Enter for the next series, use the retake series' NEA for that academic year. Grades are uncapped. The highest NEA outcome counts towards the qualification grade.

Fully compensatory assessment

Subject to accreditation, final specifications and funding confirmation.

V Levels and Foundation Certificates recognise achievement across units



No must-pass unit

Students can achieve the qualification without passing every individual unit.

No external hurdle

A low or unclassified exam result can be balanced by stronger performance elsewhere if the overall UMS threshold is met.

Every mark matters

Performance across all components contributes proportionately to the total outcome.

A complete programme

A valid unit combination and the entry, terminal and certification rules still apply. Pearson guidance explains these.

V Level UCAS Tariff points

Grade	A Level – UCAS Tariff points	V Level – UCAS Tariff points
A*	56	56
A	48	48
B	40	40
C	32	32
D	24	24
E	16	16
P	Not available	12
U	0	0



What the P grade is: Ofqual has confirmed V Levels are graded A*–E plus a P 'pass' grade, with U for ungraded. P sits below E as the lowest passing outcome – a genuine pass, not an unclassified result – and has no A Level equivalent, which is why UCAS gave it its own value of 12 points.

Source: UCAS Tariff points allocated for V Levels – UCAS (V Levels first taught September 2027)

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Study Programmes: Pearson Level 3 V Level in Education

Level 3 reform, takes places over several years, which means we can expect to see study programmes up to 2030 that combine:

- V Levels
- A levels
- AAQs (BTEC Nationals 2025)
- BTEC Nationals

Here are some examples of mixed study programmes for the 2027/28 academic year.

There are no rules of combinations of subjects, and students should combine subjects based on their intended progression.

Explore Programmes of Study examples

New qualification	Available combinations to build a study programme	
Pearson Level 3 V Level in Education	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care (720 GLH)	
Pearson Level 3 V Level in Education	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport (720 GLH)	
Pearson Level 3 V Level in Education	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Applied Psychology (360 GLH)	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Health and Social Care (360 GLH)
Pearson Level 3 V Level in Education	Pearson Edexcel A level in Psychology	Pearson Edexcel A level in English
Pearson Level 3 V Level in Education	Pearson Edexcel A level in Mathematics	Pearson Edexcel A level in English

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V Levels: support for confident delivery



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1. Two-year structure

A two-year structure gives students time to develop and connect their knowledge and skills.

2. Delivery support

Delivery Guides and schemes of work support teaching, NEA and final examination preparation.

3. Assessment guidance

Clear assessment guidance explains entries, the terminal rule and how results combine.

4. Training

Pearson training supports numerical marking and moderation, with less administration and paperwork.

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Get in touch

Speak to us about your curriculum

