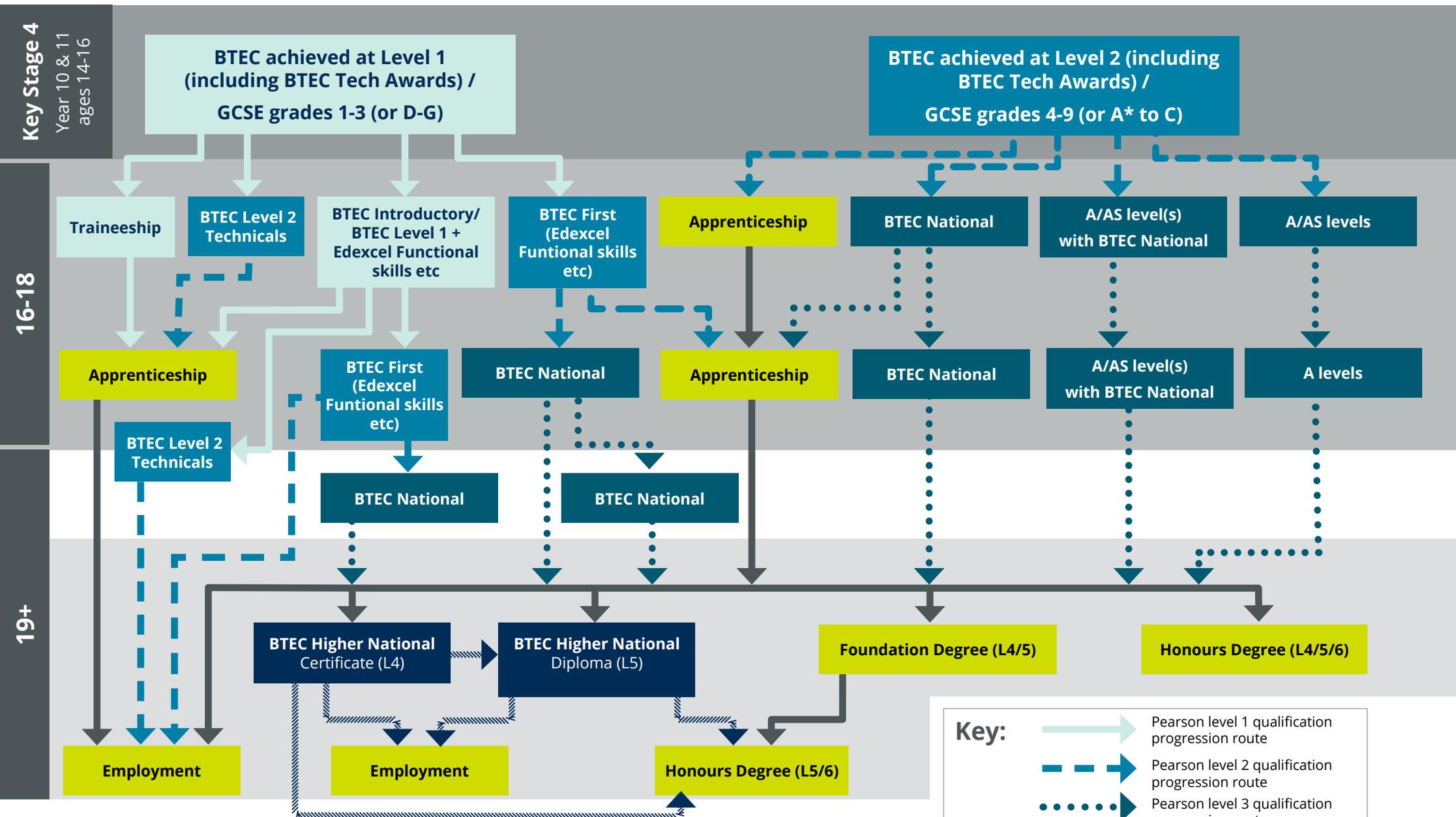


# Our full suite of qualifications

▶ Click on a qualification to find out more



## Level 1

# BTEC Introductory/BTEC Level 1

### ? Who is it for?

Typically, it is for anyone aged 14 and over

### ? Do I need any qualifications?

No.

### ? What can I study?

At BTEC Level 1 you can choose an introductory course from 15 different vocational sectors. You will learn practical skills for the workplace and develop the personal skills employers want. Your course will give you a taste of what it is like to work in the sector you have chosen and prepare you for further study.

### ? How will I be assessed?

You are assessed through practical assignments. Your tutor will ask you to demonstrate the skills you have learnt. There are no written exams.

### ? What can I do next?

You can move onto a Level 2 qualification such as a BTEC First or an apprenticeship.

## Level 1

## Level 2

# BTEC Tech Awards

## ? Who is it for?

Typically, BTEC Tech Awards are for Year 10 and Year 11 students in schools in England. You can take these alongside GCSEs.

## ? Do I need any qualifications?

No.

## ? What can I study?

You can choose from a range of hands-on courses that give you a taste of what an industry is like, develop key skills, put them into practice and explore potential careers. Currently, courses in Enterprise, Engineering, Health and Social Care, IT, Performing Arts, STEM and Sports Leadership are available.

## ? How will I learn?

You'll go to taught classes, like you would for your GCSEs, where you'll learn sector-specific theory and skills you can put into practice in project work. You might also be able to hear from employers and different companies about how they use different skills and knowledge in their work.

## ? How will I be assessed?

Throughout the course, you'll be able to do lots of practical activities so you get the chance to show and apply the skills and knowledge you've gained. There are no written exams; instead, you'll have assignments that are marked by your teachers and a task that's set and marked by Pearson

## ? What can I do next?

A BTEC Tech Award helps you see whether an industry is one you'd like a career in. You've got the skills and knowledge to go into specialised study in those areas at level 2 and level 3 or into a specific career through a trainee or apprenticeship. Depending on your interests and the grades you achieve, you can also study a BTEC at the next level alongside other courses such as AS and A levels.

## Level 1

## Level 2

# GCSE

**? Who is it for?**  
GCSE courses are typically begun in Year 10 with the exam taken in Year 11.

**? Do I need any qualifications?**  
No but you may need to have studied the subject at Key Stage 3.

**? What can I study?**  
Many different academic subjects including the core subjects of English, maths and science; history, geography, modern foreign languages, computer science, religious studies, PE, art, music and other more practical subjects

**? How will I learn?**  
You will attend taught classes, do research and reading for a variety of assignments or projects, study on your own and with others.

**? How will I be assessed?**  
Most subjects are now assessed through end of course exams, which are marked by exam board assessors. Practical and creative subjects are partly assessed through coursework.

**? What can I do next?**  
You can continue studying at the next level and do either a Level 2 qualification such as a BTEC First or a Level 3 qualification such as an A level or a BTEC National, depending on the grades you achieved. You could also do an apprenticeship.

## Level 1

# Traineeship

**? Who is it for?**  
Typically traineeships are for learners aged 16-24 years who are unemployed and need work experience to get them into paid employment.

**? Do I need any qualifications?**  
No.

**? What can I study?**  
As part of the traineeship, you must study maths and English, take part in meaningful work experience and do some training relevant to preparing for employment.

**? How will I be assessed?**  
You will learn through a mix of classroom study, work experience and practical activities related to the skills needed for work. The programmes can be anything from 6 weeks to 6 months

**? What can I do next?**  
You can move onto a Level 2 qualification such as a BTEC First or an apprenticeship or move into a job or further training that leads to a qualification.

## Level 2

# BTEC First

- ? Who is it for?**  
Typically these are taken by those aged 16 and over.
- ? Do I need any qualifications?**  
Yes. Some qualifications at Level 1 such as a BTEC Level 1 or GCSEs grade 1-3 (or D-G).
- ? What can I study?**  
You study work-related topics in areas such as Business, Sport, Performing Arts, Health and Social Care, Art and Design, Engineering, Hospitality, Construction and Travel and Tourism.

- ? How will I be assessed?**  
The teaching and learning focuses on practical activities to develop the skills and knowledge needed to work in your chosen sector. Assessment is partly by exam, and partly by assignments set and marked by your tutors.
- ? What can I do next?**  
A BTEC First helps you take your first steps towards a job in a particular sector. You can choose whether to continue to study further for a qualification at Level 3 such as a BTEC National or A level or use the qualification as a direct stepping stone into work on an apprenticeship.

## Level 2

# BTEC Technicals

## ? Who is it for?

Typically, they are for post-16 students in England. You can take them alongside a post-16 Programme of Study (including GCSE Maths/English), or as a stand-alone course.

## ? Do I need any qualifications?

Yes. Some qualifications at Level 1 such as a BTEC Level 1 or GCSEs grade 1-3 (or D-G). Colleges and training providers may be more flexible with mature students returning to education.

## ? What can I study?

You can choose from a range of hands-on courses that give you industry-specific knowledge and skills to get you work-ready. Currently, Applied Science, Business, Construction, Creative Arts, Media and Publishing, Engineering, Health and Social Care, Hospitality, IT, Land-based Studies (including Animal Care), Logistics and Transport, Sport, and Travel and Tourism courses are available.

## ? How will I learn?

You'll be taught sector-specific theory and learn skills that you can put into practice in different projects. There's the chance to hear from employers about how they use different skills and knowledge in their work, as well as potentially undertaking work experience placements.

## ? How will I be assessed?

Throughout the course, you'll be doing lots of practical activities so you get the chance to apply your skills and knowledge. Most assessment is via assignments set and marked by your tutors but some courses include external assessments set by the exam board.

## ? What can I do next?

You will have gained the skills and knowledge to take the next steps in your career - be that going into employment, an apprenticeship or doing further technical study at Level 3.

## Level 3

# BTEC National

**? Who is it for?**  
Anyone over the age of 16. Many adults returning to education also take them.

**? Do I need any qualifications?**  
You usually need to have Level 2 qualifications (GCSEs at grades 4-9 or C and above, or BTEC Firsts). Colleges and training providers may be more flexible with older returners.

**? What can I study?**  
You can choose from over 40 different employment-related areas of study, from Aeronautical Engineering through to Vehicle Technology. Popular subjects include Art and Design, Sport, Business, Engineering, Health and Social Care, IT and Performing Arts.

**? How will I learn?**  
Most of your learning will be through practical activities with a trainer and in work placements. You will also learn theory from your trainer or tutor.

**? How will I be assessed?**  
Most of the assessment is via assignments set and marked by your tutors. Some courses include external tasks set by the exam board.

**? What can I do next?**  
You can go onto study for a degree at university or other higher education institutions. Or you may want to apply directly for a job in your chosen sector.

**[Read success stories from past BTEC students here](#)**

## Level 3

# A Levels

**? Who is it for?**  
Traditionally AS levels are taken at 17 at the end of Year 12. A levels are mostly taken in the school year a learner turns 18 but are also available to older learners.

**? Do I need any qualifications?**  
You usually need at least a 4 (grade C) in English and maths GCSE. Some learning centres like you to have a GCSE at 3 (grade B) or above in the same subject as the A level if it is available.

**? What can I study?**  
A very wide range of academic subjects from English, maths and sciences through the humanities to creative and practical subjects and social sciences.

**? How will I learn?**  
You will attend taught classes and do research and reading for a variety of assignments or projects, study on your own and with other learners. You can either take A/AS levels on their own or in combination with BTEC Nationals.

**? How will I be assessed?**  
Mostly by an end of course written exam. Creative and practical subjects may include coursework and a practical exam.

**? What can I do next?**  
A levels are mostly used as entry requirements to a degree course at university or other higher education institutions.

## Level 3

# AS Levels

**? Who is it for?**  
Traditionally AS levels are taken at 17 at the end of Year 12.

**? Do I need any qualifications?**  
You usually need at least a 4 (grade C) in English and maths GCSE. Some learning centres like you to have a GCSE at 3 (grade B) or above in the same subject as the A level if it is available.

**? What can I study?**  
A very wide range of academic subjects from English, maths and sciences through the humanities to creative and practical subjects and social sciences.

**? How will I learn?**  
You will attend taught classes and do research and reading for a variety of assignments or projects, study on your own and with other learners.

**? How will I be assessed?**  
Mostly by an end of course written exam. Creative and practical subjects may include coursework and a practical exam.

**? What can I do next?**  
AS levels usually precede further study of the subject at A level. You can take them alongside BTEC Nationals or on their own and develop your learning further in the second year of sixth form or college.

## Level 4/5

# BTEC Higher National Certificate (L4) /BTEC Higher National Diploma (L5)

## ? Who is it for?

Anyone over 18. Most candidates are aged 18-24.

## ? Do I need any qualifications?

Yes, you should have Level 3 qualifications such as BTEC Nationals and/or A levels.

## ? What can I study?

You can choose from a wide range of occupational areas including Business, Engineering, Health and Social Care, Computing, Applied Science, Art and Design, Creative Media, Construction, Travel, Tourism and Hospitality.

## ? How will I learn?

Teaching and learning methods are focused on the learner through a mix of practical activities that may include individual or group project work, and in work placements; plus taught sessions such as lectures and seminars. Your learning may also include structured visits to companies and talks by speakers working in your chosen sector.

## ? How will I be assessed?

Your tutors will use a variety of assessment methods such as presentations, log books, reports and assignments. They may observe you doing practical tasks in your workplace or in class, ask you to roleplay different scenarios with your fellow students, use video, create a podcast or a product. You may report on other students through peer assessment exercises or even comment on your own work. While your tutors assess your progress and achievements, their conclusions are verified or checked externally by Pearson assessors.

## ? What can I do next?

A Higher National Certificate (HNC) is the equivalent of the first year of a degree and the Diploma (HND) the equivalent of the second, so you could progress onto a full degree e.g. BA or BSc (Honours).

## Foundation Degree (L4/5)

### Who is it for?

A foundation degree is the equivalent of two thirds of a full honours degree and is a fully flexible qualification allowing you to study part-time or full-time to fit your lifestyle. They combine academic and workplace skills and are designed in partnership with employers to address local, regional or national skills needs.

## Honours Degree (L5/6)

### Who is it for?

An honours degree is typically what a lot of students who go to university receive at the end of their course. Most commonly it refers to a variant of the undergraduate bachelor's degree which contains a larger volume of material or a higher standard of study, or both, than an "ordinary", "general" or "pass" bachelor's degree.

For more information about degrees and how you can get there, visit the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com>

# Apprenticeship

## ? Who is it for?

Anyone over 16 in employment. Progression can be directly from GCSE and it's up to the employer who they recruit. Many people on new apprenticeship standards from Pearson are over 24 years old. 19-24 year olds can also do a Traineeship and can progress onto an apprenticeship or into work or further study. Higher Apprenticeships are also available.

## ? Do I need any qualifications?

It depends on the sector and the level of the apprenticeship. For example, you will need GCSE Maths and English for technical apprenticeships at Level 3 such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. In other areas, such as a business administration Level 2 customer service apprenticeship, you just need to be in a job, but you will need to demonstrate English and maths skills to an appropriate level to be accepted.

## What can I study?

You choose from a broad range of occupational areas at Levels 2 and 3: engineering, construction, health, social care, retail, business, hospitality, IT and more.

## ? How will I learn?

You will do work-based training supported by a mentor who may be your supervisor. You will also attend formal training sessions either at the company where you work or on a day-release course at a local training organisation such as a college.

## ? Functional Skills

Functional Skills are qualifications in English, maths and ICT that equip learners with the practical skills needed to live, learn and work successfully. They are available in England at Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2. Suitable for learners of all ages, they are also a mandatory part of all apprenticeship frameworks in England and will be a requirement of the new standards-based apprenticeships.

**[Find out more about our apprenticeships](#)**

**Back**



▶ If you're not sure which career you want to go into, why not try our **careers quiz**?