



Pearson

Quick guide to the future of post-16 level 3 vocational qualifications in England

The new level 3 qualification landscape at a glance

On 10 January 2023 the DfE published the latest news about the reform of post-16 level 3 vocational qualifications in England.

This document, along with the information on our website provides you with an overview of these reforms, and what we know so far about what they will mean for you and your post-16 level 3 vocational curriculum.

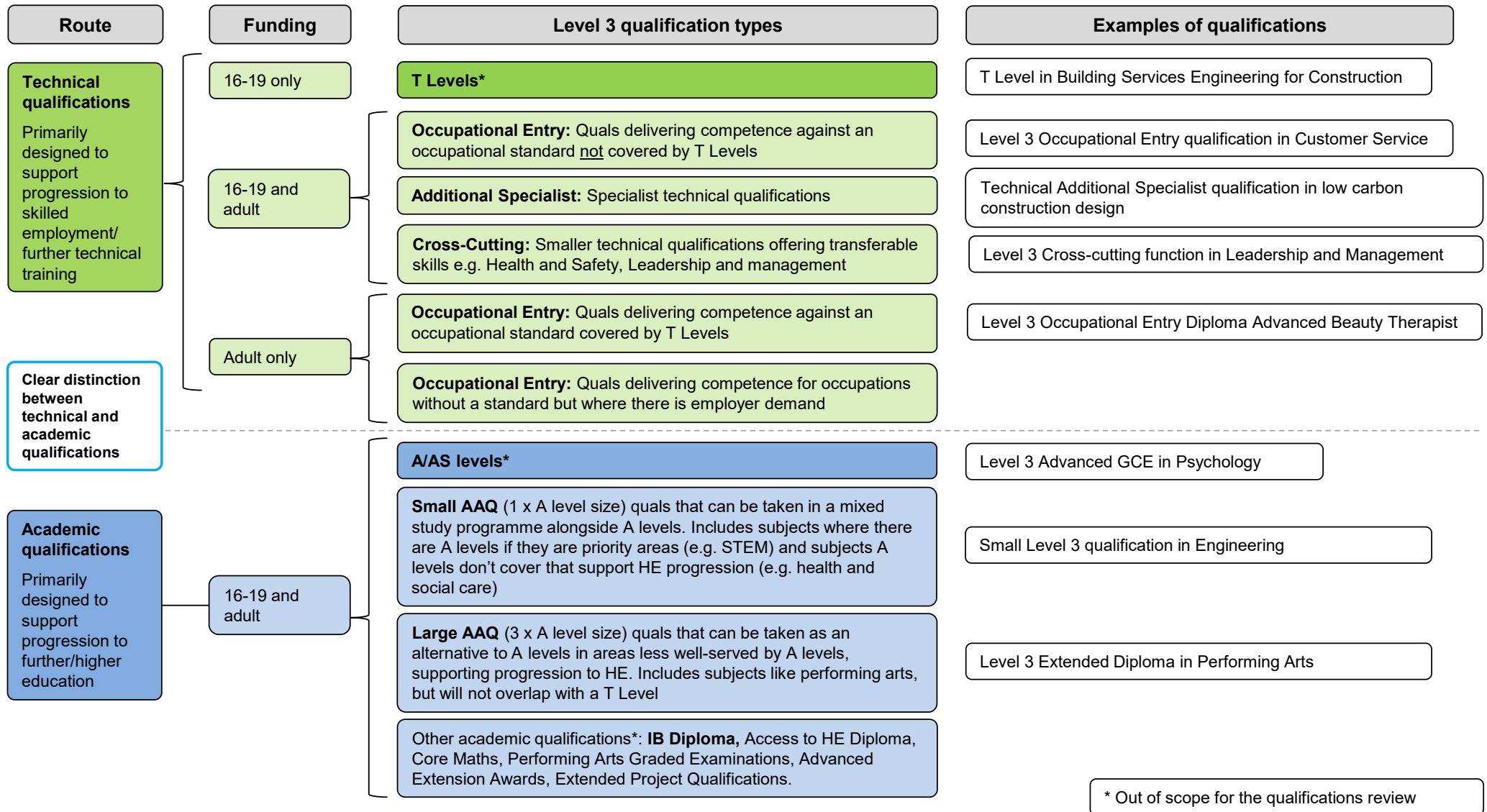
Please be reassured that you can continue to teach your BTECs with confidence in 2022/23 and 2023/24. Very few qualifications will be affected in 2024/25.

We will update you as we know more about the removal of funding for qualifications, and new qualifications in development.

Over the coming months we will provide you with all the support you need to make any changes necessary to your curriculum in the future as the result of these reforms.



The new level 3 qualification landscape



Key activity timeline

First teach/
Last teach/
No longer
funded

Last teach for
16-19-year-old
new starts*: List of
qualifications that overlap
with Waves 1 and 2 T
Levels***

No longer eligible for
funding for 16-19-year-
old new starts*: List
of qualifications that
overlap with Waves 1
and 2 T Levels***

Last teach for
16-19-year-old
new starts*: Cycle
1 qualifications not
reapproved

Last teach for
16-19-year-old
new starts*: List of
qualifications that
overlap with Waves 3
and 4 T Levels

First teach: Cycle 1
qualifications
Last teach for 16-19-year-
old new starts*: Cycle
2 qualifications not
reapproved

No longer eligible for
funding for 16-19-year-
old new starts*: Cycle
1 qualifications not
reapproved

No longer eligible for
funding for 16-19-year-
old new starts*: List of
qualifications that overlap
with Waves 3 and 4 T
Levels

First teach:
Cycle 2
qualifications

No longer
eligible for
funding for
16-19-year-
old new
starts*: Cycle
2 qualifications
not reapproved

First teach:
Remaining
Cycle 2
qualifications



Key
information/
support
Pearson will
share with
schools and
colleges

Cycle 1
qualifications
for first teach
Sept-25

List of
titles we
intend to
submit to
DfE

Customer
engagement
sessions***

List of titles
we submit
to DfE for
approval

Approval and
funding decisions
Customer transition,
engagement and
training

Cycle 2
qualifications
for first teach
Sept-26

List of
titles we
intend to
submit to
DfE

Customer
engagement
sessions***

List of titles
we submit
to DfE for
approval

Approval and
funding decisions
Customer transition,
engagement and
training

Cycle 2
qualifications
for first teach
Sept-27

Funding
removal
decisions

List of qualifications that
overlap with Waves 3 and 4 T
Levels that will not be funded
for 16-19-year-old new starts
in Sept-25 published

All qualifications
aligned to Cycle 1
not approved and
will have funding
removed

All qualifications
aligned to Cycle 2
not approved and
will have funding
removed

* This does not include qualifications that are taken as part of apprenticeships. Any learners part way through a qualification in an academic year will be funded to complete their course. We will know more about adult funding later this year.

** New academic qualifications will be available for both 16-19-year-olds and adults. New technical qualifications will either be available for both 16-19-year-olds and adults, or adults only.

*** Please see our website for details:
<https://www.pearson.com/uk/campaigns/L3-Review-Updates.html>

Subject and sector reform - by academic year

Academic year	New qualifications*	Funding eligibility removed**
2024/25	N/A	Qualifications that overlap with T Levels in Waves 1 and 2: <i>Final list published in October 2022</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and the built environment • Digital • Education and childcare
2025/26	<p>Cycle 1 <i>AOs inform DfE of intention to submit Feb 2023, final list to be published July 2024.</i></p> <p>Academic</p> <p>Small Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) in the following subjects only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and construction by exception only • Information technology/ Computing • Child development and wellbeing/ Teaching and lecturing/ Direct learning support by exception only • Engineering and engineering principles or technology • Health and social care • Subjects which support progression to degrees in healthcare professions allied to medicine and dentistry, and nursing <p>Technical</p> <p>Occupational entry, and Additional specialist qualifications in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and the built environment • Digital • Education and childcare • Engineering and manufacturing • Health and science 	<p>Qualifications that overlap with T Levels in Waves 3 and 4: <i>Final list to be published Summer 2023.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture, environmental and animal care • Business and administration • Catering and hospitality • Creative and design • Hair and beauty • Legal, finance, and accounting <p>And all remaining BTEC Nationals in the following sectors: <i>Final list to be published July 2024.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction • Information technology/ computing • CPLD • Engineering • Health and social care • Applied human biology/ Applied psychology/ Applied science (including forensics)

* New academic qualifications will be available for both 16-19-year-olds and adults. New technical qualifications will either be available for both 16-19-year-olds and adults, or adults only.

** This does not include qualifications that are taken as part of apprenticeships. Any learners part way through a qualification in an academic year will be funded to complete their course. Funding will be removed for 16-19 learners only. We will know more about adult funding later this year.

Academic year	New qualifications*	Funding eligibility removed**
2026/27	<p>Cycle 2 <i>AOs inform DfE of intention to submit February 2024, final list to be published July 2025.</i></p> <p>Academic</p> <p>Small Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) in the following subjects only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative digital media production/ Digital games, film and video production • Art, craft and design/ Sound engineering/ Animation and visual arts • Performing, production, and creative arts/ Music performance, production and technology/ Qualifications for music practitioners or the creative music industry • Sport, exercise science, and physical activity/ Sporting excellence and performance • Uniformed protective services/ Policing • British sign language studies <p>Large Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) in the following subjects only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art and design/ Art, design and media or communication/ Fine and applied art • Performing arts/ Production arts/ Music/ Music technology/ Music performance and production • Sport/ Sport and exercise science/ Sport and physical or outdoor activity <p>The only exceptions will be where there is a new or emerging skills priority.</p> <p>Technical</p> <p>Occupational entry and Additional specialist qualifications in all other routes.</p> <p>Employer proposed and occupational progression qualifications in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and science. • Construction and the built environment • Digital • Education and childcare • Engineering and manufacturing <p>Cross cutting qualifications</p>	<p>All remaining BTEC Nationals in the following sectors: <i>Final list to be published July 2025.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business • Enterprise • Law • Creatives • Sport • Sports and exercise science • Protective services • Travel and tourism • Esports
2027/28	<p>Cycle 2 cont. <i>AOs inform DfE of intention to submit February 2025, final list published July 2026.</i></p> <p>Technical</p> <p>Employer proposed and occupational progression qualifications in all remaining routes.</p>	N/A