

## APPENDIX B: An Introduction to learning levels and their equivalent value

### **Introduction to learning levels and their equivalent value**

There are nine qualification levels in England, starting at Entry level through to Level 8. You can find out more about levels on the [Gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

#### **Pre-entry and entry level**

Each entry level qualification is available at three sub levels, 1, 2 and 3. Entry level 3 is the most difficult of these levels.

##### ***Entry qualifications are:***

- Entry level award
- Entry level certificate
- Entry Level Diploma
- Entry level English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- Entry level essential skills
- Entry level functional skills
- Skills for Life

##### ***What you will gain:***

- basic knowledge and skills
- ability to apply learning in everyday situations

You may also study non-accredited courses at this level.

#### **Level 1**

##### ***What you will gain:***

- basic knowledge and skills
- ability to apply learning with guidance or supervision
- may be linked to job competence

##### ***Level 1 qualifications are:***

- Level 1 awards or extended awards or certificates in vocational subjects
- GCSE – grades 3, 2, 1 or grades D, E, F, G
- Level 1 ESOL
- Level 1 Essential Skills
- Level 1 Functional Skills
- Level 1 national vocational qualification (NVQ)

You may also study non-accredited courses at this level.

## **Level 2**

### ***What you will gain:***

- intermediate levels of knowledge and understanding of a subject
- ability to perform a variety of tasks with some guidance or supervision
- appropriate for many job roles
- work placements are a typical component of most L2 technical, vocational or applied subjects.

### ***Level 2 qualifications are:***

- CSE – grade 1
- GCSE – grades 9,8,7,6,5,4 or grades A\*, A, B, C
- Level 2 awards, certificates or Diplomas in vocational subjects
- Level 2 ESOL
- Level 2 Functional Skills
- Level 2 Essential Skills
- Level 2 national certificate or diploma
- Level 2 national vocational qualification (NVQ)
- O level – grade A, B or C

Intermediate Apprenticeships are also available at this level.

## **Level 3**

### ***What you will gain:***

- you will study more advanced level subjects and have the ability to apply a range of knowledge, skills and behaviours at an advanced to higher level
- Some Level 3 qualifications carry UCAS points and so this level is appropriate if you plan to study at a higher level or want to go to university.
- You typically need to have or be working towards a L2 qualification in Maths and English to be able to study technical or vocational qualifications at this level.
- You will work independently at this level, and/or, in some cases, supervise and train others in their field of work
- Work placements are a typical component of most L3 technical, vocational or applied subjects.

### ***Level 3 qualifications are:***

- A Level
- Access to higher education diploma
- Applied general
- AS Level

- International Baccalaureate diploma
- Level 3 award, certificate or diploma.
- Level 3 ESOL
- Level 3 national certificate or diploma
- Level 3 national vocational qualification (NVQ)
- Tech Level

Advanced Apprenticeships are also available at this level.

#### **Level 4**

##### ***Level 4 qualifications are:***

- certificate of higher education (CertHE)
- higher apprenticeship
- higher national certificate (HNC)
- Level 4 award
- Level 4 certificate
- Level 4 diploma
- Level 4 NVQ

#### **Level 5**

##### ***Level 5 qualifications are:***

- Diploma of higher education (DipHE)
- Foundation degree
- Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Level 5 award
- Level 5 certificate
- Level 5 diploma
- Level 5 NVQ

#### **Level 6**

##### ***Level 6 qualifications are:***

- Degree apprenticeship
- Degree with honours – for example bachelor of the arts (BA) honours, bachelor of science (BSc) honours
- Graduate certificate

- Graduate Diploma
- Level 6 award
- Level 6 certificate
- Level 6 diploma
- Level 6 NVQ
- Ordinary degree without honours

### **Level 7**

#### ***Level 7 qualifications are:***

- Integrated master's degree, for example Master of Engineering (MEng)
- Level 7 Award
- Level 7 certificate
- Level 7 diploma
- Level 7 NVQ
- Master's degree, for example Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc)
- Postgraduate Certificate
- Postgraduate Certificate in education (PGCE)
- Postgraduate Diploma

### **Level 8**

#### ***Level 8 qualifications are:***

- Doctorate, for example Doctor of Philosophy (PhD or DPhil)
- Level 8 award
- Level 8 certificate
- Level 8 diploma