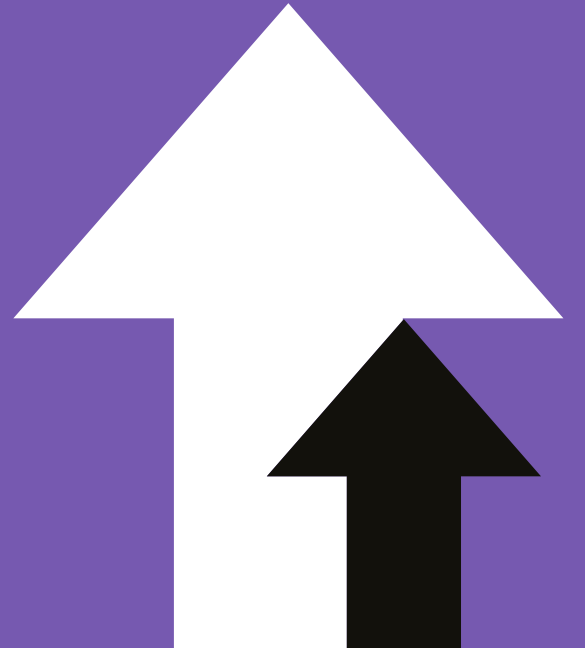


T LEVELS



TL

BACKGROUND: THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Led by Lord Sainsbury - advised Ministers on improving the quality of technical education in England

The expert panel found a compelling case for change and recommended comprehensive reform:

- The development of **15 technical routes**, encompassing all employment-based and college-based training (apprenticeships and T Levels)
- The development of **new flagship technical education programmes (T Levels)** to be delivered through **exclusive license**
- A **radical streamlining of existing technical qualifications**, aiming to **simplify the system** for students and employers
- **Government accepted all recommendations** in the 2016 Skills Plan, and committed to deliver first T Levels from September 2020

IN FUTURE, YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A CLEAR CHOICE AT 16 – WHETHER TO PURSUE AN ACADEMIC OR TECHNICAL PATH

ACADEMIC

A LEVELS

Subject-based qualifications delivered over 2 years by school sixth-forms, sixth-form colleges and FE colleges



Purpose: To prepare students for higher education

- We are currently undertaking a review of qualifications at level 3 (excluding A Levels) and will only keep those of high quality and with a distinct purpose.

T LEVELS

Classroom based programmes delivered over 2 years by an FE provider (80% in the classroom and 20% on the job)



Purpose: To prepare students for entry into skilled employment (including higher level apprenticeships), either immediately or after higher levels of technical education (L4+)

- T Levels and apprenticeships are two options within the same technical education system
- Both T Levels and apprenticeships are based on the same occupational standards, developed by employers as part of Institute for Apprenticeships

TECHNICAL

APPRENTICESHIPS

Work based training for a minimum of 12 months (80% on the job and 20% off the job e.g. in an FE college)



WHAT IS A T LEVEL?

- New, **two year technical education courses** for 16-19 yr olds that will follow GCSEs
- Developed in **collaboration with employers**, so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work
- Course includes a **mixture of classroom learning (80%) and ‘on-the-job’ experience (20%)** during an industry placement of a minimum of 45 days
- Progression options include **skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship** (T Levels will attract UCAS points – for example, a Distinction* T Level grade will be awarded the same number of UCAS points as 3 A*s at A Level)
- More rigorous and substantial than most existing technical qualifications, with longer teaching time – **one T Level is comparable in size to 3 A levels.**

TL

- 25 T Levels will roll out in a **phased approach** from next September onwards

WHAT MAKES T LEVELS DIFFERENT?

- These are **long term reforms** – the Department has reviewed previous initiatives and is confident that T Levels are a distinct new offer, well placed to succeed
- T Levels are designed by **reference to the world's best technical education systems**, with much longer hours than other qualifications, a meaningful industrial placement, and the inclusion of English, maths and digital
- In contrast to previous reforms, we are **directly involving employers** in the development of T Levels, and they are setting out the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for each occupational area
- T Levels will suit learners who do not want to follow the academic route and want a more **practical, employer-led programme**.
- Industry placements (minimum 45 days) will give students **real experience of the world of work**. We have published industry placement case studies on YouTube, including a students' view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4hdOsUbYF0>
- **Find your local provider at www.tlevels.gov.uk** and ask them for more information

HOW IS A T LEVEL DIFFERENT FROM AN APPRENTICESHIP?

- Apprenticeships and T Levels are based on the same employer designed standards, but will suit different learning styles
- **Apprenticeships are paid work**, suitable for students who know what occupation they want to pursue and wish to train 'on the job' (80% in the workplace, 20% off the job)
- **T Levels are largely classroom based**, with a substantive **industry placement (80% in the classroom, 20% in the workplace)**
- T Levels will offer a **broader course content**, and students will specialise later in their programme. Apprenticeships content is **narrower and focussed on a specific occupation** from the outset
- On completion of their course, **T Level students will be ready to start work in their chosen area**. Apprentices will be 'occupationally competent' on completion of their course

T LEVEL PROGRAMME

1800 Hrs over 2 years

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION (TQ) 900-1400 GLH

CORE

- Up to half the qualification
- Knowledge and understanding of the concepts, theories and principles relevant to that sector
- Assessed through an external examination and a substantial project

OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALISM

- At least half of the qualification
- Knowledge and skills required to enter employment in that occupational specialism
- As close to full competence as possible
- English, maths and digital competence integrated where relevant

T LEVEL INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

- Between 315-420 hours
- Undertaken with an external employer
- Chance to apply skills and apply knowledge in a workplace environment
- Support for travel and subsistence costs but employers not expected to pay students

ENGLISH AND MATHS REQUIREMENTS

- Students required to achieve a level 2 in English and maths
- Either GCSE (grade 4 and above) or level 2 Functional Skills (pass)

ADDITIONAL MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- Occupation-specific requirements included where possible if essential to enter employment

GRADING, CERTIFICATION AND UCAS TARIFF POINTS

- Students who complete their T Level will receive an overall grade of **pass, merit, distinction or distinction***. They will get a **nationally recognised certificate**
- Students who do not pass all elements of their T Level will get a **T Level statement of achievement** which will show the elements they have completed

- **UCAS points** will be awarded to the overall T Level grade
- The tariff is based on an alignment of intended standards with other Level 3 qualifications, including A Levels

UCAS tariff points	T Level overall grade	A level
168	Distinction* (A* on the core and distinction in the occupational specialism)	A*A*A*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on the core)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on the core)	DDD

ONE AWARDING BODY WILL HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO DELIVER EACH T LEVEL TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION

- The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education lead the procurement
- Awarding organisations for 2020 are working closely with the providers



T LEVELS FROM SEPTEMBER 2020	
DIGITAL	• Digital Production, Design and Development
EDUCATION & CHILDCARE	• Education
CONSTRUCTION	• Design, Surveying and Planning
T LEVELS FROM SEPTEMBER 2021	
DIGITAL	• Digital Support and Services • Digital Business Services
CONSTRUCTION	• Onsite Construction • Building Services Engineering
HEALTH AND SCIENCE	• Health • Healthcare Science • Science



Announced
February
2019

Announced
October
2019

TL

T LEVEL ROLLOUT

T Levels for 2020 delivery
T Levels for 2021 delivery

T Levels for 2022 delivery
T Levels for 2023 delivery

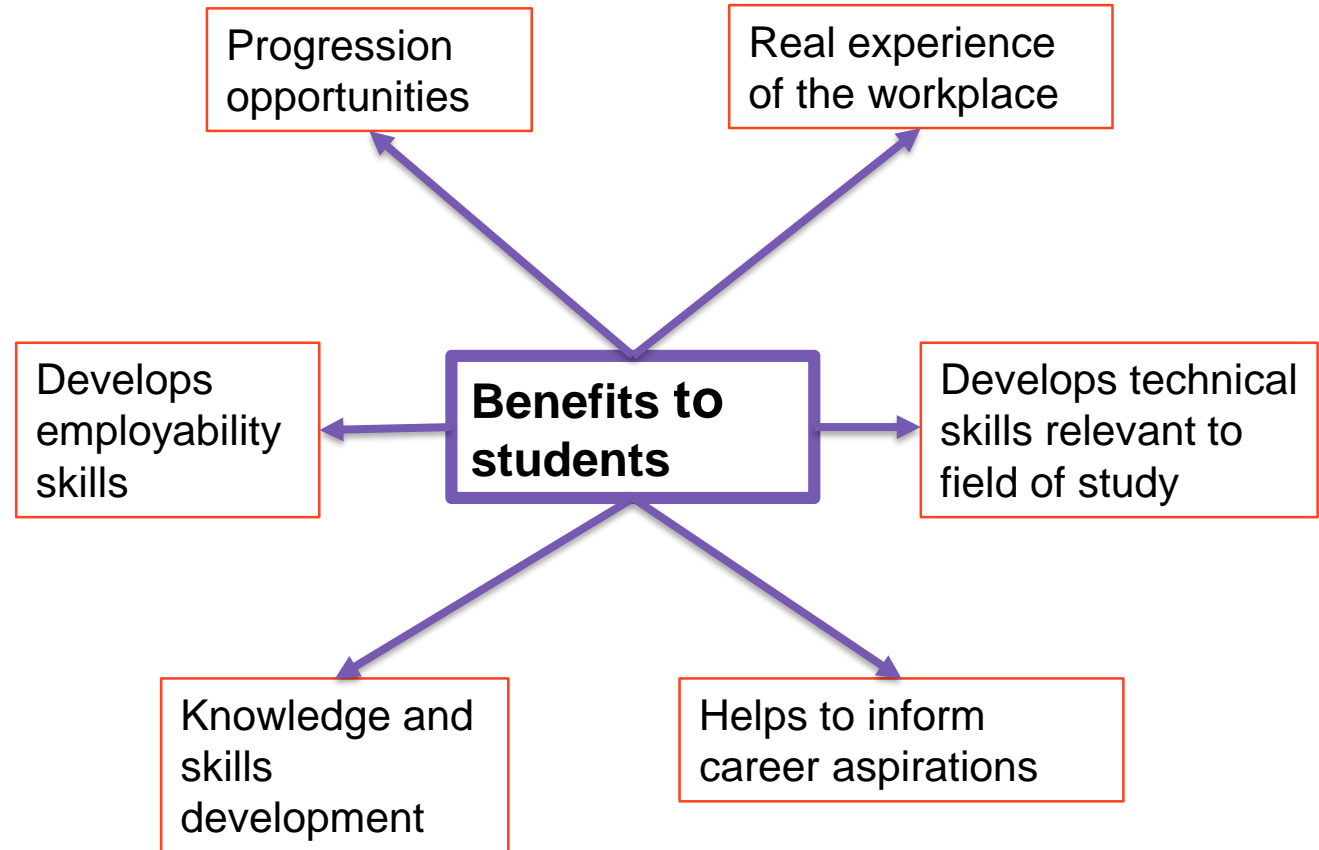
Around 50 colleges, schools and other providers will teach in 2020. A further 64 expect to teach in 2021

<i>AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ANIMAL CARE ROUTE</i>	<i>BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ROUTE</i>	<i>CATERING AND HOSPITALITY ROUTE</i>	<i>CONSTRUCTION</i>	<i>CREATIVE AND DESIGN ROUTE</i>
Agriculture, Land Management and Production	Human Resources	Catering	Building Services Engineering	Craft and Design
Animal Care and Management	Management and Administration		Design, Surveying and Planning	Cultural Heritage and Visitor Attractions
			Onsite Construction	Media, Broadcast and Production

<i>DIGITAL ROUTE</i>	<i>EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE ROUTE</i>	<i>ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING ROUTE</i>	<i>HAIR AND BEAUTY ROUTE</i>	<i>HEALTH AND SCIENCE ROUTE</i>	<i>LEGAL, FINANCE & ACCOUNTING ROUTE</i>
Digital Business Services	Education	Design and Development	Hair, Beauty and Aesthetics	Health	Accountancy
Digital Production, Design and Development		Maintenance, Installation and Repair		Healthcare Science	Financial
Digital Support Services		Manufacturing, Processing and Control		Science	Legal

INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

- Minimum of 315 hours (approx. 45 working days)
- Occupationally specific – focussed on developing practical and technical skills required for the profession or trade that the student is studying for
- Real environment – placement should be with an employer in a real life working environment
- Extensive research and engagement with stakeholders – and pilot programme tested different models
- There is no legal requirement or expectation that T Level students will be paid – but employers can choose to if they wish.



SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY PLACEMENT DELIVERY

- Government is funding education institutions to help them prepare – £60m in **capacity and delivery funding** has been allocated
- The **National Apprenticeship Service** is providing advice to employers and helping to match them with providers
- In May the government published **additional models and approaches**, to help ensure placements are high quality and deliverable across different industries. For example:
 - Allowing students generally to work with up to 2 employers
 - Allowing a small proportion of occupationally relevant work tasters to count towards placement
 - Allowing part time work to count as long as it is occupationally relevant and at the right level
- A **further package of support for employers** is being developed to help them plan and implement high quality placements and better understand how to overcome industry-specific challenges

Useful Links

Industry Placements Policy Statement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industry-placements-policy-framework>

Industry Placements Guidance Documents: <https://www.aoc.co.uk/industry-placements-guidance-resources>

Video ‘What Students Say’: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4hdOsUbYF0>

T LEVEL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- To ensure that T Levels deliver great outcomes for learners, we are **committed to ensuring that teachers and leaders have the support they need** to deliver them well.
- In the two years to March 2020, we will already have **invested up to £20m to support providers** as they prepare for the introduction of T Levels.
- As part of this £20m, the Education and Training Foundation rolled out **a new £8m T Level Professional Development offer**, to help staff prepare for the change and successfully deliver the first T Levels. We recently announced an expansion of the TLPD offer with additional funding worth 15m in 2020/2021
- The offer has 5 strands (Professional development needs analysis, Understanding T Levels, Teacher development programme, Knowledge hubs, and Organisational readiness) and **has been available since May this year.**
- ETF has developed a module to help providers understand T Levels, as part of their Professional Development Programme. This includes online learning and workshops. This can be found at <https://www.et-foundation.co.uk/supporting/technical-education/t-levels/>

COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

- Launched in October - targeting **young people, parents, teachers and employers**
- The aim is to **establish the status of T Levels**, raise awareness of the key benefits, stimulate demand and inspire our audiences to find out more
- **New website – www.tlevels.gov.uk** – where you can find out more and search for a local provider plus new T Level film
- National coverage but will be **targeted in our 2020 provider areas**. Activity will include video on demand TV advertising, out of home posters, social media activity etc.
- We are working to help **promote T Levels within schools** and providing training for careers advisers and careers leaders
- We are working with the National Apprenticeship Service to **promote employer engagement - and using Employer Ambassadors** to promote the benefits of T Levels/placements
- Series of **industry placement case study films** on the DfE YouTube channel



T LEVELS CONTEXT: REVIEW OF POST-16 QUALIFICATIONS AT LEVEL 3 AND BELOW IN ENGLAND (EXCLUDING A LEVELS AND GCSE)

- Aim of the review is to **simplify the landscape** to make choices clearer and to ensure that every single qualification approved for public funding:
 - **is necessary;**
 - **has a distinct purpose;**
 - **is high quality; and**
 - **supports progression to positive outcomes**

We want there to be clearer and simpler **high quality options** for students able to study at level 3:

- We want T Levels and A Levels to be the programmes of choice for those opting for classroom-based study, and apprenticeships for those seeking a work-based option
- Removing qualifications that overlap with T Levels and A Levels to ensure clarity for students and employers
- We want to hear the sector's views and this is why we are consulting in two stages. The first stage consultation looked at the principles that should guide the review
- On 13 February 2020 we announced the qualifications with low and no publicly funded enrolments which will have public funding removed from August 2021.
- The second stage consultation will present detailed proposals for change and will be launched later this year

T LEVELS CONTEXT: TRANSITION PROGRAMME

Why do we need it?

- T Levels will be stretching level 3 programmes; not all young people will be ready for them at 16.
- Design a tailored programme, a pipeline for T Levels – that provides solid preparation and sets students up to succeed – enabling more young people to benefit from T levels.

Who is it targeted at?

- Students who are not ready to start a T Level but have the potential to progress onto one following a tailored preparation programme, lasting roughly an academic year.

What is it?

- A type of tailored 16-19 study programme (not a qualification in its own right) – focused on preparing for T Level.
- Five key components that are nationally set: a diagnostic period, English and mathematics, work experience and work-related learning, introductory technical skills, pastoral support and personal development opportunities
- Some provider flexibility to design and package their transition programmes to meet the needs of their students.

When will it be taught?

TL Will be taught for the first time from September 2020 – by circa 35 volunteer 2020 T Level providers; with a second round from September 2021.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

www.tlevels.gov.uk – find your nearest provider and ask them for information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/providers-selected-to-deliver-t-levels-in-academic-year-2020-to-2021> - lists all 2020 and 2021 providers and the courses they will deliver

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-level-action-plan> - 2019 T Level Action Plan details next steps and rollout schedule

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYQw5rQrwwA> - T Level film and industry placement case studies on the DfE YouTube channel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels> - Detailed T Levels information on gov.uk

RoutesReadiness.TE@education.gov.uk – Any questions do get in touch! We can also consider requests for small quantities of promotional material ie leaflets etc

