

# WHAT ARE V LEVELS?

## New post-16 vocational qualifications

### What are V Levels?

V Levels are new level 3 vocational qualifications designed as an option for young people aged 16-19 following GCSEs and will be taught in schools and colleges.

### KEY FACTS



- They last for 2 years.
- They are similar in size to one A-level.
- Students will be able to take V Levels in multiple subjects and in combination with other qualifications such as A-levels or level 2 English or maths.
- Learning is designed around real jobs and the skills employers need.
- Students will receive a nationally recognised qualification.
- They attract UCAS points.

### Who are V Levels for?

V Levels are aimed at students who would like to explore sectors without specialising. They will provide the opportunity to pursue their interests further through a range of progression outcomes, whether that is higher education or work with training, including apprenticeships.

### What is the difference between A-levels and V Levels?

A-levels are primarily an academic pathway which focus on theory and deep subject

knowledge. V Levels are designed as a vocational pathway and are closely linked to industry needs and practical application.

### What will a V Level include?

The content of a V Level will be linked to the occupational standards that are set by Skills England (working with employers) to support workplace-relevant transferable skills. V Levels will focus on applied learning and aim to cover the core knowledge and skills related to an employment sector. In addition, they will prioritise attainment of skills such as problem solving and critical thinking to support progression to higher education.

### How are V Levels assessed and graded?

V Levels will blend applied learning with practical assessment and a significant proportion of a V Level will include non-exam assessment. The Government are working with Ofqual (the organisation that regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England) who will be consulting on assessment and grading arrangements for V Levels.

### Which V Levels are available?

V Levels will be available to students from September 2027 in the following subjects:

- Education and Early Years
- Finance and Accounting
- Digital

More subjects will be rolled out each year until 2030/31.

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### What if I'm not ready for V Levels?

Alongside announcing V Levels, the Government has also announced two new post-16 level 2 pathways, available from September 2027:

- Occupational pathway - a two-year programme for students who want to enter a particular level 2 occupation and need to develop their technical knowledge and skills.
- Further Study pathway - for students who aren't quite ready to progress onto V Levels, T Levels or A-levels yet. This one-year, classroom-based, level 2 pathway gets students ready for level 3 qualifications and includes English and/or maths, applied and practical learning and enrichment activity.

So for anyone who wants to do V Levels, a T Level or A-levels, but isn't quite ready, the Further Study pathway will be available from 2027.

### What can a V Level lead on to?

There are lots of options available after a V Level. Students will be able to progress onto level 4+ study whether they take A-levels or V Levels. Options will include:

#### ➤ Skilled employment


V Levels are designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to access entry-level employment.

#### ➤ Apprenticeships

V Levels will prepare learners for apprenticeships by building the practical skills and workplace behaviours employers expect.

#### ➤ Higher Education (HE)

V Levels carry UCAS points in the same way as A-levels and T Levels do, to allow you to progress to Higher Education and study a relevant Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ) or degree.



### Understanding the changes to post-16 pathways



Watch this short film to [find out about changes to post-16 pathways](#)



### Linked resource

Find out more about the existing post-16 technical options in this guide (see link below).



[Click here to view or scan the QR code](#)

