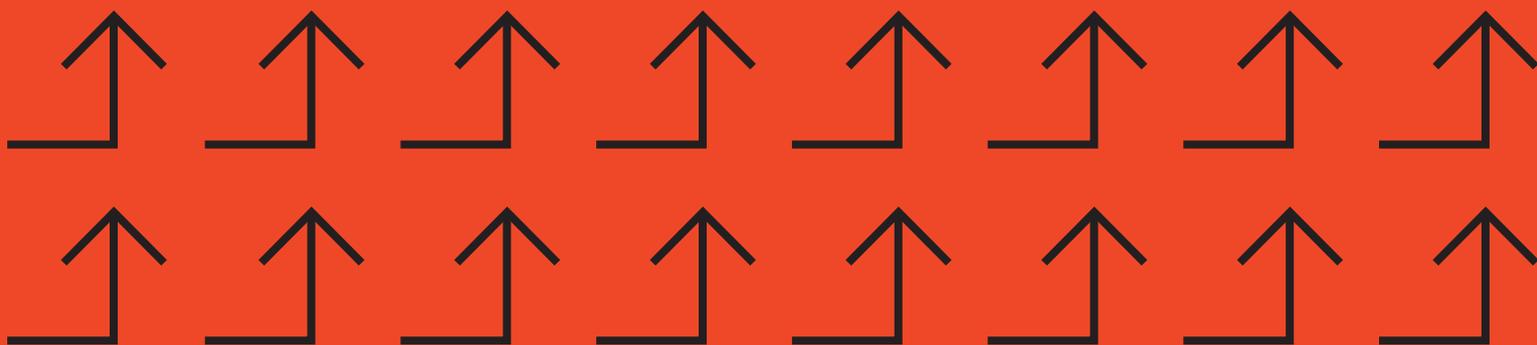


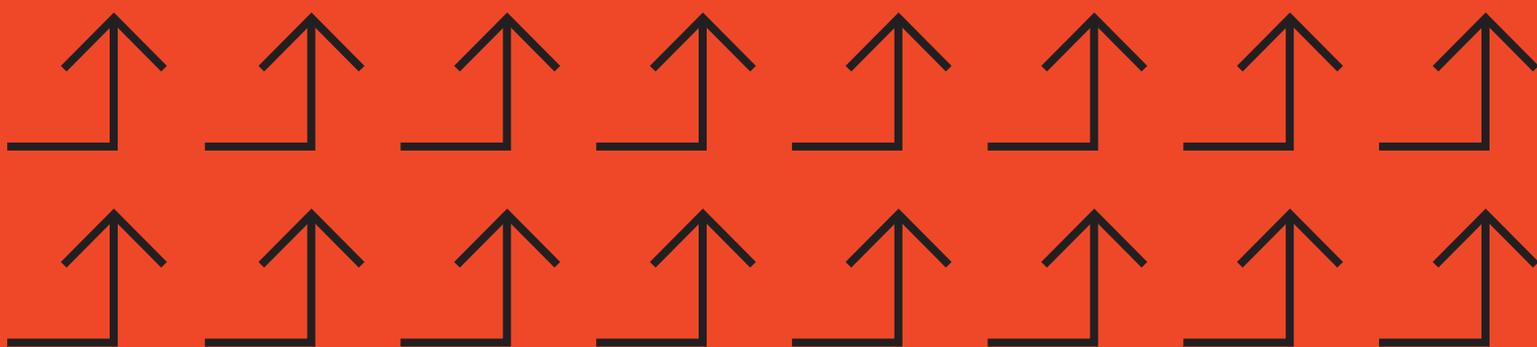
TEACHERS PACK V2
JANUARY 2021



T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

A NEW CAREER-FOCUSSED ALTERNATIVE TO A LEVELS



HM Government

PURPOSE OF THIS PACK

This pack has been created to provide information on T Levels - a new employer-designed, technical alternative to A Levels comprising 80% classroom study and 20% on a meaningful industry placement.

This pack is for **teachers and careers staff**, equipping them with the information needed to understand the new courses and be able to engage with parents and pupils about T Levels.

An accompanying presentation and script have been created for teachers and careers staff to use when delivering presentations about T Levels, visit: www.amazingapprenticeships.com/TLevels

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Further information:

- ↑ T Level website plus how to find your nearest T Level provider, visit www.tlevels.gov.uk
- ↑ For information on the introduction of T Levels on gov.uk, visit www.gov.uk/dfes/t-levels
- ↑ For course content and consultations, visit The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education: <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/t-levels>
- ↑ For T Level resources for teachers, visit www.amazingapprenticeships.com/TLevels

Contact us

If you require further information or guidance on T Levels, please contact us (we aim to answer all enquiries within 5 working days) RoutesReadiness.TE@education.gov.uk

INTRODUCTION TO T LEVELS

WHAT ARE T LEVELS?

T Levels are a brand-new qualification choice that will follow GCSEs and give students a head start towards the career they want. They will suit students who wish to start working towards a skilled occupation, prefer a **practical approach** to learning and want a predominantly classroom-based course.

Drawing on features of the world's best technical education systems, these 2-year courses have been designed in partnership with employers to ensure students gain the knowledge, skills and experience businesses need so they are ready to get good jobs when they qualify.

Drawing on features of the world's best technical education systems

WHAT DO T LEVELS INCLUDE?

T Levels combine classroom learning, practical skills development and a substantial industry placement and will support progression into skilled employment, an apprenticeship or into further related study. Each T Level begins with core theory, concepts and skills relating to an industry area and students will then be able to choose one or more occupational specialism(s).

WHEN WILL T LEVELS COMMENCE?

Selected colleges and other post-16 providers began teaching the first T Levels in September 2020. More courses will rollout in a greater number of providers over the next four years.



WHY T LEVELS?

WHY DO WE NEED T LEVELS?

A key priority for the government is to deliver world-class technical education to help address the skills gap and boost economic productivity. Developing a skilled home-grown workforce is more important than ever and T Levels will play a key role in this.

There is currently a large array of technical and vocational qualifications available which can be confusing for students and employers. Reforms to technical education aim to streamline the qualifications available, simplifying the landscape for students, teachers and employers.

T Levels aim to raise the prestige of technical education, which has often been seen as second best to the academic option. Designed by employers and with longer teaching hours and a substantial industry placement, these high-quality qualifications will ensure students have the skills and knowledge businesses are looking for.

Every single qualification approved for public funding is high quality, has a clear purpose, and supports progression

POST-16 QUALIFICATIONS REVIEW

Alongside T Levels, the government is reviewing qualifications at Level 3 and below to ensure that every single qualification approved for public funding is high quality, has a clear purpose, and supports progression to positive outcomes. This review, alongside the development of T Levels, is central to building a world-class technical education system.

We want as many young people as possible to benefit from T Levels, just as many thousands on the academic route already benefit from our world class, rigorous and internationally respected A Levels. This is why we propose to remove funding for qualifications that overlap with T Levels and A Levels in order to ensure clarity for students and employers.

The first stage consultation set out our principles for change. The second was launched in October 2020 and sets out proposals for the groups of qualifications we believe are needed alongside T Levels and A levels.



WHICH STUDENTS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN TAKING A T LEVEL?

A differentiating factor of T Levels is the combination of both classroom learning and development and practical application of occupationally-specific skills. As such, a T Level would suit a student who **wants to enter skilled employment** at the end of their course.

Although T Levels are primarily designed for entry into skilled employment, they will also allow progression to an apprenticeship or to further study / higher education in a related area. This is different to the academic route, where qualifications tend to be more knowledge-based and the purpose is **typically entry to higher education**.

Students should normally have a **clear idea about which industry they want to get into**, and an idea of the type of job role they'd like to explore.

LEARN MORE AT [TLEVELS.GOV.UK](https://tlevels.gov.uk) ↗ LEARN MORE AT [TLEVELS.GOV.UK](https://tlevels.gov.uk)



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KEY FACTS ABOUT T LEVELS

1. CAREER-LED

Brand-new, two-year technical courses to follow GCSEs, designed to get students work ready.

2. 80% STUDY / 20% WORK

Spend 80% of time in the classroom, learning the theory and practical skills, the other 20% on an industry placement putting this into action (minimum of 315 hours on placement).

3. DESIGNED BY AND FOR EMPLOYERS

Designed by employers to ensure students are learning the skills industry is looking for.

4. EQUIVALENT TO 3 A LEVELS

Nationally recognised certificate, with the top T Level grade (Distinction*) will be equivalent to 3 A Levels at A*.

5. UCAS POINTS

A T Level attracts UCAS tariff points so students can use the qualification in applying for higher education.

6. GCSE MATHS AND ENGLISH

If not already achieved, then students would need to achieve GCSE or Functional Skills maths and English.

7. WIDE RANGE OF EMPLOYERS

Around 300 employers have been involved in developing T Levels, ranging from small local businesses to large multinationals.

8. WHERE THEY TAKE PLACE

The classroom learning time will take place at a school, college or with a training provider.

Depending on the T Level, this is likely to include development of practical skills in specialist facilities. The industry placement will take place directly with an employer.

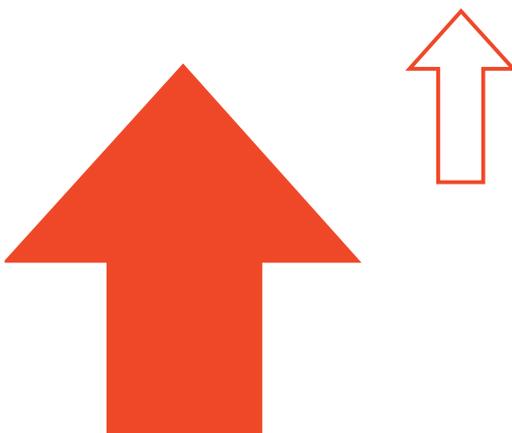
9. AVAILABLE AROUND THE COUNTRY

T Levels are available in England. The rollout starts with a small number of providers, increasing over the next few years.

There are three courses on offer from September 2020 in Digital Production, Design and Development; Education and Childcare; and Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction. Find out more on page 14-15.

10. MORE COURSES COMING

There will be seven more T Levels from September 2021. Over the following years, more courses will be introduced and it's expected that all T Levels will be available from 2023. Find the full list on page 14-15.



STRUCTURE OF A T LEVEL

To be awarded a T Level, students will need to complete the following three elements:

- 1) **Technical qualification**, which includes:
 - a. core theory, concepts and skills for that industry/sector
 - b. specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation
- 2) **Industry placement** with employer
- 3) **Minimum standard in English and maths** (Level 2 Functional Skills or GCSEs if not yet achieved) and digital skills if required.



STRUCTURE OF A T LEVEL

T Level certificates, awarded on successful completion of the course will be nationally recognised and include:

- ↗ The overall grade for the T Level - Distinction* to Pass
- ↗ Separate grade for the core component - A* to E
- ↗ Separate grades for each occupational specialism - Distinction, Merit or Pass.

It will also confirm that the student has:

- ↗ Achieved the minimum standards for English and maths
- ↗ Completed an industry placement
- ↗ Met any additional mandatory requirements, if applicable.

Students who do not pass all elements will get a **T Level statement of achievement** which will show the elements they have completed.



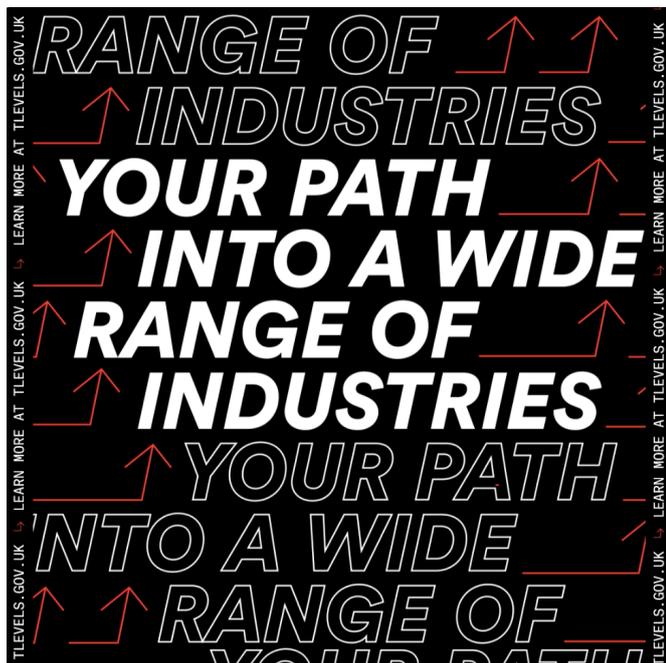
INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

A unique part of a T Level is the time students spend on an industry placement (minimum of 315 hours/ around 45 days) or around 20% of their course. This gives students an invaluable opportunity to put their new knowledge and skills into practice and understand the world of work.

Placements differ from traditional work experience as they are significantly longer and students are expected to complete meaningful work for the employer.

Individual employers and training providers agree how the placement will work – whether as a block of time, a series of day releases or a combination of both.

Students are not typically paid for their placement. However, the provider may be able to support some of the costs of placement.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Thousands of T Level-style industry placements have taken place in readiness for the rollout of T Levels and the feedback from both employers and students has been positive.

Students benefit by having the opportunity to:

- ↑ Put their studies into context and practice their developing skills in a real work environment
- ↑ Understand the world of work and start networking with potential future employers
- ↑ Gain real experience to put on their CV and talk about at interview
- ↑ Check that this is career they want to pursue

Employers benefit by:

- ↑ Spotting talented young people that they might want to recruit
- ↑ Bringing in new skills and extra resource for projects
- ↑ Upskilling existing staff through coaching and mentoring
- ↑ Creating a diverse workforce and supporting their community

TESTIMONIALS

TRAINING PROVIDERS AND COLLEGES

"This really is going to be the new gold standard qualification for people entering employment..."

The T Level is perfectly designed to help you hit the ground running when you start work."

Matt Reynolds, Vice Principal, Cirencester College

EMPLOYERS

"There is a huge shortage of talented young people entering technical careers, and Fujitsu has felt the effects of this. The lack of fresh talent entering the sector makes it increasingly difficult to secure enthusiastic new employees to fill the necessary talent pipeline. The introduction of T Levels will help alleviate this problem by enabling more students to enter the industry with the skills needed to succeed."

Tim Chapman, Lead for the Cyber Security Architecture and Design, Fujitsu

"With the ongoing skills shortages in both the construction trades and professions, industry placements give us a chance to see and work with young people as a shortcut in the recruitment process. Having spent nearly three months working with us, they are already part of the team and understand the company and how we work."

Bruce Boughton, Lovell Partnerships

"T Levels place an emphasis on hands on experience, which is why I was so keen to get involved in their development and help raise awareness of all they have to offer. When I'm hiring staff, I look for people who can hit the ground running and T Levels will give young people the skills they need to do just that."

Lee Stafford, Celebrity Hair Stylist

TESTIMONIALS

STUDENTS

"It has changed me as a person, it really has. I was really scared about leaving college. I didn't know how it was going to work out or how I was going to get a job. Now I'm passionate and excited about my future. This has been massive for me."

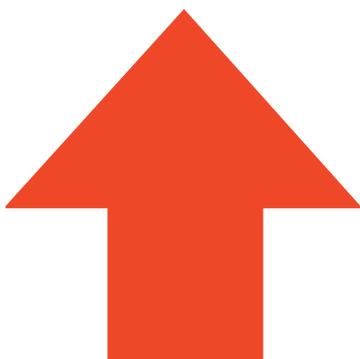
Kiran, Walsall College

"The theory is really good, but being able to see things in person makes it more real and it's helped when I'm back in the classroom. It's also helped with my assignments as I can use things I've done on placement as examples."

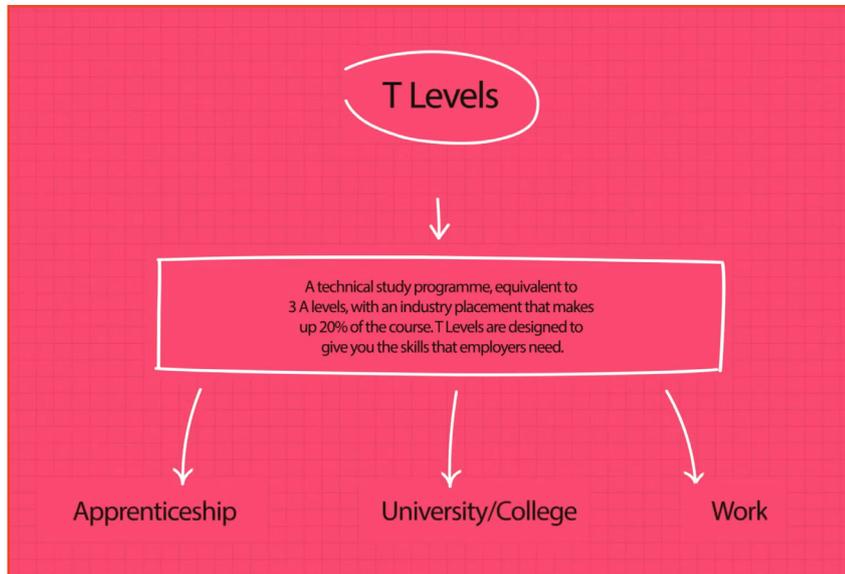
Tom, Bolton College



You can watch video interviews with industry placement students [here](#).



HOW DO T LEVELS COMPARE WITH OTHER POST 16 OPTIONS?



The Department for Education has developed a grid and animated film comparing the different options available to young people after GCSEs.

This can be accessed on the Careers and Enterprise Company [website](#). These resources have been developed for students and teachers.



You can watch the animated film comparing different options [here](#).



PHASING OF T LEVELS & POSSIBLE DESTINATION ROLES & CAREERS

STARTING SEPT 2020

- ↑ **Digital production, design and development** (software development technician, junior games designer)
- ↑ **Design, surveying and planning for construction** (civil engineering technician, digital engineering technician, construction site engineering technician)
- ↑ **Education & childcare** (early years educator, teaching assistant, learning mentor)

STARTING SEPT 2021

- ↑ **Building services engineering for construction** (installation electrician, maintenance electrician, plumbing & domestic heating technician)
- ↑ **Digital business services** (digital applications operator, IT solutions technician, digital marketer)
- ↑ **Digital support and services** (IT support, infrastructure technician)
- ↑ **Health** (dental nurse, senior healthcare support worker)
- ↑ **Healthcare science** (dental laboratory assistant, healthcare science assistant)
- ↑ **Onsite construction** (advanced site carpenter, advanced site joiner, construction assembly and installation operative)
- ↑ **Science** (laboratory technician, food technologist)



PHASING OF T LEVELS & POSSIBLE DESTINATION ROLES & CAREERS

STARTING SEPTEMBER 2022

- ↑ **Accounting** (assistant accountant, payroll administrator)
- ↑ **Design and development for engineering and manufacturing** (engineering/project technician)
- ↑ **Finance** (financial services administrator, mortgage adviser, investment operations technician)
- ↑ **Maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing** (engineering technician, motor vehicle technician)
- ↑ **Management and administration** (business administrator, bid coordinator, business improvement technician)
- ↑ **Engineering, manufacturing, processing and control** (manufacturing technician, welder)

STARTING SEPTEMBER 2023

- ↑ **Agriculture, land management and production** (crop/fishery technician)
- ↑ **Animal care and management** (veterinary nurse, animal care assistant)
- ↑ **Catering** (chef de partie, senior production chef)
- ↑ **Craft and design** (ceramics/furniture maker, textiles/fashion maker)
- ↑ **Hair, beauty and aesthetics** (hairdressing, barbering, beauty therapy)
- ↑ **Human resources** (HR support, learning and development support)
- ↑ **Legal Services** (paralegal)
- ↑ **Media, broadcast and production** (junior journalist, editorial assistant)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What does 'technical' training mean?

'Technical' education encompasses any training that focuses on progression into skilled employment and requires the acquisition of both a substantial body of knowledge and a set of practical skills valued by industry.

Technical education does not need to be linked to technical studies, science or digital, as is commonly believed. It can include social sciences, arts, humanities or any other sector.

2) What are the entry requirements?

These are set by the college, school or other learning provider and will vary across courses.

3) How do students apply?

Students need to apply directly to the provider. The T Level website www.tlevels.gov.uk has links to all providers offering T Levels starting in September 2020 and 2021. The website will be updated as more T Levels are rolled out.

FIND YOUR NEAREST T LEVEL

Search for colleges and schools who start delivering T Levels in 2020 and 2021

▼

4) Can an A level be studied at the same time as a T Level?

We would be supportive of high attaining students who want to take an A level alongside their T Level. However, since T Levels involve more teaching time than most existing technical courses, the T Level provider will need to consider the impact on the student's timetable.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

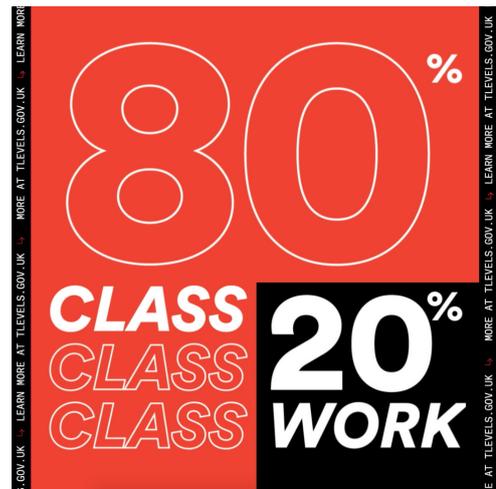
5) Do students get paid for the industry placement?

T Level industry placements are about providing students with high quality, meaningful training, not work. Employers are under no obligation to pay students but may choose to do so if they wish.

6) What's different between a T Level and an apprenticeship?

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 but students will also specialise in a particular occupation. Apprenticeships content is narrower and focussed on a specific occupation from the outset.

7) Can students choose the employer for the work placement?

The T Level provider is responsible for sourcing the industry placement - however in some cases the provider may encourage students to research and self-source their preferred employers for their placements. Providers should help students to identify suitable employers that are relevant to their chosen specialism at the appropriate level

8) Will T Levels be suitable for students with special educational needs or disabilities?

We want as many students as possible to benefit from T Levels and there are flexibilities around the English and maths requirement and the industry placement to help students with SEND take part. For example students with SEND may be able to use providers' onsite facilities for the placement if appropriate.



USEFUL RESOURCES AND LINKS

Please find a list of useful resources and links below.

-  **Powerpoint presentation**

This Powerpoint presentation is designed to be used by teachers and careers professionals to inspire students, colleagues and parents about the benefits of T Levels and contains slides and a basic script.

Visit: www.amazingapprenticeships.com/TLevels
-  **T Level Explainer recordings**

Useful 30 minute recordings covering different course areas, including Early Years, Digital and Construction.

Visit: www.amazingapprenticeships.com/TLevels
-  **T Level video case studies - DfE YouTube channel**

Helpful video case studies giving insight into placements from both the student's and employer's point of view.

Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/Y9BQEUQS>
-  **T Level website**

Official information on T Levels, plus how to find your nearest T Level provider.

Visit www.tlevels.gov.uk

 HM Government

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): THE FIRST T LEVELS WILL LAUNCH IN SEPTEMBER 2020 AT SELECTED COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS, AS PLANNED.

T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

Coming in September 2020, T Levels are a two-year qualification that will help you build the future you want.

[I'm a student](#)

YOUR FUTURE WORKFORCE

T Levels include a 45-day industry placement that can help you find and develop new talent.

[I'm an employer](#)