

# Navigating Exams and Career Options An Overview of the System







Mentoring



Research



**Employability** 



# Complicated and confusing Many options Many recent changes GCSE grades and Post-16 options



### Academy or School?



- Academies are funded directly by Government rather than by Local Authorities. Run by an academy trust
- More freedom that LA control (curriculum?)
- Still OFSTED inspected
- MAT Multi Academy Trust on rise



#### GCSEs

- In most cases a student will need a pass at grade 4 (a pass grade C) in English and Maths in order to progress to further education and / or many jobs.
- Double (combined Science) or triple science?
- College day release



#### How the new grades compare with the old ones

Old grades	New grades	
A*	9 8	
Α	7	
В	6	
С	<ul><li>5 STRONG PASS</li><li>4 STANDARD PASS</li></ul>	
D	3	
Е	2	
F	2	
G	1	
U	U	

Source: Ofqual



#### Post 16



Can leave school on last Friday in June if 16 by end of summer holidays, but legally obliged to do one of three things until they are 18:

Stay in FT education
6<sup>th</sup> form
FE college
University Technical
College

Start an apprenticeship or traineeship

Spend 20+ hours per week working or volunteering while also in PT education or training

...and if they don't? Technically unlawful, although no sanctions



#### Full Time Education



#### **PURELY ACADEMIC**

- A levels
- International Baccalaurate
- Pre-Us

## MORE VOCATIONALLY BASED

- T levels
- BTEC
- Cambridge Nationals
- Cambridge Technicals

#### **RETAKES**

Most jobs, courses, apprenticeship etc require a GCSE grade 4 or above in Maths or English



#### A Levels



- More familiar
- You normally need: at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4/A\* to C and at least grade 6 in the specific subject(s) you want to study.
- AS-levels will still exist, and you can continue to take a separate AS-level qualification at the end of Year 12 before dropping the subject or going on to take the full A-level in Year 13; but unlike before, your AS results won't count towards your A-level grade. Depends on the school.



#### T Levels



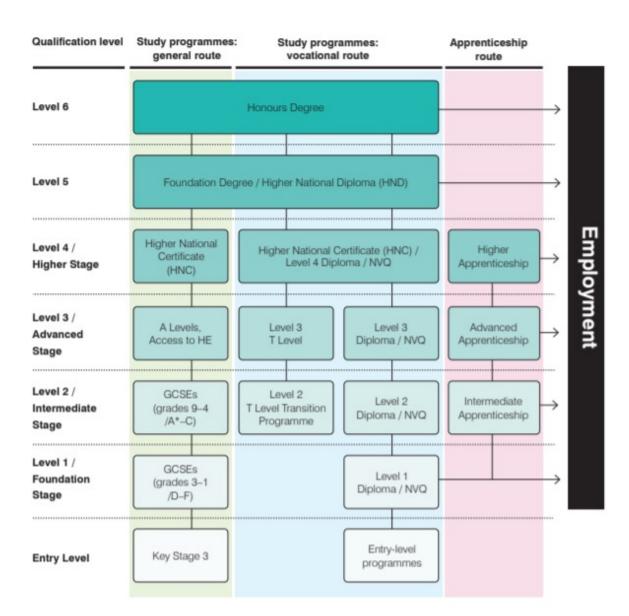
- First started in September 2020.
- For 16 19 year olds
- Two years
- Each is equivalent to 3 A levels.
- Available in selected schools, colleges and other providers
- Original list of subjects was 10 (including digital, science, construction and health). More will be available in September 2022. Aim for 24 (full range) by 2023
- 80% in classroom, 20% minimum 9 week placement with employer
- Currently available in 70 schools/colleges . 400 by 2024?

#### **BTECs**



- Business and Technology Education Council
- 2,000 over 16 sectors
- More practical hands-on
- Entry level (1), Level 2 = GCSE, Level 3 (A level) to professional qualification (7), which is equivalent to postgraduate study
- BTEC extended diploma = 3 A levels (but only one subject so narrower)
- Can go onto university after BTEC level 3 (but not always straightforward)

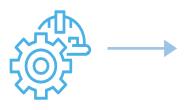








#### APPRENTICESHIP or TRAINEESHIP



#### **Apprenticeship**

- Paid
- In work experience
- Job with contract/holiday pay etc
- Can apply at any age
- Can last between 1 6 years

#### Traineeship

- Unpaid
- Course with work experience stepping-stone for work or apprenticeship
- Aged 16-24 (or up to 25 if SEND)
- Can last from 6 weeks to 1 year (most 6 months)



## Apprenticeship levels



	Level	Equivalent Education Level
Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	A level
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation Degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree



# VOLUNTEERING + PART-TIME EDUCATION/TRAINING



Spending 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering while also doing part-time education or training.

16-19 Bursary Fund





- Many options
- Schools /colleges able to assist students in navigating
- SATRO Website















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