

# A Guide to Qualifications

- Qualifications are at different levels
- Each level represents a standard of learning

Qualifications at the same level are broadly comparable, but content, purpose, size and duration may vary.

Award Level	OCR	General Vocational Awards	Work Related Awards	City and Guilds	CACHE	Edexcel	General Education Awards	Basic and Key Skills	Other
Entry	Entry Level Certificate	Entry Level		Entry Level	Certificate	BTEC Entry Level Certificate		Entry Level Basic Skills	E2E (Entry to Employment)
Level 1	Nationals Level 1		NVQ Level 1	Level 1 Certificate	Level 1	BTEC Introductory Certificate, Diploma	GCSE (D-G)	Basic Skills Level 1 Key Skills Level 1	OCN Level 1 BHS Stage 1 EZE
Level 2	Nationals Level 2	(GNVQ Intermediate withdrawn by 2007) Vocational GCSE (A*-C)	NVQ Level 2 Apprenticeship	General Qualification Level 2	Level 2	BTEC First Certificate, Diploma	GCSE (A*-C)	Basic Skills Level 2 Key Skills Level 2	OCN Level 2 BHS Stage 2 RHS Level 2
Level 3	Nationals Level 3	AS/A2 in Applied Subjects (formerly A/S VCEs)	NVQ Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship	General Qualification Level 3	Level 3	BTEC National Certificate, Award Diploma	AS Level, A2 Level (AS+A2 = full A Level)	Key Skills Level 3	OCN Level 3 BHS Stage 3 RHS Stage 3 Access to Higher Education

School

College



This table shows the most commonly known qualifications in England. It is extensive, but not exhaustive. Although not shown here, there are many different routes to Higher Education.



University

HE Level 1 (Certificate)	Level 4
HE Level 2 (Intermediate)	Level 5
HE Level 3 (Honours)	Level 6
HE Level 4 (Masters)	Level 7
HE Level 5 (Doctorate)	Level 8

NVQ Level 4	Certificate of Higher Education	Professional Qualifications
NVQ Level 4	Diploma of Higher Education	Foundation Degrees
NVQ Level 4	Graduate Certificates and Diplomas	Honours Degrees
NVQ Level 5	Post-Graduate Certificates and Diplomas	Masters Degrees
NVQ Level 5	N.B. Revised levels are not currently being implemented for higher level NVQs	Doctorate (Ph.D)

## INFORMATION ABOUT QUALIFICATIONS

- QCA**  
Tel: 020 75909 5556  
Email: info@qca.org.uk  
www.qca.org.uk
- Edexcel (BTECs & NVQs)**  
Tel: 0870 240 9800  
www.edexcel.org.uk
- OCR**  
Tel: 01223 553311  
Email: helpdesk@ocr.org.uk  
www.ocr.org.uk
- City & Guilds**  
Tel: 020 7294 2800  
Email: enquiry@city-and-guilds.co.uk  
www.city-and-guilds.co.uk
- CACHE (Council for Awards in Children's Care & Education)**  
Tel: 01727 847636  
Email: info@cache.org.uk  
www.cache.org.uk
- OCN South East Region**  
Tel: 023 8036 3413  
Email: enquiries@ocnhis.org.uk  
www.ocnhis.org.uk
- RHS**  
Email: qualifications@rhs.org.uk  
www.rhs.org.uk/Learning/education/exams.asp
- BHS**  
www.bhs.org.uk/content/Edu-home.asp
- www.openquals.org.uk  
www.dfes.gov.uk/qualifications  
www.direct.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/fs/en  
www.nc.uk.net (National Curriculum)  
www.uknpr.org.uk (Vocational Qualifications)  
www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Partners/Policy  
www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/FHEQ