



What's your next move? Compare your options after GCSE

Qualification	Description	Length of Time	Assessment	Level of Study	UCAS Points	Entry Requirements	Work Experience	What does it lead to?
Apprenticeships	A real job with training and a salary.	1 Year (min)	Apprenticeship dependent (inc. demonstrations, presentation and/or exams).	2/3*	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer dependant • Age 16+ • Evidence of interest and ability to complete 	Yes (paid job, with at least 20% off-the-job training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher level or degree apprenticeship • University /college • Work
A Levels	An academic qualification, similar in style to GCSEs, that prepares you for further study.	2 Years	Mostly exams at the end of the course.	3	Yes	For individual schools and colleges to decide (commonly 5 GCSEs at Grades 4 and above).	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship • University / college • Work
T Levels	A technical study programme: equivalent to 3 A levels, with an industry placement that makes up 20% of the course. T Levels are designed to give you the skills that employers need.	2 Years	Exams, projects, and practical assignments.	3	Yes	Set by each school / college	Yes (80% classroom, 20% work)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship • University / college • Work





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Technical / Vocational Qualifications	Qualifications which teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be in.	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework and exams).	1+	Some (course and awarding organisation dependent)	Course dependent	Course dependent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship • University / college • Work
Applied Qualifications	Qualifications that prepare you for further study by combining academic learning with practical skills to give you a broad overview of working in a sector.	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework and exams).	3	Yes	Set by each school / college	Course dependent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship • University / college • Work
Traineeships	A work focused study programme that prepares you for an apprenticeship or work.	6 Weeks – 6 Months	A formal job or exit interview with written feedback. Coursework and exams are course dependent.	N/A	No	Have little to no work experience and qualified below Level 3	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship • Work

*(with possibility of progressing to higher apprenticeships up to level 7).