

## QUALIFICATIONS LEVELS.

Regulated qualifications in England, Wales & Northern Ireland are in either the

- Regulated Qualifications Framework (RFQ)
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

The table shows how the most common qualifications compare. The higher the level, the more difficult a qualification is.

Qualifications at the same level are a similar level of difficulty, but the size and content of the qualifications can vary. AS levels and A levels are both level 3, but you study AS levels over 1 year and A levels over 2 years. You'll therefore have a deeper knowledge of a subject if you've studied it at A level.

<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>RFQ EXAMPLES</b>	<b>FHEQ EXAMPLES</b>
Entry	Entry level certificate Entry level Skills for Life Entry level award, certificate and diploma Entry level Functional skills Entry level Foundation Learning	
1	GCSE (grades D-G) Key Skills level 1 NVQ level 1 Skills for Life level 1 Foundation diploma BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 1 Foundation Learning level 1 Functional Skills level 1 Cambridge National level 1	
2	GCSE (grades A*-C) Key Skills level 2 NVQ level 2 Skills for Life level 2 Higher diploma BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 2 Functional Skills level 2 Cambridge National level 2 Cambridge Technical level	
3	AS and A level Advanced Extension Award Cambridge International award International Baccalaureate Key Skills level 3 NVQ level 3	

	Advanced diploma Progression diploma BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 3 BTEC National Cambridge Technical level 3	
4	HNC Certificate of higher education Key Skills level 4 NVQ level 4 BTEC Professional award, certificate and diploma level 4	Certificate of higher education HNC
5	HND NVQ level 4 Higher diploma BTEC Professional award, certificate and diploma level 5	Diploma of higher education Diploma of further education Foundation degree HND
6	NVQ level 4 BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 6	Bachelor's degree Graduate certificate Graduate diploma
7	BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 7 Fellowship and fellowship diploma Postgraduate certificate Postgraduate diploma NVQ level 5 BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 7	Master's degree Postgraduate certificate Postgraduate diploma
8	NVQs level 5 Vocational qualifications level 8	Doctorate

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/compare-different-qualification-levels> 17 August 2016

For further information, contact the **National Careers Service**

[National Careers Service website](#)

Telephone: 0800 100 900

Monday to Sunday, 8am to 10pm