T Levels: what they are?

T Levels are new courses coming in September 2020 (This means pupils who entered year 10 in September 2018 will be the first to be able to study them) which will follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work. T levels are Post 16 options.

T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and ‘on-the-job’ experience. T-level students will be required to complete a work placement of 45-60 days in length, covering a minimum of 315 hours. T Levels will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

Students will be able to take a T Level in the following subject areas:

- accountancy
- agriculture, land management and production
- animal care and management
- building services engineering
- catering
- craft and design
- cultural heritage and visitor attractions
- design, development and control
- design, surveying and planning
- digital business services
- digital production, design and development
- digital support and services
- education
- financial
- hair, beauty and aesthetics
- health
- healthcare science
- human resources
- legal
- maintenance, installation and repair
- management and administration
- manufacturing and process
- media, broadcast and production
- onsite construction
- science

How T Levels will work with other post-16 choices

T Levels will become one of the main choices for students after GCSE alongside:
- Apprenticeships for students who wish to learn a specific occupation ‘on the job’
- A levels for students who wish to continue academic education

Government are currently reviewing post-GCSE qualifications to create a simpler, high-quality system that students, parents and employers will all understand.
T Levels will be based on the same standards as apprenticeships, designed by employers and approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA). We expect the total time for a T Level to be around 1,800 hours over the 2 years, including the industry placement. This is a significant increase on most current technical education courses. This differs from an apprenticeship, which is typically 80% on-the-job and 20% in the classroom and is more suited to those who know what occupation they want to pursue, want to earn a wage and learn at the same time and are ready to enter the workforce at age 16.

**Structure of a T Level**

T Level courses will include the following compulsory elements:

- a technical qualification, which will include
- core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area
- specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career
- an industry placement with an employer

a minimum standard in maths and English if students have not already achieved them

**Grading**

Students who pass all the elements of their T Level will get a nationally recognised certificate showing an overall grade of pass, merit or distinction. It will also set out the details of what students have achieved on the course.

The T Level certificate will include:

- an overall pass grade for the T Level, shown as pass, merit or distinction
- a separate grade for the occupational specialism, shown as pass, merit or distinction
- a separate grade for the core component, using A* to E
- grades for maths and English qualifications
- details of the industry placement