# Qualification Description

## T Level Technical Qualification in Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction

T Levels are new qualifications that follow GCSEs and are equivalent to three A Levels. T Levels will combine classroom theory and practical learning, and are made up of the following:

- Technical Qualification: the substantial component of your course.
- Industry placement: of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days) with an employer to make sure you have authentic experience of the workplace.

The Technical Qualification is the main classroom-based element of the T Level. During your two-year course, you will learn the core knowledge that underpins the sector, and you will also develop occupationally specific skills that will allow you to enter skilled employment within a specific occupation.

This T Level Technical Qualification has been developed in collaboration with employers, so the content meets the needs of industry and prepares you for work. It will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door to skilled employment, an apprenticeship or higher-level study.

### What is the construction industry?

The construction industry is of global importance and worth £90 billion annually in the UK. The impact that the construction industry has on daily life is diverse, from domestic building, maintenance and the provision of key building services, to realising large projects in civil engineering, providing essential public infrastructure in the form of roads, schools and hospitals.

All careers in construction require good communication skills, time management, a strong customer focus and the ability to work both in teams and with other trades. The skills learned can be used as a foundation from which to progress to technician, supervisory or management occupations, where established professional routes and occupational standards exist.

## Who is this Technical Qualification for?

This Technical Qualification can only be taken as part of a T Level course and is not available as a stand-alone qualification. It is for post-16 students and is ideal if you are intending to progress directly to employment within the construction design, surveying and planning sector in roles such as a Building Services Design Technician, Civil Engineering Technician, or Surveying Technician, as an apprenticeship, or to employment via further studies in construction.

## What does the Technical Qualification cover?

The content is split into a core component that has been created for this T Level Technical Qualification in Design, Surveying, and Planning for Construction and a choice of one of four occupational specialisms. The specialisms are:

- Surveying and Design for Construction and the Built Environment
- Civil Engineering
- Building Services Design

The core component provides a broad understanding of the construction industry and covers the following topics:

- Health and safety
- Science
- Design
- Construction and the built environment industry
- Sustainability
- Measurement
- Building technology
- Information and data
- Relationship management
- Digital technology
- Project management
- Law

The core component will be assessed by two exams and an employer set project.

Your choice of occupational specialism will allow you to develop the relevant skills in preparation for your career in the construction sector. The occupational specialism is assessed by a project that is created in conjunction with employers. The content covers topics specific to that aspect of the construction sector, as follows:

## Surveying and Design for Construction and the Built Environment

- Measuring the built environment
- Analysing the built environment
- Designing the built environment
- Verifying the delivery of the built environment

## Civil Engineering

- Analysing civil engineering solutions
- Designing civil engineering solutions
- Verifying the delivery of civil engineering solutions

## Building Services Design

- Analysing building services solutions
- Designing building services solutions
- Verifying the delivery of building services solutions

## Project Delivery for Construction and the Built Environment

- Plan for construction and built environment projects
- Monitor progress of construction and built environment projects
- Hand over construction and built environment projects
- Administer construction and built environment projects

As part of this Technical Qualification, you will also enhance your broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will be valuable in supporting progression in other areas. In addition, you will develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication (working with colleagues, customers and clients), research and project work, providing you with an opportunity to demonstrate your reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem.

## What could this Technical Qualification lead to?

Achieving this Technical Qualification will provide several progression options. These include:

**Skilled employment, for example:**

**A Level 3 Apprenticeship in:**

- Building Services Design Technician
- Civil Engineering Technician
- Construction Support Technician
- Digital Engineering Technician
- Geospatial Survey Technician
- Landscape Technician
- Surveying Technician

**A Level 4 Apprenticeship in:**

- Construction Design and Build Technician
- Construction Site Supervisor
- Construction Quantity Surveying Technician
- Civil Engineering Senior Technician

**A Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship (subject to acceptance of the T Level by the individual Institution):**

- Design and Construction Management
- Construction Site Management
- Construction Quantity Surveyor
- Building Control Surveyor
- Architectural Assistant
- Building Services Engineering Site Management
- Building Services Design Engineer
- Civil Engineer

Chartered Surveyor

**Higher level study:**

- Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ). Like T Levels, HTQs are developed in consultation with employers. They are qualifications at levels 4 and 5 and prepare you for occupations at these levels.

Pearson HTQs you can progress to from the T Level Technical Qualification in in Design, Surveying, and Planning for Construction are:

- Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Construction Management for England
- Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Modern Methods of Construction for England
- Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Architectural Technology for England
- Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Quantity Surveying for England

Other Higher National qualifications including:

- Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Civil Engineering (HTQ available from 2025)
- Pearson BTEC Higher Nationals in Building Services Engineering (HTQ available from 2025)

**Degree related programmes:**

Some of the common degree programmes this T Level aids progression onto include (subject to acceptance of the T Level by the individual HE Institution):

- Civil Engineering
- Surveying
- Construction Management
- Architecture

Further details on some of these routes are below:

- Civil Engineering

Civil engineers often started out as curious and inquisitive, always wondering how things work and how to make them better. A strong mathematical and scientific grounding is important for civil engineers, HEIs may have Level 2 or 3 maths entry requirements. Before any industry experience, you'll spend lots of time using models and simulations to understand the principles of engineering.

Civil engineering can be a competitive course because of its high career prospects, so expect to face some steep grade boundaries. If you want to show that you're truly dedicated, you should have further maths and design technology qualifications too.

It's essential that you check entry requirements with universities or colleges.

- Building and surveying

A degree in building or surveying will give you subject-specific skills to appraise buildings, an understanding of the design, construction, performance, and management of buildings, and the legal principles around building and their construction, regulation and management.

Building or surveying graduates are employed in all branches of the construction industry, and in other industries such as electricity generation and supply, oil and gas, transport and property management.

Graduates are more likely than most to start their career with an employer who gave them work experience, so it's particularly worth trying to secure links with industry if you take this degree.

Like Civil Engineering, it is competitive, and HEIs may have additional Level 2 or 3 maths related entry requirements.

It's essential that you check entry requirements with universities or colleges.

- Construction management

A degree in construction management or construction project management will give you skills and knowledge required to oversee resource allocation, coordination and monitoring quality and progress of work, to ensure it meets objectives of time and cost.

You will develop excellent software skills in project planning and monitoring, commercial acumen and financial analysis as well as a good understanding of the practicalities, building technologies, processes and legal considerations involved in construction.

Construction project managers are employed in all sectors of construction, where the size and complexity of the work requires oversight by a skilled person to ensure it all runs smoothly. Combining your degree with work experience to practice your skills in a hands-on way will be extremely beneficial for those planning to start a career as a project manager.

It's essential that you check entry requirements with universities or colleges.

## Who supports this Technical Qualification?

The original development and ongoing review of this Technical Qualification is carried out in collaboration with several stakeholders:

- Arup
- Balfour Beatty
- BAM Nuttall

- Cast Consultancy
- Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineer
- HEMSEC Manufacturing Ltd
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Kier Group
- London South Bank University
- Lovell Homes Partnership
- Low Carbon Construction
- Portsmouth University
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
- Structural Timber Association
- TDO Architecture
- Technician Apprenticeship Consortium
- Thames Labs
- BAM Construction
- McBains
- Korec Group
- Wolverhampton Homes
- Steren Surveyors
- Laing O'Rourke

This qualification has been developed under the advice of the professional bodies listed below, on behalf of the Engineering Council, to confirm that the qualification contributes to the requirements for professional registration; for example, as an Engineering Technician (EngTech) or associate member of their professional organisation. This qualification has been developed under the advice of the professional bodies who were part of our validation panel, including:

- Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers

- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

In addition, the Civil Engineering pathway of the qualification has been formally approved as meeting the Educational Base for the EngTech professional standard by the Institution of Civil Engineers.

## Further information

Further information about this Technical Qualification can be accessed at:

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/t-levels.html

The T Level Technical Qualification in Legal Services will be approved and managed by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. Pearson is currently authorised by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to design and deliver the Technical Qualification.

For further information on the other components please see the DfE website at:

**www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-level**