

Qualification Description

T Level Technical Qualification in Digital Software Development

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 digital industry?

The digital industry is a major source of employment in the UK, with 1.46 million people working in digital companies and around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries; almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a proficient level of digital literacy. The UK has positioned itself to be the 'digital capital of Europe' as it continues to invest billions every year in digital skills and commerce.

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 digital production, design and development sector in roles such as a Programmer, Web Designer, IT Business Analyst,

Systems Designer, or Software Development Technician, to a digital apprenticeship or to further studies in digital.

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 Digital Software Development, and a single occupational specialism, which is:

- Digital Software Development

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

- Problem Solving
- Programming
- Emerging Issues and the Impact of Digital
- Legislation and Regulatory Requirements
- Business Context
- Data
- Digital Environments
- Security

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

Your occupational specialism will allow you to develop the relevant skills in preparation for your career in the digital sector. The occupational specialism is assessed by a project that is created in conjunction with employers. The content covers the following topics:

Digital Software Development

- Analysing a problem to define requirements and acceptance criteria aligned to user needs
- Designing, implementing, and testing software
- Changing, maintaining and supporting software
- Creating solutions in a social and collaborative environment
- Discovering, evaluating, and applying reliable sources of knowledge
- Applying ethical principles and managing risks in line with legal and regulatory requirements when developing software

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:

- Digital sector roles such as Programmer, Web Designer, IT Business Analyst, Systems Designer, or Software Development Technician

A Level 3 Apprenticeship in:

- Software Development Technician

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 in Digital Software Development are:

- BTEC Higher Nationals in Computing for England
- BTEC Higher Nationals in Digital Technologies

Degree related programmes:

Degree programmes could include:

- Computer science
- Information systems
- Software engineering
- Games Design

Careful consideration of the content of any course prior to selection is key, as course titles may not accurately reflect the content. IT is continually evolving and developing, and

degrees are subject to annual review and adaptation, students are advised to look out for new elements and options which may develop during the course.

Specific entry requirements vary, depending on the focus of the course. For example, a very theoretical course may require A Level maths, whereas Business IT programmes would probably not ask for any science background beyond GCSE.

It is essential you check entry requirements with universities or colleges.

Who supports this Technical Qualification?

This Technical Qualification has been developed in collaboration with several stakeholders:

- ARM
- BBC
- BT
- Cisco
- CompTIA
- Nationwide
- Siemens

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-levels

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