



Introduction to V Levels



Overview

V Levels are Level 3 vocational qualifications designed for post-16 learners. They combine classroom-based vocational learning with practical assessment and support progression to higher education, apprenticeships and employment.

Two-year course. 360 GLH. Progression to higher education, apprenticeships or employment.

- Broad, vocational qualifications for students who want to explore different career pathways.
- Designed to be studied alongside other qualifications, such as additional V Levels, A Levels, or English and maths resits, the programme provides flexibility and choice.
- Content is set nationally and linked to occupational standards, ensuring relevance to future study and work.
- Delivery of content through a blend of applied learning and practical assessment over 360 guided learning hours (subject to confirmation).
- An alternative to A Levels. One V Level is equivalent to the size of one A Level.



Compare Level 3 qualifications

Qualifications	V Levels	BTEC	T Levels	A Levels
Description	Broad vocational qualifications focused on applied learning across a sector.	Career-based vocational qualifications	Technical qualifications with specific occupational route plus industry placement	Subject based academic qualifications
Guided Learning Hours	360 GLH	180 GLH to 1080 GLH	Equivalent to 3 A Levels (generally 1080 GLH)	360 GLH
Duration	2 years	2 years	2 years	2 years

Subjects for first teach September 2027

Accounting and Finance

Develop applied knowledge of accounting and finance in organisational contexts, interpreting financial statements, ratios, budgets, costs and investment information to support ethical, evidence-based decision making with a V Level in Accounting and Finance. Build analytical, numerical and communication skills for progression to higher education, apprenticeships and careers across accounting, finance and business.



Digital Systems and Data

Learn how digital systems work, how data informs decisions and how digital solutions are designed to meet user needs with a V Level in Digital Systems and Data. Build the knowledge, skills and understanding that can support progression to higher education, apprenticeships and future careers in digital fields.



Education

Develop knowledge and understanding of education and learning, and apply this in a range of contexts. The V Level in Education qualification provides a broad foundation for progression to higher education, apprenticeships and further training related to education, child development and support services.



Timeline: Introduction of future subjects

First teach	Level 2		Level 3	
Academic Year	Occupational Certificates	Foundation Certificates	V Levels	T Levels
2027/2028	Catering and Hospitality <u>Early Years Practitioners</u>	<u>Digital Systems and Data Education</u>	<u>Accounting and Finance</u> <u>Digital Systems and Data Education</u>	
2028/2029	Business and Finance Health and Care Services Construction (On-site) Construction (Finishing Trades) Engineering and Manufacturing Community Sport and Leisure Operations	Business, Administration and Law Health and Care Services Construction and the Built Environment Engineering and Manufacturing Science Sport, Fitness and Exercise Science	Science Research and Technology Construction Design Engineering Design Health Social Care Healthcare Science and Technology Legal Services Sport and Exercise Science Business Management, and Supply Chains Marketing and Retail	Social Care Sport, Physical Activity and Health
2029/2030	Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care Horticulture and Floristry Domestic Plumber	Agriculture, Land Management and Animal Care Hospitality and Catering Protective Services	Agriculture and Land Management Animal Care and Management Protective Services	Catering and Hospitality Expansion of Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care Expansion of Creative and Design Hair and Beauty Protective Services
2030/2031	Creative and Design – CAD Technician (2D Design) Hair and Beauty	Creative Media and Design Performing Arts Travel and Tourism Hair, Beauty and Aesthetics	Art and Performing Arts Creative Media and Design Travel and Tourism	Art, Performing Arts, Creative and Design Travel and Tourism Hair and Beauty

V Level and University

V Levels qualify for UCAS points towards your university application in the same way as BTECs, A levels and AS levels.

This chart shows the number of points each V Level will be worth, based on the grade achieved.

Further information, advice and guidance will be available in the coming months.

Grade	A Level – UCAS Tariff points	V Level – UCAS Tariff points
A*	56	56
A	48	48
B	40	40
C	32	32
D	24	24
E	16	16
P	Not available	12
U	0	0

What the P grade is: Ofqual has confirmed V Levels are graded A*–E plus a P ‘pass’ grade, with U for ungraded. P sits below E as the lowest passing outcome – a genuine pass, not an unclassified result – and has no A Level equivalent, which is why UCAS gave it its own value of 12 points.



V Levels: rules of combination

Area	What DfE has confirmed
Rules of combination	DfE is not currently planning to introduce rules of combination for V Levels, so no prescribed qualification combinations will be set.
Combining qualifications	Providers will be able to combine V Levels with A Levels, with other V Levels, and with other qualifications that remain funded, such as BTECs.
Size and fit	Each V Level is 360 guided learning hours – the same size as an A Level – so V Levels fit within standard 16 to 19 study programmes.
Discounting	Discounting may still apply where qualifications cover similar content. This will be determined as subject content is developed for each new qualification.
Timing	First V Levels are first taught from September 2027 in accounting and finance, digital systems and data, and education, with further subjects from 2028.

What this means for planning: Providers keep flexibility to build mixed programmes around V Levels, but should check discounting decisions subject by subject as DfE publishes content.

Source: [Post-16 pathways: implementation plan – GOV.UK \(updated 17 September 2026\)](#)

For every future

Every learner's journey is different.

But no future is shaped by a single qualification, a single decision or a single moment.

Progress happens when learning connects. When confidence grows. When each step creates momentum for the next.



There's no single route to a successful future. As careers and learning pathways evolve, our mission is to help every learner find a way forward – through relevant learning, trusted assessment and subject choices that lead somewhere meaningful.

V Levels are part of how we're making that ambition real.

— Donna Ford-Clarke: Senior Lead, Product Management (Vocational Qualifications), Pearson



Find out more



Educators

[Explore more about V Levels and talk to us about your curriculum](#)



Learner/Parent

Speak to your local education provider about your options



Take your next step: Speak to your
local education provider.