



Post 16 Options & Qualifications Required

There are many places you can go and courses you can do when you leave school. It all depends on your achievements, your career interests, where you live and the type of environment you like to learn in.

If you gain a minimum of five GCSEs grade 9-4 (A*-C), including English and Maths, you may be able to progress on to a **Level 3** course and have the choice of **A Levels, T Levels, Vocational Qualifications** or **Apprenticeships**. All three options lead to Higher Education and all last two years. You need to check with each Post 16 Provider for their entry requirements, especially if you plan to study an A Level subject that is available as a GCSE, as you may be expected to achieve higher than a Grade 4 or 5.

A Levels can be studied at school **6th Form/Post 16 Centres**, as well as **Colleges**.

Vocational Qualifications are work related courses, which cover a wide range of industries, such as; Art, Catering, Childcare, Computing & Games Design, Construction, Engineering, Hair & Beauty, Health & Social Care, Motor Mechanics, Performing Arts, Public Services, Sports and Travel & Tourism. Some of these may be available at school **6th Form/ Post 16 Centres** but a much wider range can be studied at local **Colleges**.

If five GCSEs grade 9-4 are not achieved, it is not possible to then do A Levels. However, **Vocational Qualifications** are available at lower levels; **Level 2** or **Level 1**, which last for one year. If this level is achieved, then you can usually move up to the next level the following year. In some colleges, GCSE retakes may be possible and if passed, A Levels can be progressed on to the next year.

If you do not achieve a GCSE Level 4 in English or/and Maths, you will need to retake it alongside your main course.

It is possible to study for an **Apprenticeship** after Year 11. An apprenticeship is a ratio of 80% in the workplace and 20% in the classroom. An apprenticeship often will lead to a permanent job. You do not necessarily need five GCSEs grade 9-4 to do an apprenticeship but it will help, as Level 2 standard (GCSE grade 9-4) at English and Maths is needed to achieve. There will be more apprenticeship opportunities as you achieve more qualifications.

If you are not yet work ready or/and do not achieve five GCSEs grade 9-4, you may be able to study on a **Traineeship**. This is a course designed to provide working experience whilst developing employability skills as well as support to improve English and Maths in the classroom. These can be across all industries in any areas with opportunities to progress onto an Apprenticeship or a job with training.

If you do not want to go to college and would rather study in a smaller environment, you may be able to choose a local **Training Provider**, where courses often include qualifications, employability studies and work experience.

Qualification Levels Guide – GCSE to Degree Level

L6	<p>University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)</p>	<p>University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)</p>	<p>Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L5 + L6)</p>
Grades Needed:	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)
L5	<p>Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc)</p> <p>HND (Higher National Diploma – L5)</p>	<p>Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc)</p> <p>HND (Higher National Diploma – L5)</p>	<p>Higher/Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L4 + L5)</p>
L4	<p>HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)</p>	<p>HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)</p>	
Grades Needed:	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma
L3	<p>A-Levels</p>	<p>L3 Diploma / Extended Diploma (BTEC or other) / Access to HE courses</p>	<p>Advanced Apprenticeship (NVQ L3)</p>
Entry Grades Needed:	Usually 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or higher, including Maths and English	5 GCSEs at grade 4 or higher (usually including Maths and English)	Usually at least 3-5 GCSEs (but sometimes no formal qualifications)
L2	<p>GCSEs (grades 9-4)</p>	<p>L2 National / BTEC Diploma / Functional Skills</p>	<p>Intermediate Apprenticeship (NVQ L2)</p>
Entry Grades Needed:	None	3-4 GCSEs at grade 3 or higher (usually including Maths and English)	Usually none, although sometimes GCSE Maths and English and a skills test
L1	<p>GCSEs (grades 3-1)</p>	<p>L1 Diploma / Functional Skills</p>	<p>Traineeship (preparation for apprenticeship)</p>
Entry Grades Needed:	None	None (sometimes basic Maths and English)	None
Entry Level 3	<p>Key Stage 3</p>	<p>E3 Diploma (Foundation)</p>	<p>–</p>
Entry Grades Needed:	None	None	–
	School / 6th Form	College / Further Education	Apprenticeships