

2022 - 2023







The Parents' Guide to



The Parents' Guide to provides parents with the information they need to help their teenage children make the right choices to create successful futures after GCSE and sixth form.

Our online guides are designed to inform, involve and guide parental support. They include the most up to date information on topics such as apprenticeships, universities and revision techniques.

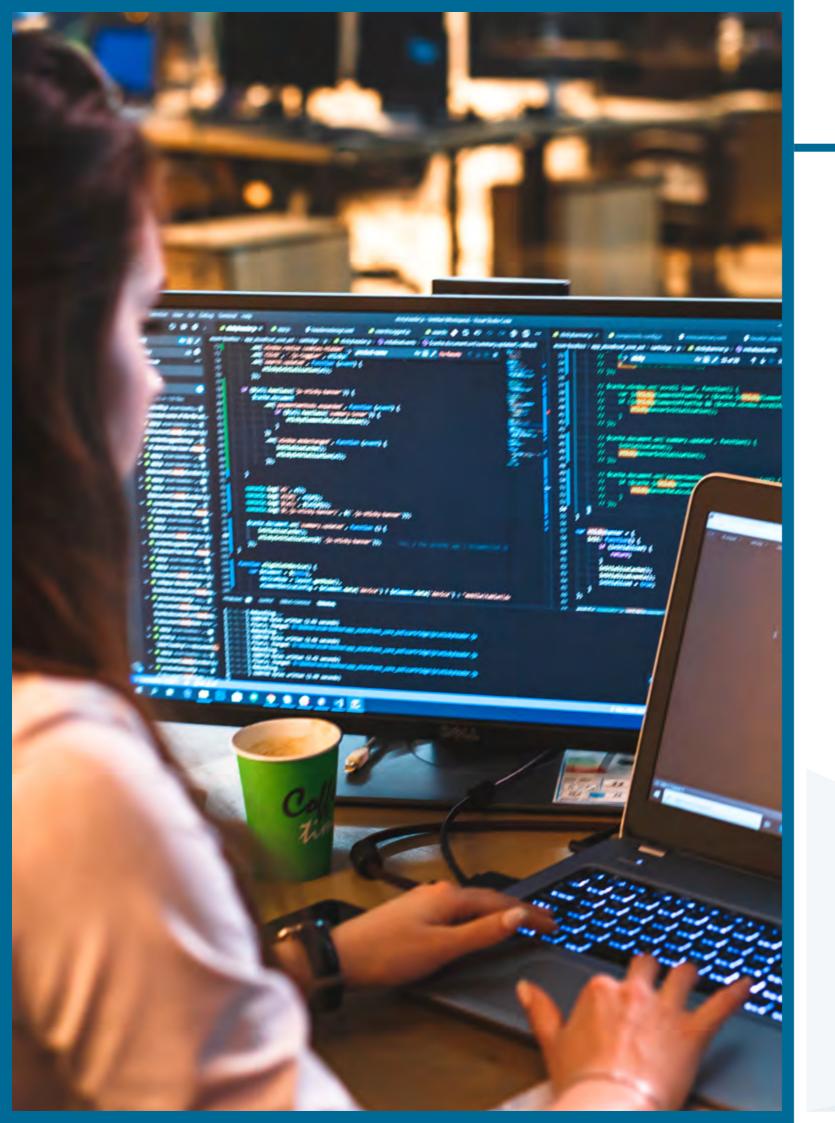
Wherever we refer to 'parents' we mean 'parents and carers.' This includes grandparents, older siblings or any other person with significant caring responsibilities for children.

www.theparentsguideto.co.uk

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Contents





What are T Levels?

T Levels are a new sixth form qualification introduced in 2020, so we're digging deep and finding out what they're all about and what kind of students they might suit. Read on to see whether T Levels could be the best choice for your teen or, if you'd like to know about all options after GCSE, check out *The Parents' Guide to Post 16 Options.*

T Levels have been developed with employers and businesses to ensure they meet both industry needs to help bridge the UK skills-gap as well as preparing students for working life. One T Level is equivalent to three A levels and the course lasts for two years. T Levels involve a mix of classroom learning (about 80% of the course time) and practical experience (about 20% of the course time) including a 45 day on-the-job placement in a genuine business. Afterwards, students may go on to university, alternative higher education, another job, an apprenticeship or they may be offered an opportunity with the company where they were placed.

T Levels are a vocational alternative to A levels (because they focus on industry) and include practical study as well as classroom learning. They differ from apprenticeships because the study and working time is reversed. Unlike BTECs, T Level courses were developed with businesses and offer an industry placement. Vocational (technical) qualifications at level three such as BTECs are currently subject to a review which aims to streamline the number of qualifications available. Many of these existing qualifications will be phased out.

Useful links

T Levels official website

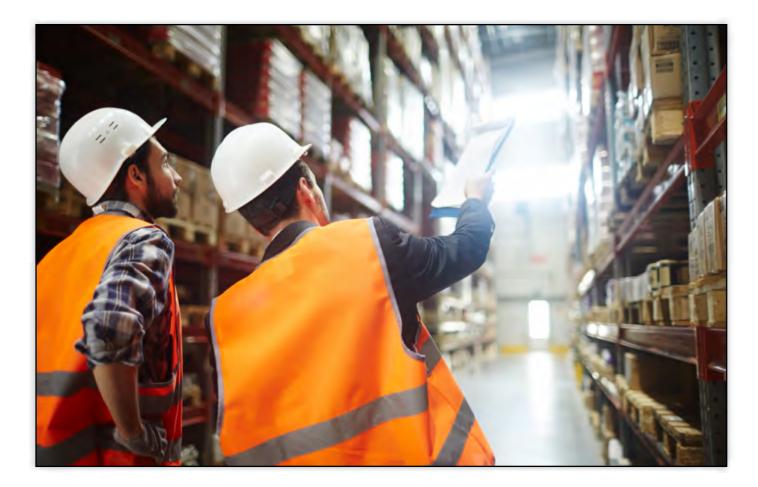
Department for Education The Parents'
Guide to Post 16
options



What subject choices are there?

As of September 2021, there were ten T Level subjects available all relating directly to workplace careers:

- Building Services Engineering for Construction
- Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction
- Digital Business Services
- Digital Production, Design and Development
- Digital Support Services
- Education and Childcare
- Health
- Healthcare Science
- Onsite Construction
- Science



Six more subjects were added in September 2022:

- Accounting
- Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control
- Finance
- Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Management and Administration

And another seven will be added from Sep 2023 onwards

- Agriculture, Land Management and Production
- Animal Care and Management
- Catering
- Craft and Design
- Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty Therapy
- Legal Services
- Media, Broadcast and Production

For detailed information on T Level subjects, including what your teen could study in each course and where it may lead to next, we've created a handy 'T Level subjects' table, which you can find at the end of this guide, starting on p24.

Click here to find what T Levels are available near you. You'll need to enter your postcode.

Useful links

Gov UK T Level subjects

Department for Education





What's involved and where might it lead?

Passing a T Level will demonstrate the following:

- an approved technical qualification specific to the chosen industry area with compulsory elements and, in some cases, optional specialisms;
- an industry placement in their chosen industry area (equivalent to at least 45 days, usually offered as a single day over a period of weeks or a concentrated block, but may be another combination);
- a minimum standard in English and maths (if this had not already been achieved before starting the T Level).

Students receive a nationally recognised grade and a breakdown of their achievements on the course, including how they did on their work placement. If they don't pass all elements of their T Level, they'll receive a T Level statement of achievement outlining what has been completed.

Click here to learn

What can they do after?

T Levels offer a broad range of further opportunities after sixth form, including:

- university;
- alternative further education;
- apprenticeships;
- jobs from related industries;
- job from their placements.

This means that students with a T Level qualification can go on to study for a degree, a related higher level apprenticeship, take a different course or go straight into a job. Alternatively, they can go on to a higher level education or work in a non-related field if, during the course of study, they didn't enjoy their industry specialism and want to take a different path.

University and UCAS¹

T Level grades offer the following UCAS points (noted with A level equivalents).

UCAS TARIFF POINTS	T LEVEL GRADE	A LEVEL EQUIVALENT
168	Distinction*	AAA*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass - grade C or above on the core	ccc
72	Pass - grade D or E on the core)	DDD

An introduction to T Levels

Alternative options to T Levels

Useful links

¹ Not all universities accept T Levels for entry, so it is important to check the course and university entry requirements if your teen has a specific university they'd like to attend after sixth form.

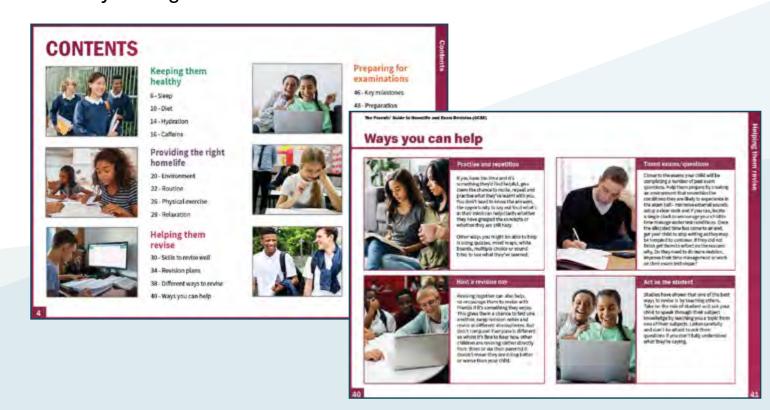
The Parents' Guide to Exam Revision

We want our children to do well in their exams and it's not all down to what happens at school or college, homelife plays a crucial role.

Find out what you can do at home to give your child the best chance of success, from setting up the right routines to helping them cope with exam nerves. The Parents' Guide to Study and Exam Revision (sixth form) is full of practical advice that's easy to action:

- √ Keeping them healthy covering diet, caffeine, sleep and screen time
- ✓ Providing the right homelife why setting a routine is vital

- √ Simple steps to create a helpful study space
- √ Ways to help them revise you can't revise for them, but you can help. We've provided different options to make facts easier to remember
- How to build resilience and manage stress to form lifelong good habits and protect their mental health
- √ How to support them during exam time
- √ How to help them with exam nerves



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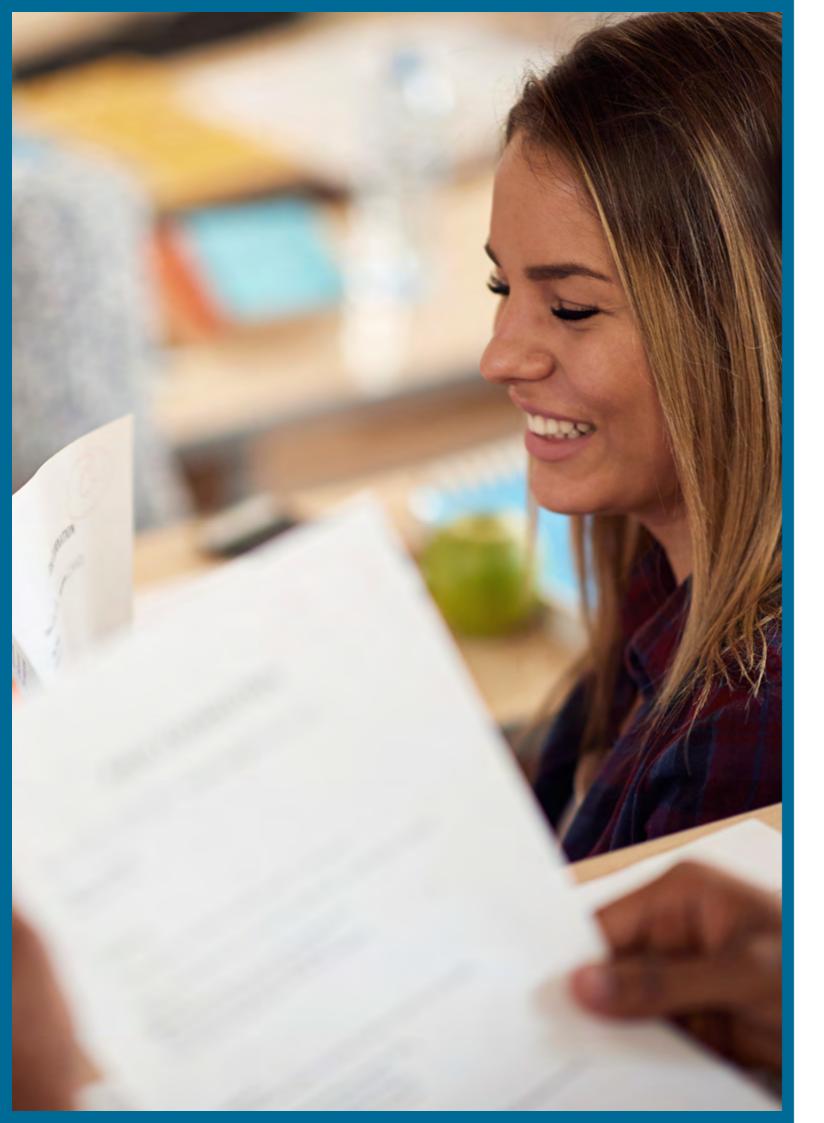
The Parents' Guide to

HOMELIFE & EXAM REVISION

Buy now - GCSEs

Buy now - sixth form







Qualifications needed to take T Levels

Individual courses need to be checked, but generally students need 5 GCSEs (graded 9-4) including English and maths.

What if my teen doesn't have the right qualifications?

For teens that don't have the necessary skills to go straight to T Level, they can take the T Level Transition Programme – a one year course after GCSE to prepare them for the subject they would like to study.

The programme introduces knowledge and skills in the student's chosen subject area and includes work experience to provide a better understanding of the workplace. The course also provides wider preparation and support for progression onto a T Level.

For students who have not yet passed their Level 2 in English and maths, the course includes guided study to help them achieve this level.

Like T Levels, the programme is being introduced in phases and is currently available in selected education and training providers, with plans for wider rollout over the next few years.

Click here for more information on T Level Transition Programme providers





Are T Levels the right choice for my child?

It could be easy to discount T Levels as a credible sixth form choice because they're new and haven't been tried and tested. However, their recent development with input from businesses means they are tailored to meet existing industry needs much more directly than other generic qualifications and this is likely to appeal to future employers.

Advantages of taking T Levels

T Levels broaden the study choices for 16 years olds. They can offer a clear path to employment although, should your teen start the course and realise that industry or specialism it is not for them, there are still plenty of options for them to continue higher education or get work in a different industry once the T Level is complete. They are ideal for students who enjoy learning through practical experience and real-life situations.

Where can my teen study T Levels?

T Levels are currently only available in England. There are now over 450 providers and these are increasing year on year Not all providers offer all T Levels. Many providers are colleges because of the technical nature of the studies and extra equipment needed. It's worth remembering that whilst colleges are specialists in providing education tailored to sixth formers, students do need to be comfortable with independent study to benefit from what's on offer.

Click here to find what T Levels are available near you. You'll need to enter your postcode.



What if T Levels don't seem right for my child?

Don't worry! If T levels don't seem right for your teen, there are lots of other options so they're bound to find something that takes them on the right pathway, suits their study style and that they find interesting.

A levels/AS levels/Baccalaureate

An in-depth study of specialist subjects over two years with an examination at the end to test knowledge. Learning mostly takes place in the classroom.

BTEC Nationals

Study takes place over a two year period and is a combination of both practical and theory. Knowledge is tested through course work and a final examination (comprising 40% of the total grade).

Other technical qualifications

Other qualifications available include Cambridge Technicals, City and Guilds, National Vocational Qualifications and Tech Bac (similar to the International Baccalaureate). They are vocational driven courses – i.e. centred around jobs and are well suited to students who know what type of job they want to do when they leave education or who prefer a more practical working style but still want to include classroom learning in their education.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are real jobs in the workplace which include learning elements (that might take place at university, college or an education provider). Apprenticeships were developed to help address the skills shortage in UK businesses. Sixteen year olds can start an apprenticeship at Level 2.

Find out more

If you're interested in finding out more about all the options your teen has after 16, which qualifications might suit them better and why choosing where to study could make a big difference, it's all in *The Parents' Guide to Post 16 options*.

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The Parents' Guide to

POST 16 OPTIONS (full edition)

Buy now





The industry placement

A fantastic element of T Levels is the 45 day industry placement – a real job in a genuine business. Sometimes this is offered in one block (45 consecutive days), sometimes as one day each week, or it can be other combinations that suit the company.

This first-hand work experience is hugely beneficial to students, enabling them to get a feel for what it's like in the world of work and whether they like the industry sector they've chosen – it's not too late to make a change post-18 if they don't! The placement can result in some students being offered jobs after they've completed their T Level and for those going on to higher education after sixth-form, their work experience will be impressive on their personal statement or other education application.



Getting all important transferable skills

Businesses really value transferable skills (sometimes called soft skills) because they are essential to running a business well. Soft skills are developed through practical experience (such as in hobbies and sports) or in the workplace. Examples include Communication (being able to express complex ideas simply), Leadership (motivating and inspiring others to take action) and Teamwork (collaborating with others to achieve joint objectives). Transferable skills are not industry specific and have equal worth in different job types, which means students that develop a strong set of transferable skills have more opportunities to switch between different sectors to find the roles and industry that suits them best – giving them more options to find a job they are good at and enjoy.

Why do businesses offer industry placements to students with no experience?

Businesses sign up to offer industry placements matched to where their expertise aligns with the T Levels available. This gives businesses an opportunity to:

- discover new talent
- take on apprentices or employees who they know personally through the placement
- avoid costs of recruiting through agencies
- get new ideas from young people
- get extra help in their business

Payment

Businesses aren't legally obliged to pay students during their industry placement, although some may choose to do so.

Useful links

YouTube

Watch what others have to say

Industry placements

More about skills





Summary

T Levels are an exciting new option in sixth form education that provide a recognised qualification tailored to industry needs and skills. It's a great choice for students that want to learn practical skills relevant to certain jobs, regardless of whether they want to go on to study for a degree, take alternative further education or go straight into the workplace after sixth form.

T Levels are a good choice for students that aren't interested in theory but want to learn what they'll need to know in the workplace and want to understand what businesses need to address to be successful. Getting 45 days' first-hand experience in a real job will give them an advantage in whatever they chose to do after sixth-form, whether that's continuing with higher education or entering the world or work.

Found this guide useful?

We're here to keep parents of teens up-to-date on all things teen related so sign up to our fortnightly newsletter if you'd like to stay in the loop.

Sign me up!



Visit **The Parents' Guide to** website for more support and resources:

Parent Guides

Our range of interactive guides provide you with easy to follow advice, hyperlinks to reliable sources and the most up-to-date information.

Support articles

Browse through our collection of online articles covering a range of topics from supporting your child with their revision to helping them apply to university through UCAS.

Parent Q&A

Almost every parent has questions about their child's education. Read through answers to commonly asked questions or ask your own.

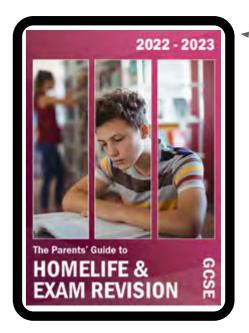
Blog

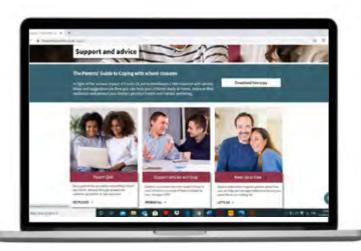
Our blog provides reliable and timely advice and support to changes taking place across UK schools and colleges.

Parent newsletter

Sign up to our parent newsletter and receive free support, advice and resources on how you can help your teenage children straight to your inbox.







www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/parents

T Levels - what's available?

The information in this table is summarised from the Gov UK/T levels website. Do check the website regularly for the latest course content.

SUBJECT	WHAT WILL THEY LEARN?	OPTIONAL EXTRAS	WHAT'S NEXT?
Building Services Engineering for Construction	Mandatory modules include: / health and safety / the science behind building design, surveying and planning / making accurate and appropriate measurements / construction methods / building regulations and standards / data management and information standards in construction / relationship management and customer service / how the Internet of Things (IoT) impacts construction / mathematical techniques to solve construction problems / construction design principles and processes / the construction industry and its role in the economy / sustainability and the environmental impact of construction / business, commerce and corporate social responsibility / Services engineering specialisms: / building services engineering systems / maintenance principles / tools, equipment and materials	One of the following: electrical and electronic equipment engineering electrotechnical engineering gas engineering protection systems engineering plumbing and heating engineering heating engineering and ventilation refrigeration engineering and air conditioning engineering 	Ideal for anyone wanting a career in construction, specifically in areas such as electric installation and maintenance, plumbing or heating.
Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction	Mandatory modules include: / health and safety / the science behind building design, surveying and planning / making accurate and appropriate measurements / construction methods / building regulations and standards / data management and information standards in construction / relationship management and customer service / how the Internet of Things (IoT) impacts construction / mathematical techniques to solve construction problems / construction design principles and processes / the construction industry and its role in the economy / sustainability and the environmental impact of construction / business, commerce and corporate social responsibility topics specific to design, surveying and planning, including: / project management / budgeting and resource allocation / procurement / risk management	One of the following: ✓ surveying and design for construction and the built environment ✓ civil engineering ✓ building services design ✓ hazardous materials analysis and surveying	Ideal for anyone wanting a career in construction, specifically in surveying and design, civil engineering, building services design, or hazardous materials surveying. Students can progress into roles such as: civil engineering technician engineering construction technician technician technical surveyor architectural technician building technician

SUBJECT	WHAT WILL THEY LEARN?	OPTIONAL EXTRAS	WHAT'S NEXT?
Digital Business Services	Mandatory modules include: / how digital technologies impact business and market environment / the ethical and moral implications of digital technology / using data in software design / using digital technologies to analyse and solve problems / digital environments, including physical, virtual and cloud environments / legal and regulatory obligations relating to digital technologies / the privacy and confidentiality of personal data / the technical, physical and human aspects of internet security / planning digital projects / testing software, hardware and data / digital tools for project management and collaboration All students will develop the knowledge and skills of a data technician: / sourcing, organising and formatting data for analysis / blending data from multiple sources / analysing data to support business outcomes / interpreting data and communicating the results / discovering, evaluation in applying sources of knowledge	None	Suitable for anyone wanting a career in IT, specifically in areas such as IT solutions or data analysis.
Digital Production, Design and Development	Mandatory modules include: / how digital technologies impact business / the ethical and moral implications of digital technology / using data in software design / using digital technologies to analyse and solve problems / digital environments, including physical, virtual and cloud environments / emerging technical trends, such as Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR), Blockchain, 3D printing / legal and regulatory obligations relating to digital technologies / the privacy and confidentiality of personal data / the technical, physical and human aspects of internet security / planning digital projects / testing software, hardware and data / digital tools for project management and collaboration They will develop the skills to: / analyse a problem, understand user needs, define requirements and set acceptance criteria / design, implement and test software / change, maintain and support software / work collaboratively in a digital team / discover, evaluate and apply reliable sources of knowledge / work within legal and regulatory frameworks when developing software	None	For anyone wanting a career in software production and design. Students can progress into roles such as: • web developer • web designer • IT business analyst • Software developer • Digital marketer

SUBJECT	WHAT WILL THEY LEARN?	OPTIONAL EXTRAS	WHAT'S NEXT?
Digital Support Services	Mandatory modules include: / how digital technologies impact business and market environment / the ethical and moral implications of digital technology / using digital technologies to analyse and solve problems / digital environments, including physical, virtual and cloud environments / legal and regulatory obligations relating to digital technologies / the privacy and confidentiality of personal data / the technical, physical and human aspects of internet security / testing software, hardware and data / digital tools for project management and collaboration They will also learn about topics specific to digital support services, including: / roles within the digital support services sector / communication in digital support services / fault analysis and problem resolution	One of the following specialisms: digital infrastructure network cabling unified communications digital support	This course is suitable for anyone wanting a career in digital infrastructure and support. Career options might include becoming an infrastructure technician or a role in IT support.
Education and Childcare	Mandatory modules include: understanding the education and childcare sector from ages 0 to 19 child development how to support children and young people's education safeguarding, health and safety and wellbeing understanding and managing behaviour observing and assessing children and young people equality and diversity special educational needs and disability special educational language working with parents, carers and wider families reflective practice and other forms of professional development	One of the following specialisms: ✓ early years education and childcare ✓ assisting teaching ✓ supporting and mentoring students in educational settings	for anyone wanting a career in early years education, childcare or assisting teaching. Students can progress into roles such as:
Health	Mandatory modules include: working within the health and science sector health, safety and environmental regulations managing information and data principles of good scientific and clinical practice core science concepts including the structure of cells, tissues and large molecules, genetics, microbiology and immunology They will also learn about topics specific to health, including: understanding the healthcare sector providing person-centred care supporting health and wellbeing infection prevention and control	One of the following specialisms: supporting the adult nursing team supporting the midwifery team supporting the mental health team supporting the care of children and young people supporting the therapy teams (from September 2022) dental nursing 	This course is suitable for anyone wanting a career in health and healthcare. Career options might include working in a midwifery team or as an ambulance support worker among others.

SUBJECT	WHAT WILL THEY LEARN?	OPTIONAL EXTRAS	WHAT'S NEXT?
Healthcare Science	Mandatory modules include: ✓ working within the health and science sector ✓ health, safety and environmental regulations ✓ managing information and data ✓ principles of good scientific and clinical practice ✓ core science concepts including the structure of cells, tissues and large molecules, genetics, microbiology and immunology ✓ They will also learn about topics specific to healthcare science: ✓ understanding the healthcare science sector ✓ providing person-centred care ✓ infection prevention and control ✓ good scientific practice	One of the following specialisms: ✓ assisting with healthcare science ✓ (from September 2022) optical care services	This course is suitable for anyone interested in a career in health or science. Career options might include working as a clinical analyst or healthcare science associate.
Onsite Construction	Mandatory modules include: ✓ health and safety ✓ the science behind building design, surveying and planning ✓ making accurate and appropriate measurements ✓ data management and information standards in construction ✓ relationship management and customer service ✓ how the Internet of Things (IoT) impacts construction ✓ mathematical techniques to solve construction problems ✓ construction design principles and processes ✓ the construction industry and its role in the economy ✓ sustainability and the environmental impact of construction ✓ business, commerce and corporate social responsibility	One of the following specialisms: bricklaying carpentry and joinery plastering painting and decorating 	This course is suitable for anyone wanting a career in construction, specifically in bricklaying, carpentry and joinery, plastering or painting and decorating. Career options might include becoming an advanced site carpenter or joiner, or a construction assembly and installation operative.
Science	Mandatory modules include: ✓ working within the health and science sector ✓ health, safety and environmental regulations ✓ managing information and data ✓ principles of good scientific and clinical practice ✓ core science concepts including the structure of cells, tissues and large molecules, genetics, microbiology and immunology They will also learn about topics specific to science: ✓ understanding the science sector ✓ further science knowledge, including cell cycle and cellular respiration, enzyme and protein structure ✓ scientific methodology ✓ experimental equipment and techniques ✓ ethics of science	One of the following specialisms: ✓ laboratory sciences ✓ food sciences ✓ metrology sciences	This course is suitable for anyone interested in a career in science. Career options might include working as a technical support scientist, metrology technician or food technician.

As of September 2022

The information in this table is summarised from the Gov UK/T levels website. Do check the website regularly for the latest course content.

SUBJECT	WHAT WILL THEY LEARN?	OPTIONAL EXTRAS	WHAT'S NEXT?
Accounting	 Mandatory modules include: ✓ fundamentals of financial accounting – an understanding of elementary financial principles, concepts and practices and how this content links to relevant accounting, bookkeeping, and business mathematics requirements ✓ professionalism and ethics - an understanding of professional conduct and responsibilities in the workplace and ethical dilemmas for the individual, organisation and professional ✓ data driven innovation and analytics and design thinking – an awareness of key requirements of a data governance framework and understand the main contemporary visualisation tools and when they are best used to support decision making 	The T Level will be live in September 2022, and occupational specialisms will be confirmed in Summer 2021.	This course is suitable for anyone interested in a career in accounting. Career options might include working as an accounts clerk, assistant accountant or corporate recovery analyst.
Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing	 Mandatory modules include: ✓ working within the Engineering and Manufacturing Sectors – an understanding of how materials, conditions and context influence design processes and products ✓ essential mathematics for engineering and manufacturing – a knowledge and understanding of mathematics including standard matrices and determinants and standard trigonometry ✓ materials and their properties – understanding material processing techniques and their effects on materials and material quality, the condition of materials, how these are managed, and materials testing methods and techniques ✓ business, commercial and financial awareness - basic commercial principles including commercial priorities and markets, customers/clients/partners and resource allocation 	One of the following specialisms: ✓ Mechanical engineering ✓ Electrical and electronic engineering ✓ Control and instrumentation engineering ✓ Structural engineering	This course is suitable for anyone interested in a career in design and development for engineering and manufacturing. Career options might include working as a mechanical design engineer or manufacturing design engineer.

SUBJECT	WHAT WILL THEY LEARN?	OPTIONAL EXTRAS	WHAT'S NEXT?
Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control	 Mandatory modules include: ✓ working within the Engineering and Manufacturing Sectors – an understanding of how materials, conditions and context influence design processes and products ✓ essential mathematics for engineering and manufacturing – a knowledge and understanding of mathematics including standard matrices and determinants and standard trigonometry ✓ materials and their properties – understanding material processing techniques and their effects on materials and material quality, the condition of materials, how these are managed, and materials testing methods and techniques ✓ business, commercial and financial awareness - basic commercial principles including commercial priorities and markets, customers/clients/partners and resource allocation 	The T Level will be live in September 2022, and occupational specialisms will be confirmed in Summer 2021.	This course is suitable for anyone interested in a career in maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing. Career options might include working as an engineering technician or in machining or fabrication.
Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing	 Mandatory modules include: ✓ working within the Engineering and Manufacturing Sectors – an understanding of how materials, conditions and context influence design processes and products ✓ essential mathematics for engineering and manufacturing – a knowledge and understanding of mathematics including standard matrices and determinants and standard trigonometry ✓ materials and their properties – understanding material processing techniques and their effects on materials and material quality, the condition of materials, how these are managed, and materials testing methods and techniques ✓ business, commercial and financial awareness - basic commercial principles including commercial priorities and markets, customers/clients/partners and resource allocation 	One of the following specialisms: Maintenance engineering technologies: Mechanical Maintenance engineering technologies: Mechatronic Maintenance engineering technologies: Electrical & Electronic Maintenance engineering technologies: Control & Instrumentation Maintenance, installation, and repair: Light and Electric Vehicles 	This course is suitable for anyone interested in a career in maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing. Career options might include working as an accident repair technician or maintenance and operation engineering technician.
Management and Administration	 Mandatory modules include: ✓ business context – an overview of organisational cultures and values, different types of internal and external stakeholder, different forms of governance and the impact of organisations on society and the environment ✓ project and change management – an understanding of the common change management theories and models and how to support and improve projects ✓ business behaviours – the importance of good communication and adapting social communication styles to professional standards and according to purpose, medium and audiencequality and compliance – the importance of maintaining and improving quality in all aspects of public and private sector organisations 	One of the following specialisms: ✓ Business support ✓ Business improvement ✓ Team leadership and management	This course is suitable for anyone interested in a career in management and administration. Career options might include working as a business improvement coordinator, team leader or project support.

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