

T-Levels

What are T-Levels?

T-Level stands for Technical Level – a level 3 qualification in England for students typically aged 16–19, taken after GCSEs. They were introduced in September 2020 designed to provide technical knowledge and work-ready skills. tlevels.gov.uk

- Duration: Typically 2 years full-time.
- Level: Equivalent in size and UCAS points to three A Levels.
- Purpose: Prepares students for skilled employment, further training, apprenticeships, or university study.
- Designed with employers and industry to match skills needed in the workplace. tlevels.gov.uk

Classroom & Placement Structure

T-Levels combine:

- 80% classroom learning – technical knowledge, theory, practical skills.
- 20% industry placement – real workplace experience with an employer.

tlevels.gov.uk

Industry Placement Details

- Minimum 45 days (≈315 hours) of industry placement is required.
- This can be delivered flexibly (day release, blocks, or mixture).

Newer guidance (from 2025 reforms) allows some placement hours to be done remotely (e.g., up to 20% for most, 50% for Digital T Levels), and simulated workplace activities in certain settings may be included. GOV.UK

T-Levels vs A Levels

Feature	A Levels	T Levels
Focus	Academic theory	Technical & practical skills
Duration	2 years	2 years
UCAS points (top grade)	3 A Levels worth	Same as 3 A Levels
Practical component	Minimal	Significant with industry placement
Career Pathways	University-focused	University, Apprenticeship, Work

What Subjects You Can Do

As of the latest available listings, there are over 20 T-Level subjects across several routes. New ones continue to be added. tlevels.gov.uk

Main subject areas include:

Agriculture, Environmental & Animal Care

- Agriculture, Land Management & Production
- Animal Care & Management

Business & Administration

- Management & Administration

Construction & Built Environment

- Building Services Engineering for Construction
- Design, Surveying & Planning for Construction

Creative & Design

- Craft & Design
- Media, Broadcast & Production

Digital

- Digital Data Analytics
- Digital Software Development
- Digital Support & Security

Education & Early Years

- Education & Early Years

Engineering & Manufacturing

- Design & Development for Engineering & Manufacturing
- Maintenance, Installation & Repair for Engineering & Manufacturing
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing & Control

Health & Science

- Health
- Healthcare Science (last enrolments cease Sept 2025)
- Science

Legal, Finance & Accounting

Sales, Marketing & Procurement

(e.g., Marketing) tlevels.gov.uk

Where You Can Study a T-Level

There is a full nationwide list of approved T-Level providers published by the UK Government. The national list includes all organisations in England approved to deliver T-Levels.

- You can download or view this list directly from [here](#).
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/providers-selected-to-deliver-t-levels>

West Midlands Providers

A list of local providers offering T-Levels in the West Midlands is typical of community colleges, sixth forms and specialised academies in that region – institutions where T-Levels are frequently taught. Examples listed include:

- Access Creative College (Access to Music Ltd)
- Burton and South Derbyshire College
- City of Stoke On Trent Sixth Form College
- Dudley College of Technology
- Grace Academy Darlaston
- Halesowen College
- Heart of Worcestershire College
- Herefordshire, Ludlow & North Shropshire College
- North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
- Sandwell College
- Solihull College and University Centre
- South and City College Birmingham
- The JCB Academy
- University College Birmingham
- Walsall College
- Warwickshire College Group
- WMG Academy for Young Engineers

These types of providers do offer T-Levels (technical diplomas) in various subject areas across the West Midlands.

(As an aside: University College Birmingham, for example, actively advertises T-Level courses and includes options like digital, engineering, business and health pathways). [University College Birmingham](#)

What Qualifications You Need to Take a T-Level

T-Level entry requirements vary between providers – there's no single national requirement set in stone by the government, because colleges and schools decide entry conditions based on the subject and demand. However:

- Most providers expect GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and maths – often five GCSEs are expected for many pathways (especially technical ones).
- Some providers allow students to take English and/or maths alongside the T-Level if they haven't already achieved grade 4 in those subjects. [UCAS](#)
- For certain rigorous pathways (e.g., engineering, science), providers sometimes ask for higher average GCSE grades (e.g., grade 5–6 in maths/science and strong English). [tmc.ac.uk](#)
- Key point: Entry requirements vary by provider and subject – always check the specific college's published entry criteria before applying.

How T-Levels Are Graded

A T-Level qualification is graded on the basis of:

1. Overall Grades

- Pass
- Merit
- Distinction
- Distinction* (top grade)

These overall grades are based on performance in both the core component and your occupational specialism(s).

2. Certificate Components

Your T-Level certificate will show:

- The overall grade (Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*)
- A core grade (graded A*-E)
- Grades for occupational specialism(s) (Pass/Merit/Distinction)
- Confirmation that you've met English and maths requirements (if required)
- Confirmation that you've completed the industry placement

3. UCAS Points (University Entry)

T-Levels carry UCAS tariff points and are recognised for higher education entry (universities publish entry requirements on UCAS and on their own websites). For example: UCAS

You must achieve at least an overall pass to receive UCAS points.

T-Level overall grade	Equivalent A Levels	UCAS tariff points
Distinction*	A* A* A*	168
Distinction	AAA	144
Merit	BBB	120
Pass	CCC (grade C core)	96
Pass	DDD (grade D/E core)	72

What Are the Benefits of Studying a T-Level?

T-Levels are ideal for students who want to focus on a specific industry sector and gain practical experience alongside classroom learning.

Benefits include:

- Real workplace experience through a substantial industry placement
- Opportunity to apply skills and knowledge in real settings
- Increased confidence, independence and employability skills
- Learning designed by employers and industry experts
- Strong preparation for skilled employment, apprenticeships or higher education

T-Levels help students become work-ready while still gaining a nationally recognised qualification.

What Can You Do After a T-Level?

A T-Level is a Level 3 qualification equivalent in size to three A-Levels and carries UCAS tariff points, meaning students can progress to:

University

- Many universities accept T-Levels for relevant degree courses (entry requirements vary by course and institution).

Skilled Employment

- Students can move directly into technical or industry-related roles.

Apprenticeships

- Including higher or degree apprenticeships.

Further or Higher Education

- Such as higher technical qualifications (HTQs) or specialist training.

How Does a T-Level Differ from an A-Level?

Your explanation is correct. A clear comparison would be:

A-Levels:

- Mainly academic and classroom-based
- Focus on theory and exams
- Often chosen for traditional university routes

T-Levels:

- Technical and practical focused
- Designed with employers
- Include a mandatory industry placement
- Prepare students for both employment and higher study

How Does a T-Level Differ from an Apprenticeship?

Your percentages are correct and widely used in official guidance. You can present this clearly as:

T-Level Structure:

- 80% classroom learning
- 20% industry placement (minimum 45 days / 315 hours)
- Student remains in full-time education

Apprenticeship Structure:

- 80% working in a job role
- 20% off-the-job training/study
- Apprentice is employed and paid a wage

Useful Websites

1. <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk>
2. [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/...](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/)
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zdr28hv>