

| Level | Examples of NQF qualifications  | Examples of QCF qualifications  | (Specifically) Higher Education Awards | General Descriptors of Levels   |  |
|-------|---|---|--|---|--|
| Entry | <p><b>Entry level certificates</b><br/> <b>English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)</b><br/> <b>Skills for Life</b><br/> <b>Functional Skills at Entry Level (English, maths and ICT)</b></p>   | <p><b>Awards, Certificates, and Diplomas at Entry Level</b></p> <p><b>Foundation Learning Tier pathways at Entry Level</b></p> <p><b>Functional Skills at Entry Level</b></p>                                   |  | <p>Entry level qualifications recognise basic knowledge and skills and the ability to apply learning in everyday situations under direct guidance or supervision. Learning at this level involves building basic knowledge and skills and is not geared towards specific occupations.</p>   |  |
| 1     | <p><b>GCSEs grades D-G (Foundation)</b><br/> <b>BTEC Introductory Diplomas and Certificates</b><br/> <b>OCR National Qualifications</b><br/> <b>Key Skills at Level 1</b><br/> <b>NVQs at Level 1</b><br/> <b>Skills for Life</b></p>   | <p><b>BTEC Awards, Certificates/ Diplomas at Level 1</b></p> <p><b>Functional Skills at Level 1</b><br/> <b>OCR Nationals</b></p> <p><b>Foundation Learning Tier pathways</b></p> <p><b>NVQs at Level 1</b></p> |  | <p>Level 1 qualifications recognise basic knowledge and skills and the ability to apply learning with guidance or supervision. Learning at this level is about activities which mostly relate to everyday situations and may be linked to job competence.</p>   |  |
| 2     | <p><b>GCSEs grades A*-C (Higher)</b></p> <p><b>BTEC First Diplomas and Certificates</b></p> <p><b>OCR Nationals</b><br/> <b>Key Skills Level 2</b><br/> <b>NVQs at Level 2</b><br/> <b>Skills for Life</b></p>  | <p><b>BTEC Awards, Certificates/ Diplomas at Level 2</b></p> <p><b>Functional Skills at Level 2</b></p> <p><b>OCR Nationals</b></p> <p><b>NVQs at Level 2</b></p>   |  | <p>Level 2 qualifications recognise the ability to gain a good knowledge and understanding of a subject area of work or study, and to perform varied tasks with some guidance or supervision. Learning at this level involves building knowledge and/or skills in relation to an area of work or a subject area and is appropriate for many job roles.</p>                      |  |
| 3     | <p><b>A levels and A/S Levels</b><br/> <b>GCE in applied subjects</b><br/> <b>International Baccalaureate</b><br/> <b>Key Skills Level 3</b><br/> <b>NVQs at Level 3</b><br/> <b>BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards</b><br/> <b>BTEC Nationals</b><br/> <b>OCR Nationals</b><br/> <b>International Certificate in</b></p> | <p><b>BTEC Awards, Certificates/ Diplomas at level 3</b></p> <p><b>BTEC Nationals</b></p> <p><b>OCR Nationals</b></p> <p><b>NVQs at Level 3</b></p>   |  | <p>Level 3 qualifications recognise the ability to gain, and where relevant apply a range of knowledge, skills and understanding. Learning at this level involves obtaining detailed knowledge and skills. It is appropriate for people wishing to go to university, people working independently, or in some areas supervising and training others in their field of work.</p> |  |

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|   | <p><b>Computer Studies (IADCS) – NCC Education UK</b><br/> <b>NEBOSH (National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety)</b></p>  |   |  |   |
| 4 | <p><b>NVQs at Level 4</b></p> <p><b>BTEC Professional Diplomas/ Certificates/Awards</b></p> <p><b>Diploma in Occupational Safety and Health</b></p> <p><b>City and Guilds Licentiateship</b></p> <p><b>International Diploma in Computer Studies (IADCS) – NCC Education UK</b></p>                        | <p><b>BTEC Professional Awards, Certificates/ Diplomas</b></p> <p><b>HNCs</b></p> <p><b>NVQs at Level 4</b></p> | <p><b>Certificates of Higher Education</b></p> <p><b>Higher National Certificates</b></p>                                | <p>Level 4 qualifications recognise specialist learning and involve detailed analysis of a high level of information and knowledge in an area of work or study. Learning at this level is appropriate for people working in technical and professional jobs, and/or managing and developing others.</p> <p>Level 4 qualifications are at a level equivalent to Certificates of Higher Education.</p>  |
| 5 | <p><b>HNCs and HNDs</b></p> <p><b>NVQs at Level 5</b></p> <p><b>BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards</b></p> <p><b>International Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies (IADCS) – NCC Education UK</b></p> <p><b>Level 5 Professional Award</b></p> <p><b>Full Technology Certificate</b></p> | <p><b>HNDs</b></p> <p><b>BTEC Professional Awards, Certificates/ Diplomas</b></p> <p><b>NVQs at Level 5</b></p> | <p><b>Diplomas of Higher Education</b></p> <p><b>Foundation Degrees</b></p> <p><b>Higher National Diplomas (HND)</b></p> | <p>Level 5 qualifications recognise the ability to increase the depth of knowledge and understanding of an area of work or study to enable the formulation of solutions and responses to complex problems and situations. Learning at this level involves the demonstration of high levels of knowledge, a high level of work expertise in job roles and competence in managing and training others. Qualifications at this level are appropriate for people working as higher grade technicians, professionals or managers. Level 5 qualifications are at a level equivalent to intermediate Higher Education qualifications such as Diplomas of Higher Education, Foundation and other degrees that do not typically provide access to postgraduate programmes.</p> |

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| <p><b>6</b></p> | <p><b>National Diploma in Professional Production Skills</b></p> <p><b>BTEC Advanced Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards</b></p> <p><b>City and Guilds Graduateship</b></p> <p><b>City and Guilds Associateship</b></p> <p><b>Level 6 Professional Diploma</b></p> | <p><b>BTEC Advanced Professional Awards, Certificates/ Diplomas</b></p> | <p><b>Bachelor's Degrees (BA)</b></p> <p><b>Bachelor's Degrees with Honours (BA Hons)</b></p> <p><b>Graduate Certificates and Diplomas</b></p> <p><b>Professional Graduate Certificate in Education</b></p>                                      | <p>Level 6 qualifications recognise a specialist high level knowledge of an area of work or study to enable the use of an individual's own ideas and research in response to complex problems and situations. Learning at this level involves the achievement of a high level of professional knowledge and is appropriate for people working as knowledge-based professionals or in professional management positions. Level 6 qualifications are at a level equivalent to Bachelor's degrees with honours, graduate certificates and graduate diplomas.</p> |  |
| <p><b>7</b></p> | <p><b>Diploma in Translation</b></p> <p><b>BTEC Advanced Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards</b></p> <p><b>City and Guilds Membership</b></p> <p><b>Cambridge ESOL DELTA</b></p>   | <p><b>BTEC Advanced Professional Awards, Certificates/ Diplomas</b></p> | <p><b>Master's Degrees</b></p> <p><b>Integrated Master's Degrees</b></p> <p><b>Postgraduate Certificates including PGCE (<i>Post Graduate Certificate in Education</i>)</b></p> <p><b>Postgraduate Diplomas (PGDip)</b></p> <p><b>PGCert</b></p> | <p>Level 7 qualifications recognise highly developed and complex levels of knowledge which enable the development of in-depth and original responses to complicated and unpredictable problems and situations. Learning at this level involves the demonstration of high level specialist professional knowledge and is appropriate for senior professionals and managers. Level 7 qualifications are at a level equivalent to Master's degrees, postgraduate certificates and postgraduate diplomas.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>8</b></p> | <p><b>Specialist Awards</b></p> <p><b>City and Guilds Diploma of Fellowship</b></p>   | <p><b>Award, Certificate and Diploma in Strategic Direction</b></p>     | <p><b>Doctoral Degrees</b></p>   | <p>Level 8 qualifications recognise leading experts or practitioners in a particular field. Learning at this level involves the development of new and creative approaches that extend or redefine</p>  |  |

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|  |  |  | <b>existing knowledge or professional practice.</b> |  |
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Every new qualification and unit on the QCF has a credit value, showing how long it takes to complete. One credit is equivalent to 10 hours. This can include time spent learning in a variety of ways – not necessarily being taught by someone. For new qualifications, an “Award” = 1-12 CREDITS, taking 10-120 hours to complete. “Certificate” = 13-36 CREDITS, taking 130-260 hours to complete. A “Diploma” is worth 37 CREDITS or more, and takes at least 370 hours to complete.