

Regulated qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are in either the:

- Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

The table shows how the most common qualifications compare. The levels show how difficult a qualification is.

Level

RQF examples

FHEQ examples

Entry

- Entry level certificate
- Entry level Skills for Life
- Entry level award, certificate and diploma
- Entry level Functional Skills
- Entry level Foundation Learning

1

- GCSE (grades D-G)
- Key Skills level 1
- NVQ level 1
- Skills for Life level 1
- Foundation diploma
- BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 1
- Foundation Learning level 1
- Functional Skills level 1
- Cambridge National level 1

2

- GCSE (grades A*-C)
- Key Skills level 2
- NVQ level 2
- Skills for Life level 2
- Higher diploma
- BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 2
- Functional Skills level 2
- Cambridge National level 2
- Cambridge Technical level 2

3

- AS and A level
- Advanced Extension Award
- Cambridge International award
- International Baccalaureate
- Key Skills level 3
- NVQ level 3
- Advanced diploma
- Progression diploma
- BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 3
- BTEC National

- Cambridge Technical level 3

4

- Certificate of higher education

- Key Skills level 4

- NVQ level 4

- BTEC Professional award, certificate and diploma level 4

- Certificate of higher education

- HNC

5

- HND

- NVQ level 4

- Higher diploma

- BTEC Professional award, certificate and diploma level 5

- HNC

- HND

- Diploma of higher education

- Diploma of further education

- Foundation degree

- HND

6

- NVQ level 4

- BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 6

- Bachelor's degree

- Graduate certificate

- Graduate diploma

7

- BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 7

- Fellowship and fellowship diploma

- Postgraduate certificate

- Postgraduate diploma

- NVQ level 5

- BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 7

- Master's degree

- Postgraduate certificate

- Postgraduate diploma

8

- NVQs level 5

- Vocational qualifications level 8 Regulated qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are in either the:

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 - BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 1
 - Foundation Learning level 1
 - Functional Skills level 1
 - Cambridge National level 1
- 2
- GCSE (grades A*-C)
 - Key Skills level 2
 - NVQ level 2
 - Skills for Life level 2
 - Higher diploma
 - BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 2
 - Functional Skills level 2
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- AS and A level
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- 4
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 - Key Skills level 4
 - NVQ level 4
 - BTEC Professional award, certificate and diploma level 4
 - Certificate of higher education
 - HNC
- 5
- HND
 - NVQ level 4
 - Higher diploma
 - BTEC Professional award, certificate and diploma level 5

- HNC
 - HND
 - Diploma of higher education
 - Diploma of further education
 - Foundation degree
 - HND
- 6
- NVQ level 4
 - BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 6
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Graduate certificate
 - Graduate diploma
- 7
- BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 7
 - Fellowship and fellowship diploma
 - Postgraduate certificate
 - Postgraduate diploma
 - NVQ level 5
 - BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 7
 - Master's degree
 - Postgraduate certificate
 - Postgraduate diploma
- 8
- NVQs level 5
 - Vocational qualifications level 8