

Ofqual

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Guidance

# Qualification descriptions

Updated 29 October 2015

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# 1.

## Introduction

[Section 132 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009](#) allows organisations to apply to be recognised for 'descriptions of qualifications' as well as individual qualifications.

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This guidance explains the different qualification types (or descriptions of

qualifications) you can apply for. These may be at different levels or in different [sector subject areas](#).

# 2.

## Qualification descriptions

- GCSE (A\* to G), general certificate of secondary education graded A\* to G
- GCSE (9 to 1), general certificate of secondary education graded 9 to 1
- GCE AS level, general certificate of education, advanced subsidiary level
- GCE A levels, general certificate of education, advanced level
- entry level
- English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- functional skills
- national vocational qualifications (NVQs)
- other general qualifications
- free-standing mathematics
- project
- principal learning
- vocationally related qualifications (VRQs)

# 3.

## Sector subject areas

We classify all qualifications using the numbered categories in the tables below. You will need to refer to these tables when making your application for recognition.

### 1 - Health, Public Services and Care

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1.1 - Medicine and dentistry

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1.2 - Nursing, and subjects and vocations allied to medicine

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1.3 - Health and social care

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1.4 - Public services

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1.5 - Child development and well being

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## **2 - Science and Mathematics**

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2.1 - Science

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2.2 - Mathematics and statistics

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## **3 - Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care**

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3.1 - Agriculture

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3.2 - Horticulture and forestry

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3.3 - Animal care and veterinary science

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3.4 - Environmental conservation

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## **4 - Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies**

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4.1 - Engineering

---

4.2 - Manufacturing technologies

---

4.3 - Transportation operations and maintenance

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## **5 - Construction, Planning and the Built Environment**

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5.1 - Architecture

---

5.2 - Building and construction

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5.3 - Urban, rural and regional planning

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## **6 - Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

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6.1 - ICT practitioners

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6.2 - ICT for users

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## **7 - Retail and Commercial Enterprise**

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7.1 - Retailing and wholesaling

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7.2 - Warehousing and distribution

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7.3 - Service enterprises

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7.4 - Hospitality and catering

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## **8 - Leisure, Travel and Tourism**

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8.1 - Sport, leisure and recreation

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8.2 - Travel and tourism

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## **9 - Arts, Media and Publishing**

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9.1 - Performing arts

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9.2 - Crafts, creative arts and design

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9.3 - Media and communication

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9.4 - Publishing and information services

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## **10 - History, Philosophy and Theology**

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10.1 - History

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10.2 - Archaeology and archaeological sciences

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10.3 - Philosophy

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10.4 - Theology and religious studies

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## **11 - Social Sciences**

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11.1 - Geography

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11.2 - Sociology and social policy

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11.3 - Politics

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11.4 - Economics

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11.5 - Anthropology

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## **12 - Languages, Literature and Culture**

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12.1 - Languages, literature and culture of the British isles

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12.2 - Other languages, literature and culture

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12.3 - Linguistics

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## **13 - Education and Training**

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13.1 - Teaching and lecturing

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13.2 - Direct learning support

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## 14 - Preparation for Life and Work

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14.1 - Foundations for learning and life

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14.2 - Preparation for work

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## 15 - Business, Administration, Finance and Law

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15.1 - Accounting and finance

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15.2 - Administration

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15.3 - Business management

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15.4 - Marketing and sales

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15.5 - Law and legal services

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