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Guidance

Technical qualifications within T Levels

Information on how Ofqual is regulating the technical qualification component of T Levels.

Published 31 October 2019

From: [Department for Education](#), [Ofqual](#), and [Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#)

Applies to: **England**

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T-LEVELS

What is a Technical Qualification within a T Level?

Technical Qualifications are a compulsory element of the new T Level courses. Each technical qualification includes:

- the core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area
- specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career

Other elements of T Levels courses are:

- an industry placement with an employer (not regulated by Ofqual)
- a Level 2 in maths and English (if students have not already achieved them)
- other occupation-specific requirements if they are essential for skilled employment e.g. licence to practice qualifications or professional registration

Visit the Department for Education's website for more information on the [introduction of T Levels](#).

Ofqual is responsible for regulating Technical Qualifications within T Levels. We've introduced specific [new rules for Technical Qualifications](#). As with all other qualifications we regulate, we work to secure consistent and reliable assessments and to ensure fairness for all learners.

This includes means making sure that:

- assessments cover the expected content, and are clear and error-free
- marking is completed on time and is of high quality

- grade boundaries are set fairly to reflect the demand of the paper
- qualifications are designed so that they are accessible to the full range of learners who will take them
- requirements are clear to all teachers and trainers
- we deal with any malpractice that might give some students an unfair advantage over others
- we take account of any serious disruption or other events which might affect individual performances on the day of assessment
- we balance all these difference aspects of fairness so that learners, parents, teachers, tutors, trainers, employers and universities can be confident in results

The [outline qualification content](#) is available from the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

For queries on the outline content, please contact the Institute at enquiries.ifa@education.gov.uk or institute.media@education.gov.uk for press enquiries.

Timeline

Autumn 2020

First teaching for the initial 3 Technical Qualifications as T Level courses is scheduled to start in specific occupations across 3 industries:

- digital production, design and development (digital industry)
- design, surveying and planning (construction industry)
- education (education and childcare industry)

Autumn 2021

First teaching for a further 7 Technical Qualifications as T Level courses is scheduled to start in the following subject areas:

- building services engineering
- digital business services
- digital support and services
- health
- healthcare science
- onsite construction
- science

Supporting information

The following additional information may be of interest:

- [support is available for providers of T Levels](#) from the Education and Training Foundation.
- the Department for Education's industry placement team can be contacted at tlevel.placement@education.gov.uk.
- [information about the new T Level study programmes](#) from the Department of Education.
- Department for Education's [T Level action plan](#), showing progress in the development of T Levels.
- information about [how industry placements for T Levels work](#) and how employers can get involved.
- ESFA's list of [providers selected to deliver T Levels and providers planning to deliver the T Level transition programme](#).

Published 31 October 2019

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