

Post 16 Pathways

In England, the participation age has been raised so that all young people are now required to continue in education or training beyond the age of 16. Raising the participation age (RPA) means young people must continue in some form of education or training until their 18th birthday. Young people have a choice about how they continue and this could be through:

- Full time education in a college, sixth form or with a training provider
- An apprenticeship or traineeship
- Spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, whilst in part-time education or training (approx. 1 day per week)

Full-time Education

One route a young person may chose is full-time education. There are many options available for learners and which could include:

A Levels

A Levels are a level 3 qualification, studied over two years.

This qualification allows young people to study multiple (3 to 4 subjects) at a deeper level. Depending on the college, students can either select a pathway (for example medical) or different subjects.

Pathways are designed to help students progress onto relevant university courses, based up on the career choice they have in mind. For example, if a student wanted to a career in the health sector the A-Level options may be around Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Sociology.

Not every young person at 16 is 100% sure what career they would like to do and so studying a selection of A levels could be a good way of keeping their options open. However, it is important to make sure the subjects chosen for A level are those that they are good at and are interested in.

Some colleges allow students to pick four A-Levels, dropping one at the end of the first year. This allows students to stop studying a topic they are struggling with or do not enjoy.

Assessments is mainly through examinations at the end of the two years, although some subjects may include coursework and practical assessments. Traditionally, students were graded in year one and two of the programme. Under the current system, learners will only partake in examinations at the end of Year 13 (year 2), with no marks from the AS year contributing to the overall grade (unless it is a practical assessment/coursework). A Level's qualifications are graded A* - E.

The main destinations for young people who study A-levels is progression onto university or a degree level apprenticeship.

Vocational

Another popular route many young people choose is to study a vocational qualification. These qualifications are designed for young people who are interested in a particular sector or industry, but may not yet know what job they would like to do. Most young people taking this route will study a BTEC. These qualifications are available from entry level to Level 3 and are available in 16 sectors, including: Applied Science, Art & Design, Business, Childcare, Construction, Engineering, Media, Health & Social Care, Hospitality, ICT, Land-based, Performing Arts, Public Services, Sport and Travel and Tourism.

BTEC's contain continuous assessment over the duration of the course. This can include a mixture of exams, coursework and practical assessments. These qualifications are graded Pass (P), Merit (M), Distinction (D).

BTEC Firsts – These are available from Entry Level to Level 2 (similar to GCSE) and offer an introduction into work in a vocational sector. The duration of these courses is one year.

BTEC Nationals - These are available at Level 3 qualifications. These qualifications are well regarded by universities, further education colleges and employee. A BTEC National can lead to employment, university or a degree apprenticeship. A one-year course is similar to completing an AS year, whereas a two-year programme is equivalent to A levels.

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma is a two-year programme, equivalent to 3-A Level's, meaning students who wish to go onto university may do so. The highest grade achievable on a BTEC National Extended Diploma is Distinction* Distinction* Distinction* (D*D*D*).

Universities use a UCAS points system for their courses. The table below demonstrates UCAS points that are required for entry onto Higher Education Courses at University:

UCAS Points	BTEC Level 3 Ext Dip	A Level Grade
168	D*D*D*	A*A*A*
160	D*D*D	A*A*A
152	D*DD	A*AA
144	DDD	AAA
128	DDM	ABB
112	DMM	BBC

Some technical/vocational subjects require learners to start at Level 1/2 even if they have the entry requirements for a Level 3 programme. These courses usually link directly to a source of employment e.g. Hairdressing, bricklaying, beauty etc.

T-Levels

T levels are a two-year qualification equivalent to three A Levels, they have been developed with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study. Unlike A-Level's and Vocational qualifications, the T-level includes a compulsory industrial placement. The placement provides learners a fantastic opportunity to gain relevant work experiences, increasing their employability and giving them a true insight into their chosen career pathway.

T-Levels are a Level 3 qualification, therefore, in order to study this route, it is likely learners will be required to have obtained 5 GCSE's at grade 4 and above. *(N.B Some colleges are asking learners have also obtained GCSE Maths AND English at Grade 4 or 5)*

T-levels are designed to include:

- a technical qualification
- industry placement with an employee (45 days/315 hours)

Grading:

You will receive an overall grade for the T Level, shown as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* You will be awarded a certificate for your grading, which will also include:

Your overall grade:

- A separate grade for your occupational specialism (Pass, Merit, Distinction)
- Your module grades (graded A* - E)
- Mathematics and English qualification grades
- Industry placement details

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for courses are different depending on the college or training provider. The entry requirements for one level 3 course, may be different for another. Some programmes may require a GCSE in Science, whilst others do not. When looking at potential college courses it is important to note the entry requirements for each course.

Any young person who has not received a grade 4 or above in GCSE Maths and/or English will be required to re-sit the GCSE(s) at College, regardless of mode of study.

Please see below an overview of the entry requirements for some of the training providers in the local area. Please note, entry requirements may differ depending on the course/college.

Winstanley College

The college operates a points-based system, which changes every year. For September 2021 the College will guarantee a place to all applicants who achieve 44 points or more from their best 8 GCSE results. Students who achieve 40 points or more are guaranteed a place on a mixed programme i.e. a programme that combines a Diploma (vocational) and A level.

The point system is based upon the following:

GCSE Grade	Points	Level 2 Vocational
9	9	L2D*
8	8	L2D
7	7	
6	6	L2M
5	5	L2P
4	4	
3	3	

Grades lower than 3 do not count towards the best 8.

The points system will only allow one vocational course to be included. The point system for 2022 entry may differ.

Training Provider	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3 (Vocational)	A-Level
Wigan & Leigh College	5 GCSE's graded 9-2.	5 GCSE's graded 9-3 including Maths or English	5 GCCE's graded 9-4 including Maths or English.	8 GCSE's graded 9-5, of which 4 GCSES are graded 9-6 (Including English, Maths & Science)
St John Rigby College	4 GCSE grades at 2 or above including GCSE English Language.	4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above including English Language.	5 GCSE grades at 4 or above, including GCSE English Language.	2 GCSE grades at 6 or above and 4 GCSE grades at 4 or above. GCSE English Language must be included.
Bolton College	4 or 5 GCSE's at grade 2 or above, including Maths & English Language	4 GCSE's at grade 3 or above, including English & Maths	4 GCSEs grades 9-4, including Maths and English.	
Runshaw College	1 GCSE at Grade 3, 1 GCSE at Grade 2, Maths or English Language at Grade 2 and Grade 1 in the other.	4 GCSE at Grade 3 including Maths or English Language or Literature at Grade 3.	5 GCSE at Grade 4, Maths or English Language or Literature at Grade 4 and Grade 3 in the others.	5 x B grade equivalent (5 x Grade 5 or B) , some subjects may require a higher grade in a particular GCSE.

<p>Bolton Sixth Form</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p>5 GCSE's graded 9-4, including GCE English at Grade 4 and Maths at Grade 3.</p>	<p>4 A Levels – 6 GCSEs at grade 7, 8 or 9 including English Language and Mathematics at grade 6 or above.</p> <p>3 A-Levels - 2 GCSEs at grade 6 and three GCSEs at grade 5/4 including English Language and Mathematics at grade 5/4 or above. Or eight GCSEs at a minimum of grade 5.</p>
<p>Warrington & Vale Royal College</p>	<p>4 GCSE's graded 9 - 2</p>	<p>Minimum of 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including maths and/or English.</p>	<p>Minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and/or maths.</p>	<p></p>

Traineeships

Traineeships are a training route for young people aged 16-23 (and up to 25 for young people with SEN). Traineeships are an education and training programme with work experience focussed on giving young people the skills and experience they need to be able to gain apprenticeships or sustainable employment. Traineeships are part of 16-19 study programmes so a young person enrolling on a traineeship would meet the duty to participate.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships involve structured training in the workplace together with off-the-job training that may be undertaken, for example, at a training centre or college - perhaps one day a week or through block release. Some apprentices may be required to attend a college, whilst others may be visited by an assessor. Apprenticeships are designed to develop your competence to undertake a particular job, and will lead to relevant qualifications or industry-recognised standards.

Apprenticeships are available at different levels from Level 2 to Level 7. Some young people may complete a full-time education programme before moving onto a degree level apprenticeship, whilst others may complete an apprenticeship at 16. Apprenticeships available to school leavers are at Level 2 or 3, entry requirements are similar to those studying in full-time education.

For information on various sector click on this link:

<http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/apprenticeship-byindustry-sector/>

Some useful Websites for Apprenticeships

- National Apprenticeship website: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- All about school leavers: www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk
- The Growth Company Education & Skills: www.gceducationandskills.ac.uk