



Post 16 Choices

With the deadline to apply for sixth form places, fast approaching here is a quick guide explaining the different qualifications available for post 16 students.

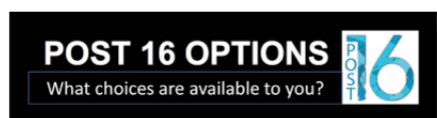
A Levels

You normally need at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and at least grade 6 in the specific subject(s) you want to study to do A Levels. St Mary's asks for an APS of 4.50 to study 3 A Levels. However, the specific requirements needed to study A levels will vary across schools and colleges. It's important to check what you will need with the school or college you are looking to study at.

If you're thinking about going to university, most higher education courses require specific A levels or combinations of A levels (or alternative level 3 qualifications). If you're not sure what career or job you want to do, studying a selection of A levels can be a good way of keeping your options open.

The most important criteria for choosing A levels subjects are:

- Looking at what you are likely to enjoy and be good at. If you enjoy a subject or have an ability in it already, you are more likely to do well.
- Are there any particular subjects and/or grades you may need? If you have a particular career, job, or further study in mind, you may need to choose specific A levels in order to meet entry requirements.
- How open you want to keep your future study and career choices?



BTEC

A BTEC, or 'Business and Technology Education Council' is a practical-based, vocational qualification. It can be studied at a college or school. BTECs are becoming a more popular path to both university and particular jobs in place of, or in addition to, A-levels. While they are commonly known as an alternative to A-levels, BTEC are very flexible. They can be studied at various levels, each of which equates to a different qualification:

BTEC Level 1 and 2 = equivalent to GCSEs

BTEC Level 3 = equivalent to A-levels

BTEC Level 4-5 = equivalent to 1st and 2nd year of an undergraduate degree

At Level 3 BTEC, you can study diplomas, certificates, awards and BTEC nationals. These aim to give you the ability to gain and apply knowledge at a detailed enough level to continue on to university to study this area further and can equate to one, two or even three A-levels. This flexibility means you can study them alongside A-levels if you wish, rather than feel like you have to choose one over the other.

Which is best for you?

Teaching style: if you study A-levels, you'll be taught in a similar manner to how you've been used to throughout your secondary education. BTEC are slightly different in that theory is combined with regular practical work so you can directly apply what you learn.

Assessments: whereas A-levels are assessed mainly through exams at the end of Year 13, BTEC are assessed via regular coursework and projects throughout the course, as well as some externally marked tests. If you know you don't excel in exam conditions, BTEC can relieve this pressure, spreading out the work that dictates your final grade.

Don't choose a BTEC expecting an easy life. The top grade – D* – is treated as equivalent to an A* at A level and the bottom grade – P – is equivalent to an E (a pass at A level). You'll also have to work very steadily throughout your course due to the continuous assessment methods. BTECs certainly aren't the lazy way to an equivalent grade in the same subject.



For university entry, A levels in academic subjects tend to be the best at keeping doors open to studying a range of different subjects at degree level.

If you take a BTEC level 3 Extended Diploma you won't have much study time for anything else, so be sure that the subject you choose is definitely the field you want to work in. Taking the Diploma would typically allow you to squeeze in an A level too, broadening your options slightly; the Extended Certificate plus two A levels might suit you better if you're attracted to the idea of a BTEC but don't want to make a firm career commitment at this stage.

Universities typically regard the BTEC level 3 Extended Diploma as the equivalent to three A levels, the Diploma as equivalent to two A levels and the Extended Certificate as equivalent to one A level. So if you're not taking the Extended Diploma you'll need to plug the gap with one or more A levels.

Even if you are taking the Extended Diploma, some universities like an A level as well. For example, at LSE if you don't have an A level in a 'traditional academic subject' you'll need to sit a three-hour exam to test your English, maths and comprehension.

Many university courses specify that you must have A levels in particular subjects in order to apply. Even if you've studied relevant topics in your BTEC, these won't always be accepted as an alternative. In other cases universities may ask you to list which specific modules you've taken, as different schools and colleges teach differ.

T Levels

T Levels are new technical courses which will follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. They are Level 3 course that span approximately 1800 hours over 2 years. These courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.



T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or an apprenticeship.

T Levels are ideal for learners who are looking for a more technical route into skilled employment, further study or an apprenticeship. T Levels are a technical alternative to A Levels and prepare learners for technical careers.



Harlow College will offer T Levels starting in the 2021/22 academic year, initially in the following areas:

- creative and digital
- construction
- childcare and education
- health and science

How T-level grades compare to A-levels

UCAS tariff points	T Level overall grade	A level
168	Distinction*	A*A*A*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on core component)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on core component)	DDD

Source: Dept for Education

BBC

Medic Mentor

Medic Mentor have just launched Allied Healthcare Mentor, to support all of your aspiring healthcare students with work experience opportunities during the pandemic. Students now have access to their own specific work experience programme that will be highly relevant to the following healthcare careers:



Medic Mentor
Motivating Medical Minds

- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Paramedics
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Radiographers
- Art, drama and music therapists
- Dietitians
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Radiographers
- Podiatrists
- Osteopaths
- Orthoptists
- Prosthetists and orthotics
- Speech and language therapists

You can learn more and register for the programme here:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience/>

Students will receive certificates upon completion, but places are limited and therefore they will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis to keep this fair. If you are interested you can register through the website link above. Places are just £10 a day to cover administrative costs. If you have students from low-income backgrounds, they can attend for free.

Activities from Queen Mary University of London

In their 'Outreach hub', QMUL have put together an impressive array of mini courses to help students navigate various important progression topics, such as financial support at university and identifying university study skills.

Most is aimed at KS5 but there's content for students all the way down to Year 7. Students could spend a whole day learning stuff!

> [Go to the main Outreach hub page](#)

Generation Stevenage

The Generation Stevenage STEM Event page on HOP has now been updated with the video – the link is: <https://www.hopinto.co.uk/generation-stevenage/>

If the students want to hear more from a specific employer they can skip ahead to the timestamps listed below:

- Airbus - 34:39
- GSK - 54:56
- MBDA - 1:13:45
- NHS - 1:36:18



Agriculture +

The Royal Agricultural University offers a variety of courses beyond agriculture, including environment/wildlife, business and enterprise, equine and real estate.

Here is a live online session giving overviews of the university, including a Q&A with admissions staff and a student ambassador.

- Book 22 Dec, 12:00-12:45 (UK)

They're also running a virtual open day: 6th Jan 3.30-5.30pm

The RAU is also introducing a Guaranteed Offer Scheme for the 2021 cycle. All students who apply will be guaranteed to receive a conditional offer if they have any one of these characteristics:

- Ever been in care
- From a non-white background
- Lives in a POLAR 4 quintile 1 or 2



Live humanities sessions on pandemics

Edge Hill University are running 2 live sessions on the topic, '**Pandemics: Past, Present and Future**' for students interested in History & Politics, Geography and English. The sessions examine the Spanish Flu, the Plague and Covid-19



The live sessions are on Friday 15 January, at 10am and 2pm (UK)

Pre-recorded sessions on activism, stories and environment

Also aimed at post-16 students, Edge Hill will run 3 pre-recorded sessions which come with interactive activities and worksheets:

- **History: A is for Activism** (the role activism plays in global politics)
- **English: Stories that Shaped the World** (the ways in which real life events are imagined within literature)
- **Geography: Us and our Environment** (the relationships between humans and their environment)

The pre-recorded sessions are available Mon 11 Jan to Fri 22 Jan. For both live and pre-recorded sessions: **see more info / book**

December Parents' & Carers' Pack

In the **December issue** Amazing Apprenticeships look at volunteering, Post-16 SEND options, T Level subjects coming soon, apprenticeship award winners, Traineeships FAQs, Job coach support and more.



<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2020/12/Parent-Pack-December-2020.pdf>



Degree Apprenticeship – Economics

Salary: £23,000

When you finish school, university is far from your only option. The Bank of England's Degree Apprenticeship Development Programme could be the ideal solution for you if you're:

- keen to start your career and earn a salary
- concerned about university fees
- would like a fully funded degree
- looking to develop your business and technical skills
- eager to gain a unique insight into the workings of the UK's central bank

You'll start with an introduction to the different types of work we do and you'll get training on essential skills.

- data science
- digital and technology solutions
- economics

They have designed this 39 month programme to help talented people get started in their careers, while studying towards a fully funded degree.



Alongside this, they'll enrol you on a part-time undergraduate degree with a reputable university. Your studies will complement the skills and on-the-job learning you will gain with them.

Studying while working can sound challenging. But you'll get dedicated study time. And your line manager will help you find the right balance between your studies and work. Our Future Talent Team will also be on hand to support you.

To apply for the Degree Apprenticeship, you'll need at least five GCSEs at grade C (4) including GCSE Maths grade B (or 7) with and English grade C (or 4). You'll also need to have achieved or be predicted three A-Levels (or equivalent) at BBB or above (or 120 UCAS points).

Further information click [here](#)



BANK OF ENGLAND

Degree Apprenticeship - Data Science

Salary: £23,000

You'll start with an introduction to the different types of work they do and you'll get training on essential skills.

- data science
- digital and technology solutions
- economics

Alongside this, they'll enrol you on a part-time undergraduate degree with a reputable university. Your studies will complement the skills and on-the-job learning you will gain with us.

Studying while working can sound challenging but you'll get dedicated study time. And your line manager will help you find the right balance between your studies and work. Their Future Talent Team will also be on hand to support you.

To apply for the Degree Apprenticeship, you'll need at least five GCSEs at grade C (4) or above, including English and Maths. You'll also need to have achieved or be predicted three A-Levels at CCC or above, including Maths.

Further information click [here](#)
Deadline Jan 15th 2021

Degree Apprenticeship - Digital and Technology Solutions

Salary: £23,000



BANK OF ENGLAND

You will start the programme with a formal introduction to the various areas of the Bank and training sessions on essential skills. You'll have a full induction to the Bank on joining, and will get the opportunity to find out more about the vast and varied array of work we undertake here every day.

To apply for the Degree Apprenticeship, you'll need at least five GCSEs at grade C (4) or above, including English Language and Maths. You'll also need to have achieved or be predicted the following: A-Level AAB.

Further information click [here](#)
Deadline Jan 15th 2021

Chartered Management Degree Apprenticeship



Their Chartered Management Degree Apprenticeship programme enables you to gain full time experience in a wide range of business areas at Visa, whilst studying a 4-year degree, the cost of which is covered by Visa! You'll finish the programme with a BSc Hons Degree in Chartered Management with zero debt, as they pay your tuition fees, and give you time out of the office to complete your studies.

Whether you aspire to work in Marketing, HR, Client Support, Consulting & Analytics, or anything in between, their Apprenticeship will give you a range of experience to help you start your career. You'll complete 5 rotations that last 6 months each, to try and help you experience a range of different roles at Visa, after which you'll spend 18 months in your final placement where you look to build your career once you complete the programme. They'll help you unlock your potential at Visa, dreaming up new ideas and gaining exposure to some of the most advanced tech in the industry, as they turn wearables, devices and even cars into new ways to pay - everywhere you go.

Entry requirements:

- Be ready to start full-time work from September 2021
- Minimum of 3 years living in the UK or EEA (European Economic Area)
- Hold 7 GCSE's grade 9 - 4 (or equivalent)
- Be studying towards, or hold the equivalent of 96 UCAS points

To apply click [here](#)

If you have any questions or queries relating to careers please contact the careers leader Kate Ward on wardk@haileyburyturnford.com