



Post-16 Vocational Pathways

Key terms:

Options process – In Year 12 and 13, if you stay at school, you will complete your A-Levels. You select the subjects you study in Year 11.

Vocational – a course usually focused on the practical work of a particular profession, often involves higher level of coursework . This can be at school, college or another provider.



To study A-level courses, students are required to attain at least five grade 5 GCSEs including English Language and Mathematics in addition to the individual subject entry requirements below.

To study L3 BTEC courses, students are required to attain at least five grade 4 GCSEs including a GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Mathematics.



What are Vocational Qualifications?

- Vocational qualifications are often called by the name of the largest provider, BTEC. T Levels are also classed as vocational qualifications.
- BTEC qualifications are made up of units and you complete assignments and tests to link theory work with practical exercises.
- BTECs provide the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a field or subject, and are a viable alternative to the more theory-focused, classroom-based ways of learning which you might be put off by.
- BTECs are vocational qualifications that relate to specific career areas. There are different levels of qualification.





Before we start examining the different pathways in detail, let's get a few things straight...

- 1. If you haven't passed your Maths or English GCSE, you will have to re-sit this at college. This means if you did not achieve a level 4 or above.**
- 2. Students have to be in some form of extended education at Post-16, however, this can be paid and include employment.**
- 3. It is *possible* to continue education from home with parents or tutors, including online learning platforms – but this tends to be for students who have specific needs or benefit from an alternative approach.**

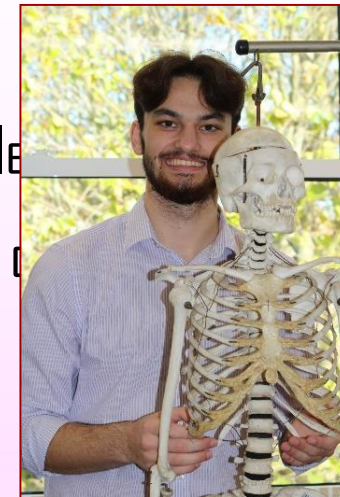
OPTION 1:

A - Levels



1. A-Levels

- **What:** Academic qualifications focused on specific subjects (e.g., Maths, History, Biology).
- **Where:** Offered in sixth forms (attached to schools or colleges).
- **Who:** Ideal for students aiming for university or academic careers.
- **Duration:** Two years, with exams at the end of Year 13.



	LEVEL			
UNIVERSITY	8	Doctorate PhD		
	7	Master's Degree MA, MSc, MPhil		Degree Apprenticeships
	6	Undergraduate Degree BA, BSc	Foundation degree FdA, FdSc	Higher Apprenticeships
	5			Higher National Diploma HND
4		Higher National Certificate HNC		
COLLEGE	3	AS / A2 / A level T Level	BTEC Nationals	Advanced Apprenticeships
SCHOOL	2	GCSE Grades 9-4	BTEC Firsts	Intermediate Apprenticeships
	1	GCSE Grades 3-1		



Quick show of hands if you know you are already interested in this route:

OPTION 2:

T – Levels (but not for long)



2. T-Levels

- **What:** New vocational qualifications introduced in 2020, focusing on technical skills in specific industries (e.g., Digital, Construction, Healthcare).
- **Where:** Available at colleges and selected sixth forms.
- **Who:** For students who want a mix of classroom learning and practical experience.
- **Duration:** Two years, including a 45-day industry placement.

HOWEVER – *there are not many T-Level places left, so if you are already interested in this route*



Quick show of hands if you know you are already interested in this route:

OPTION 3:

Apprenticeships



3. Apprenticeships

- **What:** Paid work combined with on-the-job training and study toward a qualification.
- **Where:** Employers and training providers (colleges or independent institutions).
- **Who:** Suitable for students who want to earn while they learn in a specific trade or profession.
- **Levels:** Vary from intermediate (Level 2, equivalent to GCSEs) to advanced (Level 3, equivalent to A-Levels) and higher/degree apprenticeships.



<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>



Quick show of hands if you know you are already interested in this route:

OPTION 4:

Vocational or Technical Courses



4. Vocational or Technical Courses

- **What:** Practical, career-focused qualifications (e.g., BTECs, NVQs).
- **Where:** Further Education (FE) colleges and some schools.
- **Who:** For students aiming to enter specific careers or gain skills for further training.
- **Examples:** Hospitality, IT, Engineering, Creative Arts.



Quick show of hands if you know you are already interested in this route:

OPTION 5:

Traineeships



5. Traineeships

- **What:** Short-term courses with work experience to help young people transition into apprenticeships or employment.
- **Where:** Colleges, training providers, or employers.
- **Who:** Targeted at students who need additional skills or qualifications to secure an apprenticeship or job.
- **Duration:** Up to 6 months.



Quick show of hands if you know you are already interested in this route:



OPTION 6:

Specialist colleges



6. Specialist Schools or Colleges

- **What:** Institutions focusing on specific skills, such as performing arts, sports, or agriculture.
- **Who:** Students with clear career aspirations in these areas.
- **Examples:** Music conservatoires or sports academies.



Quick show of hands if you know you are already interested in this route:

OPTION 7:

Employment with training



7. Employment with Training

- **What:** Part-time work combined with part-time study toward qualifications.
- **Where:** Arranged with employers and training providers.
- **Requirement:** Must lead to a recognized qualification (e.g., an NVQ).



Quick show of hands if you know you are already interested in this route:



OPTION 8:

The armed forces



8. Armed Forces

- **What:** Training and education options within military roles.
- **Where:** Joining military colleges or enrolling in armed forces apprenticeships.
- **Who:** Students interested in a military career.

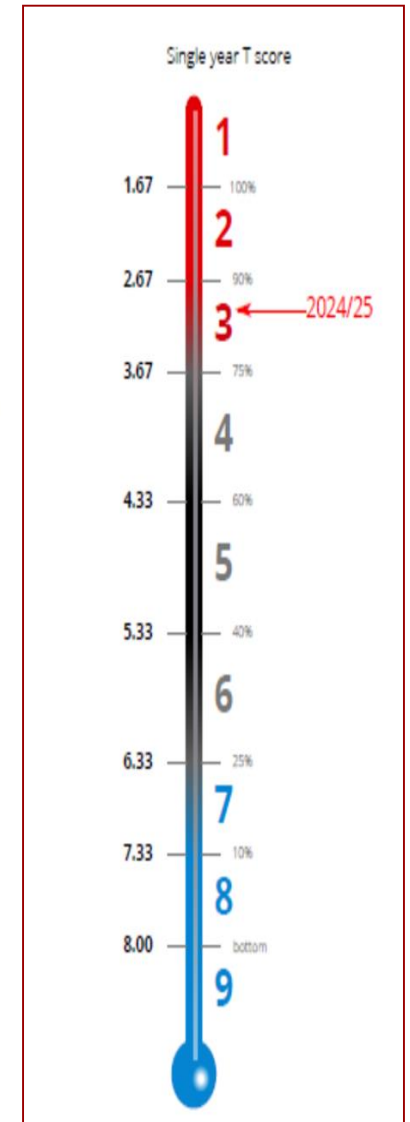


Quick show of hands if you know you are already interested in this route:

Why Choose EGS Sixth Form?



- EGS is in the top 20% of Schools Nationally for Sixth Form.
- 77% of Students achieved their first choice university.
- All Year 12 students are gifted a free Chromebook.
- UpLearn is provided for all STEM subjects.



Choosing your GCSE options and getting ready for KS4



Signposting support:

Useful helplines and charities:

[Young Minds](#). Child and adolescent mental health charity for teens struggling with any subject. Call: 0808 802 5544

[Teen Line | Teens Support hotline - Connect, talk, get help!](#) Teen Line's highly trained teen listeners provide support, resources and hope to any teen who is struggling.

<https://www.ucas.com/> For searching for colleges, universities, requirements, placements, research and much more advice.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> Provides careers information, advice and guidance. Helps you make decisions at all stages in your career.

<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/> Detailed university advice and guidance site.

