# A Levels

## Basic Information

* Advanced Level Qualification
* Academic route
* Requires at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above
* Typically study three or more subjects
* Duration of programme is two years
* Usual progression is university, but other options include internships, higher apprenticeships or direct to employment
* How to apply: visit [www.ps16.co.uk](http://www.ps16.co.uk/) for more information.

## Structure and Assessment

* Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
* AS and A levels will be assessed at the end of the course. AS assessments will typically take place after 1 year’s study and A levels after 2. The courses will no longer be divided into modules and there will be no exams in January.
* AS and A levels will be decoupled – this means that AS results will no longer count towards an A level, in the way they do now.

# Technical / Vocational / Applied

## Basic Information

* Practical learning with subject and theory content.
* Over 2000 courses covering 16 different industries.
* Three levels of study:
  + Technical certificate – equivalent to GCSE (usually pre-course to Tech Level)
  + Technical Level – equivalent to A Level so require at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above
  + Applied Qualification – for students who want to continue their education through applied learning. Equivalent to – or can be done alongside – A Levels.
* Progression options are apprenticeships, direct to employment or University (students need to check with the institution if they accept these qualifications).
* How to apply: visit [www.ps16.co.uk](http://www.ps16.co.uk/) for more information.

## Structure and Assessment

Technical qualifications can be taken alongside (or instead of) GCSEs and A Levels in schools and colleges. They are divided into units, which cover specific areas of knowledge, skills, and understanding required by the particular sector or industry.

* Core units, which provide a broad foundation and understanding about the sector.
* Optional units, which enable students to focus on next steps into further study, an apprenticeship, or employment.
* Mainly written and activity-based assignments but for some courses, students can also apply their knowledge and skills through work experience.

## T Levels

## Basic Information

* Technical Level Qualifications
* Vocational route
* Require at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above
* They are the technical equivalent to A Levels, students of both A Levels and T Levels exit with a Level 3 qualification
* Progression options are university, internships, higher apprenticeships or direct to employment
* Designed by employers, T Levels will provide students with the skills necessary for their chosen industry
* They require at least 315 hours or 45 days of industry placement across the two-year qualification
* For more information, visit: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/tlevels-guide/>.

## Structure and Assessment

Each T Level course is split into three key areas:

1. a technical qualification, which will include:
   * + core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area
     + specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career
2. an industry placement with an employer
3. a minimum standard in maths and English (if students have not already achieved them).

## Apprenticeships and Traineeships

## Basic Information

* A Traineeship is a one year route into apprenticeships. These are likely to increase in popularity as the government pushes to boost economic recovery and have people retrain into skilled positions.
* An apprenticeship is a job with training – students will get a wage and will get employment benefits such as holiday pay
* Students will also get time off the job to study, typically one day per week (80% industry/job based learning and 20% classroom learning) but can be taken as a 2-3 week block if it is more suitable
* How to apply: visit [www.ps16.co.uk](http://www.ps16.co.uk/) for more information
* There are different entry and exit levels depending on the apprenticeship:

## Structure and Assessment

1. **Support**

Every apprentice is provided with a workplace mentor who will monitor and support the student whilst they are in their workplace.

The apprentice will also have an assessor who will be in regular contact with the student to ensure the student has reached their set milestones and will also collate evidence of learning via discussions.

1. **Ongoing Assessments – via a Delivery Plan**

Each apprenticeship assessment will vary; the delivery plan is arranged with the employer, qualification and student in mind.

Milestones are set for the student to ensure they complete each component.

Consist of written reports, discussions with their assessors, and observations within the workplace.

These count towards the students 20% off the job training. Examples of off the job training include, reading articles surrounding their job role, shadowing a task or completing training.

1. **End point assessments (EPA)**

These are used as a way to show personal development and to reflect on the learning that has taken place.

They are completed a number of different ways either through online exams, interviews on understanding or through observations within the workplace.

This is done to ensure the student has a good level of occupational competency and are able to perform the role they work within.

Examples of EPA

Hairdressing apprentices are required to complete a 6 hour observation within a salon

Hospitality apprentices will need to complete a 4 hour observation within the catering industry.

Team Leading apprentices are required to complete their CPD.