



Lancaster &
Morecambe
College

Celebrating 200 Years of Learning

The Parents Guide to

T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION





T-LEVELS

What are T Levels?

T Levels are new, government-backed, career focused qualifications for 16 to 19 year olds. They are equivalent to **three A levels** and are also **backed by hundreds of British businesses**, who helped to design the courses.

T Levels are offered by many schools and colleges across England and offer your child an ideal first step into their future career. As of September 2022, there are **16 different T Levels** to choose from, with even more being made available from September 2023.

Each **two-year course** has been designed with employers from multiple sectors and combines **classroom study with a 45-day industry placement** to prepare your child for the **world of work**, or **further study** like a higher-level apprenticeship or university.

They are a **vocational alternative to A levels** (because they focus on industry) and include practical study as well as classroom learning. They differ from apprenticeships because the study and working time is reversed.

How are T Levels different to other post-16 options?

T Levels are one of the main choices for students after GCSE alongside:

- **Apprenticeships** for students who wish to learn a specific occupation 'on the job'
- **A levels** for students who wish to do academic education
- **Vocational courses** available in certain subject areas

Reforms to technical education aim to streamline the qualifications available, simplifying the landscape for students, parents, teachers and employers. T Levels aim to raise the prestige of technical education. These **high-quality qualifications** will ensure students have the skills and knowledge businesses are looking for in today's industry.

T Levels are part of a drive to strengthen the technical education system in England and give young people the knowledge and skills they need to gain good jobs. Many employers talk about a skills gap, meaning they can't get the technically trained people they need to fill key roles.

T Levels develop these technical skills by combining theoretical knowledge with practical application, working with employers to shape the courses and prepare young people for today's job market.

What subject choices are there?

At Lancaster & Morecambe College there are **five T Level subjects** available from **September 2024**, all relate directly to workplace careers.

The subjects are:

Engineering & Manufacturing - Maintenance, Installation and Repair - Mechanical
Design & Development for Engineering & Manufacturing
Management & Administration
Education & Early Years • Health
Animal Management

Career focused learning

Students spend **80% of their time at college and 20% of their time developing the skills** needed for the workplace on a 45-day industry placement (dependent upon occupational specialism pathway).

The industry placement is designed to help your child:

- find out more about the **career opportunities** open to them
- build **essential skills**, such as teamwork and communication, for their future employment
- put their skills and knowledge into practice in the **real world of work**, and build contacts with employers

This **understanding of the real world of work** is incredibly valuable. As well as helping your child to make more informed choices about their career pathway, they will gain experience that employers look for when it comes to hiring.

A T Level would be appropriate for a learner who would prefer a **practical approach to learning**, but still want to remain predominantly in the classroom and want to **work towards a skilled occupation**.

T Levels keep their options open

T Levels are a good option even if your child only has a rough idea of the career or field they're interested in. The study and industry placement aren't linked to a specific individual role or job. Instead your child will be given a **broad exposure to an industry** and the many different roles it offers.

Going straight into employment is one option after completing a T-level and your child will have a head start on the skills they'll need in the workplace.

Alternatively, they could start an apprenticeship or higher-level studies including university. One T-level is the equivalent of three A-levels, so has the **same UCAS points value** (the system that calculates university offers).

Are T Levels included in the UCAS Tariff?

Students who want to progress into Higher Education will be able to see how UCAS Tariff points are allocated to their T Level.

UCAS Tariff points	T Level overall grade	A Level
168	Distinction* (A* on the core and distinction in the occupational specialism)	AAA*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on the core)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on the core)	DDD

T Levels are recognised by universities, so your young person can progress onto higher level study should they wish. Universities and colleges have been provided with a range of information to help understand the skills developed as part of a T Level. It is important to check the course and university entry requirements if your young person has a specific university they would like to attend.

What is involved?

T Level courses consist of the following:

- An **approved technical qualification** specific to the chosen industry area, with compulsory elements and occupational specialisms
- An **industry placement** in their chosen industry area
- **English, maths and digital skills**

Students receive a nationally recognised overall grade and a breakdown of their achievements on the course. If they don't pass all elements of their T Level, they will receive a T Level statement of achievement outlining what has been completed.

T Levels are assessed through externally set exams, an employer set project and synoptic assessments. The core components are graded from E to A*. Occupational specialisms are awarded on a pass, merit or distinction basis. An overall T Level grade will be worked out from the grades they achieved on the core component and the occupational specialism. They will receive an overall grade of pass, merit, distinction or distinction*.

The certificate will also confirm that the student has completed the industry placement and met any additional mandatory requirements.

Advantages of taking T Levels

- They offer a **clear path to employment**, and are ideal for students who enjoy learning through practical experience and real-life situations.
- The industry placement provides **first-hand work experience** which is hugely beneficial to students, enabling them to get a feel for what it is like in the world of work. The placement can result in some students being offered jobs after they have completed their T Level and for those going on to Higher Education, their work experience will be impressive on their application.
- Businesses also really value **transferable skills, such as** communication and teamwork, because they are essential to running a business well.
- They are an **exciting new option** that provide a recognised qualification **tailored to industry skills** and needs. It's a great choice for students who want to learn practical skills relevant to certain jobs.

Qualifications needed to take T Levels

Individual courses need to be checked as there are specific entry requirements for each T Level subject.

Does your child need time to prepare?

T Levels give young people a great head start in the field they'd like to work in. Many will move to studying a T Level straight after their GCSEs. Other young people may benefit from more time to get ready to study a T level. **The Transition Programme** has been created for just this purpose.

Lasting a year, the T Level Transition Programme can give your child the relevant knowledge, practical and study skills they need to then begin the T Level course of their choosing.

This **T Level foundation year** is available at Lancaster & Morecambe College in the following subjects:

- **Education & Early Years**
- **Health**

Students will also have to study maths & English if they have not already achieved a grade 4 at GCSE.

For further information:

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