

Qualification Levels Explained

Level	Qualification Examples	Equivalent Level	Examples of Typical Roles Aligned to Qualification	Task Level Description
Entry	Entry Level Certificates, Functional Skills	Below GCSE	Entry-Level Assistant, Labourer	Supports basic tasks under supervision; ideal for those new to the workforce or with learning needs.
Level 1	GCSEs (grades 3–1/D–G), Traineeships	Foundation Level	Retail Assistant, Hospitality Assistant	Performs routine tasks, follows instructions, and supports team operations in customer-facing or manual roles.
Level 2	GCSEs (grades 9–4/A*–C), Intermediate Apprenticeship	5 GCSEs	Admin Assistant, Customer Service Advisor, Junior IT Support	Handles basic admin, customer queries, or technical support; expected to work independently on routine tasks.
Level 3	A Levels, T Levels, Advanced Apprenticeship, BTEC Nationals	2–3 A Levels	Engineering Technician, Healthcare Support Worker, Digital Marketing Assistant	Applies technical or vocational skills; contributes to team projects and may supervise junior staff.
Level 4	HNC, Level 4 Diploma, Higher Apprenticeship	1st year of degree	Assistant Project Manager, Software Tester, Site Supervisor	Manages small projects or teams; expected to solve problems, communicate effectively, and apply specialist knowledge.
Level 5	Foundation Degree, HND, Level 5 Diploma, Higher Apprenticeship	2nd year of degree	Operations Manager (Junior), HR Advisor, Network Engineer	Leads teams or functions; responsible for performance, compliance, and continuous improvement.
Level 6	Bachelor's Degree, Degree Apprenticeship	Full degree	Graduate Engineer, Business Analyst, Teacher	Takes ownership of complex tasks; expected to innovate, lead initiatives, and contribute to strategic goals.
Level 7	Master's Degree, Postgraduate Certificate, Level 7 Apprenticeship	Master's level	Senior Manager, Solicitor, Clinical Specialist	Leads departments or specialist areas; drives policy, strategy, and high-level decision-making.
Level 8	Doctorate (PhD, DPhil)	Doctoral level	Research Scientist, University Lecturer, Chief Data Scientist	Provides thought leadership; leads innovation, research, and high-impact strategic development.