



# LIFT

## Local Investment in Future Talent

**A rural skills and employability funding programme for  
Norfolk and North Suffolk**

## QUALIFICATION LEVELS

From [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) "[What Qualification Levels Mean](#)".

**Contact details: The LIFT Programme Delivery Team**  
**Economic Development & Strategy**  
**County Hall, Floor 4**  
**Martineau Lane**  
**Norwich**  
**Norfolk.**  
**NR1 2DH**

**Web:** [www.liftprogramme.co.uk](http://www.liftprogramme.co.uk)

**Email:** [lift@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:lift@norfolk.gov.uk)

**Tel:** **01603 222771**

# Qualification levels

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## 1. Overview

Most qualifications have a difficulty level. The higher the level, the more difficult the qualification is. Qualifications at the same level sometimes cover different amounts of the same subject.

**Example** AS levels and A levels are both level 3, but you study AS levels over 1 year and A levels over 2 years. So you learn more about the subject at A level.

## 2. England

There are 9 qualification levels.

### Entry level – Basic Skills

Each **entry level** qualification is available at three sub-levels - 1, 2 and 3. Entry level 3 is the most difficult.

Entry level qualifications are:

- entry level award
- entry level certificate (ELC)
- entry level diploma
- entry level English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)
- entry level essential skills
- entry level functional skills
- Skills for Life

### Level 1

Level 1 qualifications are:

- first certificate
- GCSE - grade D, E, F or G
- level 1 award
- level 1 certificate
- level 1 diploma
- level 1 ESOL
- level 1 essential skills
- level 1 functional skills
- level 1 national vocational qualification (NVQ)
- music grades 1, 2 and 3

## Level 2

Level 2 qualifications are:

- CSE - grade 1
- GCSE - grade A\*, A, B or C
- intermediate apprenticeship
- level 2 award
- level 2 certificate
- level 2 diploma
- level 2 ESOL
- level 2 essential skills
- level 2 functional skills
- level 2 national certificate
- level 2 national diploma
- level 2 NVQ
- music grades 4 and 5
- O level - grade A, B or C

## Level 3

Level 3 qualifications are:

- A level - grade A, B, C, D or E
- access to higher education diploma
- advanced apprenticeship
- applied general
- AS level
- international Baccalaureate diploma
- level 3 award
- level 3 certificate
- level 3 diploma
- level 3 ESOL
- level 3 national certificate
- level 3 national diploma
- level 3 NVQ
- music grades 6, 7 and 8
- tech level

## Level 4

Level 4 qualifications are:

- certificate of higher education (CertHE)
- higher apprenticeship
- higher national certificate (HNC)
- level 4 award
- level 4 certificate
- level 4 diploma
- level 4 NVQ

## **Level 5**

Level 5 qualifications are:

- diploma of higher education (DipHE)
- foundation degree
- higher national diploma (HND)
- level 5 award
- level 5 certificate
- level 5 diploma
- level 5 NVQ

## **Level 6**

Level 6 qualifications are:

- degree apprenticeship
- degree with honours - for example bachelor of the arts (BA) honours, bachelor of science (BSc) honours
- graduate certificate
- graduate diploma
- level 6 award
- level 6 certificate
- level 6 diploma
- level 6 NVQ
- ordinary degree without honours

## **Level 7**

Level 7 qualifications are:

- integrated master's degree, for example master of engineering (MEng)
- level 7 award
- level 7 certificate
- level 7 diploma
- level 7 NVQ
- master's degree, for example master of arts (MA), master of science (MSc)
- postgraduate certificate
- postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE)
- postgraduate diploma

## **Level 8**

Level 8 qualifications are:

- doctorate, for example doctor of philosophy (PhD or DPhil)
- level 8 award
- level 8 certificate
- level 8 diploma