

Regulated qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are in either the:

- Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

The table shows how the most common qualifications compare. The levels show how difficult a qualification is.

Level

RQF examples

FHEQ examples

Entry

- Entry level certificate
- Entry level Skills for Life
- Entry level award, certificate and diploma
- Entry level Functional Skills
- Entry level Foundation Learning

1

- GCSE (grades D-G)
- Key Skills level 1
- NVQ level 1
- Skills for Life level 1
- Foundation diploma
- BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 1
- Foundation Learning level 1
- Functional Skills level 1
- Cambridge National level 1

2

- GCSE (grades A*-C)

- Key Skills level 2
- NVQ level 2
- Skills for Life level 2
- Higher diploma
- BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 2
- Functional Skills level 2
- Cambridge National level 2
- Cambridge Technical level 2

3

- AS and A level
- Advanced Extension Award
- Cambridge International award
- International Baccalaureate
- Key Skills level 3
- NVQ level 3
- Advanced diploma
- Progression diploma
- BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 3
- BTEC National
- Cambridge Technical level 3

4

- Certificate of higher education
 - Key Skills level 4
 - NVQ level 4
 - BTEC Professional award, certificate and diploma level 4
-
- Certificate of higher education
 - HNC

5

- HND
- NVQ level 4
- Higher diploma
- BTEC Professional award, certificate and diploma level 5
- HNC

- HND

- Diploma of higher education
- Diploma of further education
- Foundation degree
- HND

6

- NVQ level 4
- BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 6
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate certificate
- Graduate diploma

7

- BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 7
- Fellowship and fellowship diploma
- Postgraduate certificate
- Postgraduate diploma
- NVQ level 5
- BTEC Advanced Professional award, certificate and diploma level 7
- Master's degree
- Postgraduate certificate
- Postgraduate diploma

8

- NVQs level 5
- Vocational qualifications level 8 Regulated qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are in either the:

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- NVQ level 4
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