

Qualifications Explained

A. Qualifications: what the different levels mean

A qualification shows employers, teachers and learners what you have learnt and what you can do as a result of that learning. There are a large number of qualifications available so they are grouped together into levels to show how they compare and what other qualifications they can lead to.

In the UK all qualifications fit into one of nine levels of the National Qualification Framework (NQF). This applies to qualifications taken through work or at school, college or university.

In the UK qualifications are grouped together according to their difficulty into one of nine levels, entry level to level 8. The levels are based on the standards of knowledge, skill and competence needed for each qualification. Qualifications at the same level can be very different in terms of content and the length of time they take to complete.

At New Bridge Academy, like most secondary schools, we offer qualifications from entry level to level 2.

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Level	Example of qualification	What they give you	What we offer at New Bridge Academy
Entry	Entry Level Certificate. BTEC entry level award, certificate or diploma. Functional Skills entry level.	Basic knowledge and skills. Ability to apply learning to everyday situations. Not geared towards specific occupations.	Entry Level Certificates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Maths • Science • PSHE BTEC entry level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Cooking Skills • Construction • Hair & Beauty • Child Development • Skills for Independence & Work Functional Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Maths
1	GCSEs grades D-G BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 1. Functional Skills level 1. Cambridge National level 1.	Basic knowledge and skills. Ability to apply learning with guidance or supervision. May be linked to specific occupations.	GCSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Maths • Science • Des. Tech. • Art • ICT • Music • Human Health and Physiology • Astronomy • Photography • Child Development BTEC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction skills • Home Cooking skills Functional Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Maths L1 Vocational quals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle Technology • Pers. Devpt. In Outdoor Industry • Exercise studies • Exercise, Health and Nutrition • P.S.H.E. • Performance skills • Horticulture • Small Animal Care
2	GCSEs grades A*-C BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 2. Functional Skills level 2.	Good knowledge and understanding of a subject. Ability to perform variety of tasks with some guidance or supervision. Appropriate for many job roles.	GCSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Maths • Science • Des. Tech. • Art • ICT • Music • Human Health and Physiology • Astronomy • Photography • Child Development BTEC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction skills • Home Cooking skills Functional Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Maths

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			L2 Vocational quals. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicle Technology• Pers. Devpt. In Outdoor Industry• Exercise studies• Exercise, Health and Nutrition• P.S.H.E.• Performance skills• Horticulture• Small Animal Care
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B. Grades: how the qualifications we offer are graded

The grading system for each qualification we offer is shown below, the arrows indicate progression from lowest to highest grade.

Entry Level Certificate	Entry level 1 Entry level 2 Entry level 3 ↓	
GCSE <i>A numerical system will replace the current letter system for English and maths in 2017 and all subjects in 2018. Grade 4 will be the equivalent of grade C.</i>	2016 G F E D C B A A* ↓	2017 (English & maths) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ↓
Functional Skills	Entry level 1 Entry level 2 Entry level 3 Level 1 Level 2 ↓	
BTEC	Entry level Award Entry level Certificate Entry level Diploma Level 1 Pass Level 2 Pass Level 2 Merit Level 2 Distinction ↓	