

# COURSE LEVELS FOR LEARNING AND SKILLS COURSES



Guidance on the entry levels for courses is given below. Please be aware that many of our programmes do not have entry requirements, so you don't always have to have qualifications or previous experience to join in. If you need any advice on whether the course is the right level for you, contact the centre where you are thinking of enrolling.

The table below can also help to guide you:

Experience or qualifications I have	What we would recommend
I have no qualifications or experience in this subject	Entry level and level one
I have some beginners experience or some entry level qualifications in the subject	Level one
I have some intermediate experience or some level one qualifications in the subject	Level two
I have some advanced experience or some level two qualifications in the subject	Level three

## Entry / level one

These courses will help you to prepare for a job or give you the foundation skills you will need to train at a higher level. They will be awards, certificates or diplomas. These programmes are ideal for school leavers, people with few qualifications or who are developing a new skill, people who have been unemployed and are retraining, and those looking for a new start.

Entry Level or level 1 courses are ideal if you are new to a subject. You can study any of our Entry Level and most level 1 programmes without previous qualifications or experience.

## Level two

You will be studying at an intermediate level and be working to get a better understanding of a job role or skill. Some courses will qualify you to start working in your chosen job or help you meet minimum national standards for you to work on an employer's premises. You may need a work placement for part of your course to help you practice skills in real work.

To start a level two programme, you'll likely have experience or some skills in the area already, for example you may have already completed a level one qualification in the same area. You might be coming straight from school or college and have GCSE passes.



DON'T WORRY

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## Level three

These courses combine practical and theory work at a higher level. You may need a work placement for part of your course: the responsibilities in the work placement will need to be more demanding than at level two. At level three you will be studying for certificates, diplomas, A Levels or the Access to Higher Education Diploma.

You'll likely have more than five GCSE passes at grade A to C (or equivalent) to go straight to level three or you will be progressing from the level two courses.

## GCSEs

GCSEs are usually studied over one year and can be challenging. They are a good step towards A Levels and university. You will need to complete an initial assessment to ensure you are ready for GCSE study. Completing your GCSEs is a great way to improve your CV. You may be doing them for the first time or you might be tackling subjects in areas you didn't get the grades you hoped for.

## A Levels and Access to Higher Education Diploma

A Levels can be studied over two years, if you prefer to tackle them in bite size chunks, in some subjects we offer the opportunity to study your first year as an AS Level, and then you can re-enrol for your second year of study as an A2 Level.

A Levels are a good way of getting into university. You'll likely have a level two or GCSE qualification (or equivalent) in the subject you wish to study. There are a few A Level programmes where you can enrol direct at level three without a prior qualification in the subject. You will need to complete an initial assessment to ensure you are ready for A Level study.

Access to Higher Education Diplomas are an alternative to A Levels as a way of getting into university. You can study full time in one year, or part time over two years. You'll likely have more than five GCSE passes at Grade A to C and have some knowledge in the Access to Higher Education modules you choose. You will need to complete an initial assessment to ensure you are ready for Access to Higher Education study.



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