

# Exploring Post-16 Options

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# What are the main options at 16 after GCSEs?

Post-16 options:

- Full-time education (e.g. at a School 6<sup>th</sup> form or College to study A Levels or Vocational Courses such as BTECs or T Levels)
- Apprenticeship or traineeship
- Part-time education or training - as well as being employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week

# A Levels (Level 3) at Grammar Schools/6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges – Questions

1. What does the letter 'A' in A Levels stand for?
2. How are A Levels assessed?
3. How are A Levels graded?
4. How many A Levels can you take at UGS or elsewhere?
5. Name the 4 new A Level subjects on offer at UGS and list 3 new A Levels elsewhere
6. How many hours of independent study per week is expected at A Level to achieve the top grades?

# A Levels (Level 3) at Grammar Schools/6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges – Answers

1. Advanced
2. Mainly exams
3. Pass grades are A\*-E (and a fail is a U)
4. Usually 3 however in exceptional cases 4 (and some 6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges may allow 3 plus an AS Level which is completed in Year 12 and worth 40% of an A Level, whereas at UGS you could do 3 plus an EPQ which is an Extended Project Qualification)
5. Economics, Politics, Psychology and Sociology at UGS, and Classical Civilisations, Dance and Media Studies (and many more) elsewhere
6. Approximately 4 hours minimum per subject outside of lesson time

# Vocational Courses (BTECS Level 3) at 6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges – Questions

1. What do the letters in BTEC stand for?
2. How is a BTEC assessed?
3. How are BTECs graded?
4. How many BTECs can you take at a 6<sup>th</sup> Form or College (as not offered in Grammar Schools)?
5. Name 3 BTEC courses on offer
6. Can you combine a BTEC with A levels?

# Vocational Courses (BTECS Level 3) at 6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges – Answers

1. Business and Technology Education Council
2. Some BTECs are assessed completely through assignments/coursework, whereas newer BTECs are assessed through a combination of assignments/coursework and set tasks, performances or tests
3. Pass grades are Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit and Pass (and a fail is a U)
4. Often students take 1 (worth 3 A levels if a BTEC Level 3) however you can take a BTEC Level 3 course worth 1, 2 or 3 A levels
5. Engineering, Health & Social Care and Sport (and many more)
6. Yes (at some 6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges)

# Vocational Courses (T Levels Level 3) at 6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges – Questions

1. What does the letter 'T' in T Levels stand for?
2. How are T Levels assessed and graded?
3. What standards will T Levels be based on?
4. How many T Levels can you take at a 6<sup>th</sup> Form or College (as not offered in Grammar Schools)?
5. How many new T Levels will be on offer starting in September 2020?
6. How many additional new T Levels will be on offer from September 2021 and at how many local colleges?

# Vocational Courses (T Levels Level 3) at 6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges – Answers

1. Technical
2. An overall grade for the T Level shown as Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit and Pass, a separate grade for the core component shown as A\*-E, a separate grade for each occupational specialism shown as Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit and Pass, and confirmation of completing the 315 hour minimum (approximately 45 days) industry placement, meeting the minimum requirements for Maths and English and meeting any additional mandatory requirements
3. The same as apprenticeships, designed by employers and approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education



# Vocational Courses (T Levels Level 3) at 6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges – Answers

4. 1 subject area only

5. 3

(Design, surveying and planning for construction, Digital production, design and development, and Education and childcare)

6. 7 at 5 local colleges in Trafford, Salford and Manchester (with another 8 starting in 2022 and 7 starting in 2023)

(Building services engineering for construction, Digital business services, Digital support and services, Health, Healthcare science, Onsite construction, and Science)

# Vocational Courses (Others) at 6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges

Vocational courses include:

- Vocational A Levels
- UAL (University of the Arts London)
- Diploma
- C&G (City & Guilds)
- IMI (Institute of the Motor Industry)
- NVQ (National Vocational Qualification)

# Apprenticeships & Traineeships – Questions

1. What is an apprenticeship?
2. What levels of apprenticeships are there for 16 year olds?
3. How much do you get paid?
4. How long do apprenticeships last?
5. How many apprenticeships job roles are there?
6. What is a traineeship?

# Apprenticeships & Traineeships – Answers

1. An apprenticeship gives you hands-on experience, the opportunity to gain qualifications while you work, and a salary,
2. Advanced apprenticeships at Level 3 (equivalent to 2 A Levels, requires 5x4 including English Language and Maths at GCSE as a minimum), and Intermediate apprenticeships at Level 2 (equivalent to 5 GCSEs)
3. The national minimum wage for apprentices aged under 19 is £4.15 per hour (since April 2020), however many employers pay much more than this (and you can also apply for the NUS Apprentice Extra Card, accessing student discounts including on shopping, food, cinema, travel)

# Apprenticeships & Traineeships – Answers

4. Apprenticeships take 1-6 years to complete, depending on which one you choose, what level it's at, and your previous experience
5. There are over 1,500 apprenticeship job roles in a wide range of industries and sectors
6. A traineeship is a course that includes a work placement lasting from 6 weeks up to 6 months and can get you ready for an apprenticeship or a job

# University/UGS/6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges – Questions

1. If you want to go to university, do you have to take A Levels?
2. What are the entry requirements to study A Levels at UGS and Level 3 courses at 6<sup>th</sup> Forms and Colleges?
3. What should you do if you want to apply to UGS but are predicted on or below the entry requirements?
4. What are the best ways to find out about courses at UGS, 6<sup>th</sup> Forms and Colleges, and Apprenticeships?
5. When do open evenings take place at UGS, 6<sup>th</sup> Forms and Colleges?
6. When do you need to apply to UGS, 6<sup>th</sup> Forms, Colleges and Apprenticeships?

# University/UGS/6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges – Answers

1. No – you can progress from vocational qualifications including BTECs, T Levels and UAL
2. Entry requirements for UGS are 2x7 & 3x6 (including 2x5 in English & Maths) at GCSE and certain A level subjects may require a 6 or above at GCSE, whereas Level 3 courses at 6<sup>th</sup> Forms and Colleges may ask for lower or higher grades than UGS but all will require a minimum of 5x4 (including English and Maths) at GCSE
3. Don't just apply to UGS - apply to a 6<sup>th</sup> Form/College too as a back-up plan

# University/UGS/6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges – Answers

4. Look at information online including prospectus guides, attend open days (virtually if necessary), speak to people and get advice from others
5. Usually open evenings at 6<sup>th</sup> Forms/Colleges start from September of Year 11 onwards until January - UGS usually hold their open evening in November
6. Usually applications take place from October of Year 11 onwards - competitive options will be completed earlier but most applications will be completed by December or January and apprenticeship applications will be ongoing throughout the year as opportunities arise



# Next Steps

- Do research into your post-16 options before Year 11 starts to be better prepared for making your future choices
- Look at the 'Year 11 Open Days 6<sup>th</sup> Form & Colleges 2019-20' handout (word doc) which was given to the current Year 11s in September 2019
- Look at the 'Year 10 Post-16 Options June 2020' handout (word doc)
- Contact Amy (Careers Adviser) if you have any questions 😊:  
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