

Review of Qualifications at Level 3 and below

Ten principles for discussion

1. Any change should be in the interests of students, society and the economy and lead to a better offer. The change process should build consensus, be carefully paced and ensure that the sector has the necessary capacity.
2. All qualifications should have a clear purpose, focus on progression with clear lines of sight to employment and/or further study, be of appropriate size and use appropriate assessment methods.
3. The success of a qualification should be judged in terms of improvement in the progression opportunities, skills, knowledge and confidence of students who achieve it.
4. Qualifications should only be withdrawn when a clear replacement is available which is demonstrably more effective in preparing for progression, meeting industry needs and promoting success, inclusion and social mobility.
5. The Level 3 offer should be designed to meet the needs of the full range of learners at this level, whether young people or adults, full time or part time and on academic, technical or apprenticeship routes.
6. The technical route should include other qualifications as well as T Levels, e.g. in non-T Level areas such as Sport, Public Service, Performing Arts, Travel and Tourism and be open to students of all ages.
7. Where T Levels are established in a sector or occupation, they should aim to be the full-time technical route of choice for that sector.
8. The technical route, like the academic route, should allow for shorter qualifications which can be combined or offered with other qualifications and whose content could overlap with T Levels.
9. The transition phase should include high quality technical qualifications at Level 2 and below to help prepare students for progression and/or employment.
10. High quality Personal and Social Development qualifications should be available for students at all levels and there should be a funded entitlement to a strong common core of Personal and Social Development for all 16 to 18-year-olds.