

New Vocational Qualifications at a glance

August 2026



Foundation Certificates (Level 2), Occupational Certificates (Level 2), V Levels (Level 3)

Occupational Certificates

540–720 GLH (two-year)

- Aimed at students who want to progress into employment or an apprenticeship.
- Part of an 'Occupational' pathway including employability skills, resilience, confidence, enrichment and English & Maths resists where applicable.
- Content split between core content, providing a sector overview, and occupation-specific content, covering mandated occupational skills. Core content set nationally by the DfE.

Foundation Certificates

240–300 GLH

- Applied qualifications aimed at students wanting to progress to Level 3 study.
- Content aligned to Level 3 options to support progression and set nationally by the DfE.

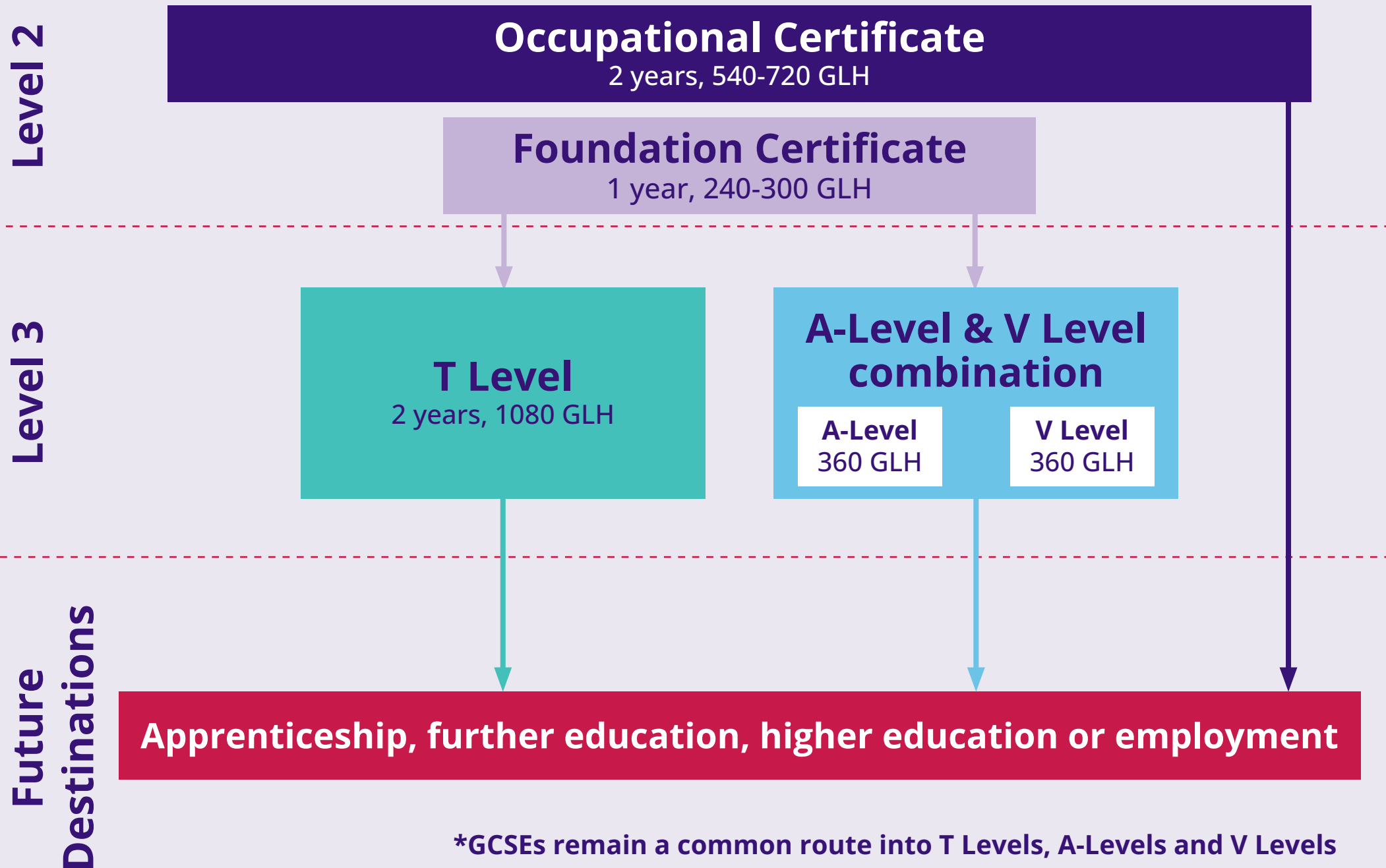
V Levels

360 GLH (taken alongside other V Levels and A-levels)

- Support progression to higher education, higher technical training or apprenticeships.
- Typically taken in combination with other V Levels and A-Levels.
- Blend applied learning with practical assessment.
- Subject content will be set nationally by the DfE.



Post-16 pathways



Qualifications and Pathways starting from September 2027

(Tranche 1)

V Level (Level 3)

- Accounting & Finance
- Digital Systems & Data
- Education

Foundation Certificate (Level 2)

- Digital Systems and Data
- Education & Early Years

Occupational Certificate (Level 2)

Catering & Hospitality:

- Culinary Skills
- Hospitality.

Early Years Practitioner



Qualifications and Pathways starting from September 2028

(Tranche 2)

V Level (Level 3)

- Applied Research & Technology
- Construction Design
- Engineering Design
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Health
- Healthcare & Clinical Technologies
- Legal Services
- Leisure, Exercise & Sports
- Management, Procurement & Supply Chains
- Marketing & Retail
- Social Care

Foundation Certificate (Level 2)

- Business, Administration & Law
- Construction & the Built Environment
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Health & Care Services
- Science
- Sport, Fitness & Exercise Science

Occupational Certificate (Level 2)

Business & Finance Administration:

- Accounts & Finance Assistant
- Assistant administrator
- Digital administration.

Health & Care Services:

- Adult care worker
- Healthcare support worker.

Construction (On-site):

- Bricklayer
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Stonemasonry.

Construction (Finishing trades):

- Domestic Plumber
- Floor Layer
- Painter & Decorator
- Plasterer
- Wall & Floor Tiler.

Engineering & Manufacturing:

- Autocare Technician
- Engineering Operative
- Furniture Maker
- Welder.

Healthcare & Science:

- Healthcare Science Assistant
- Pharmacy Services Assistant.

Sports & Leisure:

- Community Sport & Leisure Operations.



Qualifications and Pathways starting from September 2029

(Tranche 3)

V Level (Level 3)

Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care:

- Agriculture & Land Management
- Animal Care & Management
- Protective Services.

Foundation Certificate (Level 2)

- Agriculture, Land Management & Animal Care
- Hair, Beauty & Aesthetics
- Hospitality & Catering
- Protective Services

Occupational Certificate (Level 2)

Agriculture, Environmental & Animal Care:

- Animal Care
- Dog Groomer
- Equine Groom
- General Farm Worker
- Land-based Service Engineer.

Hair & Beauty:

- Barbering Professional
- Beauty Therapist
- Hairdressing
- Nail Services Technician.

Horticulture & Floristry:

- Floristry
- Forestry & Arboriculture
- Horticulture or Landscape Construction Operative
- Land-based Service Engineer.



Qualifications and Pathways starting from September 2030

(Tranche 4)

V Level (Level 3)

- Art & Performing Arts
- Creative Media & Design
- Travel & Tourism

Foundation Certificate (Level 2)

- Creative Media & Design
- Performing Arts
- Travel & Tourism

Occupational Certificate (Level 2)

Creative & Design:

- CAD Technician
(2D Design).

