

Options at post-16

How to avoid understandable confusion

GCSE Grading System

How the new grades compare with the old ones

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

Source: Ofqual

BBC



Level 3 courses – A Levels

- Academic qualifications – understood and accepted by employers and universities
- Two year courses they have been “decoupled” from AS qualifications
- These courses are not modular – examinations are at the end of year 13
- The content of A Levels may have changed making some subjects more rigorous
- Coursework has been scrapped or reduced significantly.

Level 3 courses – A Levels

- For most subjects at A Level you will need at least a five in that subject at GCSE or a similar subject
- For some subjects (maths, sciences, computer science and some other ‘facilitating subjects’) you will need a 6 in that subject at GCSE
- The requirements of A level are considerably higher than GCSE
- Students take three courses
- Some A Levels are necessary for progression to some degrees or training, students will be advised of this on interview

Vocational courses (BTEC/CTEC)

- BTEC and CTEC courses are equivalent to one A Level (sometimes 2 at FE/Sixth Form College)
- They are vocational courses related to an occupational area (ie health and social care, public services)
- They are significantly more coursework based although all courses also have an exam
- You will need 5x 4s or better at GCSE
- You can combine vocational and A level courses, to make three in total

Level 2 Courses/Access to Level 3

- For those students who will achieve mainly 3s at GCSE
- An opportunity to progress to level 3 courses

ROUTE 1	ROUTE 2
OCR LEVEL 2 CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OR OCR LEVEL 2 CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE + BTEC LEVEL 2 TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND RE-TAKE IN ENGLISH/MATHS IF GRADE 4 NOT ACHIEVED	OCR LEVEL 2 CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN IT + BTEC LEVEL 2 TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND RE-TAKE IN ENGLISH/MATHS IF GRADE 4 NOT ACHIEVED

Apprenticeships

- **Apprenticeships are about working for an employer and earning as you learn. You get hands-on training in the workplace.**
- You study part time for an NVQ, BTEC or both, with training at a local college or specialist training provider. At a higher level you can also study for a degree whilst doing an apprenticeship.
- There are two types of apprenticeship that you can apply for at 16, depending on your GCSE grades:
 - **Intermediate = Level 2 (5 x GCSEs)**
 - **Advanced = Level 3 (2 x A-Levels)**

At 16 almost all apprenticeships are intermediate



SBL Sixth Form

- Small classes
- Personal tutor and Head Of Post-16
- Wide variety of courses for all abilities by being part of the Wellsway Multi Academy Trust
- Excellent transition to employment and university
- Good results
- Familiarity



Further Education College

- A wide variety of vocational courses that are unavailable in schools (beauty, plastering, mechanics etc.)
- Much larger institutions with a wide variety of different students
- City of Bath College, City of Bristol College, SGS College.
- Offer both level 2 and level 3 courses



Other A Level Providers

- Other local centres offer both A levels and vocational courses
- Variable in terms of overall size and class size
- Results published in the same way as GCSE results
- Student experience can be different from smaller schools (such as SBL)
- The breadth of curriculum on offer also varies considerably

Open events

- Open evenings happen in October and November
- SBL post-16 information evening 11th October 6PM

After this evening

- Attend information events
- Consider the type of course to apply for
- Consider where to apply (find out about results, pastoral support and the breadth of curriculum)
- Apply (usually before the end of term 2)