T-Levels - Education Reform

Emma Schofield – Business Engagement Lead
Introduction
What Is A T Level?

T Levels are the new national technical qualifications. As part of the national skills plan, 16+ education will have technical and academic pathways. The technical path will consist of T levels or apprenticeships. A Levels form the academic pathway.

T Levels are new courses coming in September 2020 in some areas, which will follow on GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.

T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and ‘on-the-job’ experience during an industry placement. They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.
Vocational areas - T-levels will be delivered

2020
● Education
● Design, surveying and planning
● Digital production, design and development

2021
● Digital business services
● Digital support and services
● Building services engineering
● Health
● Healthcare science
● Onsite construction
● Science

2022
● Accountancy
● Design and development
● Financial
● Human resources
● Legal
● Maintenance, installation and repair
● Management and administration
● Manufacturing, processing and control

2023
● Media, broadcast and production
● Hair, beauty and aesthetics
● Agriculture, land management and production
● Animal care and management
● Catering
● Craft and design
● Cultural heritage and visitor attractions
Why do we need T-Levels?

Within the post-16 market, there are over 13,000 vocational, technical and academic courses available.

The independent review of technical education conducted by a panel led by Lord Sainsbury in 2016 outlined the ways in which we can simplify and improve the choices available to young people. The Government chose to adopt these recommendations in full, through publication of the Skills Plan in 2017.

Reforming technical education will help meet the needs of our growing and rapidly changing economy, by raising the prestige of technical education so that it is sought-after by students, and so that employers recognise and value the skills and experience that it provides.

Together, T Levels and apprenticeships will provide a reformed, comprehensive and high-quality technical option.
T-Level courses will include the following compulsory elements:

- A technical qualification, which will include
  - core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area
  - specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career

  Technical Qualification (TQ) is the main, classroom-based element. This is where students learn about their chosen sectors through a curriculum designed by employers.

- An industry placement with an employer

  The Industry Placement runs for a minimum of 45 days overall and will give students practical insights into their sector and an opportunity to embed the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

- A minimum standard in maths and English if students have not already achieved them

  English, maths & digital provision is also built into the classroom-based element of the T Level, meaning students will be given a solid foundation of transferable skills. By the end of the programme, students will need to have achieved L2 English and Maths (Grade 4).

  T Levels will become one of three major options for students to study at level 3, alongside apprenticeships for those who wish to study and train for a specific occupation 'on the job', and A levels for students who wish to continue academic education.
**T Level programme**

1800 hours over two years (with flexibility)
Subject content is set by T Level panels and approved/managed by the Institute for Apprenticeships

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**Technical Qualification (TQ)**

### Core
20% - 50% of the total TQ time
- Knowledge and understanding of the concepts, theories and principles relevant to the T Level and the broader route
- Core skills relevant to the T Level
- Assessed through an external examination and a substantial, employer-set project

### Occupational specialisms (min. 1 per TQ)
50% - 80% of the total TQ time
- Knowledge, skills and behaviours required to achieve threshold competence in an occupational specialism
- Maths, English and digital skills integrated where they are necessary to achieve threshold competence
- Assessed synoptically through rigorous practical assignments.

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**T Level Industry Placement**
Between 315-420 hours
- Undertaken with an external employer
- Minimum of 45 days
- Students develop technical skills and apply their knowledge in a workplace environment
- Provider should pay for/contribute to travel and subsistence costs, if not covered by the employer
- Employers not expected to pay students

**Maths and English requirements**
- Students are expected to achieve a level 2 in maths and English. This can be achieved through GCSEs (grade 4 and above) or level 2 Functional Skills (pass)
- T Level panels are free to set higher maths and English requirements, where necessary

**Other requirements set by T Level panels**
- Occupation-specific requirements included, where possible, if they are essential for skilled employment e.g. licence to practice qualification or professional registration

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** Employability, enrichment and pastoral requirements**
About The Industry Placement

★ High quality work placement
★ Average 350 hours (315 minimum) equates to about 50 days
★ Mandatory Placement descriptions
★ Mandatory Industry agreement signed by all 3 parties (provider, student, employer)
★ Mandatory Mid and end point reviews/assessments
★ Mandatory Qualification specific outcomes to be achieved
★ Different models of placement available
★ Selection methods available for employers
★ A single industry placement can be split across 2 employers if needed
★ Placements can be unpaid
★ Employer support packages are becoming available (if pilot proves successful)
What Students have to say about industry placement

“In the hospitality industry you face new challenges every day. Learning to manage them has improved my customer service skills and grown my industry knowledge.” Oliver Barry at The Marriott Hotel

“My placement helped me to understand the everyday demands of wedding planning and to explore it from a business perspective.” Imogen Pickles AT Luxe by Minihaha (Events Planning)

“An industry placement is a very valuable experience for students. Seeing a workplace for real gives you a different perspective and a feel for what it’s like to work in a particular environment.” Alfie Connor at Corroserve

“By giving me tasks and responsibilities, my placement supervisor makes me feel I’m a trusted team member, which really boosts my confidence.” Leoni Ryder at Domi Domingo Day Nursery
Grading and certification

Students who complete their T Level will receive an overall grade of pass, merit, distinction or distinction*. They will get a nationally recognised certificate which will show their overall grade and a breakdown of what they have achieved.

The T Level certificate will include:
- an overall grade for the T Level, shown as pass, merit, distinction or distinction*
- a separate grade for the core component, using A* to E
- a separate grade for each occupational specialism, shown as pass, merit or distinction

It will also include confirmation that the student has:
- met the minimum requirements for maths and English qualifications
- completed the industry placement
- met any additional mandatory requirements

A student’s overall T Level grade will be worked out from the grades they achieved on the core component and the occupational specialism(s).

Students who do not pass all elements of their T Level will get a T Level statement of achievement which will show the elements they have completed.
UCAS Tariff points

T Levels will provide several progression options to students. These include skilled employment, an apprenticeship and higher education. To help T Level students get into higher education, UCAS tariff points will be allocated to T Levels. UCAS points will only be allocated to the overall T Level grade. Students must achieve at least an overall pass grade to receive UCAS points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UCAS tariff points</th>
<th>T Level overall grade</th>
<th>A level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>168</td>
<td>Distinction* (A* on the core and distinction in the occupational specialism)</td>
<td>AAA*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>AAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Merit</td>
<td>BBB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Pass (C or above on the core)</td>
<td>CCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Pass (D or E on the core)</td>
<td>DDD</td>
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</tbody>
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Helen Thorne, UCAS’ Director of External Relations, said: “Universities and colleges make their own admissions decisions and accept a broad range of qualifications for entry to higher education, including vocational and technical qualifications.

“As with all qualifications awarded UCAS tariff points, T levels have been assessed based on their size and grade. Our information and advice for students, their teachers and universities is being updated to help them understand more about the new T Levels and the opportunities they can offer.

“It’s important to remember that not all universities use tariff points in their entry requirements and offers, so we encourage students to check the UCAS website and with universities directly about the qualifications they accept.”
In Preparation For T-Levels…

★ Through some additional funding (CDF), Colleges nationwide are piloting the industry placement element of T-Levels.
CDF is now in its third year of delivery. CDF is to facilitate the build-up of capacity and capability to deliver substantial industry placements and deliver such placements. It is recognised that the delivery of significant numbers of industry placements as part of T Levels is a significant step change for the sector. This is why this funding has been provided now to help build capacity ahead of the roll out of T Levels, from 2020, which industry placements will be a compulsory part of.

★ Nationwide training investment - upskilling teaching staff and management
To ensure that T Levels deliver great outcomes for learners, we are committed to ensuring that teachers and leaders have the support they need to deliver them well. The new T Level Professional Development (TLPD) offer, led by the Education and Training Foundation (ETF) has been available since May this year at no charge to providers planning to deliver T Levels from 2020 and in the future.

★ Selected colleges are piloting transition years in 2020
Transition years will be year long study programmes designed and aimed at students who are not quite ready to embark on a T-level qualification. The transition years are being piloted at selected colleges nationwide from 2020.

★ Selected colleges are piloting the employer support packages and Employer Support Fund
From the feedback received so far from employers to packages are being developed to support the businesses to take on industry placements. Employer support fund will be support financially. Employer support packages will be training for managing students on placements, training could be 121, mentoring, workshops etc.

★ Communications and marketing
The NexT Level campaign launched on 7 October. It will ensure young people have the information they need to apply for the first of the pioneering T Levels starting September 2020. The campaign will feature across social media, on-demand television, posters and other digital platforms. There is also a new website.

★ Capital funding
DfE launched a capital fund of £38 million that was open until Wednesday 17 April 2019 to bids from eligible providers delivering the first 3 T levels in 2020. This will support them to make the investments needed in facilities and equipment, ready to deliver high quality, industry relevant programmes from September 2020.
Leeds City College Roll Out

LCC will have these T-Level qualifications from 2021:

**DIGITAL ROUTE**
★ Digital production design and development (T Level)
★ Digital support and services (T Level)
★ Digital business services (T Level)

**EDUCATION ROUTE**
★ Education (T Level)

**SCIENCE ROUTE**
★ Health (T Level)
★ Healthcare science (T Level)
★ Science (T Level)
Recap
Question 1

*Maximum UCAS points from T-levels is:*
Question 2

*T-levels contain an industry placement, how long is the industry placement as a minimum?*
Any questions??
Useful Links and Further Reading

★ https://www.aoc.co.uk/teaching-and-learning/t-level/industry-placements-guidance-resources
★ https://www.fenews.co.uk/fevoices/224-podcasts/17745-jennifer-coupland-on-t-levels-and-industry-placements
★ https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/t-levels/outline-content/
★ https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/