

## Prior attainment levels table

The information shown in the table below provides a guide to the overall attainment level of learners that have achieved various combinations of qualifications. The levels shown do not necessarily coincide with the level at which individual qualifications are set. For example, GCSEs are at level 1/2, but the level of attainment achieved by a learner is dependent on the grade they achieve. Where a learner attains a grade D-G this would be considered a level 1.

Whether a learner's prior attainment is a full level 2 or full level 3 will depend on whether the qualification was defined as a full level 2 or full level 3 when the learner started to study it. This is because the qualifications that have been defined as full level 2 and full level 3 have changed over time. The qualifications listed in the table below are examples of qualifications which may have been full in the past.

The guidance has been updated to reflect the introduction of the Regulated Qualification Framework RQF from the 1 October 2015 and the decoupling of AS Levels from A Levels from September 2015.

<b>Prior attainment level descriptors</b>	<b>Qualification equivalent (incorporating NQF and QCF and RQF)</b>
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Entry level	QCF qualifications at Entry level Certificate in Adult Literacy, Numeracy, ESOL at Entry level RQF qualifications at Entry Level English and Maths qualifications at Entry Level such as Functional Skills Essential Digital Skills qualification
Level 1	GCSE/O Level (at grades D-G or fewer than 5 at grades A-C) CSE grade 2 and 3 1 AS Level (for AS qualifications regulated before 1 September 2015) QCF qualifications at Level 1 Foundation 14-19 Diploma Functional Skills Certificate in Adult Literacy, Numeracy, ESOL at Level 1 Level 1 Key Skills Level 1 Principal Learning Introductory Diploma Introductory Certificate GNVQ Foundation NVQ Level 1 RQF qualifications at Level 1 Technical Awards in the Key Stage 4 Performance Tables Essential Digital Skills qualifications

<b>Prior attainment level descriptors</b>	<b>Qualification equivalent (incorporating NQF and QCF and RQF)</b>
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Full level 2	<p>GCSE/O Level (5 or more GCSEs grades A*-C)            GCSE (9-1) (5 or more GCSEs grade 4 or above)            2 or 3 AS Levels (for AS qualifications regulated before 1 September 2015)            CSE Grade 1 (5 or more)            1 A Level            Higher 14-19 Diploma            QCF Diploma level 2            QCF Certificate level 2 at 13 or 14 credits undertaken before 2014 to 2015            Level 2 Principal Learning            NVQ level 2            GNVQ Intermediate            Technical Certificates in the 16-19 Performance Tables            QCF Certificate level 2 at 15 credits and above            From 1 August 2015 vocational qualifications of 150 GLH or more. These are on the level 2 and level 3 legal entitlement qualification list.</p>
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Full level 3	<p>A Levels (2 or more advanced level passes)            4 or more AS Levels (for AS qualifications regulated before 1 September 2015)            QCF Diploma Level 3            QAA Access to HE            Advanced 14-19 Diploma            GNVQ Advanced            NVQ level 3            AVCE double award            Tech Levels which are in the 16-19 Performance Tables            Applied Generals which are in the 16-19 Performance Tables (from 1 August 2015)            QCF Certificate at Level 3 which is 30 to 36 credits            From 1 August 2015 vocational qualifications of 300 GLH or more.            These are on the level 2 and level 3 legal entitlement qualification list.</p>
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<b>Prior attainment level descriptors</b>	<b>Current Ofqual Regulated Framework (RQF)</b>	<b>Framework for Higher Education Qualifications</b>
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Level 4	<p>QCF Award Level 4            QCF Certificate Level 4            QCF Diploma Level 4</p>	Certificates of higher education
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<b>Prior attainment level descriptors</b>	<b>Current Ofqual Regulated Framework (RQF)</b>	<b>Framework for Higher Education Qualifications</b>
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	HNC RQF qualifications Level 4	
Level 5	QCF Award Level 5 QCF Certificate Level 5 QCF Diploma Level 5 HND RQF qualifications Level 5	Foundation degrees
Level 6	QCF Award Level 6 QCF Certificate Level 6 QCF Diploma Level 6 RQF qualifications Level 6	Bachelor's degrees, graduate certificates and diplomas
Level 7+	QCF Award Level 7 QCF Certificate Level 7 QCF Diploma Level 7 RQF qualifications Level 7	Doctorates
	QCF Award Level 8 QCF Certificate Level 8 QCF Diploma Level 8 RQF qualifications Level 8	Masters degrees, postgraduate certificates and diplomas

*ESFA 20/21 ILR Specification (previously appendix G)*