

## Understanding the DfE Examination of Level 3 Post-16 Qualifications in England

The Government, led by the Department for Education (DfE), is simplifying post-16 education to better match qualifications with future job needs. This impacts awarding bodies like Skills and Education Group Awards and BIIAB, providing clearer paths and avoiding overlaps with A Level, T Level, and Apprenticeships.

### What you need to know

In recent years, the Department for Education (DfE) collaborated with industry stakeholders to assess the qualifications landscape. The findings revealed an overwhelming number of options, causing confusion for students in making informed study choices and understanding future employment pathways. Employers also faced challenges as not all post-16 qualifications aligned with job outcomes, leading to skill gaps in certain areas.

### Reform objectives

To address these issues, the proposed reforms aim to streamline the qualifications system, introducing a new set of academic and technical qualifications. The goal is to ensure quality assurance, simplify choices for students, and align qualifications with job outcomes, avoiding overlaps with A Level, T Level, and Apprenticeship provisions.

### Cycles

Qualifications will be released in cycles by sector area. In cycle one, only occupational entry and additional specialist categories have been considered for funding. Subsequent cycles will include all categories.

### Timelines

The reforms will be implemented in phases, from 2024/25 through to 2027/28.

2024/25 and 2025/26: Qualifications will be removed for funding where they overlap with T Levels in

2025/26 Cycle 1: New qualifications will be developed for cycle 1

2026/7 and 2027/28: New qualifications will be developed for cycle 2

Funding eligibility will be removed for existing qualifications where they have not been redeveloped in line with new criteria.

### Find out more about the reforms

Our commitment is to guide you and learners through this positive transformation. We are actively managing these changes, ensuring a smooth transition for customers.

Stay tuned for a webinar designed for our customers, where we'll share essential information and keep you updated on the latest developments.

Submit the form below to register your interest in the webinar and get updates about the reforms [here](#).