Questions and Answers

Webinar: Post 16 Offer and your 2019 Curriculum

February 2019

In the webinar you explained that vocational qualifications are going through another review at the moment. What does this mean and when will we know the outcome of this?

The Education Secretary Damien Hinds confirmed in his latest speech on technical education that the DfE are proceeding with the review of Level 3 and Level 2 qualifications. They will also be reviewing 14-16 non-GCSE qualifications at Level 2.

Below is an extract from Damien Hinds speech.
"Right now, we have a training market that is driven by the choices colleges and other training providers make… For the people putting on the training there is good reason to go for cheap, popular courses that are easier to put on, easier to pass. As we roll T Levels out, we're also reviewing the qualifications currently on offer…we don't simply want to add 25 to the 10,000 plus that already exist…
There are going to be some tough decisions ahead as we think carefully about what we take away from the system as well as what we add – we'll consult before deciding on the nature of qualifications needed. But I think we'd all agree - better to see young people with a smaller number of high-quality choices rather than a plethora of often mediocre ones".

On a presentation slide it said there will only be three options available to learners. Can you clarify what these are?

The DfE are stating that learners will have three options available to them at the age of sixteen. The options are A Levels, T Levels and apprenticeships. The future of Applied Generals remains uncertain as they are being reviewed separately.

If funding is still likely to continue for other qualifications, why would colleges want to change to other qualifications until they have to?

The model the government is introducing for all qualifications seems to follow the same format i.e. syllabus led teaching of the curriculum with synoptic assessment and an end tested component. This is in response to driving up the standards of technical education to have parity of esteem to academic qualifications. It's important to have the information to help prepare for these changes gradually. The DfE have already confirmed that Technical Qualifications will be included in the 2022 performance tables, providing much needed stability for curriculum planning. By this time the majority of T Levels will have been rolled out.
Even now only qualifications which meet all of the headline measures are included in the performance tables. By having this information centres will have time to plan and prepare for these changes at Level 2, so learners can move easily onto a higher level.

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Are Technical qualifications the same qualifications as T Levels only T Levels take two years to complete not one?

They are not the same qualifications as the T Levels panels will decide the content of a T level. However, the assessment model of City & Guilds Technical Qualifications provides a seamless transition for the new T Levels in the way they are assessed and marked. For example, there are industry relevant tasks covering the occupational area that are assessed synoptically and an end test covering the essential knowledge and skills for that sector.

In the technical option for apprenticeships, is there likely to be a degree apprenticeship in hairdressing?

Not for a degree apprenticeship as such. In the occupational maps there is a standard proposed at Level 4 for Advanced Beauty Therapy & Aesthetics Practitioner.

Do you think that in the long run the T Level will become a more popular option than the existing apprenticeship programmes. Has there been any analysis of projected take up of the T Level as against the apprenticeships?

We know that T Levels where intended for 20% of learners with A Levels still being the most popular route to higher education. The take up of apprenticeships numbers at Level 3 is still unknown until numbers are confirmed. T Levels are being introduced as providing progression to skilled employment, apprenticeships and higher education but we won't know the actual take-up until all T Levels are rolled out in 2023.

How will the resits work for the qualification? Will there be a timeframe, are these on demand or set times?

We have provided a link to the Ofqual publication in September 2018, outlining all of the requirements with information on resits on pages 4 and 5.
assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/737907/Decisions_on_Ofqual_s_approach_to_regulating_Technical_Qualifications.pdf

Where do I find the list of your quals that have UCAS points?

All City & Guilds Level 3 Technical Qualifications carry UCAS points. We have provided a link to the webpage where you can find all of the information including the UCAS tariffs.

cityandguilds.com/techbac/study-technical-qualifications

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