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| **RQF level** | **Level criteria** | **Example qualifications**[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_qualifications_frameworks_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-RQF_Levels-1) | **Equivalent FHEQ qualifications**[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_qualifications_frameworks_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-FHEQ-5) |
| **Level 8** | Holder extends a field of knowledge or work by contributing original knowledge and thinking. AND/OR Holder can use advanced and specialised skills and techniques to conceptualise and address problematic situations that involve many complex, interacting factors. | * Level 8 Award * Level 8 Certificate * Level 8 Diploma * Level 5 [NVQ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Vocational_Qualification) | * [PhD/DPhil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PhD) * [Professional doctorates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctorate) |
| **Level 7** | Holder critically analyses, interprets and evaluates complex information, concepts and theories to produce modified conceptions. AND/OR Holder can use specialised skills to conceptualise and address problematic situations that involve many interacting factors. | * Level 7 Award * Level 7 Certificate * Level 7 Diploma * Level 7 [NVQ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Vocational_Qualification) | * [Master's degree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master%27s_degree) * Integrated master's degree * Primary qualifications (first degrees) in [medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MBBS), dentistry and veterinary science * [PGCE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgraduate_Certificate_in_Education) * [PGDip](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgraduate_Diploma) * [PGCert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postgraduate_Certificate) |
| **Level 6** | Holder has advanced practical, conceptual or technological knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work AND/OR. Holder can evaluate actions, methods and results and their implications. | * Level 6 Award * Level 6 Certificate * Level 6 Diploma * Level 6 NVQ * Degree Apprenticeship | * [Bachelor's degree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor%27s_degree) * [Graduate Certificate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graduate_Certificate) * [Graduate Diploma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graduate_Diploma) * [Professional Graduate Certificate in Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_Graduate_Certificate_in_Education) |
| **Level 5** | Holder has practical, theoretical or technological knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to find ways forward in broadly defined, complex contexts. | * [Higher National Diploma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_National_Diploma) * Level 5 Award * Level 5 Certificate * Level 5 Diploma * Level 5 Higher * Level 5 NVQ * Apprenticeship | * [Foundation degree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foundation_degree) * [Diploma of Higher Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diploma_of_Higher_Education) * [Higher National Diploma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_National_Diploma) (awarded by a degree-awarding body) |
| **Level 4** | Holder has practical, theoretical or technical knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to address problems that are well defined but complex and non-routine. Holder can review the effectiveness and appropriateness of methods, actions and results. | * [Higher National Certificate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_National_Certificate) * Level 4 Award * Level 4 Certificate * Level 4 Diploma * Level 4 [NVQ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Vocational_Qualification) * Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship | * [Certificate of Higher Education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Certificate_of_Higher_Education) * [Higher National Certificate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_National_Certificate) (awarded by a degree-awarding body) |
| **Level 3** | Holder has factual, procedural and theoretical knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to complete tasks and address problems that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine. | * [A Level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GCE_Advanced_Level_(United_Kingdom)) * [Access to Higher Education Diploma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Access_course) * [AS Level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GCE_Advanced_Level_(United_Kingdom)#Structure) * Applied General * [International Baccalaureate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Baccalaureate) Diploma * [T Level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T_Level) * Level 3 Award * Level 3 Certificate * Level 3 Diploma * Level 3 [NVQ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Vocational_Qualification) * Level 3 [ESOL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_for_Speakers_of_Other_Languages) * Level 3 National Certificate * Level 3 National Diploma * Advanced Apprenticeship * BTEC National, Certificate/Diploma, Vocational A-Levels. |  |
| **Level 2** | Has knowledge and understanding of facts, procedures and ideas in an area of study or field of work to complete well-defined tasks and address straightforward problems. Holder can interpret relevant information and ideas. Holder is aware of a range of information that is relevant to the area of study or work. | * [GCSE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GCSE) grades A\*–C * Reformed GCSE grades 4–9[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_qualifications_frameworks_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-GCSE_reform-8) * CSE grade 1 * Level 2 Award * Level 2 Certificate * Level 2 Diploma * Level 2 [NVQ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Vocational_Qualification) * Level 2 [ESOL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_for_Speakers_of_Other_Languages) * Level 2 Essential Skills * Level 2 Functional Skills * Level 2 National Certificate * Level 2 National Diploma * Intermediate Apprenticeship |  |
| **Level 1** | Holder has basic factual knowledge of a subject and/or knowledge of facts, procedures and ideas to complete well-defined routine tasks and address simple problems; and is aware of aspects of information relevant to the area of study or work. | * First Certificate * [GCSE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GCSE) grades D–G * Reformed GCSE grades 1–3[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_qualifications_frameworks_in_the_United_Kingdom#cite_note-GCSE_reform-8) * Level 1 Award * Level 1 Certificate * Level 1 Diploma * Level 1 [NVQ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Vocational_Qualification) * Level 1 [ESOL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_for_Speakers_of_Other_Languages) * Level 1 Essential Skills * Level 1 Functional Skills |  |
| [**Entry Level**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entry_Level) | **Entry Level 3** Holder has basic knowledge and understanding to carry out structured tasks and activities in familiar contexts; and knows and understands the steps needed to complete structured tasks and activities in familiar contexts. | * Entry Level Award * Entry Level Certificate * Entry Level Diploma * Entry Level [ESOL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_for_Speakers_of_Other_Languages) * Entry Level Essential Skills * Entry Level Functional Skills * Skills for Life |  |
| **Entry Level 2** Holder has basic knowledge or understanding of a subject and/or can carry out simple, familiar tasks; and knows the steps needed to complete simple activities. |  |
| **Entry Level 1** The holder progresses along a continuum that ranges from the most elementary of achievements to beginning to make use of knowledge and/or understanding that relate to the subject or immediate environment. |  |