

# The difference between apprenticeships, traineeships and T Levels






## Understanding the post-16 routes

It's never too early to start looking for the next steps after Year 11. There are various options available for your child to consider. The table below sets out the differences between three popular pathways for young people and provides links of where you can find out more information.

	<b>Traineeships</b> 	<b>T Levels</b> 	<b>Apprenticeships</b> 
<b>Description</b>	A skills development programme to support individuals with their employability skills through a mix of classroom based and workplace delivery.	A mainly classroom based technical qualification (80% of the time) with industry placement experience included (20% of the time).	Full time paid employment while gaining qualifications in the chosen field. Mainly based in the workplace with around 6 hours per week spent off-the-job training.
<b>Age range</b>	16-24 (or 25 with an EHCP)	16-19	16+ (no upper age limit)
<b>Duration</b>	6 weeks – 12 months.	2 years (there is also an optional 1-year transition programme).	12 months+ (depending on the level, the experience of the apprentice and the delivery model).
<b>When can you start?</b>	Throughout the year.	Usually a September intake.	Throughout the year.
<b>Levels</b>	Typically contains qualifications at level 1 or 2.	Equivalent to a level 3 qualification or 3 A levels.	From level 2 through to level 7 (master's).
<b>English, Maths and Digital skills</b>	If grade 4 has not been achieved in maths and English, the trainees will continue to be on the programme but they will not be required to sit the exams.	If grade 4 has not been achieved in maths and English, students will be required to work towards the attainment of maths and English, but will not need to achieve it in order to pass the T Level programme.	If grade 4 at GCSE has not been achieved, then functional skills at the appropriate level will be incorporated into the apprenticeship. There are also exceptions for learners holding an EHCP.
<b>Additional skills gained</b>	Employability skills and workplace experience.	Industry recognised certification and workplace experience.	Industry knowledge, skills and behaviours, plus sector recognised certification.
<b>Work experience</b>	A high-quality work placement of at least 70 hours.	Minimum of 315 hours industry placement unpaid.	Full time paid employment (with paid off-the-job time too).
<b>Salary</b>	Unpaid.	Unpaid.	Paid at least the National Minimum Wage for apprentices.

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	<b>Traineeships</b> 	<b>T Levels</b> 	<b>Apprenticeships</b> 
<b>How are they assessed?</b>	At the end of the traineeship, they will have an 'interview experience'. Strengths and development areas are identified to help them progress. Observations, discussions and assessments will be carried out throughout the programme.	T Levels students will be assessed through exams and an employer set project related to the subject they are studying. The project will be set by the awarding organisation. Students will then gain a nationally recognised certificate which will show their overall grade and a breakdown of what they achieved.	The apprentice will be observed, hold discussions and complete written work for the training provider who will grade the work. At the end of the apprenticeship, the apprentice will be required to complete an End Point Assessment.
<b>How are they graded?</b>	They are not graded at the end.	Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction* If not all of the elements are met, they will receive a statement of achievement.	Pass, Merit, Distinction  Some apprenticeships will also include eligibility for professional recognition by an authorised body.
<b>Additional information</b>	May be eligible for travel, meal, and childcare costs.	The provider may provide discretionary financial support.	Apprentice will receive the company's rewards and annual leave.
<b>Are they included on the UCAS tariff?</b>	No	Yes	It will depend on the qualifications included within the apprenticeship standard.
<b>Next steps / progression pathway</b>	Apprenticeships or employment.	Apprenticeships, further education or employment.	Higher or degree apprenticeships, professional qualifications and employment.
<b>How to find a .....</b>	Traineeship <a href="https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship">https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship</a> 	T Level <a href="https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/find">https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/find</a> 	Apprenticeship <a href="https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship">https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship</a> 