# Your guide to

# employing young people

# Your guide to national qualifications

#### **GCSEs**

General Certificates of Secondary Education cover a wide range of academic and vocational subjects and are usually examined at the end of Year 11 (occasionally in Year 10). A number of GCSE subjects may also be available at colleges of further education. The grades awarded are A to E. Students need at least four grades A to C to study at the next level.

#### **GNVQs**

General National Vocational Qualifications cover broad vocational areas such as business, health and social care, hospitality and catering and leisure and tourism. They are available at foundation, intermediate and advanced level

## **NVQs**

National Vocational Qualifications have been developed by industry for industry. They record the skills achieved by the student and are related to skills needed to do the job.

## AS and A2 (formerly known as A level)

Students can study academic and vocational subjects. An AS level is a one year stand-alone qualification which can convert to an A2 through a further year of study. An A2 is the equivalent to an old A level. These courses allow the student to move on to higher-education courses.

## Applied A levels

The vocational A level was replaced by the applied A level in 2005. This is a new name for what was called the Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE). They have been designed to give students a broad introduction to a vocational area and help them to develop and apply knowledge in a variety of work-related situations.

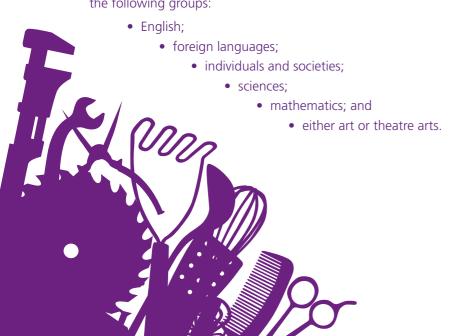
### **BTEC Diplomas**

BTEC Diploma courses are available in a range of vocational subjects, at introductory, first and advanced level.

#### International Baccalaureates

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is an alternative qualification to AS/A2 levels for students wishing to study a broader range of subjects.

Students choose six subjects in the IB programme, three at higher level and three at standard level from each of the following groups:





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# The National Qualification Framework

Key: (1) (2) (3) = the number of A levels the course is equal to

City and Guilds National Certificate CACHE Diploma in Child Care Progression Awards level 2 City and Guilds Progression Advanced Apprenticeship Child Care and Education City and Guilds Level 3 and Progression Award CACHE Certificate in and Education (3) National Certificate The National Qualification Framework was developed as a way of arranging qualifications into levels so that equivalents can be more easily understood. They start at entry level and go up to level 8. The higher the level, the greater the depth of knowledge, skills and understanding that the student has to Apprenticeship City and Guilds Work related NVQ level 3 **NVQ level 2** NVQ level 5 **NVQ level 1** Award level 1 **NVQ level 4** BTEC Professional Dip/Cert/Awd BTEC Professional Dip/Cert/Awd OCR level 3 National Certificate, Diploma, Extended Diploma BTEC National Certificate (2) **BTEC Advanced Professional BTEC Advanced Professional** BTEC National Diploma (3) BTEC National Award (1) BTEC entry level courses - skills for working life BTEC HNDs and HNCs Level 4 Certificate in GNVQ Advanced (2) Early Years Practice Dip/Cert/Awd Dip/Cert/Awd Vocational Related Qualification (VRQ) BTEC First Certificate and Diploma **JCR level 1 1st Award Certificate** BTEC entry level - introductory OCR level 2 National Certificate **GNQV Foundation level** certificates and diplomas **GNVQ Intermediate** VRQ Level 1 **AVCE AS/A2 Levels** Degrees, Graduate Certificates and Diplomas DipHE, DipFE, Foundation Degree Certificate of Higher Education Higher National Diploma International Baccalaureate (IB) [was O level grades A to C Masters, PG Cert, PG Dip was CSE grades 2 to 5] (AS + A2 = full A level)The National Qualification Framework PhD (Doctorate) GCSE A\* to C GCSE D to G Academic A2 level show to gain the qualification. Advanced technician, skilled, National Qualification Framework (NQF) level Intermediate, semi-skilled supervisory Foundation operative, Entry

