

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) has been devised by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to recognise more precisely the academic levels of qualifications at the higher levels of the framework; it applies to England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Key Skills	NVQs	National Qualifications Framework (NQF)		Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
		Original levels	Revised levels #	
	Level 5 NVQs	Level 5 BTEC Advanced Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	Level 8 BTEC Advanced Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards  Level 7 BTEC Advanced Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	D (Doctoral) doctorates  M (Masters) masters degrees, postgraduate certificates and diplomas
Level 4 Key Skills	Level 4 NVQs	Level 4 BTEC HNDs and HNCs  BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	Level 6 BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards  Level 5 BTEC HNDs and HNCs BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards  Level 4 BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	H (Honours) bachelors degrees, graduate certificates and diplomas  I (Intermediate) diplomas of higher education and further education, foundation degrees, higher national diplomas  C (Certificate) certificates of higher education
Level 3 Key Skills	Level 3 NVQs	Level 3 BTEC National Diplomas, Certificates and Awards  BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design  BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards  A Levels		
Level 2 Key Skills  Literacy Numeracy	Level 2 NVQs	Level 2 BTEC First Diplomas and Certificates  BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards  GCSEs grades A*-C  Diploma, Certificate and Award in Digital Applications		
Level 1 Key Skills  Literacy Numeracy	Level 1 NVQs	Level 1 BTEC Introductory Diplomas and Certificates  BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards  GCSEs grades D-G  Diploma, Certificate and Award in Digital Applications		
Entry Level Literacy Numeracy		Entry Level BTEC Certificates in Life Skills BTEC Certificates in Skills for Working Life		

# The revised NQF was fully implemented from 1 January 2006. Edexcel is working with QCA to implement the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) during 2008.

The actual content and other attributes of the respective qualifications are not altered or diminished. The revision also provides better alignment with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ), used in universities and higher education institutions. BTEC Foundation Degrees are included at Intermediate level in the FHEQ.