

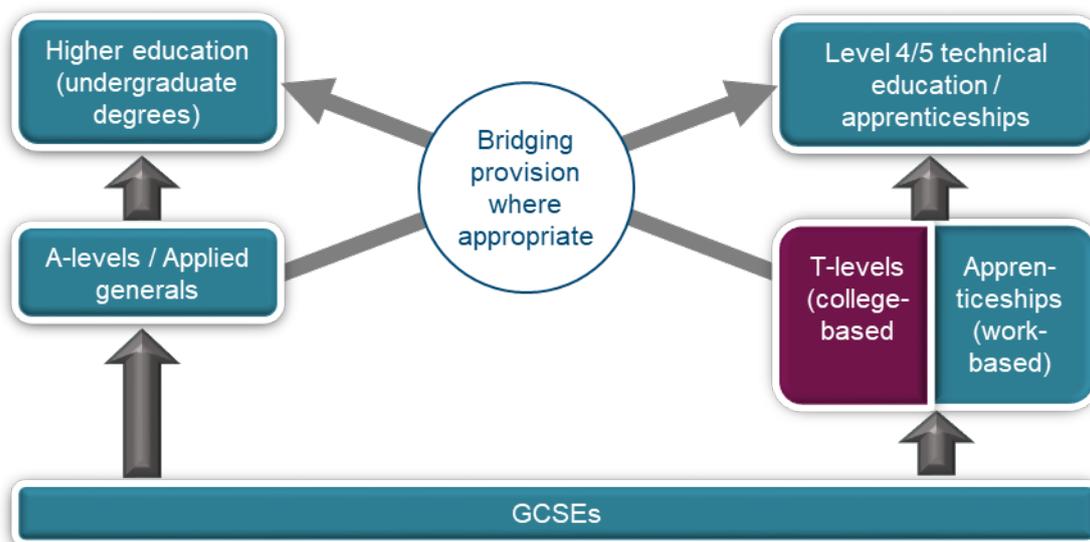
## Policy Briefing: T-levels

This briefing is provided for employers, educators, students, parents and other interested parties.

### What are T-levels?

- new 2-year, post-GCSE educational programmes being introduced in England; aimed primarily at learners aged 16–19 and designed with employers in mind
- intended to provide learners with routes into technical occupations, and to simplify the post-16 technical education system
- developed collaboratively by the Department for Education (DfE), the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfA), education providers and employers
- a classroom-based alternative to advanced apprenticeships, designed to the same standards and aiming to provide learners with ‘threshold competence’ – as close to occupational competence as can be reasonably expected after two years of study in a provider-based setting
- programmes that may lead to a range of further options:
  - skilled occupation
  - higher or degree level apprenticeships
  - higher level technical education (including higher education).

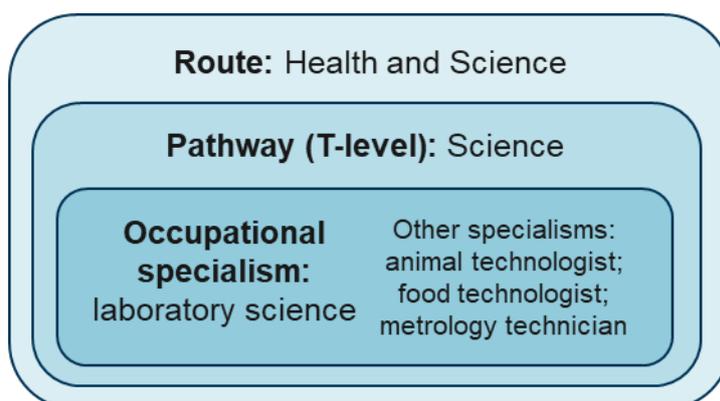
T-levels will sit within the broader education system as shown in the diagram below.



### What is the significance to the chemical sciences?

Within T-levels will be an option to specialise in laboratory science, which would provide learners with threshold competence to progress into occupation as a laboratory technician, or into a higher laboratory science apprenticeship.

The diagram shows how the laboratory science specialism sits within the family of T-level programmes.



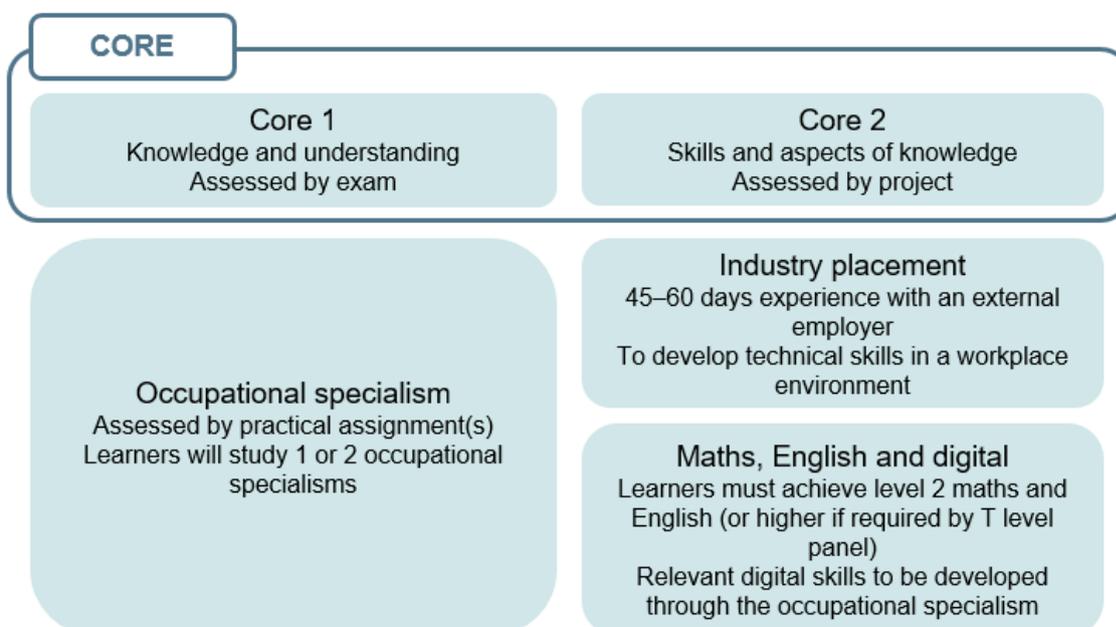
There are 11 occupational routes for which T-levels are being developed. Within the Health and Science route, there will be Health and Healthcare Science T-levels alongside the Science T-level.

## Timeline

- Roll-out of T-levels is phased over the period 2020–2023.
- [Outline content for the Science T-level](#) has been confirmed.
- Development of the course specification and assessment for the Science T-level will begin in autumn 2019.
- All Health and Science pathways will begin delivery in September 2021, initially with a small number of providers.

## What will a T-level programme look like?

The T level programme covers the following components:



- A full T-level programme will comprise around 1800 learning hours.
- The Core is common to all learners taking a given pathway; all students studying the Science T-level will follow the same Core. A subsection of the Core content will be common across the three Health and Science pathways.
- The Core and Occupational specialism together form the Technical Qualification. Technical Qualifications will be designed and delivered by Awarding Organisations (AOs), and regulated by Ofqual.
- Providers are responsible for finding industry placement opportunities for students with local employers.
- Different models for the industry placements are being piloted to see what works best for specific industries and providers. The placement could be a continuous block of working days, a part-time arrangement alongside classroom study, or distributed across the study programme. The DfE will confirm how placements should be delivered once the pilots have been completed.
- Students must achieve a minimum of level 2 English and maths by the time they complete the T-level programme. This would be, for example, a GCSE at grade 4 or above or a functional skills qualification. Students who have not yet achieved level 2 when they begin the T-level will be funded for the additional study time to fulfil this requirement.
- A student must pass all aspects of the Technical Qualification, complete the industry placement, and fulfil the maths and English requirements to pass the full T-level programme and receive a certificate. A student who does not complete all components of the T-level, but does complete some, will receive a statement of achievement.

### How will T-levels be assessed and graded?

- AOs will design the assessments within the regulations set by the DfE and Ofqual. AOs may decide at what time of year assessments will take place, and whether there will be one or two assessment opportunities each year for the Core and Occupational Specialisms. So, these arrangements may differ between T-levels.
- All assessments for the Core must be taken in the same assessment series, as must all assessments for the Occupational Specialism (this may be a different series to the Core). If a student re-sits either the Core or the Occupational Specialism, they must take all assessments for that component again.
- Students who achieve all required components of a T-level will receive an overall grade of either Pass, Merit or Distinction.
- The Core is graded on an A\*–E scale. Students receive one grade, encompassing performance on both components of the Core.
- The Occupational specialism is graded Pass/Merit/Distinction.
- There is no grade for the Industry placement, but it must be completed.
- The grade for maths and English will depend on the qualification the student takes. For example, if the student fulfils the requirement through GCSE maths and English, they will receive a grade on the 9–4 scale.
- Grades will be listed on the T-level certificate or statement of achievement.

### More information?

Read the Government policy paper on the [Introduction of T levels](#) for more detail.

If you'd like to know more our policy work related to T-levels, please contact the Education Policy team: [EducationPolicy@rsc.org](mailto:EducationPolicy@rsc.org)