T LEVELS

DIGITAL PRODUCTION, DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

WHAT IS A T LEVEL?

- New, **two year technical education courses** for 16-19 yr olds that will follow GCSEs
- Developed **in collaboration with employers**, and based on the same standards as apprenticeships
- Course includes **a mixture of classroom learning (80%) and 'on-the-job' experience (20%)** during an industry placement of a minimum of 45 days
- T Levels comprise **a mix of practical tasks, projects and exams**
- Progression options include **skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship** (T Levels will attract UCAS points)
- More rigorous and substantial than most existing technical qualifications, with longer teaching time – **one T Level is comparable in size to 3 A levels**.

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T LEVEL ROLLOUT

T Levels for 2020 delivery
T Levels for 2021 delivery
T Levels for 2022 delivery
T Levels for 2023 delivery

44 colleges and other providers are now teaching T Levels for 2020. 64 providers expect to teach in 2021 and a further 87 will deliver from 2022

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ANIMAL CARE ROUTE	BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ROUTE	CATERING AND HOSPITALITY ROUTE	CONSTRUCTION	CREATIVE AND DESIGN ROUTE
Agriculture, Land Management and Production	Human Resources	Catering	Building Services Engineering for Construction	Craft and Design
Animal Care and Management	Management and Administration		Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction	Media, Broadcast and Production
			Onsite Construction	

DIGITAL ROUTE	EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE ROUTE	ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING ROUTE	HAIR AND BEAUTY ROUTE	HEALTH AND SCIENCE ROUTE	LEGAL, FINANCE & ACCOUNTING ROUTE
Digital Business Services	Education and Childcare	Engineering and Manufacturing Design and Development	Hair, Beauty and Aesthetics	Health	Accounting
Digital Production, Design and Development		Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing		Healthcare Science	Finance
Digital Support and Services		Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control		Science	Legal

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ONE AWARDING BODY HAS EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO DELIVER EACH T LEVEL TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education lead the procurement of Awarding Organisations for each T Level

Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education

In February 2019 **Pearson was awarded the contract to deliver the T Level in Digital Production, Design and Development** (NCFE was awarded contracts for the Digital Business Services and Digital Support and Services T Levels)

Pearson | Qualifications

Pearson published the qualification specification in April: https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/t-levels/approved-t-level-technical-qualifications/

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T LEVEL PROGRAMME

1800 Hrs over 2 years

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION (TQ) 900-1400 GLH

CORE

- Up to half the qualification
- Knowledge and understanding of the concepts, theories and principles relevant to that sector
- Assessed through an external examination and a substantial project

OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALISM

- At least half of the qualification
- Knowledge and skills required to enter employment in that occupational specialism
- As close to full competence as possible
- English, maths and digital competence integrated where relevant

T LEVEL INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

- Between 315-420 hours
- Undertaken with an external employer
- Chance to apply skills and apply knowledge in a workplace environment
- Support for travel and subsistence costs but employers not expected to pay students

ENGLISH AND MATHS REQUIREMENTS

- Students required to achieve a level 2 in English and maths
- Either GCSE (grade 4 and above) or level 2 Functional Skills (pass)

ADDITIONAL MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- Occupation-specific requirements included where possible if essential to enter employment

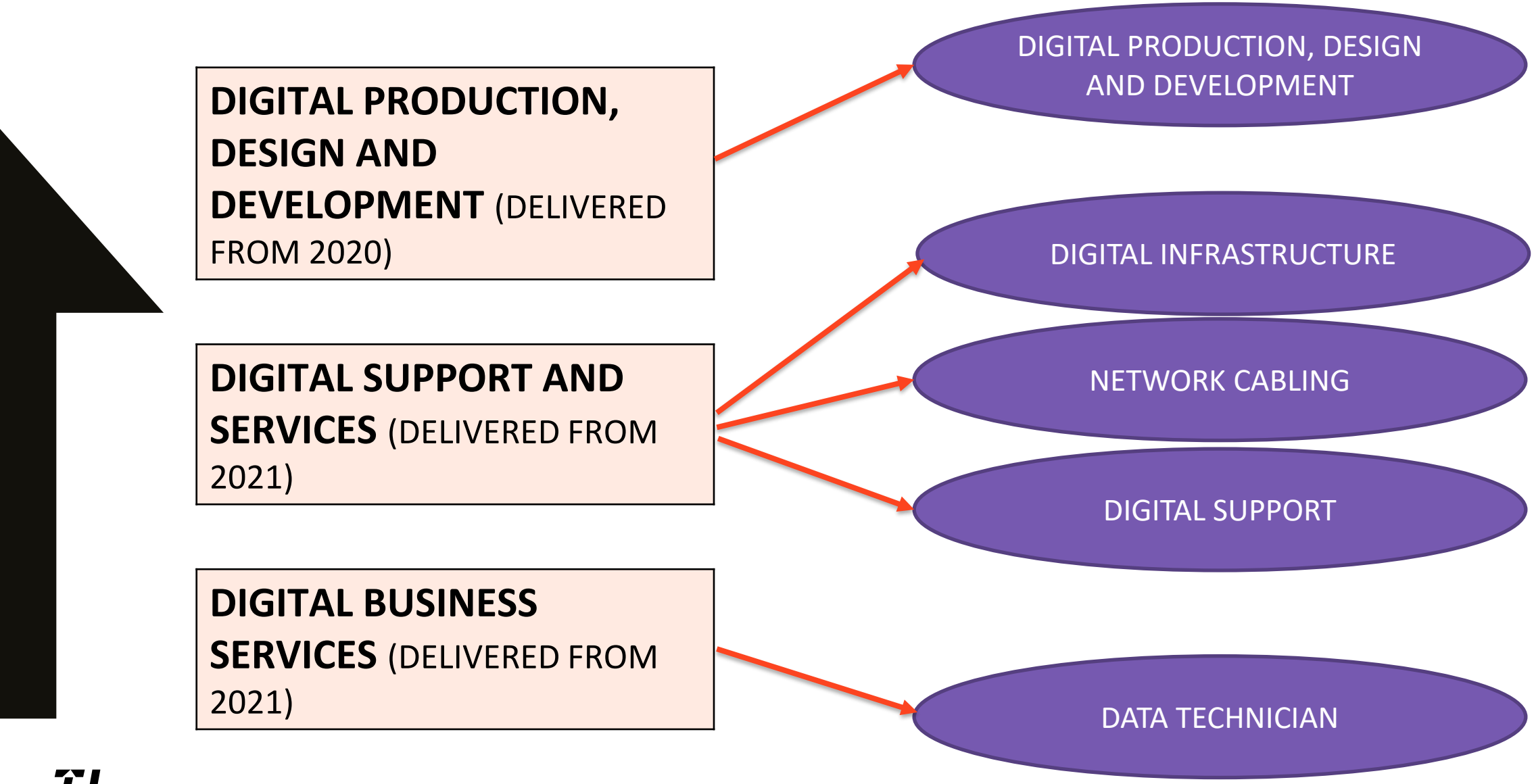
DIGITAL T LEVELS

OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALISMS

DIGITAL PRODUCTION, DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT (DELIVERED FROM 2020)

DIGITAL SUPPORT AND SERVICES (DELIVERED FROM 2021)

DIGITAL BUSINESS SERVICES (DELIVERED FROM 2021)



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TOTAL QUALIFICATION TIME, GUIDED LEARNING HOURS AND ASSESSMENT

T Level Technical Qualification in Digital: Digital Production, Design and Development			
Total Guided Learning Hours (GLH)		Total Qualification Time (TQT)	
1200 GLH		1640 TQT	
Core Component		**Occupational Specialist Component**:	
GLH	TQT	GLH	TQT
600 GLH	810 TQT	600 GLH	830 TQT

This component covers the underpinning knowledge, concepts and skills that supports threshold competence in the Digital industry. **It will be assessed by two externally set Core Examinations and an Employer Set Project.**

This component covers the occupational specialist knowledge and skills required to demonstrate threshold competence for the specialism. **It will be assessed by a skills-related project that synoptically assesses the performance outcome skills and associated underpinning knowledge.**

OUTLINE CONTENT DEVELOPED BY PANELS OF EMPLOYERS AND EDUCATION EXPERTS

- Employers from a range of organisations (including Fujitsu, StormMQ, App Quality Alliance, The Chartered Institute of IT and Entelis Ltd) have been involved in developing the content for the Digital Production, Design and Development T Level

- This will ensure that content meets the needs of the digital industry

Tim Chapman, Security Architect and STEM Ambassador, Fujitsu

"There is a huge shortage of talented young people entering technical careers, and Fujitsu has felt the effects of this most recently in our Cyber Security business. The lack of fresh talent entering the sector makes it increasingly difficult to secure enthusiastic new employees to fill the necessary talent pipeline. The introduction of T Levels will help alleviate this problem by enabling more students to enter the industry with the skills needed to succeed."

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CORE CONTENT

Problem solving - applying problem solving skills to analyse problems and to identify solutions that can be developed into computer programs.

Introduction to programming - using their knowledge of computer programming to solve problems. Students should be able to design, read, write and debug program code.

Emerging issues and impact of digital - applying an understanding of ethical and moral issues in the digital sector in a range of business contexts.

Legislation and regulatory requirements - applying an understanding of legal issues in the digital sector in a range of business contexts.

Business Context - Students must apply an understanding of how the business environment, including the importance of serving customer, end user and business needs; and the social, political, legal and technological factors, drive the need for, and use of digital skills technologies.

Data - Students must apply an understanding of the use of data by organisations to support business needs.

Digital Environments - Students should be able to apply an understanding of the different platforms of delivery that enable access to digital tools and services.

Security - Students should be able to apply an understanding of the potential risks in posed by the use of digital to an organisation and its stakeholders. Students should explore established and emerging risks and understand ways in which risks can be mitigated.

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THE OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALISM CONTENT

Covers the knowledge and skills needed to achieve **threshold competence** across the following areas:

- Be able to analyse a problem to define requirements and acceptance criteria aligned to user needs
- Apply ethical principles and manage risks in line with legal and regulatory requirements when developing software
- Discover, evaluate and apply reliable sources of knowledge
- Design
- Create solutions in a social and collaborative environment
- Implement a solution using at least two appropriate languages
- Testing a software solution
- Change, maintain and support software

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GRADING, CERTIFICATION AND UCAS TARIFF POINTS

- Students who complete their T Level will receive an overall grade of **pass, merit, distinction or distinction*.** They will get a **nationally recognised certificate.**

- Students who do not pass all elements of their T Level will get a **T Level statement of achievement** which will show the elements they have completed

- **UCAS points** will be awarded to the overall T Level grade
- The tariff is based on an alignment of intended standards with other Level 3 qualifications, including A Levels

UCAS tariff points	**T Level overall grade**	**A level**
168	Distinction* (A* on the core and distinction in the occupational specialism)	A*A*A*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on the core)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on the core)	DDD

INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

- Minimum of **315 hours** (approx. 45 working days)
- **T Level provider** is responsible for finding the placement
- Can be **split across two employers** if needed
- Real environment – placement should be with an employer in **a real life working environment**
- **Extensive research and engagement** with stakeholders – and pilot programme tested different models
- **No legal requirement or expectation that T Level students will be paid** – but employers can choose to if they wish.
- Industry placements should be linked to the student's specialism – however **students taking Digital T Levels can undertake a placement that develops their skills at the Digital route-level**, as opposed to those only relevant to their specific specialism.

PROGRESSION OPTIONS

Job roles could include:

- Software Development Technician
- Junior Developer
- Junior Web Developer
- Junior Application Developer
- Junior Mobile App Developer
- Junior Games Developer
- Junior Software Developer
- Junior Application Support Analyst
- Junior Programmer
- Assistant Programmer
- Automated Test Developer.

Alternatively, students could progress to a higher level apprenticeship.

T LEVELS CONTEXT

- **T Level Transition Programme** (targeted at students who are not ready to start a T Level but have potential to progress to one) - phased implementation has started with a small number of providers from this September.
- **Review of qualifications at level 3 and below** continues - aiming to simplify the qualifications landscape. Second stage will consult on firm proposals for change and criteria for funding
- The consultation on **Higher Technical Education** (levels 4-5) in England closed on 29 September 2019. The government response was published this summer and outlines implementation plans.
- **FE reform programme** - White Paper aimed at delivering ambitious reform for the FE sector.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Communications campaign launched in October 2019 – activities such as social media and on demand TV advertising will widen and increase in line with T Level rollout

T Levels Website
www.tlevels.gov.uk

T Level Action Plans
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-level-action-plan

Detailed T Level information on gov.uk
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels

Qualification specification for Digital Production, Design and Development
https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/t-levels/digital-production-design-and-development.html

Pearson | Qualifications

Industry placement case studies
https://www.aoc.co.uk/teaching-and-learning/t-level/industry-placement-case-studies

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