



Pearson

# DfE's Level 3 Review: BTEC Update

(NEON update)

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Stakeholder Engagement)**



# Context

- DfE ran a [second stage consultation for the Level 3 Review](#), which concluded in Jan 2021.
- Some of their key proposals included:

Creating academic and technical routes at Level 3 for 16-19 students.

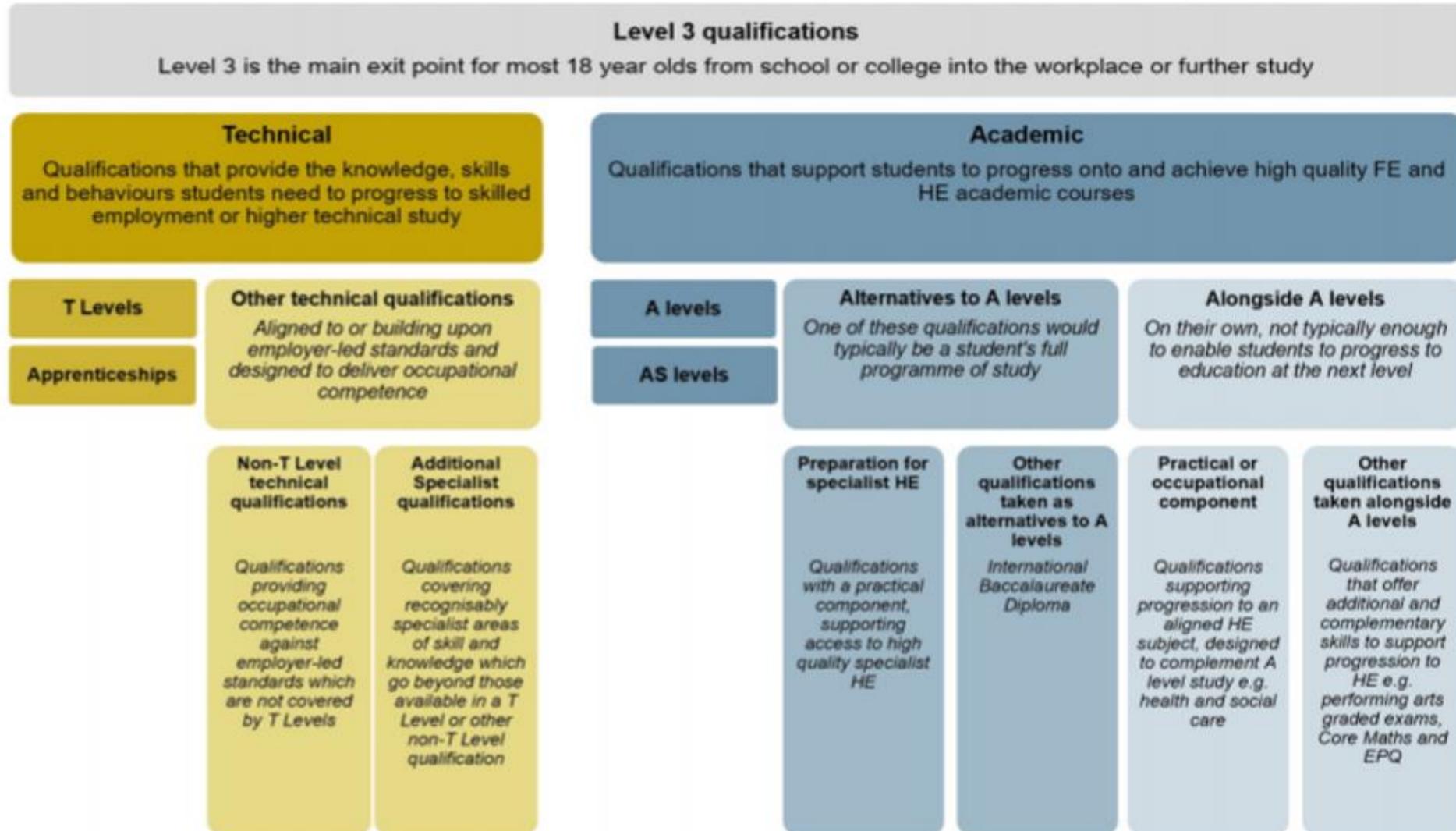
Removing the funding of many BTEC and other vocational qualifications at Level 3, from Sept 2023 and Sept 2024 (due to perceived overlap with A Levels and/or T Levels).

Allowing for a smaller number of 'academic' or 'technical' qualifications to be available in the new Level 3 qualification landscape.

- Outcomes of the consultation (due date TBC).

(Diagram by DfE)

Figure 1: Visual representation of the proposed 16 to 19 level 3 landscape



# Pearson response to DfE's Level 3 Review

Key points raised by Pearson in relation to the curriculum and Higher Education:

- Welcome the government efforts to raise the status of vocational and technical education in the UK.
- Welcome the proposal that qualifications, aside from A Levels and T Levels, can potentially exist.
- Concerns raised:
  - Severely narrows post-16 options at Level 3.
  - We support the new T Levels, but do not think they will meet the needs of **all** vocational students.
  - Risk to WP highlighted in [DfE's Impact Assessment](#).
  - Risk of unintended consequences.
- Link to executive summary for Pearson response: [here](#).
- Link to full Pearson response: [here](#).

# Informing the debate

**Roundtables** (invitation only with senior policymakers)

1) Regional events – focus on potential impact of reform on local area (late April)

- North west – focus on health and social care
- South west – focus on emerging sectors, e.g. digital

MPs and representatives from HE, industry, FE and other stakeholders invited.

2) NEON event – focus on potential impact on widening participation in HE (May)

Senior stakeholders with an interest in WP invited.

**Continuing to work with interested stakeholders in other activities (e.g. blogs/articles) to raise awareness, welcome expressions of interest from people who wish to support with this activity.**



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