



Pearson

NEON update DfE Level 3 Review

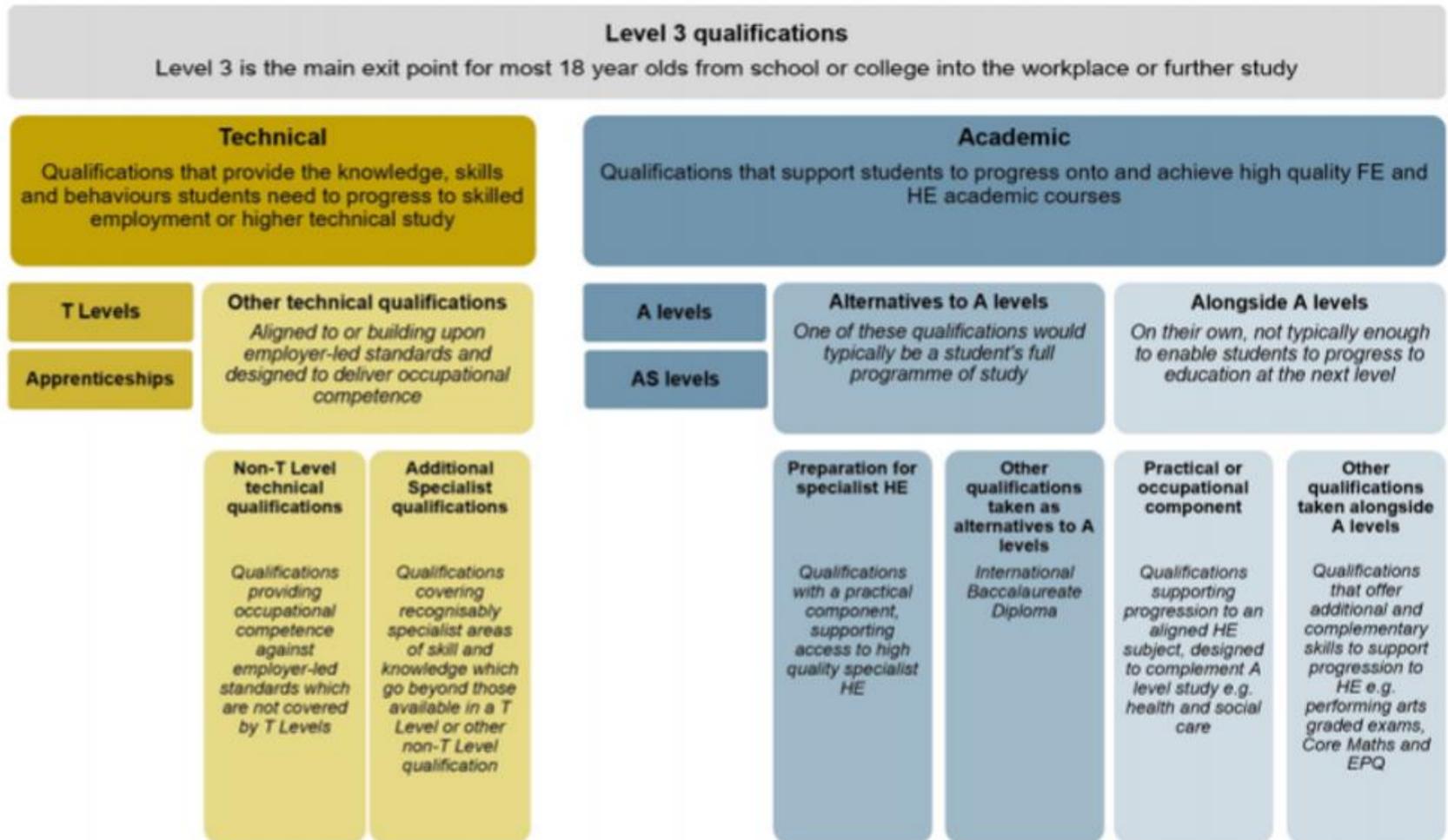
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DfE's future post-16 qual landscape

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



Nursing case study

- In 2017, just over 21% entrants to Nursing degrees held a BTEC (stand-alone or combined with A Levels).
- 1 in 5 entrants to Nursing degrees in 2017 held a BTEC.
- Most of these BTEC students studied the Extended Diploma (3 A Level equivalent) – **at risk**.
- 65% of these BTEC holders studied Health & Social Care: Ext Dip (3 A Level equivalent) – **at risk**; Diploma (2 A Level equivalent) – **at risk**; Extended Certificate (1 A Level equivalent).
- 16% studied Applied Science (all sizes) – **at risk**.



Widening participation

Greater proportion of BTEC students come from an ethnic minority background, e.g. in 2017:

- BTEC only (Asian - 16.5%; Black - 13.7%)
- A Level only (Asian - 12.3%; Black 4.9%).

Double the proportion of BTEC students come from the bottom 4 socio-economic groups versus A Level only students:

- BTEC only (31.6%)
- A Level only (16.7%).

(A lot of this content originally appeared in the [HEPI blog](#), and all figures in presentation based on 2017 HESA data)



Pearson's views on the DfE's Level 3 & below review

- Welcome the government's efforts to raise the status of vocational and technical education in the UK.
- Welcome the recognition for the need for some other qualifications at Level 3, in addition to A Levels and T Levels.

Some concerns with the existing proposals include:

- The potential narrowing of the curriculum and options for post-16.
- The continued binary choice between an academic and technical route, albeit with some flexibility under the former, risking diversity of the curriculum.
- Whilst we see the value of T Levels within the curriculum, we question whether this will meet the needs of all those wishing to experience vocational education.
- Potential risk to widening participation (some students “may find themselves no longer able to progress onto HE and accrue the significant average benefits to wage and employment returns”, extract from the DfE Impact Assessment).
- Potential risk of unintended consequences to the wider system.

DfE's Level 3 & below review

Outcome to [stage one consultation](#).

[Stage two consultation link here](#).

Consultation deadline extended to **31 Jan 2021**.

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