

AS	Advanced Subsidiary (first year of A Level)	LSC	Learning and Skills Council
A Level	Advanced Level qualification	Nationals	Practical, work-related qualifications that give learners an insight into a particular workplace or career
A2	Second year of A Level (to gain a full A Level)	Ofsted	The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills – regulator of care for children and young people, and inspector of education and training for learners of all ages
AQA	Assessment and Qualifications Alliance – an awarding body	NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
BA (Hons)	Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) – a degree award	NQT	Newly qualified teacher
BSc (Hons)	A Bachelor of Science (with Honours) – a degree award	OCR	Oxford, Cambridge and RSA examinations board
BTEC	Business and Technician Education Council – offering vocational qualifications for access to specific careers or higher education	Ofqual	Office of the Qualifications and Examination Regulator – regulatory body for all awarding bodies
CSE	Certificate of Secondary Education – qualifications replaced by GCSEs in 1986	PLTS	Personal, learning and thinking skills
CCEA	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment – advises on curriculum and regulates external qualifications in Northern Ireland	PGCE	Postgraduate Certificate in Education
DCELLS	Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills – department within the Welsh Assembly Government with responsibility for the regulation of qualifications and assessments in Wales	QCA	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
DCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families	QCF	Qualifications and Credit Framework – framework for recognising skills and qualifications
DIPHE	Diploma of Higher Education	Qualification	An award made by an awarding body to demonstrate a learner's achievement or competence.
Diploma	A new qualification introduced to recognise the achievements of learners aged 14–19	QTS	Qualified Teacher Status – achieved through university studies and teaching placement
Edexcel	An awarding body	SAT	Standard Attainment Test (taken at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2)
ECM	Every Child Matters – a government initiative that aims to ensure that every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, has the support they need to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being	UCAS	University and Colleges Admission Service
FE	Further education	UCAS tariff	The points system used to compare different qualifications for getting into university
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education	WJEC	Welsh Joint Education Committee – an awarding body
HE	Higher education	Welsh Bacc	The Welsh Baccalaureate – combines personal development skills with existing qualifications such as A Levels, NVQs and GCSEs, to make one wider award
HND	Higher National Diploma – given for successfully completing practical, vocational training that prepares the student for a specific career		
IB	International Baccalaureate – an internationally recognised qualification offered at three levels		
ICT	Information and communication technology		
Key Stage	A recognised stage of learning, from nursery education right through school and into further and higher education (see SATs below)		
LA	Local authority – a council that has responsibility for providing education to pupils of school age and adult education in its area		