

AS Advanced Subsidiary (first year of A Level)

A Level Advanced Level qualification

A2 Second year of A Level (to gain a full A Level)

Apprenticeships A way of learning and achieving qualifications whilst in employment gaining workplace experience.

AQA Assessment and Qualifications Alliance – an awarding body

BA (Hons) Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) – a degree award

BSc (Hons) Bachelor of Science (with Honours) – a degree award

BTEC Business and Technician Education Council – offering vocational qualifications for access to specific careers or higher education

Certification Process of awarding a grade for a subject, specification or whole qualification

CSE Certificate of Secondary Education – qualifications replaced by GCSEs in 1986

CSR Certifying Statement of Results – issued if a candidate loses a results certificate

CCEA Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment – advises on curriculum and regulates external qualifications in Northern Ireland

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

DCSF Department for Children, Schools and Families (replaced by the Department for Education in 2010)

DfE Department for Education – a department of the UK government responsible for issues affecting young people in England up to the age of 19

DIPHE Diploma of Higher Education

Diploma A qualification introduced in 2008 to recognise the achievements of learners aged 14–19

Edexcel An awarding body

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

FE Further education – post-compulsory

FSMQ Free Standing Maths Qualification

GCE General Certificate of Education – also known as the GCE Advanced level or the A level

GCSE General Certificate of Secondary Education

HE Higher education – at university level

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

JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications

Key Stage A recognised stage of learning – from nursery education, 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

Nationals Practical, work-related qualifications that give learners an insight into a particular workplace or career

Ofsted 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

NVQ National Vocational Qualification – work-based awards achieved through assessment and training

NQT Newly qualified teacher

OCR Oxford, Cambridge and RSA examinations board

Ofqual Office of the Qualifications and Examination Regulator – regulatory body for all awarding bodies

Personal Learning Record Service (PLR) Skills Funding Agency (SFA) initiative designed to help learners access their academic and vocational achievement data

PGCE Postgraduate Certificate in Education

PLTS Personal, learning and thinking skills

Principal Learning Series of vocational OCR qualifications

QCA Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

QCF Qualifications and Credit Framework – framework for recognising skills and qualifications

Qualification An award made by an awarding body to demonstrate a learner's achievement or competence.

QTS Qualified Teacher Status – achieved through university studies and teaching placement

SAT Standard Attainment Test (taken at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2)

SFA Skills Funding Agency

Special consideration Post-assessment adjustment to grades reflecting temporary illness, injury or other indisposition at the time the assessment was taken

SVQ Scottish Vocational Qualification (equivalent of NVQ)

Technicals OCR vocational qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3 for students aged 16+, designed to enable progress to employment or further education within the workplace

UCAS University and Colleges Admission Service

UCAS tariff Points system used to compare different qualifications for getting into university

UCI Unique Candidate Identifier

ULN Unique learner number

UMS Uniform Mark Scale

WJEC Welsh Joint Education Committee – an awarding body

Welsh Bacc Welsh Baccalaureate – combines personal development skills with existing qualifications such as A Levels, NVQs and GCSEs, to make one wider award