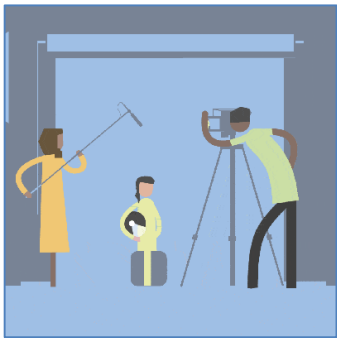


# T Levels



# Background to the Sainsbury Panel review

The **Independent Panel on Technical Education** was tasked with advising Ministers on actions to improve the quality of technical education in England

## **A compelling case for change**

- A confusing multitude of qualifications and issues with the market-based approach to qualifications
- Conclusions were underpinned by substantial research and analysis

## **The Panel recommended comprehensive reform**

- The development of 15 technical routes to skilled employment
- The development of new flagship technical education programmes to sit within these routes – T Levels
- A radical streamlining of existing technical qualifications, aiming to simplify the system for students and employers
- Government accepted all of their recommendations and we are now on track to deliver the first three T Levels for teaching from September 2020



## In future, young people will be able to make a clear choice at 16 – whether to pursue an academic or technical path

### Academic

#### A levels

Subject-based qualifications delivered over 2 years by school sixth-forms, sixth-form colleges and FE colleges

**Purpose: To prepare students for higher education**

### Technical

#### T Levels

Classroom based programmes delivered over 2 years by an FE provider (80% in the classroom and 20% on the job)

**Purpose: To prepare students for entry into skilled employment (including higher level apprenticeships), either immediately or after higher levels of technical education (L4+)**

#### Apprenticeships

Work based training for a minimum of 12 months (80% on the job and 20% off the job e.g. in an FE college)

# What is a T Level?

- T Levels are **new two year, level 3 technical education courses** coming in September 2020
- They will follow GCSEs and will be roughly **equivalent in size to 3 A levels**
- T Levels have been **developed in collaboration with employers** and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work
- T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning (80%) and ‘on-the-job’ experience (20%) during an **industry placement of a minimum of 45 days**
- They will provide the **knowledge and experience** needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship

# What makes T Levels different from previous reforms to technical education?



- T Levels are part of a **comprehensive reform** of technical education, alongside apprenticeships and the National Retraining Scheme
- We want T Levels to be part of a **long-term solution** to ensure that employers get the skilled workers they need for future prosperity
- Rather than adding new qualifications to an already complex system, the ultimate aim of these reforms is to **simplify the qualification landscape**
- The **purpose of T Levels is clear** – we are not attempting to achieve multiple goals across vocational and academic education
- T Levels are designed by **reference to the world’s best** technical education systems, with much longer hours than other qualifications, a meaningful industry placement, and the inclusion of English, maths and digital skills
- In contrast to previous reforms, we are **directly involving employers** in the development of T Levels, and they are setting out the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for each occupational area

# T Level programme

1800 hours<sup>1</sup> over two years (with flexibility).

TQ outline content is set by T Level panels and approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education

## Technical Qualification (TQ)

Between 900-1400 hours

### Core

20% - 50% of the total TQ time

- Knowledge and understanding of the concepts, theories and principles relevant to the T Level and the broader route
- Core skills relevant to the T Level

- Assessed through an external examination and a substantial, employer-set project

### Occupational specialisms (min. 1 per TQ)

50% - 80% of the total TQ time

- Knowledge, skills and behaviours required to achieve the level of competence in an occupational specialism needed to enter skilled employment
- Maths, English and digital skills integrated where they are necessary to achieve competence

- Assessed synoptically through rigorous practical assignments.

### T Level Industry Placement

Between 315-420 hours

- Undertaken with an external employer
- Minimum of 45 days
- Students develop technical skills and apply their knowledge in a workplace environment
- Provider should pay for/contribute to travel and subsistence costs, if not covered by the employer
- Employers not expected to pay students

### Maths and English requirements

- Students are expected to achieve a level 2 in maths and English. This can be achieved through GCSEs (grade 4 and above) or level 2 Functional Skills (pass)
- T Level panels are free to set higher maths and English requirements, where necessary

### Other requirements set by T Level panels

- Occupation-specific requirements included, where possible, if they are essential for skilled employment e.g. licence to practice qualification or professional registration



# T Level Development

- The introduction of T Levels is a **major Government change** programme comprising several work streams
- We have learnt the **lessons from previous reforms** and there are clear reasons as to why T Levels are well placed to succeed
- **Key delivery partners** are Further Education providers and employers – as well as the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education, Ofsted and Ofqual
- **Co-design and consultation** are key – we have consulted widely during the development of T Levels and continue to ‘reality check’ with key partners along the way
- **T Levels will be offered under a single licence.** Following a procurement process, the successful awarding organisations who will develop the first three T Level qualifications were announced on 12<sup>th</sup> February



# Employers: T Level Panels

- T Level panels are made up of **employers, professional bodies and providers**. They are managed by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.
- The panels set out the knowledge, skills and behaviour required to perform skilled occupations in their industry – ensuring that **T Levels will be relevant and hold real value in the workplace**.
- Panels use the approved **standards which are common to apprenticeships** as the basis for outline T Level content. They also advise on specific maths, English and digital skills requirements necessary for occupational competence.



# Employers: Industry Placements



- All T Level students will be required to undertake a meaningful and relevant **industry placement of around 45 days**
- Industry placements will give students the opportunity to **apply their learning in the classroom to a real life working environment**
- **Industry placements have to be occupationally specific** and focussed on developing the practical and technical skills required for the profession or trade for which a student is studying
- **Employers will be involved in defining the learning objectives** so that the workplace learning reflects current industry requirements and the set tasks are relevant
- The students' experience will be very much **'hands on'** - so they are in a better position to enter skilled work

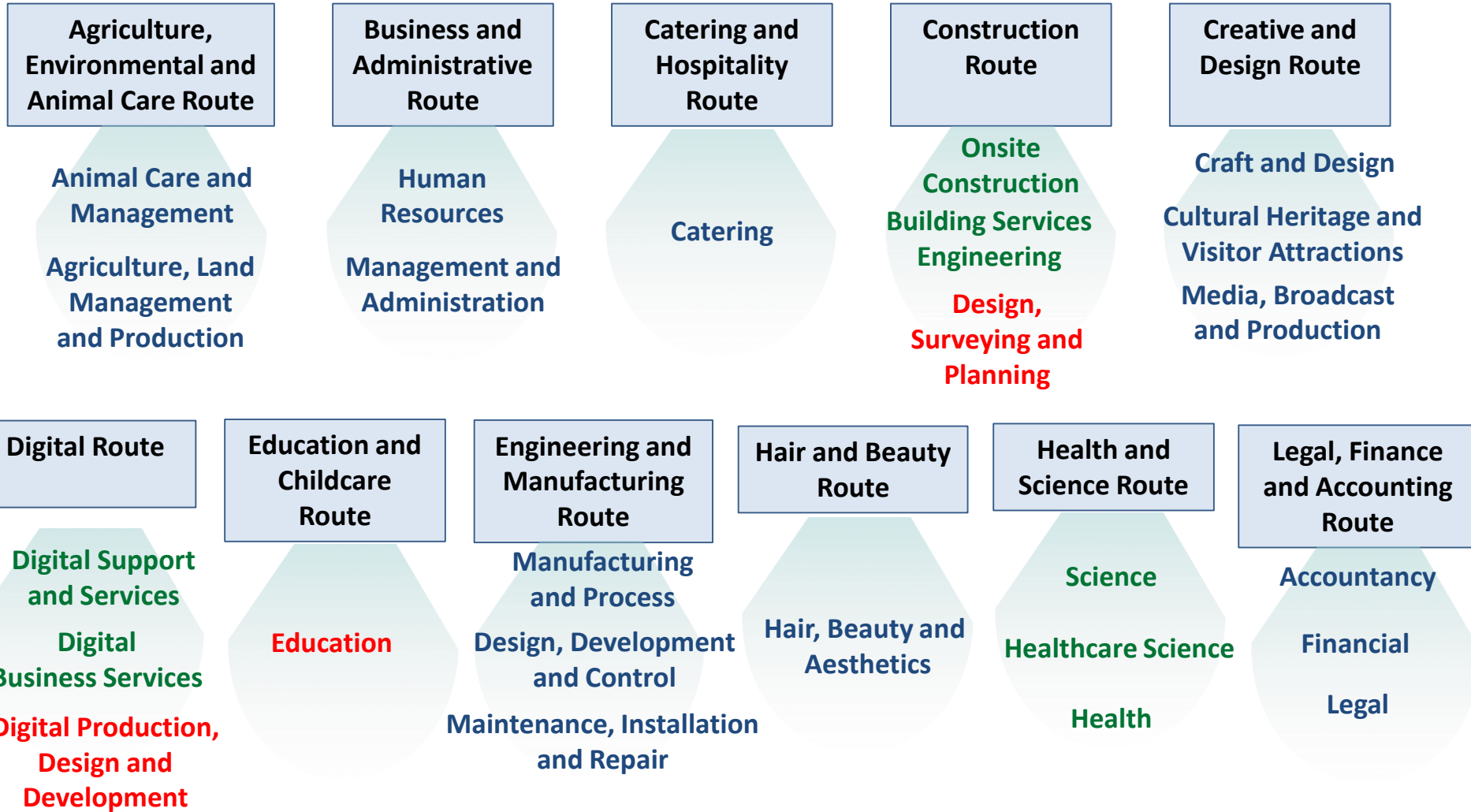
# T Level Delivery



- The first three T Levels to be delivered in September 2020 will be **Digital, Education & Childcare and Construction**
- We are starting **initial delivery in 2020** with a small number of high-performing providers so that we can provide them with the support they need
- In January we launched the ‘expressions of interest process’ for providers to **deliver T Levels in 2021** and will announce the selected providers in June 2019
- **A further seven T Levels will be delivered in 2021**, completing the rollout of the Digital and Construction routes and introducing courses from the Health and Science route
- **The remaining 15 T Levels** in Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care; Business and Administrative; Catering and Hospitality; Creative and Design; Engineering and Manufacturing; Hair and Beauty; Legal, Finance and Accounting will be rolled out from 2022 onwards – details to be confirmed in due course.



# Rollout of T Levels from 2020 onwards



**T Levels for 2020 delivery**

**T Levels for 2021 delivery**

**T Levels for delivery in 2022 onwards (rollout to be confirmed)**

# T Level Funding and Support for Providers

- **T Levels will be backed by additional investment** of £500m per year once fully rolled out. In November 2018 we launched a consultation on how funding will be distributed to providers from the 2020/21 academic year
- In January we launched a **£38 million capital fund** to support the initial roll-out of T Levels from September 2020.
- We have allocated nearly **£60million** to providers to help them build their capacity to deliver industry placements
- We are also investing **£5m into the National Apprenticeship Service** to raise awareness and promote industry placements
- We are investing up to £20m over the two years to March 2020 to support providers as they prepare for the introduction of T Levels – including **£8m for a new bespoke T Level Professional Development Programme**, led by the Education and Training Foundation

# T Levels – Strategic Communication Plan



- Our T Level communications campaign will launch in 2019, ensuring that parents, teachers, students and the wider public know about T Levels and where they fit among other choices after GCSEs. This will aim to:
  - Raise awareness** of T Levels, what they are, where they can lead and how they fit in with other 16+ choices.
  - Increase understanding** of how T Levels fit with wider technical education reform
  - Build confidence** and create positive perceptions of T Levels and technical education
- This will be **implemented in a phased approach**, taking account of estimated student numbers and key decision making times:

<b>Phase 1</b> (2018-19):	Increasing audience insight, developing our branding strategy, direct content delivered to parents, young people, employers and FE providers
<b>Phase 2</b> (2019-2021):	Supporting launch and rollout in the early adopter areas through advertising / social media channels, ramping up each year
<b>Phase 3</b> (2021 onwards):	Communications will be significantly increased to target a wider group of young people, providers and employers

# T Levels context

There are a number of other changes being made to technical education which are related to T Levels and will have an impact on their delivery:

- A **transition offer** will prepare students to successfully move onto a T Level, targeted at young people who are not ready to start a T Level at age 16, but who can realistically achieve it by age 19.
- We have committed to carrying out a **review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 and below**, excluding A levels and GCSEs. The aim is to simplify the current qualification landscape so that all qualifications meet 3 principles: to have a distinct purpose, to be good quality and to support progression to good outcomes.
- Progression from T Levels – we are **reforming higher technical education** and expect to publish proposals (Levels 4/5) for formal consultation in 2019.
- **Making informed choices** – we are providing training to make sure that Careers Leaders and careers professionals are equipped to provide advice and guidance on T levels to young people

## Next Steps to the launch of T Levels

- We continue to work closely with the selected 2020 providers to ensure they have the support they need for first teaching
- We will announce the selected providers to deliver T Levels in 2021 in June 2019
- Building on our work to promote T Levels, communications will ramp up each year as more T Levels are introduced and student numbers increase
- We will work with the Education and Training Foundation as they develop and rollout the professional development programme for teachers of T Levels
- We will continue to implement the extensive programme of support for industry placements
- In January, the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education assumed responsibility for approving the content and procurement for T Levels and DfE will continue to work with industry and awarding organisations as the T Level roll out continues