



People choose to go to university for lots of different reasons. Whether it's to qualify for a specific profession, learn more about a favourite subject, or to try something new, university is a resource that you can access throughout your life.

Whatever your future plans it's always worth checking the qualifications and experience that your dream job requires, but whilst some courses have very specific entry requirements, others are much more flexible.

The skills and experience that you have gained over time are important too, and will form part of your application for university and employment.

The most important thing is to know which qualifications are right for you, whether that's at school, college or university.

Below are listed some of the qualifications and experiences available to you before university.

Match the qualification/experience listed below to the correct definition. Write your answers in the boxes.

GCSE	A Level	International Baccalaureate
Access Course	BTEC First	Extended Project Qualification
Interest and Hobbies	Access Course	Work Experience
T Level	Volunteering	Online Study
Experience	Personal Study	
BTEC National Extended Diploma	Employment History	

1.

*Available in lots of different subjects, most people study between 5 and 12 at once. Maths, English and Science are compulsory, but you can usually choose which other subjects to study. Takes 2 years, studied age 14-16, studied at school.*

Answer:

GCSE

2.

*A qualification equivalent to 4 GCSE's and often studied alongside them, this course allows you to focus on your favourite subject, before attending college/6th form. Takes 1-2 years, age 14-16, studied at school.*

Answer:

3.

*A qualification available in lots of different subjects, most people study 3-4 at once. Some university courses or jobs require you to choose specific subjects at this level. Takes 1-2 years, age 16-19, studied at college or 6<sup>th</sup> form.*

Answer:

4.

*A qualification that allows you to focus on your favourite subject, an alternative to A Levels, with a focus on employment skills. This course allows you to explore your chosen subjects in lots of different ways. Takes 2 years, age 16-19, studied at college.*

Answer:

5.

*A qualification that allows you to study 6 subjects at once, with a focus on employment skills. Available in different subject 'pathways' such as Business, Humanities or Languages, takes 2 years, age 16-19, studied at college or 6<sup>th</sup> form*

Answer:

6. *A qualification where you to study one subject in detail, whilst completing 45 days of work experience. An alternative to A Levels or BTEC National Extended Diploma, and similar to an apprenticeship. Takes 2 years, age 16-19, studied at college.* Answer:
7. *A qualification designed for people that either left college over five years ago, or don't have the qualifications for university. Students study a subject relating to their chosen university course such as Humanities or Science. Age 19+, studied at college.* Answer:
8. *Time spent at a place of work, learning about a particular job by watching and helping a professional with their work. Can help you to decide whether you to do that job in the future or help to prove your interest in that job to a university or employer.* Answer:
9. *Working for an organisation for free, giving your time and energy to help a particular cause, such as a charity. Can be a chance to try a range of jobs, and can also be a route into competitive sectors such as charity or the arts* Answer:
10. *Time spent learning about an interest outside of your school work. Could include reading, online research, trips to theatres, art galleries, museums, historical sites and buildings. A chance to explore a favourite subject that may not be covered at school.* Answer:
11. *Also known as 'distance learning'. Many companies and universities offer short digital courses for students over the age of 16. An opportunity to try a new subject that may not be taught at your school or to try university –style learning.* Answer:
12. *Activities that you engage with during your spare time. They may not lead directly to a qualification or job, but they are usually something that you are passionate about, and can help you to develop lots of different skills which may be useful in the future.* Answer:
13. *This qualification allows you to research a topic that interests you, and create a project about it. This could be an essay, an art work or an event. Can strengthen your independent study skills, and can be included on university and job applications.* Answer:
14. *Something that helps you to develop skills like communication, organisation or teamwork. It could be a time where you tried something new, such as a trip, the Duke of Edinburgh aware or helping with a school event.* Answer:
15. *A record of the jobs you have had, and the skills that they've given you. This record will list where you worked, for how long, and what your role was. Even jobs that don't relate to your chosen university course can provide useful skills.* Answer:

**Let's see how you got on...return to the Powerpoint to find the answers**

