

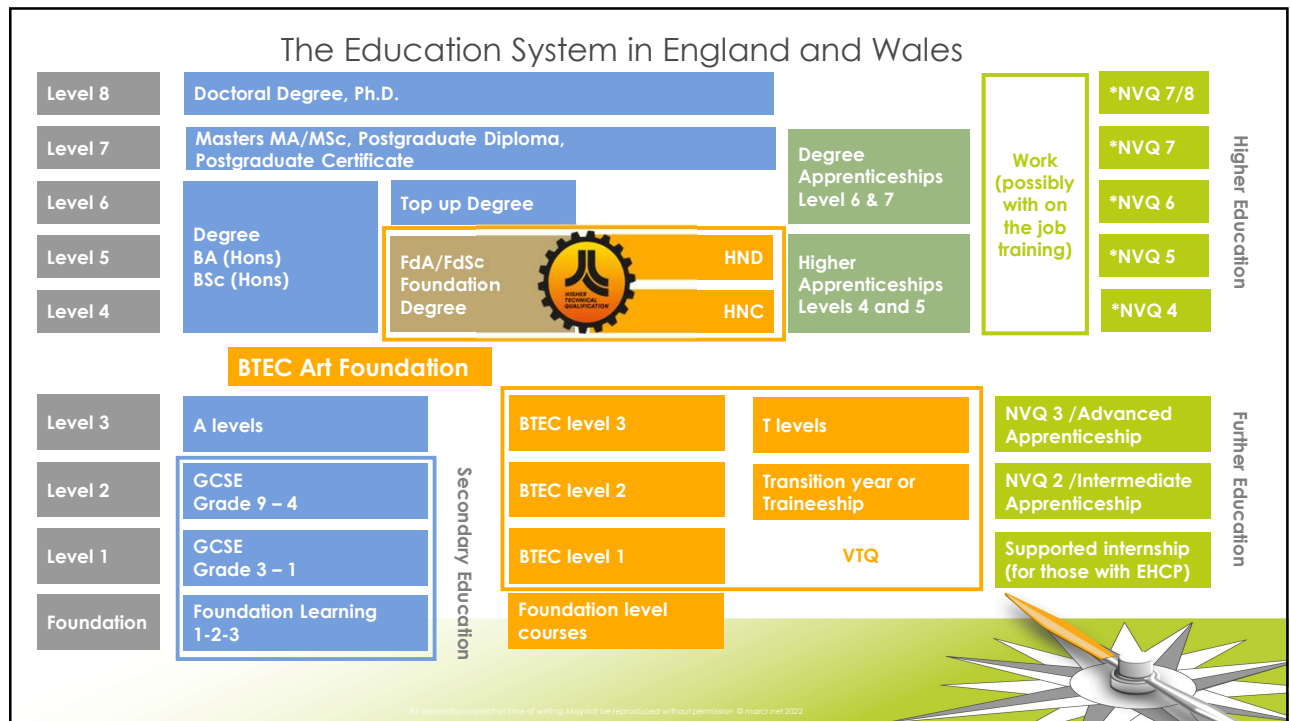
Qualifications and Levels... The National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

Marc Truyens
<https://marcr.net/>

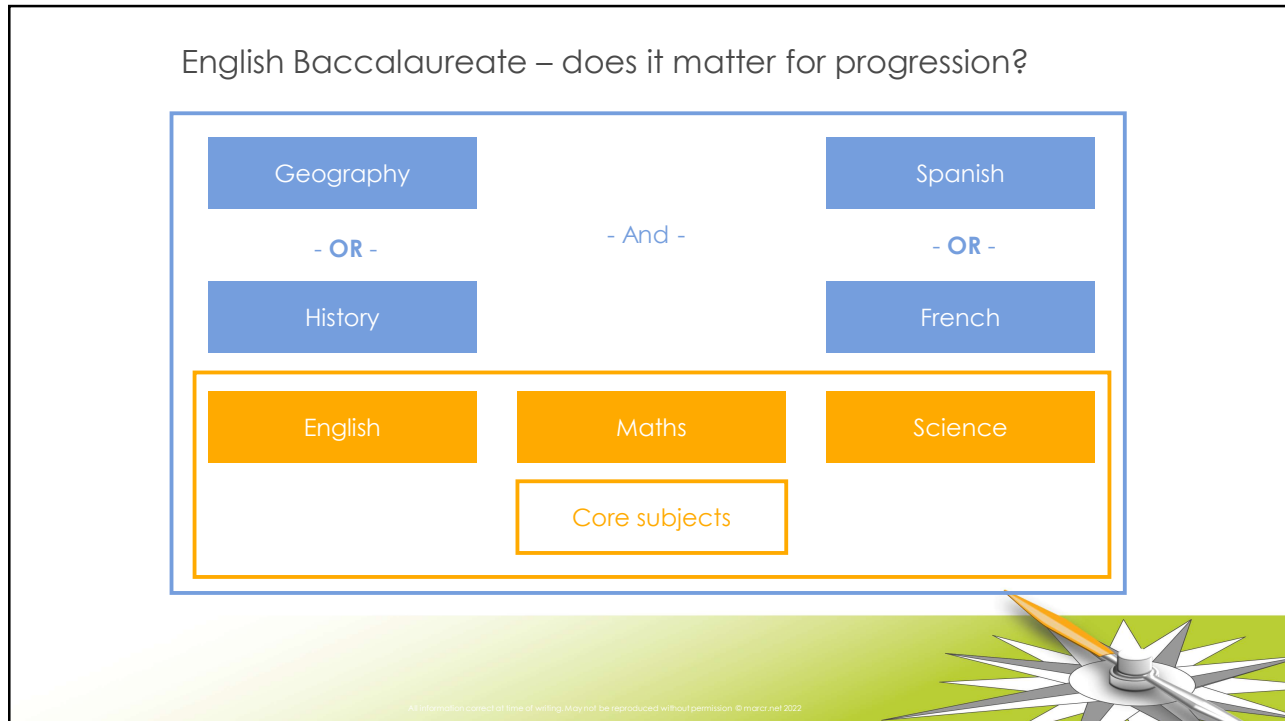


All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcr.net 2022

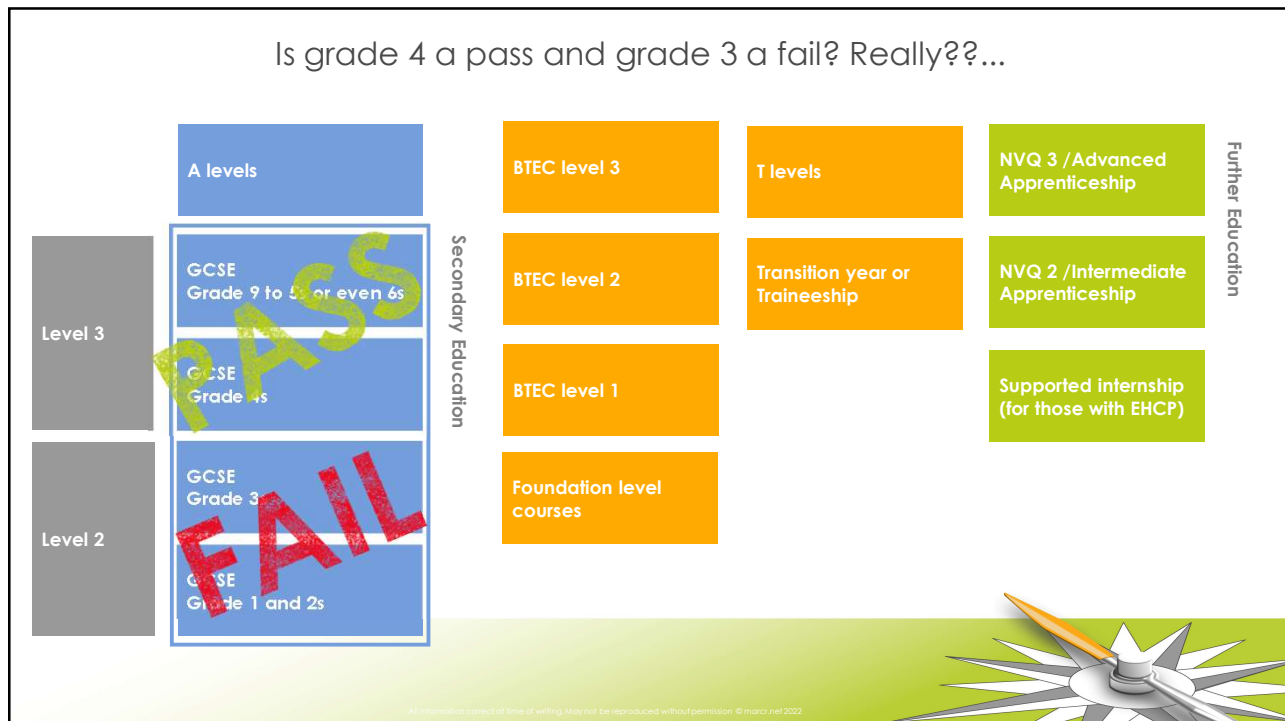
1



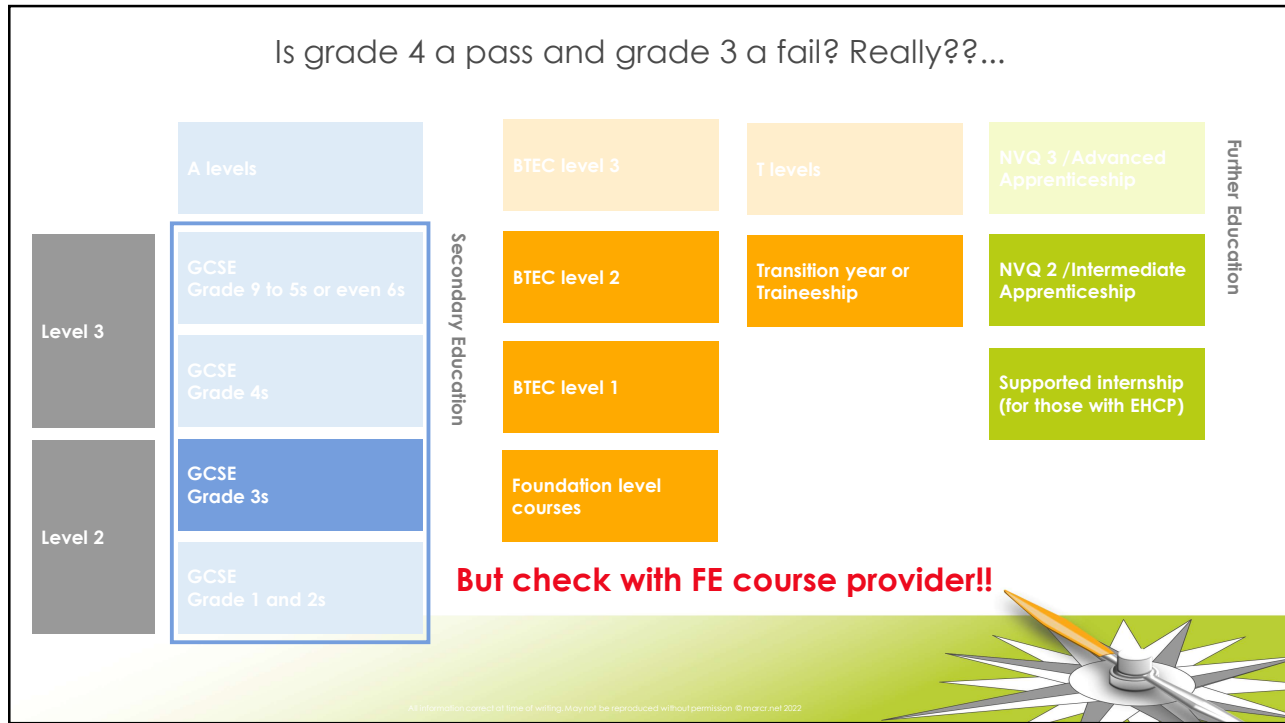
2



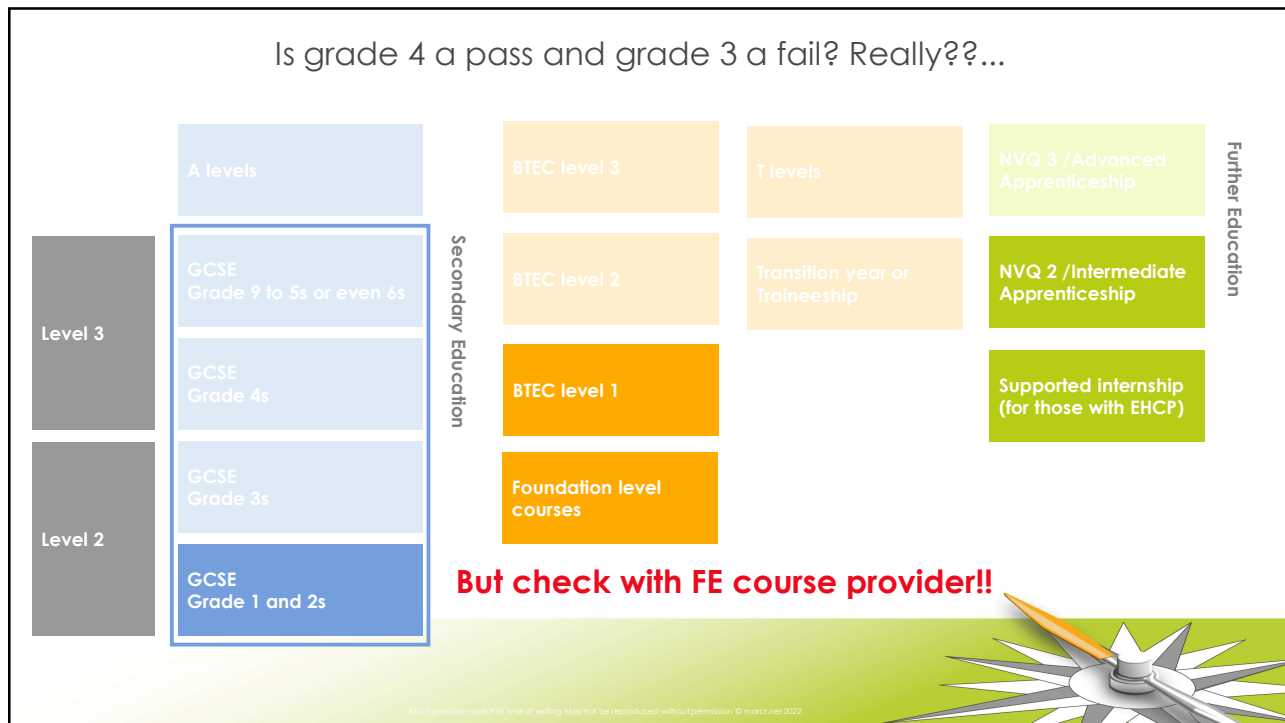
3



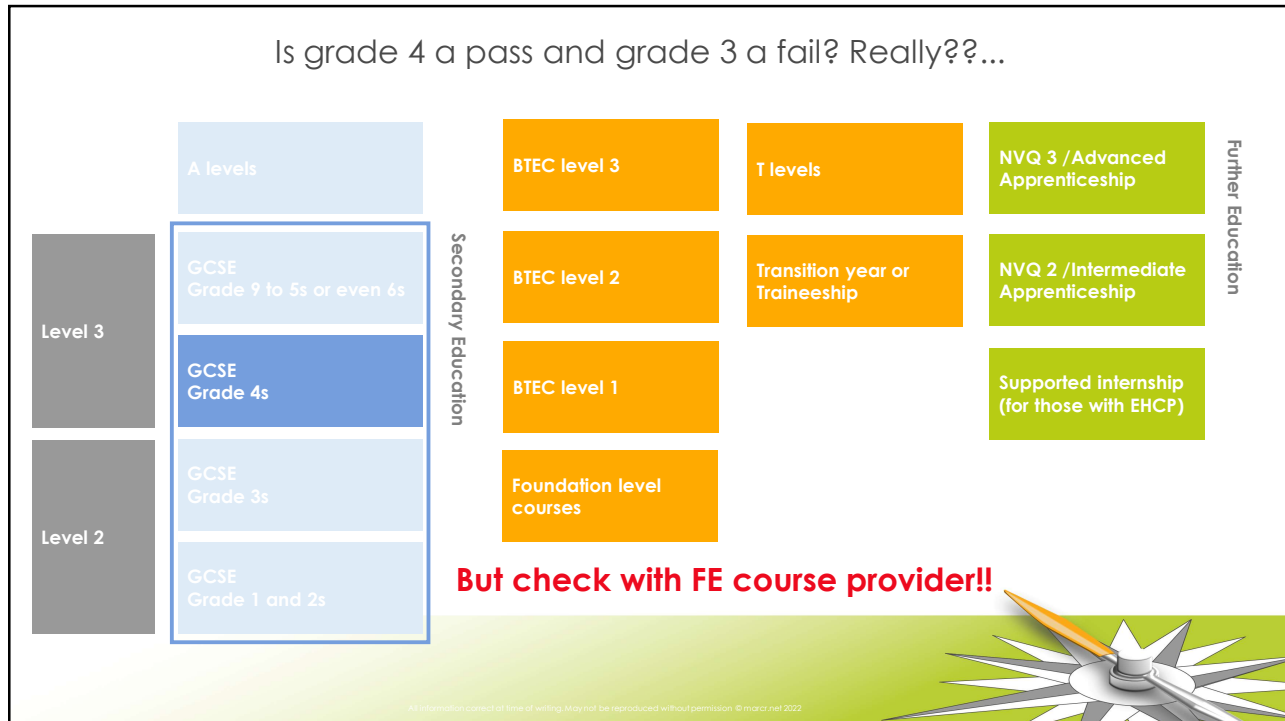
4



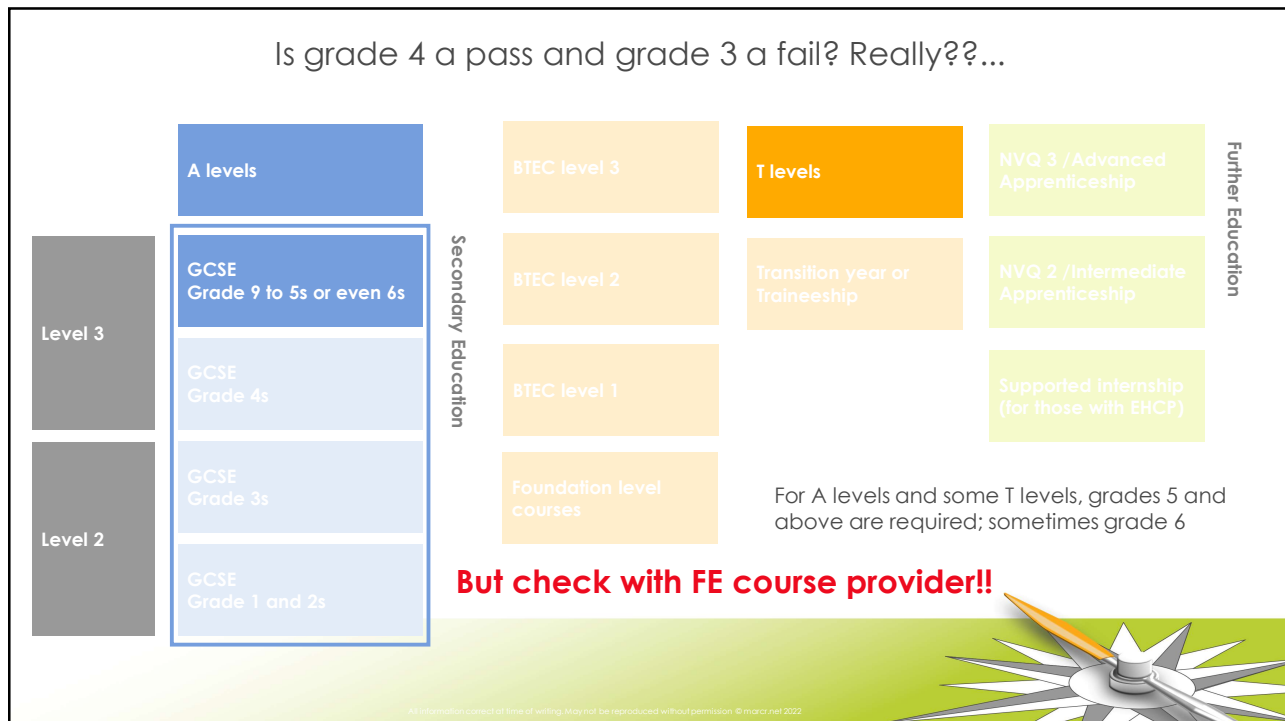
5



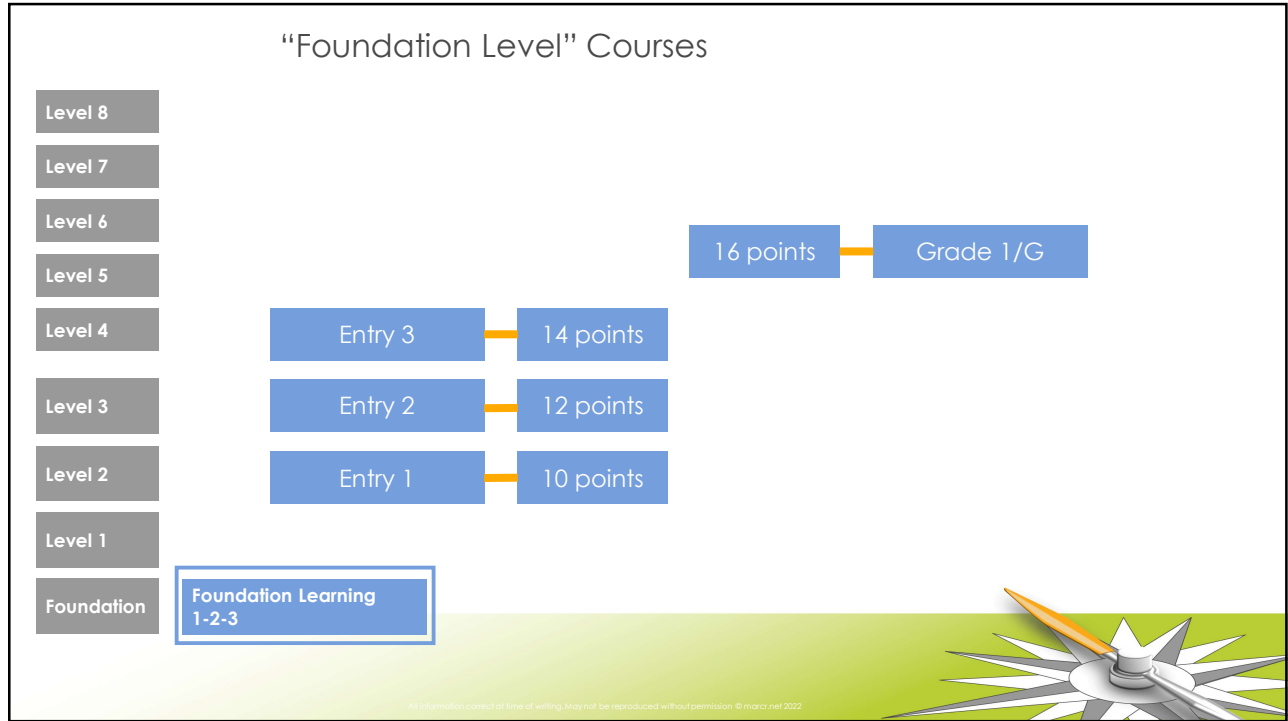
6



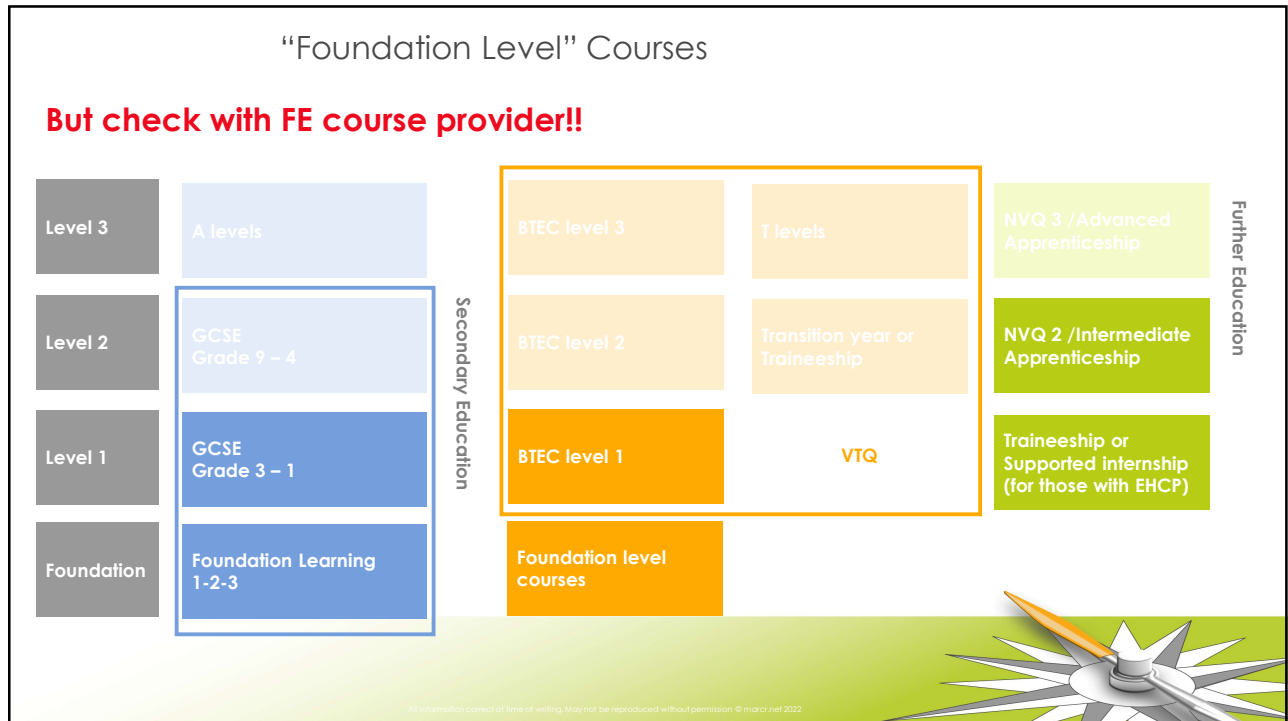
7



8



9



10

The qualification 'soup' 1

Foundation Learning 1-2-3

Foundation

Life Skills

GCSE

Functional Skills

Essential Skills

Key Skills

Life and Living Skills

All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcc.net 2022

11

The qualification 'soup' 2

GCSE

- Level 1 and 2
- Exams need to be taken in person
- More academic
- Opens up HE courses (mostly grade 4 required) after additional level 3 course
- Often offered as part of a college course (when not obtained grade 4 in year 11)
- Available in a wide variety of subjects but often or usually only maths and English for retakes after year 11.

Functional Skills

Foundation Level

- Entry level 1 to level 2
- Exams can be taken online
- Real life examples and more practical
- Opens up HE courses after level 2 and then level 3 course. (check with university!)
- Aimed at improving literacy and numeracy
- Often offered as part of an apprenticeship (when not obtained grade 4 in year 11)
- Available in maths, English and 'digital' (replacing ICT functional skills from this year)

All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcc.net 2022

12

The qualification 'soup' 3

Foundation Level

Life and Living Skills (OCR)

- Entry level 1 qualification
- Aimed at people with disabilities and learning needs.
- Learners may also progress to larger Life and Living Skills qualifications at Entry 1, Entry 2 or Entry 3.
- May also be used as stepping stones towards Functional Skills qualifications at Entry Level or Level 1 for some learners
- Internally assessed by centre staff and externally moderated by exam board

Key Skills

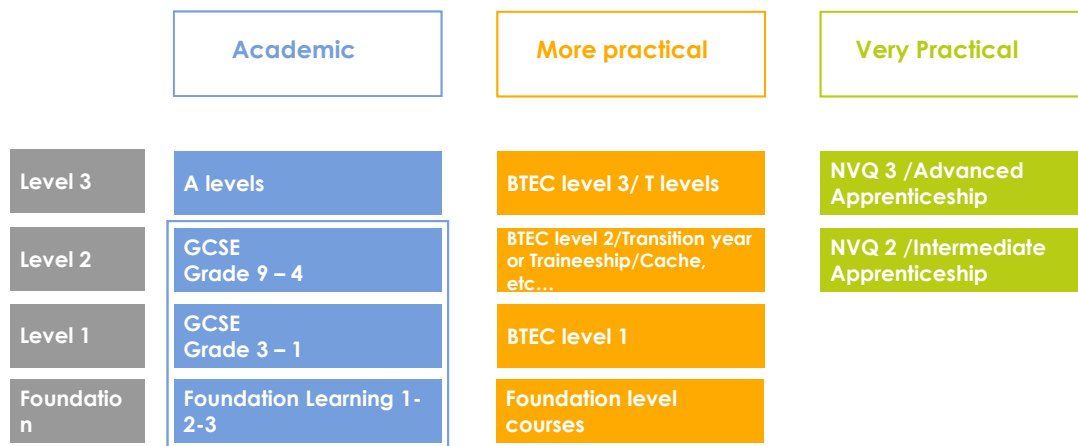
- Aimed at all ages and functions.
- Generally available in secondary schools (alongside GCSEs, A-levels or other qualifications), Further Education colleges (alongside NVQ, as part of Apprenticeship training or other equivalent vocational or academic courses)
- Available in 6 areas:
 1. Communication
 2. Application of Number
 3. Information Communication Technology
 4. Working with others
 5. Improving own learning and performance
 6. Problem solving
- Available at level 1 to level 5
- Response to employers' complaint about lack of skills in applicants.



All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcz.net 2022

13

Options after year 11



All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcz.net 2022

14

Kinds of college courses

More practical

Technical subjects or courses	Vocational subjects or courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied science Engineering Music Art Sport Health and social care Business ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catering Hairdressing Beauty therapy Motor vehicle mechanics Bricklaying Electrics Carpentry Plumbing ...
<p>Level 3 – GCSE grades 4 and above Level 2 – GCSE grades 3 Level 1 – GCSE grades 1 - 2</p>	<p>Normally always a start at level 2 and increasingly level 1 regardless of grades.</p>

All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcz.net 2022

15

A levels - what are they?

Academic:

- 2 years with exam at the end (enrichment is 1 year)
- Essay & exam based (but mainly creative subjects can include more course work.
- Class based rather than practical

Preparation for Higher Education:

- Including higher and degree apprenticeships
- There are other possibilities afterwards

You choose 4 subjects (and a spare one)

1 year Enrichment

2 year A Level 1

2 year A Level 2

2 year A Level 3

All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcz.net 2022

16

What are college courses...

BTEC Courses
CACHE course
Etc...

or

T Levels
(if already available at
client's preferred
college)

All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcz.net 2022

17

A bit about terminology: BTEC


Level 3 BTEC National	BTEC Extended Diploma	180	3 A Levels
	BTEC Diploma	120	2 A Levels
	BTEC Foundation Diploma	90	3 AS Levels
	BTEC Extended Certificate	60	1 A Level
	BTEC Certificate	30	1 AS Level
Level 2 BTEC First	BTEC Diploma	60	4 GCSE A* - C
	BTEC Extended Certificate	30	2 GCSE A* - C
	BTEC Certificate	15	1 GCSE A* - C
Level 1	BTEC Award/Certificate/ Diploma	Variable	1 GCSE D - G
Entry Level	BTEC entry level qualifications	Variable	

All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcz.net 2022

18

T Levels – What are they?

Workplace or simulated workplace (at college)	Give you the technical qualifications needed for the job
Classroom based	Offer specialist learning
Meaningful Work Placement	45 – 60 days/315 hours
English and Mathematics	If not already achieved




All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcr.net 2022

19

Grades Comparison Example (for illustrative purposes only)

Secondary Education	Further Education			Higher Education
GCSE equivalent	A level grade	UCAS points	Vocational grade	Degree class
9	A*	56	Distinction* - D*	First - 1
8	A	48	Distinction - D	2.1
7	B	40	Merit - M	2.2
6	C	32	Pass - P	3
5	D	24	UCAS points for BTEC style courses work in a different way - See www.ucas.com	
4	E	16		
3	U	0		
2				
1				
U				

For reference only. Only to be used to illustrate other more detailed information. All information correct at time of writing but grade boundaries are not absolute. To be used for exploration only. © Marcr Career Guidance 2022

 MARCR

All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcr.net 2022

20

Who pays for university?



All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcz.net 2022

21

What do you actually pay?

Previous arrangement

- Income: £30,000/year
- Net./month: £2,005.33
- Threshold: £27,295/year
- Over: £2,705
- 9%: £243.45/year
- Per month: £20.29

Present arrangement

- Income: £30,000/year
- Net./month: £2,005.33
- Threshold: £25,000/year
- Over: £5,000
- 9%: £450/year
- Per month: £37.50

All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission. © marcz.net 2022

22

Upcoming changes...

- From 2026 – no personal statement for university anymore
 - <https://www.ucas.com/corporate/news-and-key-documents/news/new-personal-statement-help-level-playing-field-disadvantaged-students>
 - <https://www.ucas.com/about-us/news-and-insights/reforming-admissions#the-new-personal-statement-for-2026-entry>
- From September 2024 – Apprenticeships will earn UCAS points
 - <https://feweeek.co.uk/revealed-ucas-points-plan-for-apprenticeships/>
- Will any further changes to courses happen?
 - Advance British Standard ; "...takes the best of A levels and T levels and brings them together into a single qualification." (??)
 - Defunding courses, or even keeping T levels?

All information correct at time of writing. May not be reproduced without permission © marci.net 2022

