



About us

We, Connexions, offer information, advice, guidance and support to all young people aged 13 to 19, and up to the age of 25 for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Connexions Personal Advisers provide support on a range of issues, including careers, training, health, relationships, money and personal development.

They are based in schools, colleges and Connexions centres across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

www.connexions-southcentral.org

Your local Chambers of Commerce

Isle of Wight
01983 520777
www.iwchamber.co.uk

North Hampshire
01256 352275
www.nhcci.co.uk

Portsmouth and south east Hampshire
023 9244 9449
www.chamber.org.uk

Southampton and Fareham
023 8022 3541
www.soton-chamber.co.uk

Your local Connexions Centre

Alton, Bordon and Liphook
Bordon Youth Centre
Mill Chase Community School
Mill Chase Road
Bordon
GU35 0ER
Phone: 01420 488235

Andover
Portland House
High Street
SP10 1LP
Phone: 01264 369947

Basingstoke
Sun Alliance House
37-41 Wote Street
Basingstoke
RG21 7NF
Phone: 01256 819576

Eastleigh
24 High Street
Eastleigh
SO50 5LD
Phone: 023 8065 3619

Fareham
Connexions Centre
X-Perience
Trinity Street
PO16 7SJ
Phone: 01329 827504 or
826888

Gosport
Connexions Centre
I-Stop
St Vincent College
Mill Lane
PO12 4QA
Phone: 023 9250 2456

Hart and Rushmoor (Farnborough and Aldershot)
Phone:
Connexions Head Office
01489 566990

Havant
Connexions Centre
11 North Street
Havant
PO9 1PW
Phone: 023 9248 4365

Isle of Wight
Connexions Centre
29 High Street
Newport
PO30 1SS
Phone: 01983 525927

New Forest
Connexions Centre
Claypits Lane
Applemore
Dibden
SO45 5TN
Phone: 023 8087 7960



Portsmouth
Connexions Centre
Go For It
Station Road
Portsmouth
PO3 5BG
Phone: 023 9286 5454

Southampton
Connexions Centre
126 Above Bar
Southampton
SO14 7DU
Phone: 023 8022 8557

Waterlooville
Connexions Centre
256 London Road
PO7 7HG
Phone: 023 9226 7815

Winchester
Connexions Centre
12-14 City Road
SO23 8SD
Phone: 01962 877386

Coming soon

Winchester - 4 St Georges Street
Cosham - 53 High Street
Farnborough - 39 Victoria Road
Andover - Winchester House,
Winchester Street

Fareham - 189-199 West Street
Correct at August 2005

The National Qualification Framework

A guide for employers



South Central Connexions and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Chambers of Commerce working together to support the development of your future workforce.

Supported by:



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The National Qualification Framework

The National Qualification Framework was developed as a way of arranging qualifications into levels so that equivalents can be more easily understood. They start at entry level and go up to level 4. The higher the level, the greater the depth of knowledge, skills and understanding that the student has to show to gain the qualification.

National Qualification Framework (NQF) level	Academic	Vocational	Work related
8	PhD (Doctorate)		BTEC Advanced Professional Dip/Cert/Awd NVQ level 5
7	Masters, PG Cert, PG Dip		BTEC Advanced Professional Dip/Cert/Awd
6	Degrees		BTEC Professional Dip/Cert/Awd
5	DipHE, DipFE, Foundation Degree, Higher National Diploma		BTEC HNDs and HNCs BTEC Professional Dip/Cert/Awd NVQ level 4
4	CertHE		BTEC Professional Dip/Cert/Awd
3 Advanced technician, skilled, supervisory	A2 level (AS + A2 = full A level) AS levels International Baccalaureate (IB)	Applied A level (2)	BTEC National Diploma (3) BTEC National Certificate (2) BTEC National Award (1) OCR level 3 National Certificate, Diploma, Extended Diploma NVQ level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship CACHE Diploma in Child Care and Education (3) City and Guilds Level 3 National Certificate and Progression Award
2 Intermediate, operative, semi-skilled	GCSE A to C [was O level grades A to C CSE grade 1]	GNVQ Intermediate	BTEC First Certificate and Diploma OCR level 2 National Certificate NVQ level 2 Apprenticeship CACHE Certificate in Child Care and Education City and Guilds Progression Awards level 2 City and Guilds National Certificate
1 Foundation	GCSE D to G [was CSE grades 2 to 5]	Vocational GCSE (double award) Foundation GNVQ	GVQV Foundation level BTEC entry level - introductory certificates and diplomas OCR level 1 1st Award Certificate NVQ level 1 City and Guilds Progression Award level 1
Entry			BTEC entry level courses - skills for working life

Key: (1) (2) (3) = the number of A levels the course is equal to.

For more information about the national qualifications framework, visit our website at www.connexions-southcentral.org

The National Qualification Framework



Useful websites

- www.edexcel.org.uk
 Edexcel is the UK's largest awarding body. This site provides information about curriculum and qualification development.
- www.ocr.org.uk
 The OCR site provides course information on a variety of subject areas.
- www.qca.org.uk
 This provides information on qualifications and the National Curriculum.
- www.apprenticeships.org.uk
 There is a section dedicated to employers.
- www.businesslinkwessex.co.uk
 Your route to a wide range of unbiased business information and advice.

Glossary of qualifications

Applied A levels

From September 2005, the vocational A level will be replaced by the applied A level. This is a new name for what was called the Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE). The course has some features of the VCE but has adopted the AS/A2 structure of the GCEs. They have been designed to give students a broad introduction to a vocational area and help them to develop and apply knowledge in a variety of work-related situations.

BTEC Entry level Certificates in Skills for Working Life introduces learners to the skills they need to work in a career area they are interested in.

BTEC First Certificates and Diplomas are NQF level 2 vocational qualifications and provide the initial knowledge and understanding for students who want to work or to take further study at level 3.

BTEC National Diplomas, Certificates and Awards are at NQF level 3 and focus on a specialist occupational area.

NVQs are designed by industry for industry. They assess the skills that candidates show at work and are available at five levels, from level 1 for routine jobs to level 5 for jobs with complicated tasks and major responsibility.

Vocational GCSE

Students can study vocational programmes from the age of 14. These courses can offer progression routes through vocational A levels and other level 3 qualifications to degree courses. Examples of subjects offered include business, art, information communication technology (ICT) and manufacturing.