

QUALIFICATIONS
EXPLAINED

IB Diploma (Level 3) – Only available at Truro college

How long is it?

Two years.

What do you need?

Five GCSEs at grade 9 - 4 or above in a broad range of subjects, including grade 5 or above in English and Mathematics. Grade 9 - 6 in subjects appropriate to Higher Level options.

What is it?

The IB Diploma (International Baccalaureate) is an excellent alternative to A Levels. It will be attractive if you have enjoyed studying a range of subjects at GCSE and want to continue doing so at an advanced level. You will study three subjects at Higher Level and three subjects at Standard Level. You will also follow a Theory of Knowledge course, produce an extended essay and undertake Creativity, Action and Service-based projects. Specialised forms of assessment are used as appropriate to each subject as well as written examinations, all reflecting the balance and educational diversity of the IB programme. The IB is fully recognised by all UK universities.

A Level (Level 3)

How long is it?

Two years.

What do you need?

Five GCSEs at Grade 9 - 4 or in to include English Language or Literature and/or Maths at Grade 5 or above and with specific relevant subjects related to your A-Level choices at Grade 6 or above.

What is it?

Advanced Level programmes consist of formal lectures, class activities and assessments, set homework and problem-solving. For each subject, you will also be required to undertake several hours of independent study. Modern study facilities are available in the College and successful students use these effectively.

It is strongly encouraged that students take a broad programme for A Level. Most subject specifications are assessed by examination but some include coursework assessment. All A Levels at the College will be delivered in the new linear format with no qualification at the end of year one. Academic assessment for Linear A Levels will take place at the end of two years of study. Students must study a minimum of three A Levels

Extended Diploma (Level 3)

How long is it?

Two years. In year one you will complete a Level 3 Foundation Diploma before progressing to gain the full Extended Diploma at the end of Year 2 unless otherwise stated.

What do you need?

Four GCSEs at grade 9 - 4 or to include GCSE grade 5 in either English or Mathematics.

What is it?

Previously known as the National Diploma, the 180 credit, 18-unit qualification is now referred to as the Extended Diploma. This Diploma is equivalent to three subjects at A Level. It is an excellent route if you have decided on the broad area of employment you wish to pursue. The combination of a range of specialist modules with the depth of knowledge acquired enables you to progress successfully into Higher Education or into employment. You will also be required to undertake several hours of independent study. Assessment is through coursework, external written assessments and evaluation of practical skills.

Extended Certificate (Level 3)

How long is it?

Two years.

What do you need?

Four GCSEs at grade 9 - 4 including a grade 5 in English and Maths..

What is it?

The Level 3 Extended Diploma is an excellent addition if you are studying A Levels. It can add breadth to an academic programme of study and provide a vocationally relevant dimension. This six-unit diploma is equivalent to one A Level. Assessment is through coursework and evaluation of practical skills including a final major project.

T Levels – Level 3

How long is it?

Two years.

What do you need?

4 GCSE's at Grade 9 - 4 to include English language or literature and/or maths.

What is it?

T levels are new courses starting in September 2020 and will be equivalent to three A levels. T levels combine classroom theory, practical learning and a three-month industry placement with an employer to make sure students have real experience of the workplace. T levels have been developed in collaboration with employers so that they meet the needs of industry and prepare students for work. They provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door to highly skilled employment, an apprenticeship or higher level study.

Around 80% of your time will be spent at College with the remaining 20% being spent at your placement. This differs to an apprenticeship, which is typically 80% on the job and 20% in the classroom.

Progression (Level 1 & 2)

How long is it?

One year.

What do you need?

Progression 1: No prior qualification required. Progression 2: Three GCSEs at grade 9 - 3 including English or Maths.

What is it?

These courses are focused on progression, either to further study or into employment. You will develop knowledge and understanding by applying your learning and skills in a work-related context.

Progression 1 pathways include Functional Skills English and Maths up to Level 1 and a Work Skills qualification. Achievement at Level 1 is essential for progression onto Level 2 courses. A Progression 1 Vocational Taster course is also available to allow you to sample many different subject areas. Progression 2 is the pathway to Level 3 courses including Extended Diplomas and in specific instances, to A Levels. Progression 2 involves Level 2 English and Maths plus either an Extended Certificate in a vocational area or two Certificates. This provides the platform for progression to a wide range of courses. Assessment will be through a combination of external examination and coursework.

Apprenticeship – Level 2 & 3

How long is it?

A minimum of one year. Apprenticeship – Level 2 & 3

What do you need?

An employer who is prepared to take you on as a member of staff. Qualifications are based on what the employer wants you to have. This could be no formal requirements as Apprenticeships are not just based on previous academic achievement or it could be the employer requires you to have 4 GCSE's grades 4 and above. Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16 and start throughout the year, meaning you can apply at a time that suits you most. You will need to be committed, motivated, enthusiastic and reliable. Applicants will typically be interviewed prior to starting an Apprenticeship programme.

What is it?

As an apprentice you will be working for a local business, earning a real wage, gaining practical skills and completing nationally recognised qualifications. Apprentices are paid at least £119 per week if working full-time. Choosing the Apprenticeship route gets you straight into the career of your choice. After finishing, the majority of apprentices (85%) will stay in employment, with two-thirds (64%) staying with the same employer. You will be employed for at least 30 hours per week and take part in a mixture of taught courses, workshops, work-based assessments and e-learning. You will also have a dedicated training adviser who will help and support you throughout your Apprenticeship.

Costs: Age 16-18 = fully funded, aged 19+ = employer contribution of £500 or £750 for large organisations (correct at time of print).

For further details please [VISIT THE GOVERNMENT APPRENTICESHIP WEBSITE](#) or contact our Apprenticeship recruitment co-ordinator by email at apprenticeships@truro-penwith.ac.uk

