

**AS** Advanced Subsidiary (first year of A Level)

**A Level** Advanced Level qualification

**A2** Second year of A Level (to gain a full A Level)

**Apprenticeships** A way of learning and achieving qualifications whilst in employment gaining workplace experience.

**AQA** Assessment and Qualifications Alliance – an awarding body

**BA (Hons)** Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) – a degree award

**BSc (Hons)** Bachelor of Science (with Honours) – a degree award

**BTEC** Business and Technician Education Council – offering vocational qualifications for access to specific careers or higher education

**Certification** Process of awarding a grade for a subject, specification or whole qualification

**CSE** Certificate of Secondary Education – qualifications replaced by GCSEs in 1986

**CSR** Certifying Statement of Results – issued if a candidate loses a results certificate

**CCEA** Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment – advises on curriculum and regulates external qualifications in Northern Ireland

**DCELLS** Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills – department within the Welsh Assembly Government with responsibility for the regulation of qualifications and assessments in Wales

**DCSF** Department for Children, Schools and Families (replaced by the Department for Education in 2010)

**DfE** Department for Education – a department of the UK government responsible for issues affecting young people in England up to the age of 19

**DIPHE** Diploma of Higher Education

**Diploma** A qualification introduced in 2008 to recognise the achievements of learners aged 14–19

**Edexcel** An awarding body

**ECM** Every Child Matters – a government initiative that aims to ensure that every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, has the support they need to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being

**FE** Further education – post-compulsory

**FSMQ** Free Standing Maths Qualification

**GCE** General Certificate of Education – also known as the GCE Advanced level or the A level

**GCSE** General Certificate of Secondary Education

**HE** Higher education – at university level

**HND** Higher National Diploma – given for successfully completing practical, vocational training that prepares the student for a specific career

**IB** International Baccalaureate – an internationally recognised qualification offered at three levels

**ICT** Information and communication technology

**JCQ** Joint Council for Qualifications

**Key Stage** A recognised stage of learning – from nursery education, through school and into further and higher education (see SATs below)

**LA** Local authority – a council that has responsibility for providing education to pupils of school age and adult education in its area

**Nationals** Practical, work-related qualifications that give learners an insight into a particular workplace or career

**Ofsted** Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills – regulator of care for children and young people, and inspector of education and training for learners of all ages

**NVQ** National Vocational Qualification – work-based awards achieved through assessment and training

**NQT** Newly qualified teacher

**OCR** Oxford, Cambridge and RSA examinations board

**Ofqual** Office of the Qualifications and Examination Regulator – regulatory body for all awarding bodies

**Personal Learning Record Service (PLR)** Skills Funding Agency (SFA) initiative designed to help learners access their academic and vocational achievement data

**PGCE** Postgraduate Certificate in Education

**PLTS** Personal, learning and thinking skills

**Principal Learning** Series of vocational OCR qualifications

**QCA** Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

**QCF** Qualifications and Credit Framework – framework for recognising skills and qualifications

**Qualification** An award made by an awarding body to demonstrate a learner's achievement or competence.

**QTS** Qualified Teacher Status – achieved through university studies and teaching placement

**SAT** Standard Attainment Test (taken at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2)

**SFA** Skills Funding Agency

**Special consideration** Post-assessment adjustment to grades reflecting temporary illness, injury or other indisposition at the time the assessment was taken

**SVQ** Scottish Vocational Qualification (equivalent of NVQ)

**Technicals** OCR vocational qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3 for students aged 16+, designed to enable progress to employment or further education within the workplace

**UCAS** University and Colleges Admission Service

**UCAS tariff** Points system used to compare different qualifications for getting into university

**UCI** Unique Candidate Identifier

**ULN** Unique learner number

**UMS** Uniform Mark Scale

**WJEC** Welsh Joint Education Committee – an awarding body

**Welsh Bacc** Welsh Baccalaureate – combines personal development skills with existing qualifications such as A Levels, NVQs and GCSEs, to make one wider award