# T-Levels: Where are we now?

Rhys Davies and Beej Kaczmarczyk





### A reminder on the context

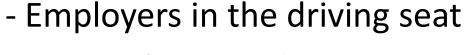
- The Wolf Report 2011
- The Sainsbury Review 2016
- The Post 16 Skills Plan July 2016
- Spring budget 2017: £500 million investment each year
- Technical and Further Education Act April 2017
- Action planning and consultation on T Levels in place



### A reminder on the context.....

The Sainsbury Review of FE and Skills 2016

Challenge: Grow the economy and improve productivity



- Parity of esteem between A Level and Vocational
- Closer integration college based and employment based technical education





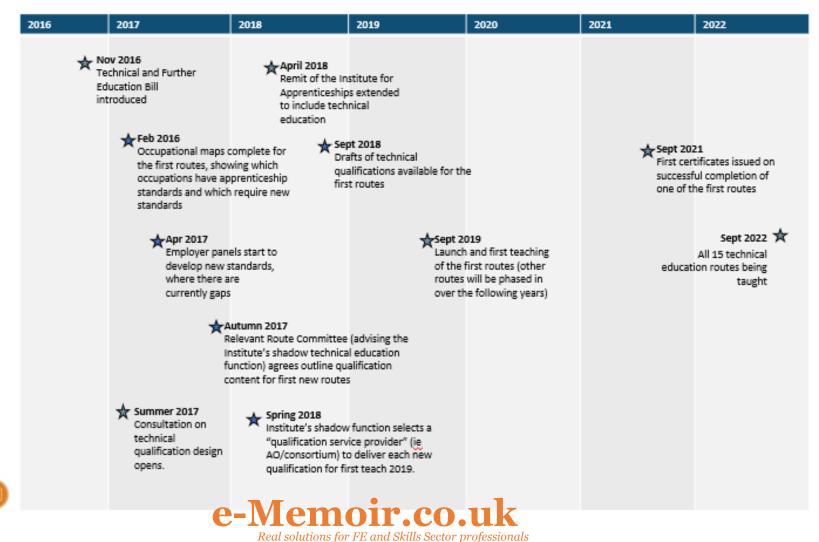
### A reminder on the context...

- Brexit
- The Industrial Strategy
- Apprenticeship reform
- The national careers strategy





# Timing....



# Timing...

- October 2017 announcement launched delayed to 2020 with full roll out from 2022.
- Full roll out now delayed until 2023 ("and beyond"??)
- Recent requests for further delays refused by the government
- 54 pilot providers to introduce T Levels in 2020-21 in three routes:
  - Digital (Production, Design and Development pathway)
  - Childcare and Education (single pathway)
  - Construction (Design, Surveying and Planning pathway)
- ITT for Awarding Organisations





### The 15 technical routes...

#### 15 technical education routes roll out



Phased roll-out to 54 pilot providers

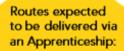
- Design & planning (Construction)
- Education & Childcare (Childcare and Education) – full route
- Software Applications Design (Digital)

Phased roll-out to be confirmed. Further selected centres also to be confirmed

- Agriculture, environment and animal care
- Business and administration
- · Catering and hospitality
- Creative and design
- Engineering and manufacturing
- Hair and beauty
- Health and science
- Legal, finance and accounting

Technical education: T levels- updated June 2018





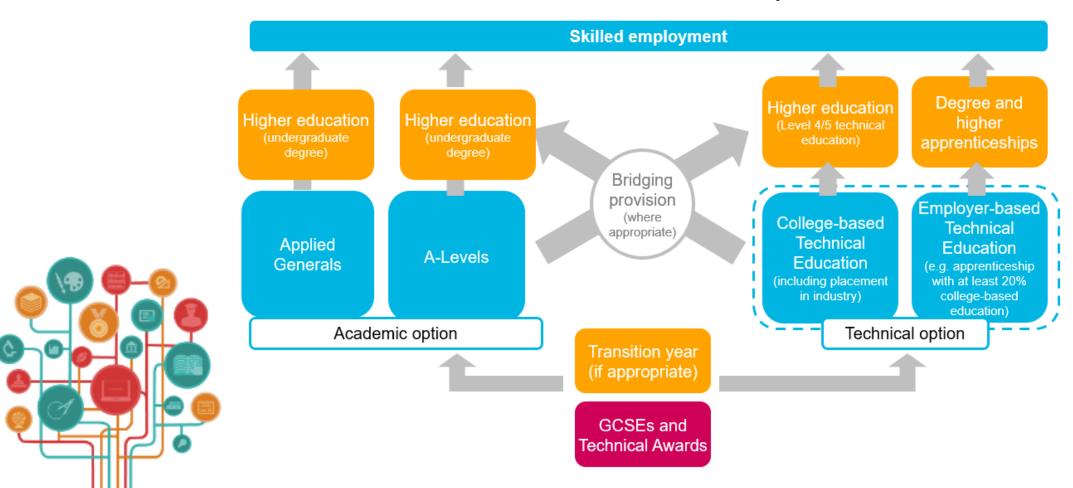


- Sales marketing and procurement
- Social care
- Transport and logistics



# An overview of the new technical option

### An overview of the new technical option



### Some recent soundbites....

"..we're making the most significant reform to advanced technical education in 70 years to ensure young people have gold standard qualifications open to them whichever route they choose."

"T Levels provide a high-quality, technical alternative to A levels ensuring thousands of people across the country have the skills we need to compete globally – a vital part of our modern industrial strategy."





"For too long young people have not had a genuine choice about their future aged 16. Whilst A levels provide a world class academic qualification, many technical education courses are undervalued by employers and don't always provide students with the skills they need to secure a good job - that has to change."

**Damian Hinds** 





### What are T Levels?

T levels are new, level 3 technical study programmes that will sit alongside apprenticeships within a reformed technical education system'

- **Purpose-**T levels will be a distinctive and prestigious offer, designed primarily to support entry to skilled employment in technical occupations at level 3 and above. They will also support progression to higher education options.
- Relationships to apprenticeships-T levels will be available alongside apprenticeships as one half of a high quality technical education offer. Both will provide in-depth technical training via two different routes. Apprenticeships are employment with training; T levels will primarily be studied at an education or training provider.
- Implications on other qualifications-"The introduction of T levels must simplify our complicated qualification system. As such we (DfE) are proposing to review the range of qualifications currently funded by Government".





# What might the T Levels look like?

#### T Level programme

1800 hours over two years. Achievement of T level must include all components

#### **CORE 20%-50%**

Graded A\* - E

Knowledge & underpinning concepts, core workplace skills relevant to T level

External exam & employer based project

#### OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALISM 50-80%

Based on occupational maps
Knowledge & skills required
(to meet threshold competence)

Maths, English & digital skills

#### Synoptic practical assignment

#### WORK PLACEMENT

315-420 hours Min 45-60 days

Providers and employers can be flexible on delivery time but min must be met

### Maths, English and digital skills

GCSE or Functional Skills Level 2

\*digital skills covered in occupational specialism

#### LTP

e.g. licence to practice qualification or professional registration

#### Enrichment - tutorial |

includes any further employability/enrichment requirements



Threshold competence is as close to full competence as can be reasonable expected of learners after 2 years of study



#### T Level certificate of achievement and recognition

This is to certify that

#### ANNE OTHER

has been awarded a Pass

#### SOFTWARE AND APPLICATION DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

#### Achieving:

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION GRADE

Core: Software Application Design and Development D

Web application Design Merit

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION
Software Certified Professional (Level 2)

MATHS AND ENGLISH
OCR GCSE English 4
Pearson Functional Skills Mathematics (Level 2) Pass

WORK PLACEMENT

Trainee Software Designer Completed

Awarded on Signed

25th August 2022

Chair, The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education

Pass



# The key issues: Employers

- Need employer buy-in T Level Standards and work experience
- Industry Placement 45-60 days. "The most challenging aspect of the qualification"
- Named person
- Quality Assurance





# The Key Issues: The T Level panels

- Panels already meeting to look at 6 routes to be delivered from 2022.
- More panels to be constituted and to meet
- IFA and T Level Panels working on occupational standards





# Implications for providers...

- Curriculum mapping
- The "binary option"
- The transition year(s)
- Industry placements
- Applied General qualifications





# Implications for providers...

- What about Level 2?
- Adult learners
- Ofsted
- UCAS?
- Key Stage 4
- Transition period





### Many thanks

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