

What is a Framework?

National Apprenticeship Service

There are a number of elements to each Apprenticeship and this is called the **Framework**. This means you will get a range of qualifications as you progress through your training and education.

Each Apprenticeship framework has three main strands:

- **A competence based element**
- **A technical element**
- **A skills element**

The three strands are sometimes accompanied by additional qualifications to give the most relevant skills and knowledge required for the job that you are employed in.

The framework is developed by employers and the Sector Skills Council meaning that you will be doing the exact skills that the employer requires whilst also developing skills you can take to another role. There are over 190 frameworks covering 80 sectors ranging from Accountancy to Youth Work.

There are 3 levels of framework;	Typically
Apprenticeship Framework	Level 2 competence Level 2 technical Skills at level 1 and level 2
Advanced Apprenticeship Framework	Level 3 competence Level 3 technical Skills at level 2 and level 3
Higher Apprenticeship Framework	Level 4 competence Level 4 technical with Skills at level 3

You will get certificates for each element of the framework.

Once you have completed all the elements of the framework you are completing you will get an overarching Apprenticeship Qualification.

Components	Description
1	<p>Competence Element – NVQ</p> <p>This is a nationally recognised vocational qualification (NVQ) which gives you the skills that you need to do a job. It is based on a series of competencies which are mapped to your job role. As you carry out activities at work you will gather work-based evidence and get assessed against the competencies. Once you have been assessed and successfully met the competencies of the NVQ requirements you will be awarded the NVQ. NVQs are available from level 1-5 allowing you to progress throughout your career.</p>
2	<p>Technical Element – Technical Certificate</p> <p>A technical certificate is a knowledge based qualification which helps you develop your understanding of an industry or role. It supports you to do your job safely and is a specialised course of study. Completion of the technical certificate confirms you have developed information that is vital to the performance of tasks associated with your profession or job. A technical certificate can sometimes be a BTEC, Diploma or specific industry qualification.</p>
3	<p>Skills Element – Key skills changing to Functional Skills from September 2010</p> <p>To enable you to function at the level required for your job role you will complete a range of key skills (Functional Skills from September 2010). These could be Maths, English or ICT depending on your sector but they are about using these skills in real life situations not just in a classroom. The skills will give you the ability to function across your organisation and in life generally. They will help you develop important skills like communication, team work, problem solving and presentations. They will support you to succeed and open doors to learning, life and work. They are a sound base on which to develop employability skills. They are skills that we all need in our every day life without which you will find it hard to succeed.</p>
Other	<p>Other qualifications which can be included in your framework are Employment Rights and Responsibilities – they update your knowledge on your rights and responsibilities within your sector. You may have the choice to complete specialised qualifications and there may be further options for you and your employer to choose from.</p> <p>See Framework fact sheets for individual qualifications relating to your sector.</p>