

Construction of the T Level Technical Qualifications Key Dates Schedule

2026/2027 and 2027/2028

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Purpose of this document

This document outlines how NCFE schedules assessment dates across the next two academic years. It explains the key factors considered in the planning process, including assessment design and requirements, the guided learning hours needed for effective learner preparation, and variations in school holiday periods.

It also details how we work to minimise potential clashes with high-entry GCSE and GCE qualifications, alongside how we incorporate feedback received from providers—both directly and indirectly—to continuously improve our approach.

Process and work to this point

- We've worked with other awarding organisations offering T Levels to ensure our Key Dates Schedule consultation periods align.
- We've worked with other awarding organisations to ensure that core exam set date and time assessments avoid overlap for all but the lowest volume qualifications.
- We publish our Key Dates Schedule two years in advance, whereas the GCSE and A Level timetable is published only one year in advance. Therefore, we're aware there may be some clashes between T Levels and GCSE and A Levels but will manage these where possible through existing regulation allowances and assessment variation requests if needed.

Easter 2027 and 2028

Easter holidays always present a challenge when timetabling assessments, and is especially noteworthy in both 2027 and 2028, as it falls early in the season in the first case, and late in the second case. In addition, across the country there are always varying timings for Easter and other half-term holidays.

We prepare our Key Dates Schedule to avoid a three-week period covering the most common Easter holidays across the country, meaning Easter is a driver for some variation in dates between 2027 and 2028, and when compared to previous assessment dates.

Assessments are never scheduled over the Easter holiday; however, this does mean some dates of advanced assessment materials will be moved in the calendar to accommodate this and that some assessment materials themselves may be made available earlier than is standard.

We will continue to communicate specific dates for the availability of advanced assessment materials on 1 October (in advance of the autumn series) and 1 February (in advance of the summer series) each year.

Changes throughout 2025/2026

Throughout 2025/26, NCFE have made efforts to address key points related to previous and ongoing dialogue with providers, incorporated within the consultation document itself. These addressed the following areas:

- Advanced Assessment Materials have now been relocated to a bespoke area of the website, [here](#), where, session by session, we indicate precisely which materials will be made available, when they can be accessed, and offer comprehensive clarity on access restrictions for each resource.
- Owing to a decision made by Department for Education, the expected delivery duration of T Level qualifications has been reduced from a maximum of four years to three years. The impact of this decision is that qualifications that are now withdrawn (T Level Technical Qualification in Education 603/5829/4, T level Technical Qualification in Digital Support Services 603/6901/2 and T Level Technical Qualification in Digital Business Services 603/6902/4) will have their final assessment opportunity in summer 2027, updated from previously published dates of summer 2028
- Following publication of the GCE Level 3 results release date for summer 2027, NCFE have altered the results release for all T level qualifications to align with equivalent Level 3 options. For clarity, the revised restricted result release to providers is now 11 August 2027
- Similarly, the associated date for requests for review of marking/moderation has been brought forward to 16 September 2027
- To ensure consistency across all of our qualifications, a number of summer 2027 booking cut-off dates have been aligned to a standard 10 working days prior to the first assessment date within the relevant series. Assessments which are impacted by this are:-
 - T Level Technical Qualification in Education 603/5829/4 (core series)
 - T level Technical Qualification in Digital Support Services 603/6901/2 (Digital Infrastructure and Network Cabling occupational specialisms)
 - T Level Technical Qualification in Science 603/6989/9 (core series)

- DfE Commercial have acknowledged that the KDS for 2026/27 and 2027/28 should not include dates for two occupational specialisms; Dental within the T Level Technical Qualification in Health, and Metrology within the T Level Technical Qualification in Science, as there are currently no registered students. It is noted that if NCFE receive any registrations for these occupational specialisms, before the end of the contract, support to providers and students with alternative options will be provided
- Following a review of the JCQ common timetable for 2026/27 it was identified that some previously published dates within the KDS would need to be amended to reduce clashes with high volume GCSE/CGE qualifications, The T Level Technical Qualification in Science Core A assessment has been amended from 14 June 2027 at 9.00am to 11 June 2027 at 1.00pm, and the Core B assessment has been amended 18 June 2027 at 9.00am to 18 June 2027 at 1.00pm

Previous feedback

There are some themes which we acknowledge but either cannot change, or have already provided a rationale for why a change is not currently planned, including:

- The Employer Set Project (ESP) assessment window length has been raised previously, with some providers believing it to be too short. From 2026, we'll continue to extend the Health ESP window to three weeks, to meet your requirements for this high-volume assessment.
- Previous feedback has requested that the OS windows begin later to allow more time for preparation, therefore with a high volume of assessments to timetable and a limited time period in which to schedule them, there are a small number of overlaps which remain but on the basis that to completely remove would mean some OS windows starting even earlier in the session.

Disclaimer

Please note that the KDS is a controlled document and is subject to regular updates and revisions.

To ensure accuracy and avoid the risk of working from outdated information, customers are advised **not to download, save, or store local copies** of the KDS on internal systems or networks

The **only valid and up-to-date version** of the KDS is the version accessed via NCFE website. Any locally saved copies may become outdated and could lead to discrepancies in key dates and associated activities.

We cannot accept responsibility for any issues, delays, or errors arising from the use of outdated or locally stored versions of the KDS.



Change History Record

This section summarises the changes to this document since the last version.

Version	Description of change	Date of Issue
1.0	Version 1.0 published	July 2026

Document information

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Owner: Head of Assessment Delivery