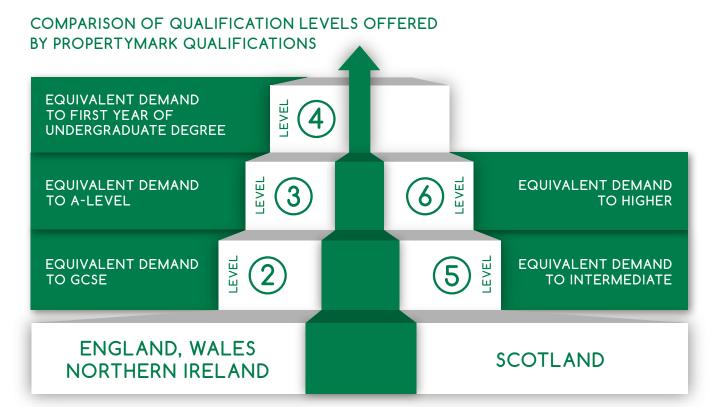
UNDERSTANDING QUALIFICATIONS

QUALIFICATIONS ARE DESCRIBED IN TERMS OF THEIR SIZE AND THEIR LEVEL

QUALIFICATION LEVEL

A qualification's level indicates the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge required to complete a qualification.

Qualification levels in England, Wales and Northern Ireland sit in a framework which starts at Entry Level 1 and goes up to Level 8. Scotland has a different framework of qualification levels which range from Level 1 to Level 12. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland we offer qualifications at Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4. In Scotland we offer qualifications at Level 5 and Level 6.



QUALIFICATION SIZE

A qualification's size refers to the estimated total amount of time it typically takes to study and be assessed for a qualification. Qualifications can sit at different levels, but have the same size. Similarly, qualifications can sit at the same level but be of different sizes.

The three qualification sizes are Award, Certificate and Diploma. An Award takes up to 120 hours to complete, a Certificate takes from 121 to 369 hours to complete and a Diploma takes over 370 hours to complete.





