

## Legal Career Options

### Barristers

Barristers offer advice on specific legal issues and are on the front line, representing clients in court. For further information, visit [www.barcouncil.org.uk](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk)

### Solicitors

Solicitors give advice and assistance on matters of law; they are the first point of contact for those seeking legal advice and representation. For further information, visit [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk).

### Chartered Legal Executives (FCILEx)

It is also possible to practise law as a Chartered Legal Executive - a qualified lawyer (though not a Solicitor) who is trained to specialise as an expert in a particular area of law. The route to qualification is to complete CILEx 3 and CILEx 6 (or CILEx Graduate Fast Track for those with a law degree) and three years' qualifying employment. For further information, visit [www.cilex.org.uk](http://www.cilex.org.uk).

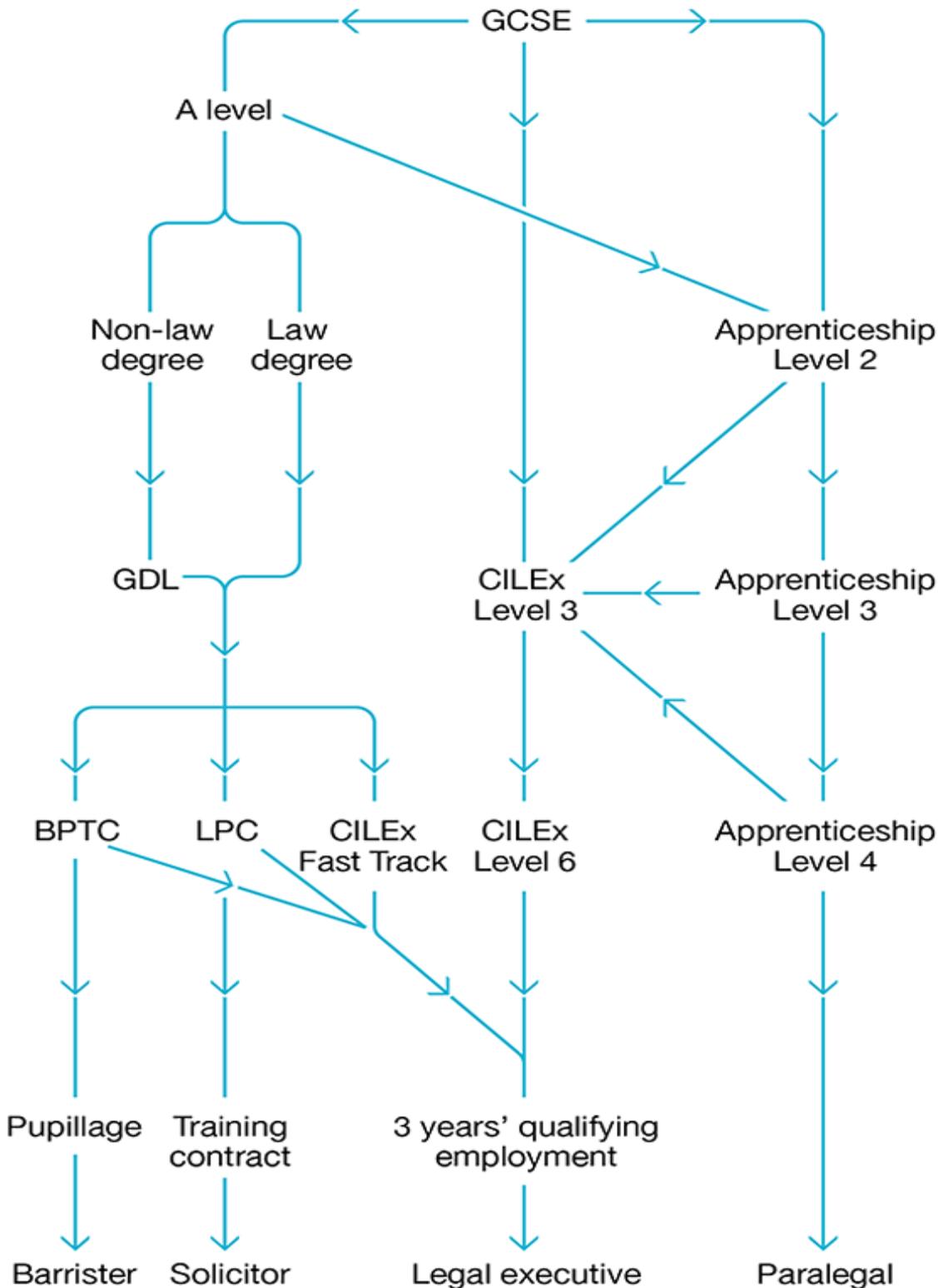
### Legal Apprenticeships

A Legal Apprentice is someone who joins a law firm straight from school, rather than going to university, to work in a role similar to that of a paralegal and gain qualifications that contribute toward becoming a Chartered Legal Executive. As of September 2016, it is possible to embark on a six-year Trailblazer Solicitor Apprenticeship. For more details, visit [www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships](http://www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships).

### Paralegals

Paralegals have traditionally worked alongside Solicitors in law firms as support staff, although in practise many Paralegals do the same work as their trainee or newly-qualified solicitor counterparts. Paralegal roles provide a good route into the profession for students and graduates, either as valuable work experience before applying for a training contract or as a way to fulfil the Solicitors Regulation Authority's qualifying requirements without undertaking a formal period of recognised training.

# Legal Career Paths



# Legal Career Qualification Requirements

## **GCSEs**

The foundation of your career and the essential first step – good grades are vital if you want to progress in your legal career.

## **A Levels**

The academic stage between GCSE and undergraduate level – again, good grades are essential. Some universities favour traditional, academically rigorous subjects such as history (A level law is not usually specified).

## **Law Degree**

The qualifying law degree covers seven compulsory subjects: public, criminal, contract, tort, property, equity and trusts and EU law.

## **Non-Law Degree**

Lawyers are not required to have studied law at university. It is possible to do a non-law degree and then do the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL).

## **Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)**

Like the Law degree, the one-year GDL course concentrates on the seven foundations of legal practice. When combined with a non-law degree, it is equivalent to a law degree.

## **Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC)**

The one year BPTC is the vocational stage of training to be a solicitor.

## **Legal Practice Course (LPC)**

The one-year Legal Practice Course (LPC) is the vocational stage of training to be a solicitor.

## **Pupillage**

Pupillage is a compulsory, year long, apprenticeship before qualification as a Barrister. Pupils practise under the guidance and supervision of a pupil supervisor.

## **Training Contract (Recognised Period of Training)**

The period of recognised training (traditionally known as a training contract) is a period of paid employment and training with a law firm or other approved organisation before qualification as a solicitor. In most cases, this will take the form of a two year traineeship.