# Uptake of level 2 qualifications in English schools 2014 

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Tim Gill

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Research Division
Assessment, Research and Development
Cambridge Assessment
1 Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1GG

## Introduction

This report is a follow up to a previous report on changes over time in the uptake of different qualifications by pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 (KS4) in English schools (Gill, 2013). The previous report looked at uptake between 2008 and 2012. The current report is an update for 2014.

Uptake of a subject is usually defined as the percentage of students (who take the qualification in at least one subject) taking the subject (either in the current, or a previous year). For example, uptake of GCSE English is the percentage of GCSE students taking a GCSE in English. However, as this report looks at multiple qualifications this definition is redefined as the percentage of all students (at the end of KS4) taking a particular qualification (or a particular subject in that qualification).

## Data

The data for these analyses were taken from the National Pupil Database (NPD) for 2014. This is a database held by the Department for Education, consisting of results for all students in all subjects in schools and colleges in England. The Key Stage 4 (KS4) extract of the NPD was used, consisting of all students who were at the end of KS4 (i.e. in year 11).

All exams taken by these students were included, even if taken in previous years. Most of the analyses were also broken down by school type, as follows: comprehensive, city academy, grammar, independent and secondary modern. Table 1 presents the number of students (at the end of KS4) in each school type.

Table 1: Number and percentage of students in different school types

| School type | Students <br> $(\mathrm{n})$ | Students <br> $(\%)$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| City Academy | 234,605 | 38.4 |
| Comprehensive | 283,591 | 46.4 |
| Grammar | 10,326 | 1.7 |
| Independent | 49,308 | 8.1 |
| Secondary Modern | 14,536 | 2.4 |

There were a very large number of different qualifications recorded in the KS4 extract of the NPD in all three years, but not all of these were included in this report. To make the analyses more manageable only KS4 qualifications that are worth at least the same as a GCSE (according to the NPD) were included.

One of the more common alternatives to GCSEs is the International GCSE (IGCSE). These were originally developed for use overseas, but independent schools in England began using them in recent years. More recently, accredited versions of some subjects have been developed for use in English state schools ${ }^{1}$. Thus, there are currently two types of IGCSEs available to schools in England (accredited and non-accredited). However, only accredited IGCSEs are now included in the NPD. It is very rare for state schools to offer non-accredited IGCSEs because they will not receive government funding, but these restrictions do not

[^0]apply to independent schools. Thus, in the following analysis the uptake of IGCSEs in independent schools will be under-estimated.

## Results

## Overall volumes

Table 2 presents the number of candidates and entries for level 2 qualifications taken by students at the end of KS4. In the previous report, this was broken down by the size of the qualification in terms of GCSE equivalence, with an overall total volume $\{=$ sum of (number taken $x$ equivalent size)\} for each qualification type. However, since new government legislation came into force, the size of the alternative qualifications cannot be greater than 1 GCSE (for league tables purposes) even if the teaching time is much greater. The variable in the NPD that was used previously to calculate the equivalent size is now set to be 1 or less. Therefore it is no longer possible to calculate the overall volume for different qualifications. Since many BTEC and OCR Nationals qualifications are equivalent to more than one GCSE, the number of entries in the table underestimates the total volume for the qualifications.

Table 2: Frequency of qualifications taken in 2013/14, by type

| Qualification | Candidates | Entries | \% of entries |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| GCSE | 608,888 | $4,659,678$ | 84.3 |
| BTEC | 234,173 | 346,688 | 6.3 |
| IGCSE | 170,201 | 258,515 | 4.7 |
| OCR Nationals | 102,878 | 109,412 | 2.0 |
| Vocational GCSE | 67,923 | 74,651 | 1.4 |
| Other GQ | 41,415 | 43,100 | 0.8 |
| VRQ | 22,316 | 22,563 | 0.4 |
| AS level | 10,446 | 11,269 | 0.2 |
| Diploma | 1,873 | 1,879 | $<0.1$ |

Other GQ refers to other 'General Qualifications', being non-vocational qualifications which are not GCSEs or IGCSEs. Most of these entries were in an AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths and an EdExcel Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications. VRQs are Vocationally Related Qualifications; these include Level 2 Certificates in subjects such as IT User Skills, Creative iMedia and Childcare and Education.

Table 3 presents the uptake of the different qualifications, by students in each school type, and overall.

In terms of the alternatives to GCSEs, students in secondary modern schools were most likely to take BTECs (59.0\%), OCR Nationals (22.1\%) or IGCSEs (42.5\%). BTECs were also taken by over $40 \%$ and OCR Nationals by around 18-19\% of academy and comprehensive school students. Very few grammar school or independent school students took either BTECs or OCR Nationals. Vocational GCSEs were most likely to be taken in secondary modern, academy or comprehensive schools. Grammar school students were most likely to take AS levels.

Table 3: Uptake of level 2 qualifications in 2013/14, by school type (\% of students at end of KS4)

| Qualification | Acad | Comp | Grammar | Ind | Sec Mod | All |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| AS level | 1.8 | 1.3 | 8.3 | 2.3 | 1.4 | $\mathbf{1 . 7}$ |
| BTEC | 41.2 | 42.7 | 3.5 | 4.5 | 59.0 | $\mathbf{3 8 . 3}$ |
| Diploma | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.3 | $\mathbf{0 . 3}$ |
| GCSE | 99.8 | 99.8 | 99.9 | 99.1 | 99.8 | $\mathbf{9 9 . 6}$ |
| IGCSE | 29.4 | 24.5 | 31.2 | 36.7 | 42.5 | $\mathbf{2 7 . 8}$ |
| OCR Nationals | 18.2 | 19.2 | 5.0 | 1.9 | 22.1 | $\mathbf{1 6 . 8}$ |
| Other GQ | 7.2 | 6.8 | 10.5 | 6.2 | 4.3 | $\mathbf{6 . 8}$ |
| Vocational GCSE | 12.4 | 12.2 | 4.1 | 1.5 | 14.7 | $\mathbf{1 1 . 1}$ |
| VRQ | 3.9 | 3.3 | 12.2 | 3.4 | 1.9 | $\mathbf{3 . 6}$ |

In comparison to the 2012 analysis (Gill, 2013), there were a number of interesting changes. Overall, there was a large increase in the percentage of students taking an IGCSE, whilst there were falls in the percentages taking a BTEC or an OCR National. The percentage of students in independent schools taking an IGCSE fell from $54 \%$ in 2011/12, but this is likely to be mainly due to the non-accredited IGCSEs no longer being included in the NPD. There was an increase in the percentage of grammar school students taking VRQs, which contrasts with falls in this percentage in all other school types. After investigation this turned out to be almost all due to students taking a qualification in Computer Appreciation / Introduction.

## Combinations of qualifications taken by students

Table 4 presents the top 10 most common combinations of qualifications taken by students. It is a sign of the variety of qualifications available currently that there were 177 different combinations of qualifications taken by students in 2013/14.

Table 4: Most popular combinations of qualifications taken by students in 2013/14

| Combination | Students | \% Students |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| GCSE | 191,781 | 31.4 |
| GCSE-BTEC | 94,049 | 15.4 |
| GCSE-IGCSE | 61,948 | 10.1 |
| GCSE-BTEC-IGCSE | 46,679 | 7.6 |
| GCSE-OCR National | 32,908 | 5.4 |
| GCSE-BTEC-OCR National | 25,837 | 4.2 |
| GCSE-Other GQ | 18,041 | 2.9 |
| GCSE-Vocational GCSE | 17,921 | 2.9 |
| GCSE-BTEC-Vocational GCSE | 14,556 | 2.4 |
| GCSE-BTEC-IGCSE-OCR National | 12,971 | 2.1 |

The most popular combination was GCSEs only, which was taken by $31.4 \%$ of students, followed by combining GCSEs with BTECs (15.4\%) and with IGCSEs (10.1\%).

In comparison to 2012 (Gill, 2013) there were more students taking GCSEs only, and slightly more taking GCSEs with BTECs. There was a big increase in the percentage combining GCSEs with IGCSEs, whilst combinations including OCR Nationals had lower percentages. Appendix A presents the five most popular combinations in each school type in each year.

## Uptake of individual subjects

## Compulsory subjects

The National Curriculum requires state-funded schools to provide pupils with access to core subjects (English, Mathematics and Sciences). In science the requirement is access to a course of study leading to at least two GCSEs (or equivalent). This essentially means offering core science and additional science or all three separate sciences. In English, most students take either a combined English qualification or a separate qualification in English language together with English literature.

It is necessary for schools to offer these subjects, but not for all pupils to take them or to be entered for the exams. For instance, some lower ability pupils may not be entered for some subjects if they have little chance of getting a grade. This may explain why some totals in the tables below are less than 100\%.

Furthermore, when looking at the school type breakdown, it is worth noting that independent schools and academy schools (of which there are a greatly increasing number) do not have to follow the National Curriculum and therefore do not have to offer these subjects.

## Mathematics

Table 5 presents the uptake of different mathematics qualifications. In the table the sum of the percentage of students taking each qualification may not add up to the total in the 'Any' row because some students may take more than one qualification.

The vast majority ( $99.3 \%$ ) of students taking maths took a GCSE in the subject, with nearly $2 \%$ taking an IGCSE. Although the table suggests that over $5 \%$ of students did not take a maths qualification at all, it is likely that many of these students took the non-accredited IGCSE in the subject and will therefore not appear in the data. It is worth noting that around $1 \%$ of students took both a GCSE and an IGCSE in maths.

Table 5: Uptake of different mathematics qualifications in 2013/14

| Qualification | Students | \% of all students | \% of all taking <br> mathematics |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| GCSE | 576,163 | 94.2 | 99.3 |
| IGCSE | 10,204 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| AS level | 680 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Any | 580,370 | 94.9 | 100.0 |
| None | 31,198 | 5.1 | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |

Table 6 presents the same analysis but broken down by school type.
Students in grammar or independent schools were more likely to take an (accredited) IGCSE ( $5.1 \%$ and $3.1 \%$ respectively) than those in other schools. However, independent school students were also (apparently) the most likely to not take a mathematics qualification $(44.8 \%)$. This backs up the hypothesis that these students probably took the non-accredited IGCSE, rather than not taking a maths qualification at all.

Grammar school pupils were the least likely to not take a mathematics qualification ( $0.33 \%$ ), which is probably related to their intake (mainly high ability students).

Table 6: Uptake of different mathematics qualifications, by school type

|  | Qualification | Students | \% of all students | \% of all taking mathematics |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Academies | GCSE | 230811 | 98.38 | 99.37 |
|  | IGCSE | 4077 | 1.74 | 1.76 |
|  | AS level | 267 | 0.11 | 0.11 |
|  | Any | 232,283 | 99.01 | 100.00 |
|  | None | 2,322 | 0.99 | n/a |
| Comprehensive | GCSE | 280067 | 98.76 | 99.81 |
|  | IGCSE | 3605 | 1.27 | 1.28 |
|  | AS level | 197 | 0.07 | 0.07 |
|  | Any | 280,595 | 98.94 | 100.00 |
|  | None | 2996 | 1.06 | n/a |
| Grammar | GCSE | 9,789 | 94.80 | 95.09 |
|  | IGCSE | 521 | 5.05 | 5.06 |
|  | AS level | 74 | 0.72 | 0.72 |
|  | Any | 10,294 | 99.69 | 100.00 |
|  | None | 32 | 0.31 | n/a |
| Independent | GCSE | 25729 | 52.18 | 94.56 |
|  | IGCSE | 1527 | 3.10 | 5.61 |
|  | AS level | 65 | 0.13 | 0.24 |
|  | Any | 27,208 | 55.18 | 100.00 |
|  | None | 22,100 | 44.82 | n/a |
| Secondary Modern | GCSE | 14,371 | 98.86 | 99.97 |
|  | IGCSE | 120 | 0.83 | 0.83 |
|  | AS level | 35 | 0.24 | 0.22 |
|  | Any | 14,376 | 98.90 | 100.00 |
|  | None | 160 | 1.10 | n/a |

## English

In 2013/14 students could choose from GCSEs in English Language, English Literature or English (which combines some language and some literature). Most students took either the combined qualification or both English Language and English Literature.

The following tables present the uptake of different qualifications in the three English subjects. For the purpose of calculating the percentages of 'English' students a distinction was made between those taking the combined English (with or without other English subjects) and those taking English language and English literature.

Table 7: Uptake of different English qualifications

| Qualification | Students | \% of all students | \% of all taking <br> English |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| GCSE | 121,832 | 19.9 | 99.4 |  |
| IGCSE | 497 | 0.1 | 0.4 |  |
| AS level | 332 | 0.1 | 0.3 |  |
| Any | 122,552 | 20.0 | 100.0 |  |

Very few of these students took anything other than a GCSE in the subject. Only 497 students took an IGCSE in English. Table 8 presents the breakdown by school type.
Table 8: Uptake of different English qualifications by school type

|  | Qualification | Students | \% of all students | \% of all taking English |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Academies | GCSE | 48,103 | 20.50 | 99.59 |
|  | IGCSE | 94 | 0.04 | 0.19 |
|  | AS level | 172 | 0.07 | 0.36 |
|  | Any | 48,299 | 20.59 | 100.00 |
| Comprehensive | GCSE | 60,625 | 21.38 | 99.62 |
|  | IGCSE | 186 | 0.07 | 0.31 |
|  | AS level | 81 | 0.03 | 0.13 |
|  | Any | 60,856 | 21.46 | 100.00 |
| Grammar | GCSE | 136 | 1.32 | 82.42 |
|  | IGCSE | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  | AS level | 29 | 0.28 | 17.58 |
|  | Any | 165 | 1.60 | 100.00 |
| Independent | GCSE | 2,973 | 6.03 | 92.07 |
|  | IGCSE | 211 | 0.43 | 6.53 |
|  | AS level | 45 | 0.09 | 1.39 |
|  | Any | 3,229 | 6.55 | 100.00 |
| Secondary Modern | GCSE | 3,586 | 24.67 | 100.00 |
|  | IGCSE | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  | AS level | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  | Any | 3,586 | 24.67 | 100.00 |

Independent and comprehensive school students were most likely to take an IGCSE.
The next analysis looks at those taking combinations of English language and English literature. Tables 9 and 10 present the results for English language and English Literature separately:

Table 9: Uptake of different English language qualifications (students also taking English Literature)

| Qualification | Students | \% of all students | \% of students <br> taking English lang <br> \& lit |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| GCSE | 368,461 | 60.2 | 80.5 |
| IGCSE | 120,534 | 19.7 | 26.3 |
| AS level | 90 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Any | 457,786 | 74.9 | 100.0 |

Table 10: Uptake of different English Literature qualifications (students also taking English Language)

| Qualification | Students | \% of all <br> students | \% of students <br> taking English lang <br> \& lit |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| GCSE | 406,118 | 66.4 | 88.7 |
| IGCSE | 52,879 | 8.6 | 11.6 |
| AS level | 153 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Any | 457,786 | 74.9 | 100.0 |

It is worth noting that around $7 \%(31,211)$ of these students took both a GCSE and an IGCSE in English Language. Tables 11 and 12 present the breakdown by school type

Table 11: Uptake of different English language qualifications, by school type (students also taking English literature)

|  | Qualification | Students | \% of all students | \% of all taking English lang \& lit |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Academies | GCSE | 147,082 | 62.69 | 78.87 |
|  | IGCSE | 53,820 | 22.94 | 28.86 |
|  | AS level | 43 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
|  | Any | 186,484 | 79.49 | 100.00 |
| Comprehensive | GCSE | 183,022 | 64.54 | 82.07 |
|  | IGCSE | 54,943 | 19.37 | 24.64 |
|  | AS level | 46 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
|  | Any | 223,020 | 78.64 | 100.00 |
| Grammar | GCSE | 8,833 | 85.54 | 87.37 |
|  | IGCSE | 1,540 | 14.91 | 15.23 |
|  | AS level | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  | Any | 10,110 | 97.91 | 100.00 |
| Independent | GCSE | 20.042 | 40.65 | 87.07 |
|  | IGCSE | 3,289 | 6.67 | 14.29 |
|  | AS level | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  | Any | 23,018 | 46.68 | 100.00 |
| Secondary Modern | GCSE | 6,690 | 46.02 | 59.32 |
|  | IGCSE | 5,452 | 37.51 | 48.34 |
|  | AS level | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  | Any | 11,278 | 77.59 | 100.00 |

For both English Language and English Literature qualifications students at secondary modern schools were most likely to take an IGCSE ( $37.5 \%$ and $21.7 \%$ respectively). Around $20 \%$ of comprehensive and academy school students took the IGCSE in English Language. However, in independent schools, only $6.7 \%$ of students apparently took an IGCSE in English Language and 4.8\% in English Literature. This figure would be much higher if the non-accredited IGCSEs were included.

In all school types students were more likely to take an IGCSE in English Language than in English Literature.

Table 12: Uptake of different English literature qualifications, by school type (students also taking English language)

|  | Qualification | Students | \% of all students | \% of all taking English lang \& lit |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Academies | GCSE | 165,188 | 70.41 | 88.58 |
|  | IGCSE | 22,012 | 9.38 | 11.80 |
|  | AS level | 36 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
|  | Any | 186,484 | 79.49 | 100.00 |
| Comprehensive | GCSE | 200,253 | 70.61 | 89.79 |
|  | IGCSE | 23,288 | 8.21 | 10.44 |
|  | AS level | 107 | 0.04 | 0.05 |
|  | Any | 232,020 | 78.64 | 100.00 |
| Grammar | GCSE | 9,093 | 88.06 | 89.94 |
|  | IGCSE | 1,018 | 9.86 | 10.07 |
|  | AS level | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  | Any | 10,110 | 97.91 | 100.00 |
| Independent | GCSE | 20,650 | 41.88 | 89.71 |
|  | IGCSE | 2,373 | 4.81 | 10.31 |
|  | AS level | 4 | 0.01 | 0.02 |
|  | Any | 23,018 | 46.68 | 100.00 |
| Secondary Modern | GCSE | 8,230 | 56.62 | 72.97 |
|  | IGCSE | 3,150 | 21.67 | 27.93 |
|  | AS level | 5 | 0.03 | 0.04 |
|  | Any | 11,278 | 77.59 | 100.00 |

## Sciences

Students usually take either combined science (one or two qualifications) or all three of the separate sciences. Combined science is either GCSEs in Core Science and (usually) Additional Science or an IGCSE in Double Science. For the first time this year a new Further Additional Science qualification was introduced, to be taken alongside the other two combined science subjects. This is intended to encourage students to progress to AS and A level sciences.

There were a very large number of separate combinations of the science subjects taken by students, so they are not all presented here. Table 13 displays the top 10 most popular combinations of science subjects taken. It is worth noting the difference between the Applied Sciences and the Applied Science qualifications. The first refers to either a BTEC or an OCR

National (which are equivalent to 1,2 or 4 GCSEs), whereas the latter is a vocational GCSE double award.

Table 13: Combinations of science subjects taken by students

| Combination | Students | \% of all taking <br> Sciences |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Science (Core), Science (Additional) | 242,158 | 42.1 |
| Biology, Physics, Chemistry | 122,299 | 21.3 |
| Applied Sciences | 70,147 | 12.2 |
| Science (Core) | 43,023 | 7.5 |
| Science (Core), Applied Sciences | 29,199 | 5.1 |
| Science (Core), Science (Additional), Science (Further Additional) | 20,617 | 3.6 |
| Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Science (Core) | 12,882 | 2.2 |
| Science (Core), Additional Applied Science | 10,096 | 1.8 |
| Applied Science (Double Award) | 3,174 | 0.6 |
| Science (Core), Science (Additional), Applied Sciences | 2,636 | 0.5 |
| Any | 574,965 | 100.0 |
| None | 36,603 | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |

The most popular combination was Core and Additional science, followed by the three separate sciences. Over 20,000 (3.6\%) students took Core and Additional science, along with the newly available Further Additional Science.

Table 14 presents the number of students taking each science subject, by qualification type.
Table 14: Uptake of different science qualifications

| Subject | Qualification | Students | \% of all <br> students | \% of all taking <br> Sciences |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Science (Core) | GCSE | 367,222 | 60.05 | 63.87 |
|  | AS level | 58 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Science (Additional) | GCSE | 273,297 | 44.69 | 47.53 |
| Science (Further Additional) | GCSE | 21,006 | 3.43 | 3.65 |
| Biology | GCSE | 134,143 | 21.93 | 23.33 |
|  | IGCSE | 11,190 | 1.83 | 1.95 |
|  | AS level | 56 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Chemistry | GCSE | 130,265 | 21.30 | 22.66 |
|  | IGCSE | 10,886 | 1.78 | 1.89 |
|  | AS level | 39 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Applied Sciences | GCSE | 129,111 | 21.11 | 22.46 |
|  | IGCSE | 11,199 | 1.83 | 1.95 |
| Additional Applied Science | Voc. GCSE | 33 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Science (Double Award) | IGCSE | 98,128 | 16.05 | 17.07 |
| Any | AS level | 10,655 | 1.74 | 1.85 |

In the separate sciences, GCSEs were taken by about $21-22 \%$ and IGCEs by around $2 \%$ of students. However, as before, these figures do not include the non-accredited versions of these subjects. For the Applied Sciences qualifications, students were much more likely to take the BTEC (16.1\%) than the OCR National (1.7\%).

Appendix B presents the same analysis broken down by school type.

## Uptake of individual subjects in other level 2 qualifications

Finally the uptake of the most common subjects to be taken in other popular qualifications (BTECs, OCR Nationals and vocational GCSEs) is summarised below. These are worth reporting as they make up a substantial percentage of the volume of qualifications taken at level 2. Tables 15 to 17 present the 10 most popular subjects taken in these qualifications.

Table 15: Uptake of popular BTEC subjects

| Subject | Students (n) | Students (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Applied Sciences | 98,128 | 16.0 |
| Sports Studies | 70,466 | 11.5 |
| Business Studies | 32,777 | 5.4 |
| Speech \& Drama | 24,590 | 4.0 |
| Computer Appreciation / Introduction | 24,231 | 4.0 |
| Health Studies | 22,369 | 3.7 |
| Art \& Design | 18,169 | 3.0 |
| Multimedia | 11,380 | 1.9 |
| Engineering Studies | 11,194 | 1.8 |
| Building / Construction Operations | 10,834 | 1.8 |

Table 16: Uptake of popular OCR Nationals subjects

| Subject | Students (n) | Students (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Computer Appreciation / Introduction | 88,386 | 14.5 |
| Applied Sciences | 10,655 | 1.7 |
| Business Studies | 3,819 | 0.6 |
| Health Studies | 3,108 | 0.5 |
| Sports Studies | 1,503 | 0.2 |
| Small Business Management | 732 | 0.1 |
| Art \& Design | 426 | 0.1 |
| Film / Video / Television Production | 281 | $<0.1$ |
| Tourism | 190 | $<0.1$ |
| Sports / Movement Science | 160 | $<0.1$ |

Table 17: Uptake of popular Vocational GCSE subjects

| Subject | Students (n) | Students (\%) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Catering Studies | 26,148 | 4.3 |
| Additional Applied Science | 13,256 | 2.2 |
| Health \& Social Care | 12,123 | 2.0 |
| Applied Business | 10,525 | 1.7 |
| Leisure \& Tourism | 6,824 | 1.1 |
| Hospitality \& Catering | 3,633 | 0.6 |
| Applied Engineering | 1,763 | 0.3 |
| Manufacturing | 369 | 0.1 |
| Applied Science | 8 | $<0.1$ |
| Motor Vehicle Studies | 2 | $<0.1$ |

Gill, T. (2013). Uptake of level 2 qualifications in English schools 2008-2012. Statistics Report Series No.61. Cambridge Assessment. Available at http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/Images/150210-uptake-of-level-2-qualifications-in-english-schools-2008-2012.pdf

## Appendix A: Combinations by school type

Table A1: Most popular combinations of qualifications taken, by school type

|  | Combination | Students | \% Students |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Academy | GCSE | 66,063 | 28.2 |
|  | GCSE-BTEC | 37,270 | 15.9 |
|  | GCSE-IGCSE | 21,866 | 9.3 |
|  | BTEC-GCSE-IGCSE | 19,788 | 8.4 |
|  | GCSE-OCR National | 13,184 | 5.6 |
| Comprehensive | GCSE | 83,979 | 29.6 |
|  | GCSE-BTEC | 50,037 | 17.6 |
|  | GCSE-BTEC-IGCSE | 23,000 | 8.1 |
|  | GCSE-IGCSE | 19,772 | 7.0 |
|  | GCSE-OCR National | 18,139 | 6.4 |
| Grammar | GCSE | 4,463 | 43.2 |
|  | GCSE-IGCSE | 1,994 | 19.3 |
|  | GCSE-Other GQ | 673 | 6.5 |
|  | GCSE-VRQ | 604 | 5.8 |
|  | GCSE-IGCSE-VRQ | 403 | 3.9 |
| Independent | GCSE | 25,503 | 51.7 |
|  | GCSE-IGCSE | 14,791 | 30.0 |
|  | GCSE-Other GQ | 1,535 | 3.1 |
|  | GCSE-IGCSE OtherGQ | 1,088 | 2.2 |
|  | GCSE-BTEC | 1,071 | 2.2 |
| Secondary Modern | GCSE-BTEC | 2,821 | 19.4 |
|  | GCSE | 2,610 | 18.0 |
|  | GCSE-BTEC-IGCSE | 2,393 | 16.5 |
|  | GCSEIGCSE | 1,024 | 7.0 |
|  | GCSE-BTEC-IGCSE-OCR National | 964 | 6.6 |

## Appendix B: Science uptake by school type.

Table B1: Uptake of science qualifications in academies

| Subject | Qualification | Students | \% of all <br> students | \% of all taking <br> Sciences |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Science (Core) | GCSE | 145134 | 61.86 | 63.32 |
|  | AS level | 57 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Science (Additional) | GCSE | 108119 | 46.09 | 47.17 |
| Science (Further Additional) | GCSE | 7962 | 3.39 | 3.47 |
| Biology | GCSE | 55277 | 23.56 | 24.11 |
|  | IGCSE | 4732 | 2.02 | 2.06 |
|  | AS level | 37 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Chemistry | GCSE | 53789 | 22.93 | 23.47 |
|  | IGCSE | 4831 | 2.06 | 2.11 |
|  | AS level | 15 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Applied Sciences | GCSE | 53667 | 22.88 | 23.41 |
|  | IGCSE | 4832 | 2.06 | 2.11 |
| Additional Applied Science | Voc. GCSE | 8 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Science (Double Award) | IGCSE | 39455 | 16.82 | 17.21 |
| Any | AS level | 4850 | 2.07 | 2.12 |

Table B2: Uptake of science qualifications in comprehensives

| Subject | Qualification | Students | \% of all <br> students | \% of all taking <br> Sciences |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Science (Core) | GCSE | 185352 | 65.36 | 66.92 |
|  | AS level | 1 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Science (Additional) | GCSE | 141560 | 49.92 | 51.11 |
| Science (Further Additional) | GCSE | 11850 | 4.18 | 4.28 |
| Biology | GCSE | 58507 | 20.63 | 21.12 |
|  | IGCSE | 684 | 0.24 | 0.25 |
|  | AS level | 2 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  | GCSE | 57147 | 20.15 | 20.63 |
| Chemistry | IGCSE | 485 | 0.17 | 0.18 |
|  | AS level | 1 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  | GCSE | 56928 | 20.07 | 20.55 |
| Physics | IGCSE | 549 | 0.19 | 0.20 |
|  | AS level | 3 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Applied Sciences | BTEC | 53131 | 18.74 | 19.18 |
|  | OCR National | 5274 | 1.86 | 1.90 |
| Additional Applied Science | Voc. GCSE | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Science (Double Award) | IGCSE | 6656 | 2.35 | 2.40 |
| Any | Any | 509 | 0.18 | 0.18 |

Table B3: Uptake of science qualifications in grammar schools

| Subject | Qualification | Students | \% of all <br> students | \% of all taking <br> Sciences |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Science (Core) | GCSE | 3,353 | 32.47 | 32.62 |
|  | AS level | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Science (Additional) | GCSE | 2,788 | 26.99 | 27.12 |
| Science (Further Additional) | GCSE | 85 | 0.82 | 0.83 |
|  | GCSE | 5,869 | 56.84 | 57.09 |
| Biology | IGCSE | 1,383 | 13.39 | 13.45 |
|  | AS level | 1 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Chemistry | GCSE | 5,893 | 57.07 | 57.32 |
|  | IGCSE | 1,346 | 13.04 | 13.09 |
|  | AS level | 1 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Physics | GCSE | 6,136 | 59.42 | 59.69 |
|  | IGCSE | 1,086 | 10.52 | 10.56 |
| Applied Sciences | AS level | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
|  | BTEC | 45 | 0.44 | 0.44 |
| Additional Applied Science | Voc. GCSE | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Science (Double Award) | IGCSE | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Any | OCR National | 57 | 0.55 | 0.55 |

Table B4: Uptake of science qualifications in independent schools

| Subject | Qualification | Students | \% of all <br> students | \% of all taking <br> Sciences |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Science (Core) | GCSE | 14,159 | 28.72 | 42.87 |
|  | AS level | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Science (Additional) | GCSE | 11,123 | 22.56 | 33.68 |
| Science (Further Additional) | GCSE | 436 | 0.88 | 1.32 |
|  | GCSE | 11,470 | 23.26 | 34.73 |
| Biology | IGCSE | 4,132 | 8.38 | 12.51 |
|  | AS level | 4 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
|  | GCSE | 10,689 | 21.68 | 32.37 |
|  | IGCSE | 4,063 | 8.21 | 12.30 |
|  | AS level | 6 | 0.01 | 0.02 |
| Physics | GCSE | 9,725 | 19.72 | 29.45 |
|  | IGCSE | 4,558 | 9.24 | 13.80 |
|  | AS level | 7 | 0.01 | 0.02 |
| Applied Science | BTEC | 718 | 1.46 | 2.17 |
| Additional Applied Science | Voc. GCSE | 229 | 0.46 | 0.69 |
| Science (Double Award) | IGCSE | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Any | Any | 1,767 | 0.28 | 0.42 |

Table B5: Uptake of science qualifications in secondary moderns

| Subject | Qualification | Students | \% of all <br> students | \% of all taking <br> Sciences |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Science (Core) | GCSE | 10504 | 72.26 | 74.06 |
|  | AS level | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Science (Additional) | GCSE | 7250 | 49.88 | 51.12 |
| Science (Further Additional) | GCSE | 446 | 3.07 | 3.14 |
| Biology | GCSE | 2041 | 14.04 | 14.39 |
|  | IGCSE | 83 | 0.57 | 0.59 |
|  | AS level | 10 | 0.07 | 0.07 |
| Chemistry | GCSE | 1963 | 13.50 | 13.84 |
|  | IGCSE | 81 | 0.56 | 0.57 |
|  | AS level | 11 | 0.08 | 0.08 |
|  | GCSE | 1904 | 13.10 | 13.42 |
|  | IGCSE | 74 | 0.51 | 0.52 |
| Applied Sciences | AS level | 11 | 0.08 | 0.08 |
|  | BTEC | 3237 | 22.27 | 22.82 |
| Additional Applied Science | Voc. GCSE | 203 | 1.40 | 1.43 |
| Science (Double Award) | IGCSE | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Any | OCR National | 219 | 1.51 | 1.54 |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Technically these are called either Level 1 / Level 2 Certificates, but they are generally referred to as IGCSEs

