Age distribution of GCSE candidates in England in 2014

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1. Introduction

This report investigates the age distribution of candidates taking GCSEs in 2014. More specifically, this report presents the distribution of GCSE entries and candidates by age for June 2014. The results are then broken down by what are considered to be important factors, such as, gender, school type and subject. Finally, the most popular subjects taken by candidates of different ages are shown.

The present report is an update of several previous reports on this topic (Gill, 2010; 2012), most recently Statistics Report No. 88 (Zanini, 2015). It must be noted that this report focuses on candidates sitting GCSEs in England, while previous reports comprise also a few candidates taking GCSEs offered by English exam boards who sat their exams in centres located overseas. For this reason, although this report often references results published in previous reports, a degree of caution has to be applied in interpreting patterns in the age distribution of GCSE entries and candidates over time.

2. Data

The data for this report comes from the National Candidate Results Archive (NCRA), which consists of all GCSE entries in a particular exam session. Although NCRA is compiled with data from all exam boards in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, this report is focused on the age of GCSE candidates who took their GCSE in a school located in England. Data on the examination centres where candidates are registered is also collected, along with gender and date of birth of the candidate.

The results archive only lists the syllabus code of each exam, not the subject taken. In order to find the subject, the syllabus codes were matched with codes appearing in the National Pupil Database (NPD), which records all exams taken in England. Because of this matching procedure, a small amount of data was lost where the syllabus code did not match a subject in the NPD.

School type categories were those given by the National Centre Number (NCN) database and the following types of schools were included in the study: City Academy; Comprehensive; FE Colleges; Independent; Other; Secondary Modern; Secondary Selective; Sixth Form College; Tertiary College.

It should be noted that the data analysed here is from the June 2014 exam session. This means candidates in Year 11 (i.e. aged 16) who entered a GCSE subject in November 2013 or March 2014 are not included.

A degree of caution about the date of birth information is needed since it is possible that mistakes are made in data entry. Thus, for this report, ages where there were few candidates and entries were grouped together, creating the following categories: 10 or younger, 11-13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20-24, 24-55 and 55 and older. It should also be noted that the age refers to the age of the candidate at the end of the 2013/14 academic year (31st August 2014).

Candidates with missing birth dates were excluded, as were those with a date of birth implying an age below 6. It was also assumed that very young candidates (aged 6-10) or elderly candidates would only be likely to be taking one or two GCSEs. Thus, for any of these who were apparently taking more than four it was assumed that the birth date had been typed in incorrectly and they were excluded.

In the following pages, descriptive statistics are presented through tables. Tables presented in Section 3 of this report are also available in .xls format on the Cambridge Assessment website.

3. Results

3.1. Age group

Table 1 shows the number, percentage and cumulative percentage of GCSE *entries* in June 2014 by age group, while the age distribution of GCSE *candidates* is presented in Table 2.[1] As expected, the vast majority of entries and candidates were from 16 year-olds (86% of entries and nearly 56% of candidates), followed by 15 year-olds (8.7% of entries and 27.4% of candidates). These figures indicate a reduction of early entries with respect to June 2013 (see Zanini, 2015: Table 1).

Table 1: Entries by age group

Age band	N	%	Cum %
10 or younger	51	0.0	0.0
11-13	2529	0.1	0.1
14	34313	0.7	0.8
15	408672	8.7	9.4
16	4066848	86.1	95.5
17	105083	2.2	97.7
18	37837	0.8	98.5
19	17697	0.4	98.9
20-24	17944	0.4	99.3
25-54	31796	0.7	100.0
55 or older	1593	0.0	100.0

Table 2: Candidates by age group

Age band	N	%	Cum %
10 or younger	50	0.0	0.0
11-13	2481	0.2	0.2
14	29887	2.8	3.0
15	294012	27.4	30.4
16	598014	55.7	86.1
17	62576	5.8	91.9
18	31271	2.9	94.8
19	14527	1.4	96.2
20-24	14198	1.3	97.5
25-54	25432	2.4	99.9
55 or older	1445	0.1	100.0

[1] This analysis is broken down by gender in Appendix A.

It should be noted that the difference in the percentages of candidates in each age group is explained by the number of GCSEs taken. Table 3 presents the mean number of GCSEs taken in each year by candidates in each age band, broken down by gender. Clearly, 16 year-olds took by far the largest number of entries, with females taking 7 and males 6.6 on average.

Table 3: Mean number of entries by age group

Age band	Females	Males	All
10 or younger	1.0	1.0	1.0
11-13	1.0	1.0	1.0
14	1.1	1.1	1.1
15	1.4	1.4	1.4
16	7.0	6.6	6.8
17	1.6	1.7	1.7
18	1.2	1.2	1.2
19	1.2	1.2	1.2
20-24	1.3	1.3	1.3
25-54	1.2	1.3	1.3
55 or older	1.1	1.2	1.1

3.2. School type

An important dimension to consider in looking at the pattern of entries is the type of school where candidates were registered. It has to be noted that adult learners do not attend some types of schools as pupils, but they can be recorded as entering examinations at a school, *e.g.* by taking evening classes. In the following tables the entries by age group for each school type considered here are presented, along with the mean number of entries per candidate.

Table 4: Entries by age group, Comprehensive Schools

Age band	N	%	Mean
10 or younger	13	0.0	1.0
11-13	896	0.0	1.0
14	17352	0.8	1.1
15	205916	9.3	1.4
16	1959064	88.5	7.0
17	23713	1.1	1.9
18	4488	0.2	1.2
19	995	0.0	1.1
20-24	379	0.0	1.1
25-54	1303	0.1	1.1
55 or older	88	0.0	1.0

Table 4 shows that in comprehensive schools the vast majority of entries were, as expected, by candidates aged 16 (88.5%), followed by 15 year-olds (9.3%). A similar result was found in academies (Table 5), where almost 89% of entries were by 16 year-olds and nearly 9% of entries were by candidates aged 15.

Table 5: Entries by age group, City Academies

Age band	N	%	Mean
10 or younger	4	0.0	1.0
11-13	818	0.0	1.0
14	12984	0.7	1.2
15	162551	8.9	1.4
16	1617732	88.9	7.0
17	19450	1.1	1.8
18	4438	0.2	1.2
19	947	0.1	1.1
20-24	297	0.0	1.1
25-54	1123	0.1	1.0
55 or older	108	0.0	1.0

Table 6: Entries by age group, Secondary Selective

Age band	N	%	Mean
11-13	47	0.0	1.0
14	509	0.5	1.0
15	6901	7.2	1.7
16	88177	91.8	8.7
17	316	0.3	2.9
18	24	0.0	1.0
19	2	0.0	1.0
20-24	2	0.0	1.0
25-54	21	0.0	1.0
55 or older	3	0.0	1.0

Table 6 shows that almost 92% of entries in selective schools were by candidates aged 16 and that the number of 15 year-olds entering their GCSE in a selective school was 7.2%, smaller than the same figure for comprehensive schools (Table 4) and academies (Table 5). It is worth mentioning that, consistently with previous years, the average number of GCSEs taken by 16 year-olds (8.7) in selective schools was higher than in any other school type.

In independent centres (Table 7) 87.7% of entries were by candidates aged 16. It should be noted, however, that the percentage of entries by candidates aged 17 was almost 5%, much higher than those shown so far (Table 4-6). The average number of GCSEs taken by 16 year-olds in independent schools (5.5) was slightly smaller than it was in the school types presented so far (Table 4-6).

Table 8 shows that in secondary moderns the vast majority of entries were by candidates aged 16 (86.9%) and that the percentage of entries by 15 year-olds was nearly 10%. The average number of GCSEs taken by 16 year-olds was 6.2.

Table 7: Entries by age group, Independent Schools

Age band	N	%	Mean
10 or younger	12	0.0	1.0
11-13	359	0.1	1.0
14	1597	0.5	1.2
15	18095	6.1	1.5
16	259620	87.7	5.5
17	14175	4.8	3.7
18	1270	0.4	1.7
19	239	0.1	1.3
20-24	238	0.1	1.2
25-54	322	0.1	1.1
55 or older	69	0.0	1.6

Table 8: Entries by age group, Secondary Modern

Age band	N	%	Mean
10 or younger	2	0.0	1.0
11-13	50	0.0	1.0
14	1254	1.2	1.3
15	9912	9.9	1.4
16	87386	86.9	6.2
17	1400	1.4	1.6
18	357	0.4	1.1
19	77	0.1	1.0
20-24	19	0.0	1.0
25-54	54	0.1	1.0
55 or older	11	0.0	1.1

The pattern of entries in the sixth form, tertiary and FE colleges was quite different from those presented so far. Table 9 shows that in FE colleges the highest percentage of entries were from candidates aged 17 (nearly 26%), followed by the 25-54 age band (nearly 25%). There were very few entries by candidates under 17 years old, which is not unexpected given that there should not be many pupils in this type of school below the age of 17. The 16 year-olds accounted for only 2.3% of the total entries from candidates in FE colleges, although, they were the age band with the highest average number of GCSEs (2.3).

A similar situation is presented by Table 10 for sixth form colleges. Entries by candidates aged 16 accounted for 7.2%, while the highest percentage of entries was from the 17 year-olds (50.3%), followed by 18 year-olds (20.6%). It should be noted that more than 12% of entries were by candidates aged 20 years old or more.

Table 9: Entries by age group, FE Colleges

Age band	N	%	Mean
10 or younger	2	0.0	1.0
11-13	9	0.0	1.5
14	24	0.0	1.3
15	215	0.3	1.2
16	1836	2.3	2.3
17	20812	25.9	1.3
18	15004	18.6	1.2
19	9764	12.1	1.2
20-24	12168	15.1	1.3
25-54	19923	24.8	1.3
55 or older	735	0.9	1.1

Table 10: Entries by age group, Sixth Form Colleges

Age band	N	%	Mean
10 or younger	1	0.0	1.0
11-13	18	0.1	1.1
14	36	0.1	1.1
15	422	1.4	1.5
16	2189	7.2	4.5
17	15331	50.3	1.4
18	6266	20.6	1.2
19	2483	8.1	1.2
20-24	1529	5.0	1.2
25-54	2132	7.0	1.2
55 or older	77	0.3	1.0

Similarly, Table 11 shows that in tertiary colleges 17 year-olds were the age group with the highest percentage of entries (34.6%), followed by 18 year-olds (22.6%). Candidates aged 19 or older accounted for more than 30% of the entries in this type of school. It should be noted that in tertiary colleges 16 year-olds took, on average, 3.8 GCSEs.

Table 11: Entries by age group, Tertiary Colleges

Age band	N	%	Mean
10 or younger	1	0.0	1.0
11-13	9	0.1	1.0
14	9	0.1	1.0
15	223	1.4	1.2
16	1066	6.6	3.8
17	5622	34.6	1.3
18	3678	22.6	1.2
19	1876	11.5	1.2
20-24	1448	8.9	1.2
25-54	2240	13.8	1.2
55 or older	87	0.5	1.1

3.3. Key subjects

In the following pages, the age distribution for entries in the 13 most common subjects is presented. Full tables for all GCSE subjects can be found in Appendix B.

Table 12 shows that, for Mathematics, entries were mainly by 16 year-olds, accounting for around 82.5%. It should be noted that after a drop in 2013 the fraction of 16 year-olds taking Mathematics has increased again (they were 73% in 2011 and 66% in 2013). As for previous years, in June 2014, Mathematics was also a fairly popular subject amongst adult learners, presumably many of whom need the qualification to help them get into higher education or employment.

In English language (Table 13), the vast majority of entries were by candidates aged 16 (almost 84%). However, substantial percentages of entries were by 17 year-olds (6%).

Table 12: Entries by age, Mathematics

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	29	0.0
11-13	362	0.1
14	640	0.1
15	20097	3.3
16	507014	82.5
17	35551	5.8
18	17203	2.8
19	8339	1.4
20-24	8431	1.4
25-54	16377	2.7
55 or older	810	0.1

Table 13: Entries by age, English Language

Age band	N	%
11-13	2	0.0
14	72	0.0
15	7774	2.4
16	275034	83.9
17	19541	6.0
18	10139	3.1
19	4962	1.5
20-24	4381	1.3
25-54	5691	1.7
55 or older	157	0.0

Table 14 shows that almost 90% of entries in GCSE English literature were by 16 year-olds and that 9.6% were by 15 year-olds. There were very few entries by adult learners or those younger than 15.

Table 15 shows a very different pattern of the age distribution of GCSE core science entries. The majority of entries were by 15 year-olds (almost 54%), followed by 16 year-olds (42.3%). It should be noted that, as for 2013, this is the only one subject where the number of entries by candidates aged 15 is the highest. This clearly points out that, nowadays, it is fairly common for candidates aiming at obtaining a GCSE in core science to sit the exam when they are 15 (usually in Year 10), in order to have more time to study for more advanced science exams (e.g. additional science) the following year.

Table 14: Entries by age, English Literature

Age band	N	%
14	370	0.1
15	42077	9.6
16	394355	89.6
17	2981	0.7
18	173	0.0
19	64	0.0
20-24	60	0.0
25-54	64	0.0
55 or older	2	0.0

Table 15: Entries by age, Science (Core)

Age band	N	%
11-13	12	0.0
14	3671	1.1
15	185546	53.9
16	145641	42.3
17	4227	1.2
18	1185	0.3
19	590	0.2
20-24	1107	0.3
25-54	2239	0.7
55 or older	47	0.0

For additional science (Table 16) the vast majority of entries were by 16 year-olds (95.4%), followed by 15 year-olds (3.2%). There were very few entries by adult learners or those younger than 15.

Similarly, Table 17 shows that religious studies had very high percentages of entries by 16 year-olds (91.5%). Furthermore, entries by adult learners and those younger than 15 were very few.

Table 16: Entries by age, Additional Science

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.0
11-13	1	0.0
14	43	0.0
15	8892	3.2
16	266601	95.4
17	3077	1.1
18	325	0.1
19	145	0.1
20-24	99	0.0
25-54	141	0.1
55 or older	6	0.0

Table 17: Entries by age, Religious Studies

Age band	N	%
11-13	30	0.0
14	1421	0.5
15	18429	7.1
16	236462	91.5
17	1878	0.7
18	85	0.0
19	22	0.0
20-24	26	0.0
25-54	52	0.0
55 or older	2	0.0

As in 2011 and 2013, entry patterns for history (Table 18) and geography (Table 19) were very similar in 2014, with high percentages of entries by candidates aged 16 (around 96%), followed by 15 year-olds (2.8%). For both subjects, there were very few entries of adult learners or those younger than 15.

Table 18: Entries by age, History

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	860	0.4
15	6497	2.8
16	226418	96.1
17	1736	0.7
18	102	0.0
19	29	0.0
20-24	25	0.0
25-54	48	0.0
55 or older	3	0.0

Table 19: Entries by age, Geography

Age band	N	%
14	906	0.4
15	5634	2.7
16	198366	95.8
17	2035	1.0
18	70	0.0
19	32	0.0
20-24	10	0.0
25-54	22	0.0
55 or older	14	0.0

Table 20 shows the entries to GCSE English language and literature: more than three out of four entries were by 16 year-olds. A considerable number of entries were by adult learners, with more than 5% of the total amount of entries by twenty year-olds or older.

In biology (Table 21) more than 90% of entries were by 16 year-olds and 5.6% were by 15 year-olds. Also in this case the percentages of adult learners were not very high.

Table 22 shows the entry pattern for French, the most common foreign language at GCSE. The vast majority of entries were by 16 year-olds (93.2%). However, it should be noted that a substantial number of entries were by candidates aged 15 and 14 (3.9% and 2.1%, respectively).

Table 20: Entries by age, English Language and Literature

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.0
11-13	2	0.0
14	198	0.2
15	2160	1.8
16	96698	79.0
17	9652	7.9
18	4784	3.9
19	2057	1.7
20-24	2409	2.0
25-54	4260	3.5
55 or older	176	0.1

Table 21: Entries by age, Biology

Age band	N	%
11-13	6	0.0
14	385	0.3
15	7510	5.6
16	120657	90.7
17	2000	1.5
18	537	0.4
19	322	0.2
20-24	549	0.4
25-54	1034	0.8
55 or older	29	0.0

Table 22: Entries by age, French

Age band	N	%
11-13	156	0.1
14	3290	2.1
15	6100	3.9
16	145480	93.2
17	867	0.6
18	49	0.0
19	21	0.0
20-24	11	0.0
25-54	116	0.1
55 or older	37	0.0

Entry patterns for chemistry (Table 23) and physics (Table 24) were very similar, with very high percentages of entries by 16 year-olds (94.3% and 96.4% respectively), followed by 15 year-olds (4% and 2% respectively). In both subjects there were very few entries by adult learners or those younger than 15.

Table 23: Entries by age, Chemistry

Age band	N	%
11-13	6	0.0
14	232	0.2
15	5101	4.0
16	120995	94.3
17	1370	1.1
18	241	0.2
19	136	0.1
20-24	121	0.1
25-54	134	0.1
55 or older	4	0.0

Table 24: Entries by age, Physics

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	190	0.1
15	2507	2.0
16	123186	96.4
17	1279	1.0
18	223	0.2
19	121	0.1
20-24	112	0.1
25-54	107	0.1
55 or older	2	0.0

3.4. Most popular subjects taken by different age groups

It is of interest to look at the most popular subjects taken by candidates who are not the usual age for taking GCSEs. This is both in terms of the absolute number of entries, and also the percentage of all candidates taking the subject (full details on the numbers of pupils taking each of these subjects in each age group are given in Appendix B).

15 year-old candidates

Table 25 shows the ten most popular GCSE subjects taken by candidates aged 15. The left side presents the subjects with the highest number of entries; the right side shows the ten subjects with the highest percentages of candidates.

Table 25 confirms the figures presented in Table 15: for 15 year-olds, core science was by far the most common subject in June 2014, followed by English literature, statistics and mathematics. The fact that the early entries in mathematics and English were high is not a surprise (see Gill, 2012; Zanini, 2015), but it is worth noting that the number of entries for core science has markedly increased from 2011, when it was around 34,000.

Other classical languages was the subject with the highest percentage of candidates aged 15 (75.9%), followed by core science (53.9%). Table 25 also shows that amongst the ten most taken subjects by 15 year olds there were several languages, such as Turkish, Polish, Portuguese, modern Hebrew, and Dutch. It should be noted that the only two subjects to feature in both sides of Table 25 were core science and statistics.

Table 25: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 15 year-old pupils

Subject	Entries	Subject	%
Science (Core)	185546	Other Classical Languages	75.9
English Literature	42077	Science (Core)	53.9
Statistics	23163	Turkish	38.7
Mathematics	20097	Statistics	38.5
Religious Studies	18429	English Studies	34.5
Additional Science	8892	Polish	34.3
English Language	7774	Portuguese	32.7
Biology	7510	Methods in Mathematics	30.7
History	6497	Modern Hebrew	30.1
French	6100	Dutch	29.7

17-19 year-old candidates

Tables 26-28 clearly show that, for older teenagers, mathematics and English language were the two most popular subjects in terms of number of entries. It should be noted that, as in 2013, English language and literature, a subject for which specifications were first introduced for awarding in 2012, was the third most popular subject.

In terms of candidate percentages, general studies was by far the most popular subject for 17 year-olds, while GCSE Japanese was the most common for candidates aged 18 and 19.

Table 26: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 17 year-old pupils

Subject	Entries	Subject	%
Mathematics	35551	General Studies	11.7
English Language	19541	Law	8.8
English Language & Literature	9652	Art & Design (Critical Studies)	8.6
Science (Core)	4227	English Language & Literature	7.9
Additional Science	3077	Chinese	7.4
English Literature	2981	Persian	7.2
Geography	2035	Psychology	6.7
Biology	2000	Modern Hebrew	6.4
Religious Studies	1878	Film Studies	6.0
History	1736	Italian	6.0

Table 27: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 18 year-old pupils

Subject	Entries	Subject	%
Mathematics	17203	Japanese	5.7
English Language	10139	English Language & Literature	3.9
English Language & Literature	4784	Italian	3.6
Science (Core)	1185	English Language	3.1
Biology	537	Mathematics	2.8
Additional Science	325	Astronomy	2.3
Psychology	310	Classical Greek	2.2
Sociology	257	Chinese	2.2
Chemistry	241	Arabic	2.0
Physics	223	Ancient History	2.0

Table 28: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 19 year-old pupils

Subject	Entries	Subject	%
Mathematics	8339	Japanese	1.7
English Language	4962	English Language & Literature	1.7
English Language & Literature	2057	English Language	1.5
Science (Core)	590	Law	1.5
Biology	322	Arabic	1.4
Additional Science	145	Mathematics	1.4
Psychology	137	Persian	1.3
Chemistry	136	Psychology	0.8
Physics	121	Dutch	0.8
Sociology	100	Art & Design (3d Studies)	0.5

14 year-old candidates

Table 29 shows the most popular subjects taken by 14 year-olds. In terms of entries core science was the most popular subject (as for 15 year-olds, Table 25), followed by French, statistics and Spanish. It should be noted that mathematics, the subject with the second highest number of entries among 14 year-olds in June 2013 (see Zanini, 2015: Table 29), is not listed in Table 29.

In terms of candidate percentages, Modern Greek was the most common, as in 2011 and 2013. Other modern foreign languages (Gujarati, Polish, Turkish, Portuguese, Persian, Dutch and Punjabi) feature among the ten most popular subjects.

Table 29: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 14 year-old pupils

Subject	Entries	Subject	%
Science (Core)	3671	Modern Greek	29.5
French	3290	Gujarati	23.2
Statistics	2996	English Studies	22.6
Spanish	1752	Polish	20.3
Media/Film/Tv Studies	1528	Turkish	19.0
Religious Studies	1421	Portuguese	17.7
ICT	1294	Persian	14.9
Humanities: Single	1130	Dutch	14.6
Geography	906	Astronomy	13.6
History	860	Punjabi	13.4

11-13 year-old candidates

Table 30 shows that in 2014, similarly to 2011 and 2013, modern languages were amongst the most popular subjects, both in terms of entries and candidate percentages, taken by young learners aged 11-13. In particular Polish, Arabic, Portuguese and Punjabi are present on both the sides of Table 30. Dutch was the most popular in terms of candidate percentages. It should be noted that mathematics, the subject with the highest number of entries in 2013 was the second most popular, after Polish, in 2014.

Table 30: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 11-13 year-old pupils

Subject	Entries	Subject	%
Polish	383	Modern Greek	13.3
Mathematics	362	Dutch	11.8
Spanish	210	Punjabi	11.5
Arabic	197	Persian	9.5
French	156	Polish	9.3
Chinese	114	Gujarati	9.3
Portuguese	113	Japanese	6.0
Punjabi	100	Arabic	5.7
Russian	100	Portuguese	5.5
Italian	97	Turkish	4.8

Adult candidates

Tables 31-33 show the most common subjects amongst adult learners. In terms of entries, mathematics was by far the most popular subject in all the three age groups considered, followed by English language and English language and literature. This result supports the assertion that these subjects were presumably taken by candidates who need the qualification to help them get into higher education and employment.

Other common subjects amongst adult learners were core science and biology. Modern foreign languages that are often studied in evening classes (such as Italian and Spanish) were amongst the most popular, especially amongst the candidates aged 55 and older.

Table 31: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 20-24 year-old pupils

Subject	Entries	Subject	%
Mathematics	8431	English Language & Literature	2.0
English Language	4381	Arabic	1.8
English Language & Literature	2409	Japanese	1.7
Science (Core)	1107	Mathematics	1.4
Biology	549	English Language	1.3
Psychology	156	Law	1.2
Chemistry	121	Psychology	1.0
Physics	112	Persian	0.9
Additional Science	99	Sociology	0.4
Sociology	95	Biology	0.4

Table 32: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 25-54 year-old pupils

Subject	Entries	Subject	%
Mathematics	16377	English Language & Literature	3.5
English Language	5691	Japanese	2.9
English Language & Literature	4260	Astronomy	2.7
Science (Core)	2239	Mathematics	2.7
Biology	1034	Italian	2.5
Psychology	323	Psychology	2.0
Spanish	289	Law	2.0
Sociology	170	English Language	1.7
Additional Science	141	Dutch	1.5
Chemistry	134	Punjabi	1.4

Table 33: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by candidates aged 55 and older

Subject	Entries	Subject	%
Mathematics	810	Italian	1.2
English Language & Literature	176	Astronomy	0.7
English Language	157	Modern Greek	0.6
Spanish	91	Russian	0.5
Italian	59	Classical Greek	0.4
Science (Core)	47	Modern Hebrew	0.4
French	37	Japanese	0.4
Biology	29	Dutch	0.3
Astronomy	19	Other Classical Languages	0.2
Psychology	16	Chinese	0.2

References

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Appendix A: GCSE entries and candidates by age and gender (June 2014)

Table A.1: Entries by age band, female candidates

Age band	N	%	Cum %
10 or younger	23	0.0	0.0
11-13	1429	0.1	0.1
14	18379	0.8	0.8
15	211818	8.8	9.6
16	2066510	85.7	95.3
17	50794	2.1	97.4
18	19337	0.8	98.2
19	9010	0.4	98.5
20-24	10561	0.4	99.0
25-54	23821	1.0	100.0
55 or older	991	0.0	100.0

Table A.2: Candidates by age band, female

Age band	N	%	Cum %
10 or younger	23	0.0	0.00
11-13	1403	0.3	0.26
14	15997	2.9	3.19
15	150999	27. 7	30.86
16	294401	54.0	84.81
17	30861	5.7	90.47
18	16174	3.0	93.43
19	7402	1.4	94.79
20-24	8320	1.5	96.31
25-54	19182	3.5	99.83
55 or older	929	0.2	100.00

Table A.3: Entries by age band, male candidates

Age band	N	%	Cum %
10 or younger	28	0.0	0.0
11-13	1099	0.0	0.0
14	15930	0.7	0.7
15	196837	8.5	9.3
16	2000188	86.5	95.8
17	54277	2.3	98.1
18	18500	0.8	98.9
19	8686	0.4	99.3
20-24	7381	0.3	99.6
25-54	7966	0.3	100.0
55 or older	602	0.0	100.0

Table A.4: Candidates by age band, male

Age band	N	%	Cum %
10 or younger	27	0.0	0.01
11-13	1077	0.2	0.21
14	13886	2.6	2.84
15	143005	27.1	29.91
16	303595	57.5	87.40
17	31712	6.0	93.40
18	15097	2.9	96.26
19	7124	1.4	97.61
20-24	5876	1.1	98.72
25-54	6241	1.2	99.90
55 or older	516	0.1	100.00

Appendix B: Entries by age group for all GCSE subjects

Note: For popular subjects see tables 12-24 within the main report.

Table B.1: Entries by age, Additional Applied Science

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	1	0.0
15	385	3.0
16	12510	95.9
17	129	1.0
18	13	0.1
19	2	0.0
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	2	0.0

Table B.2: Entries by age, Ancient History

Age band	N	%
14	56	4.6
15	85	7.0
16	1000	82.4
17	41	3.4
18	24	2.0
19	4	0.3
20-24	2	0.2
55 or older	1	0.1

Table B.3: Entries by age, Applications of Mathematics

Age band	N	%
14	5	0.0
15	2100	15.3
16	11513	83.6
17	134	1.0
18	14	0.1
25-54	2	0.0

Table B.4: Entries by age, Applied Art & Design

Age band	N	%
15	13	1.4
16	918	97.5
17	9	1.0
18	2	0.2

Table B.5: Entries by age, Applied Business

Age band	N	%
14	79	0.8
15	659	6.4
16	9487	92.0
17	81	0.8
18	8	0.1
25-54	1	0.0

Table B.6: Entries by age, Applied Engineering

Age band	N	%
14	61	1.0
15	413	6.6
16	5708	91.6
17	48	0.8

Table B.7: Entries by age, Arabic

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	3	0.1
11-13	197	5.7
14	382	11.1
15	850	24.8
16	1613	47.1
17	155	4.5
18	70	2.0
19	47	1.4
20-24	61	1.8
25-54	45	1.3
55 or older	5	0.1

Table B.8: Entries by age, Art & Design

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	608	0.7
15	2648	3.1
16	80636	94.7
17	1080	1.3
18	86	0.1
19	22	0.0
20-24	4	0.0
25-54	17	0.0
55 or older	9	0.0

Table B.9: Entries by age, Art & Design (3d Studies)

Age band	N	%
14	17	0.9
15	124	6.4
16	1728	89.2
17	49	2.5
18	8	0.4
19	9	0.5
25-54	2	0.1

Table B.10: Entries by age, Art & Design (Critical Studies)

Age band	N	%
16	64	91.4
17	6	8.6

Table B.11: Entries by age, Art & Design (Fine Art)

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	444	0.9
15	1653	3.2
16	49240	94.4
17	753	1.4
18	47	0.1
19	4	0.0
20-24	4	0.0
25-54	26	0.0
55 or older	7	0.0

Table B.12: Entries by age, Art & Design (Graphics)

Age band	N	%
14	25	0.3
15	257	3.3
16	7275	94.2
17	140	1.8
18	22	0.3
19	1	0.0
20-24	2	0.0
25-54	1	0.0

Table B.13: Entries by age, Art & Design (Photography)

Age band	N	%
14	334	1.7
15	935	4.7
16	18097	90.5
17	499	2.5
18	90	0.5
19	19	0.1
20-24	6	0.0
25-54	16	0.1
55 or older	4	0.0

Table B.14: Entries by age, Art & Design (Textiles)

Age band	N	%
14	60	0.7
15	305	3.8
16	7635	94.2
17	95	1.2
18	8	0.1
19	1	0.0
25-54	2	0.0
55 or older	1	0.0

Table B.15:   Entries by age, Astronomy

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.0
11-13	40	1.6
14	344	13.6
15	572	22.5
16	1336	52.6
17	89	3.5
18	59	2.3
19	2	0.1
20-24	8	0.3
25-54	68	2.7
55 or older	19	0.7

Table B.16:   Entries by age, Bengali

Age band	N	%
11-13	16	1.7
14	78	8.3
15	108	11.5
16	720	76.4
17	11	1.2
18	6	0.6
19	2	0.2
25-54	2	0.2

Table B.17:   Entries by age, Business Studies: Single

Age band	N	%
14	439	0.6
15	2316	3.2
16	67721	94.7
17	913	1.3
18	96	0.1
19	37	0.1
20-24	12	0.0
25-54	8	0.0

Table B.18:   Entries by age, Business Studies & Economics

Age band	N	%
14	14	0.3
15	68	1.7
16	3890	95.2
17	110	2.7
18	3	0.1

Table B.19:   Entries by age, Catering Studies

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	498	1.9
15	1055	4.0
16	24439	93.2
17	228	0.9
18	2	0.0
19	3	0.0
25-54	5	0.0
55 or older	3	0.0

Table B.20:   Entries by age, Chinese

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.0
11-13	114	3.9
14	258	8.7
15	455	15.4
16	1809	61.2
17	220	7.4
18	64	2.2
19	6	0.2
20-24	8	0.3
25-54	16	0.5
55 or older	5	0.2

Table B.21:   Entries by age, Classical Civilisation

Age band	N	%
11-13	6	0.1
14	16	0.4
15	164	3.9
16	3865	92.3
17	114	2.7
18	13	0.3
19	3	0.1
20-24	3	0.1
25-54	1	0.0
55 or older	1	0.0

Table B.22:   Entries by age, Classical Greek

Age band	N	%
11-13	2	0.2
15	35	2.8
16	1117	90.2
17	43	3.5
18	27	2.2
19	4	0.3
25-54	5	0.4
55 or older	5	0.4

Table B.23:   Entries by age, Computer Studies/Computing

Age band	N	%
11-13	2	0.0
14	95	0.6
15	621	3.9
16	15180	94.4
17	147	0.9
18	18	0.1
19	3	0.0
25-54	15	0.1

Table B.24:   Entries by age, Electronic Products

Age band	N	%
14	38	0.5
15	241	2.9
16	7901	96.1
17	40	0.5
18	1	0.0
25-54	1	0.0
55 or older	1	0.0

Table B.25:   Entries by age, D&T Engineering

Age band	N	%
16	301	99.3
17	2	0.7

Table B.26:   Entries by age, D&T Food Technology

Age band	N	%
14	417	1.0
15	1537	3.8
16	37878	94.3
17	324	0.8
18	20	0.0
19	2	0.0
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	6	0.0

Table B.27:   Entries by age, D&T Graphic Products

Age band	N	%
14	280	0.8
15	1030	3.1
16	32083	95.3
17	253	0.8
18	13	0.0

Table B.28:   Entries by age, D&T Product Design

Age band		
14	499	1.4
15	2077	5.7
16	33359	92.0
17	317	0.9
18	11	0.0
19	2	0.0

Table B.29:   Entries by age, D&T Resistant Materials

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	551	1.1
15	1307	2.5
16	49723	95.2
17	590	1.1
18	35	0.1
19	5	0.0
25-54	9	0.0
55 or older	3	0.0

Table B.30:   Entries by age, D&T Systems and Control

Age band	N	%
14	3	0.1
15	46	1.4
16	3143	97.9
17	19	0.6

Table B.31:   Entries by age, D&T Textiles Technology

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	316	1.2
15	920	3.6
16	24169	94.5
17	148	0.6
18	8	0.0
19	1	0.0
25-54	5	0.0
55 or older	1	0.0

Table B.32: Entries by age, Dance

Age band	N	%
11-13	15	0.1
14	193	1.6
15	850	7.1
16	10862	90.5
17	78	0.6
18	3	0.0
19	1	0.0
25-54	1	0.0

Table B.33: Entries by age, Drama & Theatre Studies

Age band	N	%
11-13	6	0.0
14	573	0.8
15	1997	2.8
16	67914	95.5
17	597	0.8
18	19	0.0
19	2	0.0
55 or older	1	0.0

Table B.34: Entries by age, Dutch

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.3
11-13	46	11.8
14	57	14.6
15	116	29.7
16	133	34.1
17	22	5.6
18	4	1.0
19	3	0.8
20-24	1	0.3
25-54	6	1.5
55 or older	1	0.3

Table B.35: Entries by age, Economics

Age band	N	%
14	2	0.0
15	112	2.2
16	4793	95.6
17	90	1.8
18	13	0.3
19	3	0.1
25-54	3	0.1

Table B.36: Entries by age, Electronics

Age band	N	%
14	8	1.4
15	13	2.3
16	531	92.3
17	19	3.3
18	4	0.7

Table B.37: Entries by age, English Studies

Age band	N	%
14	160	22.6
15	244	34.5
16	300	42.4
17	4	0.6

Table B.38: Entries by age, Environmental Science

Age band	N	%
11-13	9	0.3
14	80	2.4
15	244	7.4
16	2828	86.0
17	92	2.8
18	22	0.7
19	7	0.2
20-24	3	0.1
25-54	2	0.1

Table B.39: Entries by age, Expressive Arts & Performance Studies

Age band	N	%
14	307	10.3
15	480	16.1
16	2162	72.4
17	23	0.8
18	7	0.2
19	5	0.2
25-54	1	0.0

Table B.40: Entries by age, Film Studies

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	225	3.1
15	573	8.0
16	5830	81.3
17	431	6.0
18	81	1.1
19	20	0.3
20-24	5	0.1
25-54	9	0.1

Table B.41: Entries by age, General Studies

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	184	1.7
15	1029	9.5
16	8159	75.7
17	1265	11.7
18	67	0.6
19	9	0.1
20-24	19	0.2
25-54	45	0.4
55 or older	1	0.0

Table B.42: Entries by age, Geology

Age band	N	%
14	65	7.6
15	59	6.9
16	701	82.2
17	16	1.9
18	12	1.4

Table B.43: Entries by age, German

Age band	N	%
11-13	82	0.1
14	711	1.2
15	1744	3.0
16	54348	94.9
17	299	0.5
18	18	0.0
19	3	0.0
20-24	7	0.0
25-54	43	0.1
55 or older	14	0.0

Table B.44: Entries by age, Gujarati

Age band	N	%
11-13	58	9.3
14	145	23.2
15	185	29.6
16	215	34.4
17	13	2.1
18	2	0.3
19	2	0.3
25-54	4	0.6
55 or older	1	0.2

Table B.45:   Entries by age, Health & Social Care

Age band	N	%
14	142	0.8
15	1358	7.6
16	16182	90.6
17	154	0.9
18	10	0.1
19	2	0.0
20-24	4	0.0
25-54	11	0.1
55 or older	3	0.0

Table B.46:   Entries by age, Economics: Child Development

Age band	N	%
14	92	0.5
15	782	4.2
16	17546	94.3
17	146	0.8
18	22	0.1
19	9	0.0
25-54	1	0.0

Table B.47:   Entries by age, Economics: Food

Age band	N	%
14	68	0.7
15	211	2.3
16	8775	95.2
17	147	1.6
18	14	0.2
19	4	0.0
25-54	1	0.0

Table B.48:   Entries by age, Economics: Textiles

Age band	N	%
14	15	5.2
15	64	22.4
16	202	70.6
17	5	1.7

Table B.49:   Entries by age, Hospitality & Catering

Age band	N	%
14	153	4.0
15	316	8.3
16	3290	86.0
17	47	1.2
18	20	0.5
25-54	1	0.0

Table B.50:   Entries by age, Humanities: Single

Age band	N	%
14	1130	11.9
15	904	9.5
16	6984	73.4
17	355	3.7
18	67	0.7
19	43	0.5
20-24	16	0.2
25-54	11	0.1
55 or older	5	0.1

Table B.51:   Entries by age, ICT

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.0
11-13	3	0.0
14	1294	1.5
15	5103	6.0
16	78095	91.3
17	817	1.0
18	106	0.1
19	62	0.1
20-24	35	0.0
25-54	32	0.0

Table B.52: Entries by age, Italian

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.0
11-13	97	2.0
14	258	5.4
15	519	10.9
16	3216	67.6
17	285	6.0
18	171	3.6
19	21	0.4
20-24	12	0.3
25-54	118	2.5
55 or older	59	1.2

Table B.53: Entries by age, Japanese

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.1
11-13	60	6.0
14	76	7.6
15	114	11.3
16	571	56.8
17	60	6.0
18	57	5.7
19	17	1.7
20-24	17	1.7
25-54	29	2.9
55 or older	4	0.4

Table B.54: Entries by age, Latin

Age band	N	%
11-13	5	0.1
14	35	0.4
15	367	4.1
16	8303	93.7
17	112	1.3
18	20	0.2
19	5	0.1
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	8	0.1
55 or older	6	0.1

Table B.55:   Entries by age, Law

Age band	N	%
11-13	1	0.0
14	18	0.7
15	185	7.5
16	1873	76.3
17	216	8.8
18	45	1.8
19	37	1.5
20-24	29	1.2
25-54	48	2.0
55 or older	3	0.1

Table B.56:   Entries by age, Leisure & Tourism

Age band	N	%
14	135	1.9
15	433	6.0
16	6364	88.6
17	241	3.4
18	7	0.1
19	2	0.0

Table B.57:   Entries by age, Manufacturing

Age band	N	%
16	349	98.9
17	4	1.1

Table B.58:   Entries by age, Media/Film/Tv Studies

Age band	N	%
14	1528	2.8
15	5034	9.4
16	46160	85.8
17	902	1.7
18	125	0.2
19	52	0.1
20-24	16	0.0
25-54	2	0.0
55 or older	2	0.0

Table B.59: Entries by age, Methods in Mathematics

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.0
11-13	8	0.1
14	16	0.1
15	3866	30.7
16	8516	67.6
17	152	1.2
18	19	0.2
19	4	0.0
20-24	11	0.1
25-54	6	0.0

Table B.60: Entries by age, Modern Greek

Age band	N	%
11-13	66	13.3
14	146	29.5
15	137	27.7
16	107	21.6
17	24	4.8
18	7	1.4
19	2	0.4
25-54	3	0.6
55 or older	3	0.6

Table B.61: Entries by age, Modern Hebrew

Age band	N	%
11-13	5	1.0
14	66	13.2
15	150	30.1
16	243	48.7
17	32	6.4
18	1	0.2
55 or older	2	0.4

Table B.62: Entries by age, Music

Age band	N	%
11-13	8	0.0
14	292	0.7
15	1427	3.4
16	40187	94.7
17	474	1.1
18	25	0.1
19	9	0.0
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	2	0.0
55 or older	2	0.0

Table B.63: Entries by age, Office Technology

Age band	N	%
11-13	2	0.0
14	142	1.0
15	986	7.1
16	12552	90.3
17	187	1.3
18	26	0.2
20-24	3	0.0
25-54	2	0.0

Table B.64: Entries by age, Other Classical Languages

Age band	N	%
11-13	8	1.6
14	53	10.4
15	388	75.9
16	53	10.4
17	8	1.6
55 or older	1	0.2

Table B.65: Entries by age, Performing Arts

Age band	N	%
11-13	4	0.1
14	382	7.3
15	793	15.2
16	4007	76.9
17	24	0.5
18	3	0.1

Table B.66: Entries by age, Persian

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	2	0.4
11-13	50	9.5
14	79	14.9
15	135	25.5
16	202	38.2
17	38	7.2
18	9	1.7
19	7	1.3
20-24	5	0.9
25-54	2	0.4

Table B.67: Entries by age, Physical Education/Sports Studies

Age band	N	%
14	241	0.2
15	3721	3.6
16	98583	95.4
17	746	0.7
18	27	0.0
19	4	0.0
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	4	0.0
55 or older	4	0.0

Table B.68: Entries by age, Polish

Age band	N	%
11-13	383	9.3
14	837	20.3
15	1415	34.3
16	1377	33.4
17	87	2.1
18	13	0.3
19	3	0.1
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	4	0.1

Table B.69: Entries by age, Portuguese

Age band	N	%
11-13	113	5.5
14	361	17.7
15	667	32.7
16	802	39.3
17	69	3.4
18	10	0.5
19	6	0.3
20-24	3	0.1
25-54	10	0.5
55 or older	1	0.0

Table B.70: Entries by age, Psychology

Age band	N	%
14	86	0.5
15	743	4.6
16	13305	82.3
17	1083	6.7
18	310	1.9
19	137	0.8
20-24	156	1.0
25-54	323	2.0
55 or older	16	0.1

Table B.71:   Entries by age, Punjabi

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.1
11-13	100	11.5
14	117	13.4
15	193	22.2
16	388	44.6
17	43	4.9
18	12	1.4
19	2	0.2
20-24	2	0.2
25-54	12	1.4

Table B.72:   Entries by age, Russian

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	1	0.0
11-13	100	4.3
14	248	10.6
15	466	19.9
16	1326	56.6
17	138	5.9
18	29	1.2
19	3	0.1
20-24	2	0.1
25-54	18	0.8
55 or older	11	0.5

Table B.73:   Entries by age, Social Science (Citizenship)

Age band	N	%
14	137	0.7
15	1000	5.2
16	17925	92.3
17	279	1.4
18	47	0.2
19	18	0.1
20-24	7	0.0
25-54	1	0.0

Table B.74: Entries by age, Sociology

Age band	N	%
14	40	0.2
15	629	2.9
16	19553	89.3
17	1051	4.8
18	257	1.2
19	100	0.5
20-24	95	0.4
25-54	170	0.8
55 or older	5	0.0

Table B.75: Entries by age, Spanish

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	3	0.0
11-13	211	0.2
14	1761	2.0
15	3246	3.7
16	81742	92.4
17	874	1.0
18	187	0.2
19	52	0.1
20-24	29	0.0
25-54	297	0.3
55 or older	92	0.1

Table B.76: Entries by age, Statistics

Age band	N	%
11-13	23	0.0
14	2996	5.0
15	23163	38.5
16	33645	55.9
17	309	0.5
18	46	0.1
19	13	0.0
20-24	4	0.0
25-54	17	0.0
55 or older	1	0.0

Table B.77:   Entries by age, Turkish

Age band	N	%
10 or younger	3	0.2
11-13	78	4.8
14	308	19.0
15	628	38.7
16	569	35.1
17	17	1.0
18	3	0.2
19	2	0.1
25-54	13	0.8
55 or older	1	0.1

Table B.78:   Entries by age, Urdu

Age band	N	%
11-13	25	0.6
14	164	4.1
15	639	16.1
16	2988	75.3
17	97	2.4
18	30	0.8
19	13	0.3
20-24	8	0.2
25-54	2	0.1