

Uptake of GCE A-level subjects in England 2006

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This statistical report investigates the uptake of A level subjects in England in 2006. Subject uptake figures for 2001 to 2005 can be found in Statistics Report No. 3 (Vidal-Rodeiro, 2006). Detailed analysis of the years 2001 and 2002 can be found in Bell, Malacova & Shannon (2005).

Data were extracted from the 16+/18+ databases for 2006, for candidates who had their 18th birthday in the school year 2005/2006. These databases are compiled for the DFES from data supplied by all the awarding bodies in England. They contain candidate and national examination data for all candidates who have their 16th, 17th and 18th birthdays in a particular school year. Records are present only if the candidate has sat an examination in a particular subject, not just attended classes. Data merging and analyses were carried out in SAS (Version 9.1).

Table 1a: Number of A level results in 2006 (% of candidates)

Number of A Levels Taken	Count	%
1	22490	10.05
2	32268	14.42
3	109510	48.95
4	53713	24.01
5+	5729	2.56
total candidates	223710	

Table 1b: Number of A level results in 2006, excluding General Studies (% of candidates)

Number of A Levels Taken	Count	%
1	24364	10.95
2	37742	16.96
3	141158	63.43
4	18163	8.16
5+	1126	0.51
total candidates	222553	

The total number of candidates taking at least one A level (223710) represents only around one third of the population who had their 18th birthday in the school year 2005/2006. It should therefore be noted that all the tables in this report refer to a selected sample with relatively high ability and economic backgrounds. It should also be noted that the boys are a more selected group than the girls: figures from 2005 suggest that around 40% of girls but only 30% of boys in that age group take at least one A level (Bekhradnia, 2007).

Table 2 overleaf shows the 30 most popular A level subjects taken in 2006, presented in rank order. Tables 4a to 4g show the popularity of these same 30 subjects according to candidates' school type, school gender and various school neighbourhood variables. These tables are presented in alphabetical subject order.

Table 2: Uptake of individual A level subjects in 2006

Rank	Code	Subject	Count	% Exams	% Candidates
1	7810	General Studies	57696	8.75	25.79
2	2210	Mathematics	43854	6.65	19.60
3	5110	English Literature	43664	6.62	19.52
4	1010	Biology	40050	6.07	17.90
5	4850	Psychology	39913	6.05	17.84
6	4010	History	38623	5.86	17.26
7	1110	Chemistry	30842	4.68	13.79
8	3910	Geography	26922	4.08	12.03
9	3210	Business Studies	24605	3.73	11.00
10	1210	Physics	21372	3.24	9.55
11	4890	Sociology	21355	3.24	9.55
12	5350	Media Studies	20717	3.14	9.26
13	7210	Sport Studies	18818	2.85	8.41
14	5030	English Language	16352	2.48	7.31
15	9080	Design/Technology & Production	14613	2.22	6.53
16	5210	Drama & Theatre Studies	14209	2.15	6.35
17	4610	Religious Studies	13970	2.12	6.24
18	3690	Fine Art	13851	2.10	6.19
19	5010	English	13128	1.99	5.87
20	4410	Economics	12032	1.82	5.38
21	4770	Law	11772	1.79	5.26
22	5650	French	11559	1.75	5.17
23	2650	Information Technology	10972	1.66	4.90
24	4830	Government and Politics	8791	1.33	3.93
25	3510	Art & Design	8659	1.31	3.87
26	7010	Music	5949	0.90	2.66
27	2330	Mathematics (Further)	5677	0.86	2.54
28	3570	Theatre Studies	5442	0.83	2.43
29	5670	German	5230	0.79	2.34
30	1830	Psychology (AQA Specification B)	4920	0.75	2.20

School type information was obtained from the awarding bodies' NCN (National Centre Number) database of educational establishments. Neighbourhood statistics were downloaded from the Office of National Statistics website (www.statistics.gov.uk) and merged with the candidate data on the postcode of the school in which they sat their exams. They are thus based on the location of the school rather than the individual candidate. The neighbourhood statistics chosen were compiled mainly from the 2001 Census in England and Wales but precise information about each variable is available on the ONS website. Downloaded information in PDF format is available from the author.

The ONS data is provided at various geographical levels, e.g. Local Authority (376 codes in England and Wales in 2004), Ward (8868 codes) and Lower Super Output Area (34378 codes). Variables were obtained at the finest level of detail available. Neighbourhood variables other than rural / urban status were continuous in nature. Thus three categories of each variable (bottom, middle and top) were created to give the most even split of candidates. This was achieved by calculating the 33.3 and 67.7 percentile values for each variable and classifying candidates accordingly. Table 3 shows the percentile values upon which the candidates were split for each variable and their minimum and maximum values in the whole 2006 A level cohort. Their geographical level of measurement is also displayed. It should be noted that these variables are not normally distributed in the general population (and particularly in these A level candidates) and thus the categories 'bottom', 'middle' and 'top' should not be taken as synonymous with 'low', 'medium' and 'high'. This is especially the case for the variable 'income deprivation affecting children'.

Table 3: Score distributions of neighbourhood variables in the 2006 cohort of A level candidates

Neighbourhood Variable	Geographical Level	Minimum	Percentiles		Maximum
			33.3	67.7	
Rural / Urban Classification	LSOA	~	~	~	~
Income Deprivation Affecting Children	LSOA	0.01	0.06	0.17	0.96
Model-Based Estimates of Income	Ward	£190	£320	£390	£960
Percentage of People with no Qualifications	Ward	2%	22%	30%	55%
Percentage of People with Level 4 to 5 Qualifications	Ward	4%	17%	27%	73%

Rural / urban status is based on the population density of the area. 'Urban' areas are those with a population of over 10000. 'Town & fringe' denotes town and fringe areas located within the rural domain. 'Village hamlet' includes villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings located in the rural domain. The 'income deprivation affecting children' index shows the percentage of children in each output area that live in families in receipt of Income Support, Income based Jobseeker's Allowance, Working Families' Tax Credit or Disabled Person's Tax Credit. A score of 0.1 means that 10% of children aged under 16 in that area are living in families that are income deprived. Model-based estimates of income here refer to estimates of net household weekly income, equivalised after housing costs (estimates for 2001/2). 'No qualifications' denotes no academic, vocational or professional qualifications and 'Level 4 to 5 qualifications' denotes a first degree or higher (or professional qualification as a teacher or health professional). A caveat of these variables is the uncertainty of consistency over time.

Table 4: Uptake of top 30 A level subjects by ~

a) School type

Subject	Comprehensive (n=105022)		FE / Tertiary (n=19976)		Grammar (n=19464)		6th Form Colleges (n=44744)		Independent Boarding (n=15777)		Independent Non- Boarding (n=15359)	
	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
Art & Design	21	4.76	25	2.13	26	3.25	26	2.43	21	4.48	20	4.47
Biology	5	17.24	12	9.74	3	27.40	4	14.69	4	21.04	2	28.43
Business Studies	12	9.62	5	12.67	10	10.95	7	12.42	8	13.95	11	10.70
Chemistry	8	11.72	13	7.72	5	23.55	10	11.44	5	19.34	3	25.22
Design/Technology & Production	13	8.80	30	1.18	14	7.62	23	3.71	15	7.23	18	5.21
Drama & Theatre Studies	16	7.28	21	4.69	19	5.35	19	4.98	14	8.25	16	6.04
Economics	23	3.73	24	2.51	11	8.34	20	4.24	9	12.82	9	12.33
English	19	5.43	9	11.92	25	3.75	15	8.03	29	0.60	26	2.34
English Language	15	7.43	11	10.03	22	4.20	12	10.69	26	1.31	22	3.93
English Literature	2	21.23	4	12.86	4	24.84	6	13.50	2	23.98	4	23.38
Fine Art	18	6.14	17	5.72	17	6.05	18	5.75	13	8.48	14	6.73
French	22	4.06	23	2.74	13	7.72	22	3.82	10	11.03	10	10.98
General Studies	1	24.08	10	11.11	1	51.45	1	35.85	17	5.75	6	19.80
Geography	7	12.80	14	6.99	8	15.65	14	8.17	6	16.42	7	16.78
German	28	1.91	29	1.30	24	4.00	29	1.65	19	4.88	21	4.17
Government and Politics	25	2.89	22	2.78	16	6.77	21	3.96	16	6.41	15	6.43
History	4	17.77	6	12.22	6	21.42	5	13.60	3	21.68	5	22.41
Information Technology	20	4.87	15	6.14	23	4.16	17	5.87	23	2.70	24	3.38
Law	24	3.22	3	13.17	29	1.57	11	11.18	30	0.38	30	0.58
Mathematics	6	17.21	7	12.21	2	30.54	3	16.51	1	28.05	1	32.06
Mathematics (Further)	30	1.75	28	1.38	21	4.60	27	2.15	18	5.62	19	4.82
Media Studies	10	10.45	8	12.02	20	5.16	8	11.96	25	2.08	27	2.02
Music	26	2.70	26	1.55	27	3.05	28	2.05	22	4.46	23	3.52
Physics	14	8.76	19	5.13	9	15.44	16	6.86	7	15.03	8	15.59
Psychology	3	18.60	1	20.53	7	16.47	2	23.44	20	4.77	13	8.13
Psychology (Spec. B)	27	2.15	20	4.99	28	2.85	30	1.20	27	1.22	25	2.40
Religious Studies	17	7.18	27	1.46	12	8.05	25	3.35	11	9.17	12	10.12
Sociology	9	10.64	2	15.13	18	6.04	9	11.68	28	0.74	28	1.76
Sport Studies	11	9.70	18	5.61	15	7.18	13	8.50	12	8.63	17	5.36
Theatre Studies	29	1.90	16	5.77	30	0.20	24	3.60	24	2.09	29	0.86

222524 candidates had school type 'unidentified' and a further 1186 candidates were missing school type information

b) School Gender

Rank Overall	Subject	Boys' Schools (n=16473)		Males in Mixed Schools (n=84002)		Girls' Schools (n=21526)		Females in Mixed Schools (n=97812)	
		Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
25	Art & Design	25	2.94	27	2.41	20	4.91	20	5.11
4	Biology	5	22.44	5	15.39	2	26.09	4	17.72
9	Business Studies	10	12.06	6	14.77	14	7.11	12	8.43
7	Chemistry	4	22.52	7	14.35	5	20.43	9	10.48
15	Design / Technology & Production	13	7.65	13	8.74	17	5.75	21	4.78
16	Drama & Theatre Studies	22	3.46	20	4.35	12	8.34	14	8.16
20	Economics	9	14.55	15	7.19	18	5.61	29	2.23
19	English	23	3.26	21	4.04	26	3.36	13	8.26
14	English Language	26	2.78	16	6.20	24	3.40	10	9.90
3	English Literature	6	21.22	10	11.16	1	29.37	3	24.43
18	Fine Art	18	5.95	22	3.97	15	6.92	15	8.01
22	French	12	7.68	25	2.91	10	9.24	19	5.86
1	General Studies	2	33.58	1	25.24	3	22.28	1	26.25
8	Geography	8	15.95	8	14.28	8	12.81	11	9.45
29	German	21	3.54	29	1.63	23	3.46	27	2.53
24	Government and Politics	14	7.56	19	4.65	19	5.60	28	2.31
6	History	3	23.85	3	18.30	6	19.80	5	14.83
23	Information Technology	20	4.12	14	7.34	22	3.77	23	3.14
21	Law	28	2.10	18	4.99	29	1.38	17	6.73
2	Mathematics	1	36.23	2	24.76	4	22.09	7	11.89
27	Mathematics (Further)	17	6.87	24	3.52	28	2.19	30	1.07
12	Media Studies	19	4.56	12	9.32	16	6.79	8	10.49
26	Music	24	2.99	26	2.60	25	3.37	26	2.55
10	Physics	7	19.99	4	15.99	13	7.15	25	2.80
5	Psychology	15	7.36	11	10.53	7	18.04	2	25.85
30	Psychology Spec B	29	1.16	30	1.27	27	2.65	24	3.14
17	Religious Studies	16	7.16	23	3.95	9	11.12	16	7.15
11	Sociology	27	2.36	17	5.06	11	9.19	6	14.60
13	Sport Studies	11	7.70	9	12.20	21	4.13	18	6.30
28	Theatre Studies	30	0.86	28	2.05	30	1.07	22	3.25

3897 candidates were missing school gender information

c) Rural / urban status

Rank Overall	Subject	Urban > 10K (n=197432)		Town & Fringe (n=16644)		Village Hamlet (n=8270)	
		Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
25	Art & Design	25	3.76	20	4.85	20	4.62
4	Biology	5	17.82	3	18.79	5	19.07
9	Business Studies	9	10.98	11	10.32	8	12.62
7	Chemistry	7	13.80	8	13.00	7	15.42
15	Design/Technology & Production	15	6.20	12	9.38	12	9.03
16	Drama & Theatre Studies	16	6.20	14	7.50	14	8.17
20	Economics	21	5.45	22	3.68	17	7.59
19	English	19	6.04	21	4.69	22	3.93
14	English Language	14	7.48	17	6.92	21	4.12
3	English Literature	3	19.31	2	20.68	2	22.52
18	Fine Art	18	6.05	15	7.19	15	8.00
22	French	22	5.08	19	5.26	16	7.61
1	General Studies	1	26.38	1	22.85	4	19.58
8	Geography	8	11.54	7	16.05	6	16.14
29	German	29	2.27	25	2.73	25	3.34
24	Government and Politics	24	4.08	29	2.20	23	3.85
6	History	6	17.07	4	18.31	3	19.98
23	Information Technology	23	5.08	23	3.56	26	3.01
21	Law	20	5.63	26	2.46	29	1.69
2	Mathematics	2	19.58	5	18.22	1	22.60
27	Mathematics (Further)	27	2.52	28	2.34	24	3.54
12	Media Studies	11	9.47	13	7.92	18	6.92
26	Music	26	2.64	24	2.79	27	2.96
10	Physics	12	9.33	10	10.77	9	11.79
5	Psychology	4	18.27	6	16.58	10	10.24
30	Psychology (Spec. B)	30	2.22	27	2.44	30	1.39
17	Religious Studies	17	6.11	18	6.81	13	8.86
11	Sociology	10	9.94	16	6.93	19	5.53
13	Sport Studies	13	8.15	9	11.06	11	9.82
28	Theatre Studies	28	2.51	30	1.66	28	1.96

1364 candidates were missing all school neighbourhood information and are therefore omitted from tables c to g.

Similar results were found for classifications based on population density (at the Ward level). Tables are available from the author.

d) Level of income deprivation affecting children

-----increasing deprivation----->

Rank Overall	Subject	bottom		middle		top	
		Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
25	Art & Design	24	4.08	25	3.61	24	3.91
4	Biology	4	18.51	6	17.50	5	17.77
9	Business Studies	9	11.30	9	10.82	9	10.84
7	Chemistry	7	14.44	7	13.23	7	13.68
15	Design/Technology & Production	14	7.28	15	6.91	21	5.42
16	Drama & Theatre Studies	15	7.22	17	6.17	19	5.68
20	Economics	18	6.68	23	4.77	22	4.67
19	English	21	5.03	19	5.96	15	6.63
14	English Language	16	7.12	14	7.50	14	7.34
3	English Literature	3	20.15	2	19.62	2	18.81
18	Fine Art	19	6.55	16	6.38	18	5.69
22	French	20	5.94	22	5.05	23	4.52
1	General Studies	1	23.55	1	26.33	1	27.81
8	Geography	8	13.17	8	12.27	10	10.69
29	German	28	2.68	29	2.37	30	1.97
24	Government and Politics	22	4.42	24	3.84	25	3.50
6	History	5	18.21	5	17.51	6	16.08
23	Information Technology	23	4.08	21	5.18	20	5.43
21	Law	25	4.00	20	5.39	16	6.40
2	Mathematics	2	20.73	3	19.55	4	18.45
27	Mathematics (Further)	27	2.98	28	2.52	29	2.12
12	Media Studies	13	8.29	12	9.40	11	10.12
26	Music	26	3.00	26	2.69	28	2.29
10	Physics	10	10.42	10	9.55	12	8.57
5	Psychology	6	16.10	4	18.86	3	18.68
30	Psychology (Spec. B)	29	2.34	30	1.64	26	2.61
17	Religious Studies	17	6.88	18	6.01	17	5.87
11	Sociology	12	8.32	11	9.42	8	10.96
13	Sport Studies	11	8.88	13	8.74	13	7.66
28	Theatre Studies	30	2.23	27	2.54	27	2.52

Similar results were found for classifications based on multiple deprivation index score (LSOA level), the percentage of young people not staying in education (LSOA level) and the percentage of employment in the area (at the LA level). Multiple deprivation index is a single value calculated from indices for each of the following domains: income, employment, health and disability, education and training, housing and services, crime, living environment. Tables are available from the author.

e) Model-based estimates of income (bottom=lowest income, top=highest)

←-----increasing deprivation----->

Rank Overall	Subject	bottom		middle		top	
		Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
25	Art & Design	23	3.64	25	3.48	23	4.42
4	Biology	3	18.12	5	18.08	4	17.65
9	Business Studies	9	10.78	9	11.30	9	10.96
7	Chemistry	7	13.20	7	13.51	7	14.64
15	Design/Technology & Production	19	5.91	15	7.33	17	6.55
16	Drama & Theatre Studies	21	5.18	18	6.52	15	7.44
20	Economics	24	3.32	20	5.21	14	7.64
19	English	16	6.58	17	6.61	22	4.54
14	English Language	11	9.00	14	7.98	21	5.08
3	English Literature	5	17.35	3	18.75	1	22.36
18	Fine Art	17	6.11	16	6.65	19	5.96
22	French	22	4.40	21	5.05	18	6.08
1	General Studies	1	33.22	1	29.41	6	15.60
8	Geography	8	11.59	8	12.73	8	11.98
29	German	29	2.09	29	2.42	29	2.54
24	Government and Politics	26	2.85	24	3.52	20	5.35
6	History	6	15.43	6	17.49	3	18.96
23	Information Technology	20	5.51	23	4.93	24	4.22
21	Law	15	6.73	22	4.96	25	3.98
2	Mathematics	4	17.57	2	19.22	2	21.92
27	Mathematics (Further)	30	2.02	27	2.59	26	3.04
12	Media Studies	12	8.77	11	9.26	11	9.76
26	Music	27	2.37	26	2.75	27	2.90
10	Physics	14	8.57	10	10.11	10	10.02
5	Psychology	2	19.02	4	18.34	5	16.27
30	Psychology (Spec. B)	25	2.95	30	2.35	30	1.35
17	Religious Studies	18	6.05	19	5.86	16	6.82
11	Sociology	10	10.52	12	9.04	12	8.98
13	Sport Studies	13	8.76	13	8.80	13	7.79
28	Theatre Studies	28	2.13	28	2.44	28	2.73

f) Percentage of people (aged 16 to 74) with no qualifications

-----increasing deprivation----->

Rank Overall	Subject	bottom		middle		top	
		Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
25	Art & Design	23	4.03	24	3.93	23	3.65
4	Biology	3	19.31	5	17.52	5	16.97
9	Business Studies	9	10.64	9	11.40	10	10.93
7	Chemistry	7	15.76	7	13.28	7	12.32
15	Design/Technology & Production	19	6.30	14	7.16	17	6.13
16	Drama & Theatre Studies	15	7.24	16	6.39	21	5.45
20	Economics	13	7.82	20	5.11	24	3.19
19	English	22	4.59	19	6.01	15	7.02
14	English Language	20	6.03	15	6.79	12	9.20
3	English Literature	2	21.32	2	19.76	3	17.44
18	Fine Art	18	6.57	17	6.21	18	5.84
22	French	17	6.68	22	5.01	22	3.82
1	General Studies	5	18.81	1	25.63	1	33.41
8	Geography	8	12.51	8	12.35	8	11.27
29	German	28	2.66	28	2.44	30	1.91
24	Government and Politics	21	5.35	25	3.58	25	2.82
6	History	4	18.84	6	17.41	6	15.51
23	Information Technology	25	3.75	21	5.10	19	5.83
21	Law	24	3.86	23	5.01	16	6.94
2	Mathematics	1	22.44	3	19.25	4	17.00
27	Mathematics (Further)	26	3.25	29	2.43	29	1.94
12	Media Studies	12	8.22	10	10.15	11	9.39
26	Music	27	3.00	26	2.66	28	2.33
10	Physics	10	10.47	11	9.99	14	8.05
5	Psychology	6	15.77	4	18.19	2	19.62
30	Psychology (Spec. B)	30	1.81	30	2.05	26	2.79
17	Religious Studies	16	7.01	18	6.19	20	5.57
11	Sociology	11	8.55	12	9.11	9	11.05
13	Sport Studies	14	7.48	13	8.93	13	8.87
28	Theatre Studies	29	2.46	27	2.46	27	2.36

Similar results were found for classifications based on the percentage of people in category E occupations (at the Ward level). Category E refers to those on state benefit, unemployed or the lowest grade workers. Tables are available from the author.

g) Percentage of people (aged 16 to 74) with Level 4 to 5 qualifications

←-----increasing deprivation----->

Rank Overall	Subject	bottom		middle		top	
		Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
25	Art & Design	23	3.47	24	4.20	24	3.94
4	Biology	5	15.92	4	18.19	3	19.75
9	Business Studies	9	10.78	9	11.71	10	10.46
7	Chemistry	8	11.05	7	14.05	6	16.38
15	Design/Technology & Production	16	6.55	15	6.96	19	6.08
16	Drama & Theatre Studies	20	5.61	17	6.42	14	7.10
20	Economics	24	3.13	22	5.11	13	8.04
19	English	17	6.52	18	6.33	22	4.68
14	English Language	13	9.16	14	6.98	20	5.77
3	English Literature	3	17.94	3	19.22	2	21.50
18	Fine Art	18	6.14	19	5.78	17	6.75
22	French	22	3.69	21	5.28	18	6.62
1	General Studies	1	30.42	1	29.07	5	17.74
8	Geography	7	11.59	8	12.44	8	12.12
29	German	29	1.84	27	2.57	28	2.62
24	Government and Politics	26	2.59	25	3.87	21	5.38
6	History	6	15.88	6	17.16	4	18.84
23	Information Technology	19	5.64	23	5.01	23	3.98
21	Law	15	6.86	20	5.34	25	3.48
2	Mathematics	4	16.17	2	19.74	1	22.96
27	Mathematics (Further)	30	1.84	28	2.55	26	3.27
12	Media Studies	11	10.44	12	9.12	12	8.18
26	Music	28	2.21	26	2.87	27	2.92
10	Physics	14	8.03	10	9.73	9	10.84
5	Psychology	2	20.06	5	17.59	7	15.83
30	Psychology (Spec. B)	27	2.46	29	2.34	30	1.81
17	Religious Studies	21	5.33	16	6.57	15	6.92
11	Sociology	10	10.68	11	9.19	11	8.76
13	Sport Studies	12	9.24	13	9.12	16	6.85
28	Theatre Studies	25	2.63	30	2.10	29	2.57

Similar results were found for classifications based on the percentage of people in category AB occupations (at the Ward level). This category refers to higher and intermediate managerial, administrative and professional occupations. Tables are available from the author.

Table 5 shows the 30 most popular combinations of 3 or more A level subjects (in rank order), excluding General Studies. Tables 6a to 6g show the number of A levels taken by candidates according to their school type and school neighbourhood variables.

N.B. Where Tables 6a to 6g refer to candidates taking '0' A levels, this refers to the numbers of candidates who were taking 1 A level in General Studies only (which was excluded from analysis) and not to numbers of individuals not taking any A levels.

Table 5: Most popular combinations of at least three A level subjects in 2006, excluding General Studies (% of A level candidates who took three or more A levels)

Rank	Combination				Count	%
1	Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		5043	3.14
2	Chemistry	Mathematics	Physics		2347	1.46
3	Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		1599	1.00
4	Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1436	0.89
5	Biology	Chemistry	Geography		1333	0.83
6	Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Physics	1084	0.68
7	Chemistry	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	Physics	1049	0.65
8	English Literature	History	Psychology		980	0.61
9	English Literature	Government & Politics	History		818	0.51
10	English Literature	History	Religious Studies		812	0.51
11	Biology	Chemistry	History		739	0.46
12	Design/Technology &	Mathematics	Physics		704	0.44
13	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	Physics		703	0.44
14	English Literature	Psychology	Sociology		673	0.42
15	Biology	Chemistry	English Literature		665	0.41
16	Biology	Mathematics	Physics		654	0.41
17	Drama & Theatre	English Literature	History		651	0.41
18	Biology	Psychology	Sport Studies		647	0.40
19	Geography	Mathematics	Physics		609	0.38
20	English Literature	History	Sociology		599	0.37
21	English Literature	Geography	History		577	0.36
22	Biology	Chemistry	Sport Studies		527	0.33
23	Biology	Geography	Sport Studies		525	0.33
24	Economics	Mathematics	Physics		491	0.31
25	English Literature	French	History		481	0.30
26	Computer Studies	Mathematics	Physics		480	0.30
27	Law	Psychology	Sociology		459	0.29
28	Drama & Theatre	English Literature	Media Studies		458	0.29
29	English Literature	History	Media Studies		447	0.28
30	Drama & Theatre	English Literature	Psychology		445	0.28

Table 6: Number of A levels taken (excluding General Studies) by ~

a) School type

Number of A Levels Taken	Comprehensive (n=105022)	FE / Tertiary (n=19976)	Grammar (n=19464)	6th Form Colleges (n=44744)	Independent Boarding (n=15777)	Independent Non-Boarding (n=15359)
0	0.63	0.33	0.10	0.84	0.03	0.16
1	12.70	18.35	1.57	11.05	6.07	2.56
2	21.12	21.60	6.53	16.91	6.11	4.65
3	59.60	53.00	77.31	63.06	70.87	77.19
4	5.71	6.54	13.52	7.87	14.72	14.40
5 or more	0.24	0.19	0.98	0.27	2.21	1.05

b) School gender

Number of A Levels Taken	Boys' School (n=16473)	Males in Mixed School (n=84002)	Girls' School (n=21526)	Females in Mixed School (n=97812)
0	0.13	0.65	0.18	0.55
1	3.84	12.11	5.79	11.77
2	7.69	19.40	9.93	17.63
3	70.72	59.38	72.82	63.33
4	16.06	7.93	10.59	6.45
5 or more	1.56	0.53	0.70	0.27

c) Rural / urban status

Number of A Levels Taken	Urban > 10K (n=197432)	Town & Fringe (n=16644)	Village Hamlet (n=8270)
0	0.53	0.47	0.24
1	10.95	11.00	7.90
2	16.70	20.09	13.78
3	63.15	61.30	67.38
4	8.17	6.70	9.95
5 or more	0.50	0.44	0.75

d) Level of income deprivation affecting children

-----increasing deprivation----->

Number of A Levels Taken	Bottom	Middle	Top
0	0.46	0.55	0.55
1	8.99	10.68	12.90
2	15.44	16.96	18.19
3	65.84	63.07	60.49
4	8.65	8.28	7.44
5 or more	0.62	0.46	0.43

e) Model-based estimates of income

←-----increasing deprivation-----

Number of A Levels Taken	Bottom	Middle	Top
0	0.78	0.51	0.27
1	13.13	10.06	9.14
2	18.70	17.30	14.61
3	60.33	63.14	66.05
4	6.73	8.50	9.25
5	0.34	0.49	0.69

f) Percentage of people (aged 16 to 74) with no qualifications

-----increasing deprivation-----→

Number of A Levels Taken	Bottom	Middle	Top
0	0.31	0.50	0.76
1	8.31	10.63	13.67
2	13.40	17.68	19.52
3	67.62	62.72	59.03
4	9.61	8.04	6.69
5 or more	0.75	0.43	0.33

g) Percentage of people (aged 16 to 74) with Level 4 to 5 qualifications

←-----increasing deprivation-----

Number of A Levels Taken	Bottom	Middle	Top
0	0.75	0.56	0.24
1	14.19	10.06	8.21
2	20.51	16.58	13.35
3	57.70	64.04	67.87
4	6.53	8.31	9.58
5 or more	0.32	0.45	0.76

In 2006 the University of Cambridge identified a number of A level subjects that they consider to be 'less effective preparation' (LEP) for their undergraduate courses. Applicants are advised that they should be offering at least two subjects **not** on the following list:

Accounting
 Art & Design
 Business Studies
 Communication Studies
 Dance
 Design & Technology
 Drama / Theatre Studies
 Film Studies
 Health & Social Care
 Home Economics
 Information & Communication Technology
 Leisure Studies
 Media Studies
 Music Technology
 Performance Studies
 Performing Arts
 Photography
 Physical Education
 Sports Studies
 Travel & Tourism

Tables 7a to 7g show the number of LEP subjects taken by candidates according to their school type and school neighbourhood variables. Analysis was restricted to those with 3 or more A level results.

Table 7: Number of LEP subjects taken (in those with 3 or more A levels) by ~

a) School type

Number of LEP Subjects	Comprehensive (n=73815)	FE / Tertiary (n=12379)	Grammar (n=18536)	6th Form Colleges (n=34099)	Independent Boarding (n=13902)	Independent Non-Boarding (n=14324)
0	50.06	46.46	62.14	47.43	59.73	67.55
1	35.00	33.65	29.42	33.87	28.26	24.87
2	12.86	16.53	7.66	15.51	9.98	6.60
3+	2.09	3.37	0.78	3.20	2.03	0.98

b) School gender

Number of LEP Subjects	Boys' Schools (n=14938)	Males in Mixed Schools (n=60749)	Girls' Schools (n=18472)	Females in Mixed Schools (n=72416)
0	64.61	48.48	63.64	51.42
1	26.77	34.06	27.80	33.84
2	7.63	14.51	7.56	12.70
3+	0.99	2.95	1.00	2.05

c) Rural / urban status

Number of LEP Subjects	Town & Fringe (n=12185)	Urban > 10K (n=149248)	Village Hamlet (n=6693)
0	50.90	52.99	53.47
1	35.27	32.46	31.12
2	11.88	12.39	12.67
3+	1.95	2.16	2.73

d) Level of income deprivation affecting children

-----increasing deprivation----->

Number of LEP Subjects	Bottom	Middle	Top
0	53.73	52.01	52.73
1	32.23	33.29	32.37
2	11.95	12.47	12.71
3+	2.09	2.24	2.19

e) Model-based estimates of income

←-----increasing deprivation-----

Number of LEP Subjects	Bottom	Middle	Top
0	52.32	51.81	54.17
1	33.21	33.45	31.40
2	12.39	12.61	12.13
3+	2.08	2.12	2.30

f) Percentage of people (aged 16 to 74) with no qualifications

-----increasing deprivation----->

Number of LEP Subjects	Bottom	Middle	Top
0	56.39	51.12	50.67
1	30.35	33.69	34.04
2	11.29	12.94	12.96
3+	1.97	2.25	2.32

g) Percentage of people (aged 16 to 74) with Level 4 to 5 qualifications

←-----increasing deprivation-----

Number of LEP Subjects	Bottom	Middle	Top
0	49.38	51.78	57.05
1	34.47	33.39	30.16
2	13.69	12.57	10.96
3+	2.46	2.25	1.83

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