



CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT

# Uptake of GCSE and A-level subjects in England

by Ethnic Group 2007

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Carmen L. Vidal Rodeiro

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

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## Summary of findings

According to figures from the Office for National Statistics, the UK is more culturally diverse today than ever before. In the 2007 GCSE and A-level cohorts there were students from 95 different ethnic minorities, grouped in 18 different ethnic groups.

### *Findings relating to the uptake of GCSE subjects by ethnic group*

- Chinese pupils were the most likely to achieve five or more GCSE grades A\*-C (including English and mathematics). Indian pupils had the next highest levels of attainment. The lowest level of GCSE attainment was among Caribbean pupils.
- Almost all pupils from all ethnic groups were taking GCSEs in English and mathematics. However, pupils with Chinese, Indian and White and Asian backgrounds showed a preference for English literature compared with the other ethnic groups.
- Pupils with a Chinese, Indian, White and Asian or any other Asian background showed a preference for the separate sciences (biology, chemistry and physics), while pupils with Black backgrounds were less likely to take any of these subjects and showed a preference for the single award in science.
- Pupils with Chinese, Indian, White and Asian and any other Asian background were more likely to study a modern foreign language than pupils with any other background. On the contrary, pupils with Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Caribbean and White and Black Caribbean backgrounds were less likely to study a modern foreign language.
- 42% of Chinese pupils were studying Chinese at GCSE; 27% of Pakistani pupils were studying Urdu; 23% of Bangladeshi pupils were studying Bengali; 4%, 11% and 5% of pupils from other ethnic groups were studying a GCSE in Persian, Arabic and Turkish, respectively. These figures support the fact that children from multilingual communities, who are growing up with knowledge of other languages in addition to English, are studying them at school.

### *Findings relating to the uptake of A-level subjects by ethnic group*

- Uptake figures for A-level subjects in the area of Science/Mathematics for pupils with a Black background (other than African) were low when compared with figures for other ethnic groups. However, figures for subjects in the Arts field were slightly higher.
- Pakistani, Indian, Chinese and Bangladeshi pupils, as well as pupils with other Asian backgrounds showed a preference for subjects in the Science/Mathematics area compared with other ethnic groups. On the other hand, the uptake of subjects in the English and Arts areas by pupils from these groups was generally lower than the uptake by pupils from other ethnic groups.
- The uptake of subjects in the Social Science/Humanities area was less popular among Chinese pupils and those with other Asian background.

- With regard to the uptake of some of the most popular individual A-level subjects, psychology seemed to be more popular among students of Caribbean and other Black backgrounds and less popular among Chinese students. The uptake of history and geography decreased among the minority ethnic groups, being at its lowest in geography for Caribbean pupils and in history for Chinese pupils.
- The three main foreign languages (French, German and Spanish) were not taken by many pupils from the ethnic minority groups. For example, less than 1% of African, Caribbean, Pakistani and Bangladeshi pupils studied German or Spanish and the uptake figures for French among these groups were also lower than the overall uptake figure. Pupils from a White background, other than White British and Irish, favoured languages more than pupils from any other background.
- The most common combination of at least three A-level subjects, excluding general studies, was biology, chemistry and mathematics for all ethnic groups. However, the percentage of pupils taking this combination ranged from 2% among the White and Black Caribbean pupils to 16% among pupils of Asian backgrounds.
- Chinese, Indian, Pakistani and pupils with other Asian background were less likely to take 'less effective preparation' subjects. On the other hand, Caribbean and pupils with a mixed White and Black background were more likely to take those subjects at A-level.

Differences in uptake between ethnic groups might not be attributed entirely to ethnicity. Different ethnic groups have different socio-economic profiles, which can affect the educational choices, and consequently it is not possible to say categorically whether the differences observed are the result of ethnic differences per se or whether socio-economic or other factors play a part. Also, different ethnic groups, because of their geographical location, might go to different types of schools and colleges, which, again, can affect their choices. Even the chance of a student from an ethnic minority background being able to study his first language might be limited by the centre's ability to support the course or its willingness to make the appropriate entries. It is beyond the scope of this study to investigate these additional issues.

It would be very useful to know if students from ethnic minorities are first or subsequent generations. This can be an important factor in subject choice. First generation students might have to take subjects in the Science/Maths area because their knowledge of English does not support subjects in the Social Science/Humanities area (e.g. History). However, after a couple of generations their English improves and they might be able to take a broader range of subjects.

## **1. Scope of the study**

According to figures from the Office for National Statistics, the UK is more culturally diverse today than ever before. However, the people from the high variety of non-White backgrounds are not evenly distributed across the country, tending to live in the large urban areas. The different groups share some characteristics but there are often greater differences between the individual ethnic groups than between the minority ethnic population as a whole and the White British people.

In terms of education, there are notable differences in uptake and achievement by ethnic groups. In general, Chinese and Indian pupils perform best whilst children with Caribbean, Pakistani and Bangladeshi backgrounds perform less well.

At A-level, Vidal Rodeiro (2007a) showed that, in comparison with the white group, Black African, Chinese, Mixed, Indian and Pakistani students were more likely to study two or more science subjects.

This statistical report investigates the uptake of GCSE and A-level subjects in England by ethnic group.

It should be borne in mind that the differences in uptake between ethnic groups might not be attributed entirely to ethnicity. Different ethnic groups have different socio-economic profiles, which can affect the educational choices, and consequently it is not possible to say categorically whether the differences observed are the result of ethnic differences per se or whether socio-economic or other factors play a part. It is beyond the scope of this study to investigate these additional issues.

## **2. Data**

Data for this report was extracted from the National Pupil Database (NPD). This database is compiled by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. It contains national examination data for all candidates who sat an examination in an academic year.

The PLASC (Pupil Level Annual School Census) data gives detailed information about all the pupils in the English state school system, including personal data, such as ethnicity, first language, special needs and eligibility for school meals. PLASC data for the cohort of students taking GCSE and A-level exams in the academic year 2006/2007 was matched to the examination results.

For the GCSE cohort, ethnicity data was available for 91% of the students. For the A-level cohort, data was available for 53% of the students. The amount of missing data was probably due to the fact that only the schools in the state system have to complete the school census and, for example, independent schools and other centres that offer A-level subjects might not have done so.

### 3. Uptake of GCSE subjects by ethnic group

In the 2007 GCSE cohort, there were 95 different ethnic codes, grouped in 18 ethnic groups. Table 1 shows the numbers of students taking GCSE subjects by ethnic group. A list of ethnic codes and the groups they belong to can be found in Appendix A.

Table 1: Distribution of GCSE candidates by ethnic group

Ethnic Group	Frequency	Percent
White British	476055	81.58
Pakistani	14160	2.43
Indian	13185	2.26
Any Other White Background	12665	2.17
African	11103	1.90
Caribbean	8102	1.39
Bangladeshi	5552	0.95
White and Black Caribbean	5381	0.92
Any Other Ethnic Group	5142	0.88
Any Other Mixed Background	4936	0.85
Any Other Asian Background	4740	0.81
White and Asian	2748	0.47
Any Other Black Background	2564	0.44
Chinese	2170	0.37
Irish	2156	0.37
White and Black African	1316	0.23
<i>Gypsy / Romany</i>	<i>278</i>	<i>0.05</i>
<i>Traveller Of Irish Heritage</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>0.02</i>
<i>Refused</i>	<i>5946</i>	<i>1.02</i>
<i>Information Not Obtained</i>	<i>5263</i>	<i>0.90</i>

Ethnic groups in italics in Table 1 are not considered in the rest of the report.

#### 3.1 Percentages of students achieving five or more A\*-C grades at GCSE

Figure 1 shows that, in 2007, Chinese pupils were the most likely to achieve five or more GCSE grades A\*-C (including English and mathematics), with 71% of Chinese girls and 62% of Chinese boys respectively. Indian pupils had the next highest attainment levels.

The lowest levels of GCSE attainment were among Caribbean pupils, particularly boys. Only 22% of Caribbean boys and 34% of Caribbean girls achieved five or more A\*-C grades at GCSE. Pupils with other Black and White and Black Caribbean backgrounds had the next lowest levels of attainment.

Within each ethnic group a higher proportion of girls than boys achieved five or more GCSE grades A\*-C (including English and mathematics).



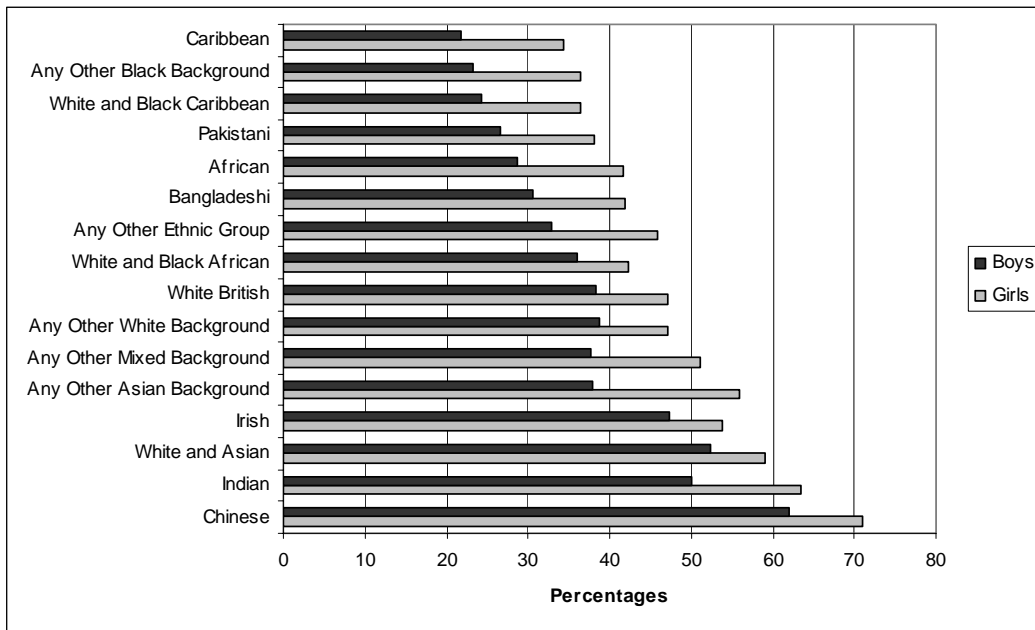


Figure 1: Percentages of students achieving five or more GCSE grades A\*-C (including English and mathematics) by gender and ethnic group

### 3.2 Uptake of GCSE core subjects: English, Mathematics and Science

In this section, the uptake of the core subjects, English, mathematics and science is considered.

Virtually all pupils should be taking GCSEs in English, mathematics and science<sup>1</sup>.

While pupils with a Chinese, Indian, White and Asian or any other Asian background showed a preference for the separate sciences (biology, chemistry and physics), pupils with Black backgrounds (African, Caribbean, White and Black Caribbean and other Black backgrounds) were less likely to take a GCSE in these three subjects and they seemed to show a preference for the single award in science. The uptake figures for the GCSE double award in science were relatively similar for all the ethnic groups.

There were small differences in the uptake of English literature, with pupils from Chinese, Indian and White and Asian backgrounds showing a preference for this subject compared with the other ethnic groups.

In Vidal Rodeiro (2007b) the uptake of the GCSE core subjects by students' attainment was presented. The report showed that the percentages of medium and high attainment students taking English literature were quite high and the percentages of low and medium attainment students in the three separate sciences were very low. It has always been the case that the uptake of biology, chemistry and physics has been higher for the higher attaining students and percentages of students entered for the single and double award science courses have been lower for the high attaining group compared with the medium and low attaining groups. Therefore, it could be the case that the differences in uptake between the different ethnic groups are not attributed entirely to ethnicity and students' attainment plays a part.

<sup>1</sup> For the science GCSE, students may take:

- separate exams in biology, chemistry and physics; or
- a double award exam (equal to two GCSEs) that covers all three subjects; or
- a single award exam (equal to one GCSE) that covers all three sciences, but less fully.

Table 2: Uptake of GCSE core subjects by ethnic group

Ethnic Group	GCSE subject							
	English	English Literature	Mathematics	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Science: Single Award	Science: Double Award
African	95.76	81.66	98.23	5.20	4.85	4.75	14.81	66.14
Caribbean	97.03	81.65	98.44	3.99	3.34	3.25	15.82	65.24
Other Black	96.49	80.73	98.21	4.49	3.86	3.86	15.09	64.70
Bangladeshi	97.03	82.89	98.60	4.70	4.45	4.30	9.78	65.69
Chinese	94.61	85.85	96.59	15.71	15.81	15.85	6.54	68.20
Indian	98.32	89.04	99.31	9.56	9.49	9.49	7.18	74.62
Pakistani	96.99	79.70	98.43	4.41	4.29	4.24	12.53	67.15
Other Asian	95.34	82.00	97.83	9.98	9.98	9.87	9.81	67.07
White British	97.41	82.23	98.83	6.50	6.30	6.27	10.99	70.20
Irish	96.99	84.04	98.56	8.81	8.72	8.72	10.99	69.62
Other White	92.95	78.63	96.86	7.25	6.96	6.87	12.85	67.02
White / Asian	97.27	87.41	98.58	10.77	10.52	10.59	7.79	73.03
White / Black African	98.81	82.83	97.80	8.28	7.98	7.98	12.46	67.55
White / Black Caribbean	96.32	80.23	98.10	4.01	3.62	3.61	14.07	67.55
Other Mixed	96.60	83.47	98.20	7.68	7.41	7.54	10.27	69.57
Other Ethnic Group	93.00	78.41	96.91	6.63	6.22	6.13	13.69	65.36
All	96.40	81.32	96.40	8.42	8.05	7.99	10.85	67.74

### 3.3 Uptake of Modern Foreign Languages

In Table 3, the uptake of the most common modern foreign languages is presented.

Table 3: Uptake of modern foreign languages by ethnic group

Ethnic Group	Modern foreign languages		
	French	German	Spanish
African	32.31	6.03	6.12
Caribbean	23.53	5.95	7.23
Other Black	26.29	5.81	7.41
Bangladeshi	17.00	4.70	4.83
Chinese	39.54	14.93	8.57
Indian	35.21	13.39	7.99
Pakistani	17.80	6.68	4.25
Other Asian	34.77	12.83	7.38
White British	27.44	12.18	7.21
Irish	33.35	11.27	9.00
Other White	30.28	12.83	12.00
White / Asian	35.26	13.83	10.33
White / Black African	31.08	9.65	8.21
White / Black Caribbean	21.85	7.34	7.60
Other Mixed	30.63	10.56	11.22
Other Ethnic Group	30.53	8.48	13.54
All	29.67	11.84	8.41

Pupils with Chinese, Indian, White and Asian and any other Asian background were more likely to study a modern foreign language than pupils with any other background. On the contrary, pupils with Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Caribbean and White and Black Caribbean backgrounds were less likely to study a modern foreign language.

It should be borne in mind that some of the children from multilingual communities who are growing up with knowledge of languages such as Urdu, Chinese or Bengali, in addition to English, are studying their languages at school. For example, 42% of Chinese pupils were studying Chinese at GCSE; 27% of Pakistani pupils were studying Urdu; 23% of Bangladeshi pupils were studying Bengali; 4%, 11% and 5% of pupils from other ethnic groups were studying a GCSE in Persian, Arabic and Turkish, respectively. For a more detailed account of the uptake of modern foreign languages at GCSE, focusing on community languages, see Vidal Rodeiro (2009).

### 3.4 Uptake of individual GCSE subjects

Tables 4 to 20 present, in rank order, the individual GCSE subjects with an uptake higher than 1% by ethnic group and gender. Figures are expressed as a percentage of GCSE students by ethnic group and gender.

Table 4: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
All students

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	96.40	96.95	95.87
English Language and Literature	96.40	97.27	95.55
English Literature	81.32	85.23	77.50
Science: Double Award	67.74	69.15	66.38
History	31.82	31.40	32.22
French	29.67	33.58	25.85
Geography	28.81	26.14	31.41
Religious Studies	24.31	27.56	21.15
Physical Education/Sports Studies	21.90	15.33	28.32
Art & Design	18.46	22.61	14.40
Drama and Theatre Studies	14.88	18.66	11.20
D&T Resistant Materials	13.56	4.40	22.51
Information and Communications Technology	12.67	11.55	13.75
D&T Food Technology	12.42	17.27	7.67
German	11.84	12.65	11.05
Business Studies: Single	11.65	9.73	13.53
D&T Graphic Products	10.93	9.21	12.60
Science SA	10.85	10.57	11.12
Statistics	10.72	10.35	11.08
Media/Film/Tv Studies	9.15	9.29	9.01
Music	8.55	8.26	8.84
Biology	8.42	7.25	9.56
Spanish	8.41	9.99	6.87
Chemistry	8.05	6.81	9.26
Physics	7.99	6.62	9.32
Art & Design (Fine Art)	7.95	9.62	6.32
D&T Textiles Technology	6.90	13.50	0.45
Office Technology	5.70	5.67	5.72
Home Economics: Child Development	4.69	9.39	0.10
D&T Product Design	3.38	2.39	4.36
Dance	2.83	5.43	0.29
Sociology	2.66	3.97	1.39
D&T Electronic Products	2.23	0.28	4.14
Humanities: Single	2.13	2.25	2.02
Science (Core)	1.93	2.05	1.82
Latin	1.52	1.48	1.55
D&T Systems and Control	1.45	0.21	2.66
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	1.30	1.71	0.91
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.16	2.18	0.16
Home Economics: Food	1.09	1.50	0.68
Catering Studies	1.00	1.20	0.80

Table 5: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: White British

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	98.83	98.95	98.71
English Language and Literature	97.41	98.12	96.72
English Literature	82.23	85.97	78.56
Science: Double Award	70.20	70.91	69.50
History	31.46	30.65	32.26
Geography	28.36	25.58	31.09
French	27.44	31.45	23.49
Physical Education/Sports Studies	24.07	17.09	30.94
Religious Studies	22.66	25.81	19.57
Art & Design	18.88	23.12	14.71
Drama and Theatre Studies	15.00	18.85	11.22
D&T Food Technology	14.29	19.85	8.83
D&T Resistant Materials	14.29	4.30	24.11
Information and Communications Technology	12.74	11.49	13.97
German	12.18	13.04	11.33
D&T Graphic Products	11.85	10.05	13.61
Statistics	11.57	11.16	11.97
Business Studies: Single	11.53	9.64	13.39
Science SA	10.99	10.95	11.04
Media/Film/Tv Studies	9.75	9.86	9.65
Music	8.69	8.22	9.16
Art & Design (Fine Art)	7.97	9.65	6.31
D&T Textiles Technology	7.22	14.13	0.42
Spanish	7.21	8.60	5.85
Biology	6.50	5.46	7.52
Chemistry	6.30	5.23	7.35
Physics	6.27	5.16	7.37
Office Technology	6.12	6.02	6.23
Home Economics: Child Development	5.45	10.88	0.10
D&T Product Design	3.60	2.54	4.65
Dance	3.24	6.21	0.31
D&T Electronic Products	2.52	0.32	4.68
Sociology	2.37	3.55	1.20
Humanities: Single	2.28	2.38	2.18
Science (Core)	2.00	2.09	1.92
D&T Systems and Control	1.59	0.23	2.93
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	1.40	1.84	0.97
Catering Studies	1.18	1.42	0.95
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.11	2.11	0.13

Table 6: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Any Other White Background

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	96.86	96.91	96.81
English Language and Literature	92.95	93.35	92.56
English Literature	78.63	81.52	75.83
Science: Double Award	67.02	69.52	64.59
History	30.59	31.28	29.91
French	30.28	35.30	25.40
Religious Studies	29.49	32.29	26.77
Geography	26.57	24.38	28.70
Art & Design	19.97	25.69	14.41
Physical Education/Sports Studies	18.51	11.84	24.98
Drama And Theatre Studies	15.78	20.38	11.32
Business Studies: Single	13.56	11.96	15.13
Science SA	12.85	11.76	13.90
German	12.83	13.56	12.12
Information and Communications Technology	12.21	11.30	13.11
Spanish	12.00	14.17	9.90
D&T Resistant Materials	11.69	4.94	18.24
D&T Graphic Products	11.61	9.78	13.40
Statistics	10.30	9.55	11.02
Music	9.81	9.76	9.85
D&T Food Technology	9.26	11.81	6.79
Media/Film/Tv Studies	9.23	9.38	9.09
Art & Design (Fine Art)	7.76	9.55	6.02
Biology	7.25	5.67	8.78
Chemistry	6.96	5.26	8.61
Physics	6.87	5.16	8.53
D&T Textiles Technology	6.77	13.27	0.47
Turkish	6.74	7.07	6.43
Polish	6.10	5.91	6.29
Office Technology	5.37	5.19	5.54
Portuguese	3.95	4.36	3.55
D&T Product Design	3.46	2.23	4.65
Sociology	3.23	4.86	1.65
Home Economics: Child Development	2.95	5.93	0.06
Russian	2.65	3.04	2.27
Dance	2.63	5.03	0.30
Italian	2.53	2.88	2.18
Modern Greek	2.38	2.69	2.07
Humanities: Single	2.20	2.21	2.19
D&T Electronic Products	1.97	0.37	3.52
Science (Core)	1.90	2.39	1.43
D&T Systems and Control	1.30	0.18	2.40

Table 7: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: African

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	98.23	98.38	98.08
English Language and Literature	95.76	96.40	95.10
English Literature	81.66	85.78	77.43
Science: Double Award	66.14	67.52	64.71
Religious Studies	39.77	43.24	36.20
French	32.31	38.23	26.21
History	26.61	29.11	24.05
Geography	22.53	20.10	25.04
Physical Education/Sports Studies	20.91	10.71	31.41
Drama and Theatre Studies	19.10	22.22	15.90
Art & Design	14.91	15.56	14.24
Science SA	14.81	13.78	15.86
Business Studies: Single	13.93	12.57	15.33
Information and Communications Technology	11.92	12.01	11.84
Media/Film/Tv Studies	10.86	11.51	10.20
D&T Food Technology	10.10	13.96	6.12
D&T Graphic Products	9.98	6.75	13.30
D&T Resistant Materials	9.72	4.78	14.80
Statistics	8.71	7.87	9.58
Music	8.31	8.01	8.63
D&T Textiles Technology	7.67	13.55	1.63
Sociology	6.97	9.87	3.98
Spanish	6.12	8.52	3.66
German	6.03	6.93	5.12
Biology	5.20	4.83	5.57
Office Technology	5.00	4.19	5.83
Chemistry	4.85	4.44	5.26
Physics	4.75	4.37	5.14
Art & Design (Fine Art)	4.34	4.64	4.04
Humanities: Single	2.97	2.81	3.14
Dance	2.61	4.78	0.38
D&T Product Design	2.54	1.83	3.27
Home Economics: Child Development	2.33	4.42	0.18
Arabic	2.30	2.40	2.19
Science (Core)	2.16	2.95	1.35
Dutch	1.61	1.90	1.32
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.41	2.36	0.42
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	1.36	1.58	1.13
D&T Electronic Products	1.06	0.16	1.99

Table 8: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Caribbean

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	98.44	98.77	98.10
English Language and Literature	97.03	98.29	95.66
English Literature	81.65	87.41	75.40
Science: Double Award	65.24	67.30	63.02
Religious Studies	33.24	36.38	29.84
French	23.53	28.78	17.84
Physical Education/Sports Studies	23.19	14.56	32.54
History	22.57	24.86	20.10
Drama and Theatre Studies	21.93	25.10	18.50
Geography	16.76	15.53	18.09
Art & Design	16.08	16.96	15.14
Science SA	15.82	13.80	18.02
Business Studies: Single	13.53	11.07	16.19
Media/Film/Tv Studies	13.00	14.01	11.90
D&T Food Technology	12.27	15.46	8.82
Music	11.59	10.54	12.72
D&T Graphic Products	10.28	7.96	12.80
Information and Communications Technology	10.02	9.88	10.18
D&T Resistant Materials	9.69	5.27	14.47
D&T Textiles Technology	7.52	13.23	1.34
Spanish	7.23	10.07	4.16
Statistics	7.20	6.72	7.71
Sociology	7.04	10.12	3.70
German	5.95	6.60	5.24
Art & Design (Fine Art)	5.37	5.91	4.78
Office Technology	4.73	4.54	4.93
Biology	3.99	3.92	4.06
Dance	3.88	6.67	0.85
Home Economics: Child Development	3.59	6.79	0.13
Chemistry	3.34	3.16	3.55
Physics	3.25	3.04	3.47
D&T Product Design	2.44	1.97	2.96
Humanities: Single	2.38	2.59	2.16
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	1.94	2.45	1.39
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.88	3.06	0.59
Science (Core)	1.81	2.11	1.49
D&T Electronic Products	1.17	0.10	2.34



Table 9: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Any Other Black Background

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	98.21	98.77	97.69
English Language and Literature	96.49	97.22	95.82
English Literature	80.73	86.67	75.32
Science: Double Award	64.70	66.56	63.01
Religious Studies	34.05	37.20	31.17
French	26.29	32.46	20.66
History	23.52	25.84	21.40
Physical Education/Sports Studies	21.88	12.35	30.57
Drama and Theatre Studies	20.12	25.92	14.84
Geography	18.41	16.84	19.84
Art & Design	17.47	18.40	16.63
Science SA	15.09	12.10	17.82
Business Studies: Single	14.16	11.53	16.55
Media/Film/Tv Studies	12.64	13.74	11.63
Music	11.97	12.35	11.63
D&T Food Technology	11.27	14.64	8.20
D&T Graphic Products	10.69	8.26	12.90
Information and Communications Technology	10.57	11.28	9.92
D&T Resistant Materials	9.40	5.40	13.05
Statistics	8.74	7.77	9.62
Spanish	7.41	9.81	5.22
D&T Textiles Technology	7.25	13.90	1.19
Art & Design (Fine Art)	6.05	6.05	6.04
German	5.81	6.46	5.22
Sociology	5.69	7.93	3.65
Biology	4.49	4.50	4.47
Office Technology	3.98	3.60	4.33
Chemistry	3.86	4.01	3.73
Physics	3.86	4.01	3.73
Dance	3.39	6.54	0.52
Home Economics: Child Development	3.28	6.79	0.07
D&T Product Design	2.73	1.39	3.95
Humanities: Single	2.69	2.78	2.61
Science (Core)	1.91	2.45	1.42
D&T Electronic Products	1.52	0.25	2.68
Portuguese	1.52	1.72	1.34
Italian	1.17	1.96	0.45
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	1.13	1.31	0.97

Table 10: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Pakistani

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	98.43	98.57	98.29
English Language and Literature	96.99	97.57	96.46
English Literature	79.70	84.83	74.99
Science: Double Award	67.15	68.15	66.22
Religious Studies	36.58	41.47	32.08
Urdu	26.66	31.39	22.30
History	26.15	28.58	23.91
Geography	22.66	20.43	24.72
French	17.80	20.51	15.31
Art & Design	14.85	18.44	11.54
Information and Communications Technology	14.84	14.84	14.84
D&T Resistant Materials	14.27	3.80	23.91
Business Studies: Single	13.80	10.98	16.40
Science SA	12.53	11.62	13.36
D&T Textiles Technology	12.34	24.76	0.90
Media/Film/Tv Studies	11.34	10.09	12.49
Statistics	11.24	10.89	11.57
Physical Education/Sports Studies	10.81	4.12	16.96
D&T Graphic Products	10.54	7.87	13.01
Drama and Theatre Studies	8.21	8.66	7.79
D&T Food Technology	7.82	11.93	4.03
German	6.68	6.91	6.47
Art & Design (Fine Art)	5.40	6.73	4.16
Office Technology	4.76	5.35	4.22
Biology	4.41	3.80	4.98
Chemistry	4.29	3.61	4.92
Sociology	4.28	5.95	2.74
Spanish	4.25	5.98	2.66
Physics	4.24	3.58	4.84
Home Economics: Child Development	3.94	8.19	0.03
D&T Product Design	3.86	2.83	4.80
Science (Core)	3.03	2.93	3.12
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	2.15	2.59	1.75
Humanities: Single	2.13	3.20	1.15
D&T Electronic Products	2.05	0.13	3.81
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.94	3.65	0.37
Music	1.26	1.00	1.51

Table 11: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Indian

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	99.31	99.37	99.26
English Language and Literature	98.32	98.67	97.98
English Literature	89.04	91.66	86.52
Science: Double Award	74.62	76.73	72.58
French	35.21	40.24	30.38
Geography	33.59	30.85	36.22
Religious Studies	30.88	34.81	27.11
History	29.53	32.07	27.08
Business Studies: Single	23.50	20.58	26.32
Information and Communications Technology	17.32	16.51	18.10
Art & Design	14.92	18.69	11.29
D&T Graphic Products	14.42	11.34	17.38
Statistics	13.99	13.40	14.55
Physical Education/Sports Studies	13.40	6.64	19.90
German	13.39	14.14	12.67
D&T Resistant Materials	12.64	4.33	20.62
Media/Film/Tv Studies	11.65	12.64	10.70
Drama and Theatre Studies	10.28	12.69	7.96
Biology	9.56	8.12	10.93
Chemistry	9.49	8.03	10.89
Physics	9.49	7.97	10.95
D&T Textiles Technology	8.96	17.84	0.42
D&T Food Technology	8.84	12.95	4.88
Spanish	7.99	9.93	6.11
Science SA	7.18	6.33	8.00
Punjabi	7.02	8.17	5.91
Sociology	6.88	10.07	3.81
Art & Design (Fine Art)	6.38	8.06	4.76
Gujarati	6.19	7.38	5.04
Office Technology	5.90	6.42	5.40
Music	4.27	3.61	4.91
D&T Product Design	3.62	2.57	4.63
Humanities: Single	3.34	3.36	3.33
Home Economics: Child Development	3.22	6.54	0.01
D&T Electronic Products	2.87	0.31	5.34
Urdu	2.05	2.26	1.84
Economics	1.99	1.18	2.77
D&T Systems and Control	1.54	0.19	2.84
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.44	2.82	0.12
Dance	1.44	2.88	0.06
Art & Design (Graphics)	1.26	1.39	1.13
Design & Technology	1.24	1.33	1.16
Science (Core)	1.07	1.41	0.74

Table 12: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Chinese

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	96.59	96.55	96.63
English Language and Literature	94.61	94.82	94.39
English Literature	85.85	88.28	83.35
Science: Double Award	68.20	70.57	65.76
Chinese	42.21	48.50	35.73
French	39.54	45.23	33.68
Geography	35.25	32.43	38.17
History	29.26	30.34	28.16
Art & Design	26.87	31.97	21.61
Religious Studies	24.19	25.16	23.20
D&T Graphic Products	20.83	18.98	22.73
Business Studies: Single	19.35	16.62	22.17
Statistics	19.26	18.80	19.74
Information and Communications Technology	17.74	15.80	19.74
Physics	15.85	12.81	18.99
Chemistry	15.81	12.81	18.90
Biology	15.71	12.81	18.71
German	14.93	16.17	13.66
Music	14.06	14.44	13.66
Art & Design (Fine Art)	12.12	14.99	9.17
Physical Education/Sports Studies	11.94	7.72	16.28
D&T Resistant Materials	9.95	5.09	14.97
D&T Food Technology	8.89	12.08	5.61
Media/Film/Tv Studies	8.76	10.17	7.30
Spanish	8.57	9.17	7.95
D&T Textiles Technology	7.10	13.44	0.56
Office Technology	6.91	6.54	7.30
Science SA	6.54	6.45	6.64
Drama and Theatre Studies	6.41	8.54	4.21
D&T Product Design	3.32	3.00	3.65
D&T Electronic Products	2.95	0.27	5.71
Sociology	2.90	4.27	1.50
D&T Systems and Control	2.03	0.45	3.65
Humanities: Single	1.94	1.82	2.06
Science (Core)	1.80	2.45	1.12
Business Studies & Economics	1.61	1.45	1.78
Home Economics: Child Development	1.61	3.18	.
Latin	1.57	1.45	1.68
Dance	1.38	2.54	0.19
Economics	1.38	0.64	2.15
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.34	2.45	0.19
Art & Design (Graphics)	1.15	0.91	1.40

Table 13: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Bangladeshi

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	98.60	98.62	98.57
English Language and Literature	97.03	97.77	96.26
English Literature	82.89	88.25	77.34
Science: Double Award	65.69	68.46	62.82
Religious Studies	38.13	39.12	37.11
History	24.84	26.41	23.21
Geography	24.10	22.12	26.15
Art & Design	23.85	26.30	21.31
Bengali	23.31	25.77	20.76
French	17.00	20.25	13.64
Media/Film/Tv Studies	14.46	13.03	15.95
D&T Resistant Materials	12.95	5.06	21.12
D&T Graphic Products	12.50	9.59	15.51
Information and Communications Technology	11.73	9.91	13.60
Business Studies: Single	11.15	9.52	12.83
D&T Textiles Technology	11.15	21.20	0.73
Physical Education/Sports Studies	10.81	3.58	18.30
Statistics	9.82	8.67	11.00
Science SA	9.78	9.10	10.49
Drama and Theatre Studies	9.65	9.70	9.61
Sociology	8.23	12.64	3.67
D&T Food Technology	6.43	8.96	3.81
Art & Design (Fine Art)	6.36	7.68	4.99
Office Technology	5.10	5.38	4.80
Spanish	4.83	6.02	3.59
Biology	4.70	3.96	5.46
German	4.70	5.03	4.36
Chemistry	4.45	3.79	5.13
Physics	4.30	3.61	5.02
Humanities: Single	3.30	2.94	3.67
Home Economics: Child Development	2.88	5.59	0.07
Art & Design (Graphics)	2.67	1.42	3.96
Art & Design (Textiles)	2.63	4.78	0.40
D&T Product Design	2.56	1.88	3.26
Science (Core)	2.34	3.33	1.32
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	2.04	3.86	0.15
Art & Design (Photography)	1.87	1.81	1.94
Music	1.60	1.35	1.87
D&T Electronic Products	1.59	0.07	3.15
Psychology	1.19	1.70	0.66

Table 14: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Any Other Asian Background

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	97.83	98.12	97.55
English Language and Literature	95.34	96.34	94.40
English Literature	82.00	87.26	77.08
Science: Double Award	67.07	69.85	64.46
French	34.77	40.14	29.74
Religious Studies	32.32	37.61	27.37
Geography	29.41	29.71	29.13
History	25.57	28.14	23.16
Art & Design	19.24	22.95	15.77
Business Studies: Single	16.90	14.22	19.40
Information and Communications Technology	15.89	15.58	16.18
Physical Education/Sports Studies	14.22	6.54	21.41
German	12.83	13.70	12.01
D&T Graphic Products	12.64	10.73	14.42
Statistics	12.53	13.74	11.40
D&T Resistant Materials	10.55	3.49	17.16
Biology	9.98	8.38	11.48
Chemistry	9.98	8.33	11.52
Physics	9.87	8.29	11.36
Science SA	9.81	8.99	10.58
Drama and Theatre Studies	9.79	12.22	7.52
Media/Film/Tv Studies	9.47	9.64	9.31
D&T Food Technology	8.90	13.26	4.82
D&T Textiles Technology	8.19	15.53	1.31
Spanish	7.38	9.69	5.23
Art & Design (Fine Art)	7.28	8.64	6.00
Music	6.75	7.94	5.64
Sociology	5.23	7.46	3.15
Office Technology	5.11	5.28	4.94
Home Economics: Child Development	3.80	7.77	0.08
D&T Product Design	3.48	2.53	4.37
Urdu	3.40	3.58	3.23
Humanities: Single	2.87	2.92	2.82
D&T Electronic Products	2.68	0.22	4.98
Persian	2.38	1.88	2.86
Arabic	2.11	2.01	2.21
Science (Core)	2.07	2.27	1.88
D&T Systems and Control	1.90	0.39	3.31
Design & Technology	1.71	2.84	0.65
Dance	1.48	2.75	0.29
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.39	2.53	0.33
Economics	1.27	1.00	1.51

Table 15: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: White and Asian

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	98.58	98.47	98.69
English Language and Literature	97.27	97.66	96.88
English Literature	87.41	88.83	85.99
Science: Double Award	73.03	74.82	71.26
French	35.26	38.39	32.15
History	34.50	34.01	34.98
Religious Studies	33.08	36.20	29.97
Geography	30.06	27.08	33.02
Art & Design	19.65	24.60	14.73
Physical Education/Sports Studies	18.92	13.58	24.24
Drama and Theatre Studies	17.69	21.39	14.01
Business Studies: Single	14.52	11.68	17.34
Information and Communications Technology	14.45	12.12	16.76
Statistics	14.23	13.94	14.51
German	13.83	15.11	12.55
D&T Graphic Products	13.06	11.31	14.80
D&T Resistant Materials	11.79	4.74	18.80
Music	10.99	9.78	12.19
Biology	10.77	7.81	13.72
D&T Food Technology	10.66	13.65	7.69
Physics	10.59	7.59	13.57
Chemistry	10.52	7.59	13.43
Spanish	10.33	11.31	9.36
Media/Film/Tv Studies	9.17	9.34	9.00
Art & Design (Fine Art)	8.33	10.51	6.17
Science SA	7.79	8.03	7.55
D&T Textiles Technology	7.17	13.65	0.73
Office Technology	5.31	5.04	5.59
D&T Product Design	3.60	2.55	4.64
Home Economics: Child Development	3.35	6.72	.
Sociology	3.35	5.26	1.45
D&T Electronic Products	2.87	0.58	5.15
Dance	2.77	5.04	0.51
Humanities: Single	2.37	2.70	2.03
Science (Core)	1.75	2.19	1.31
D&T Systems and Control	1.27	0.29	2.25
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	1.20	1.97	0.44
Latin	1.20	1.17	1.23
Urdu	1.16	1.31	1.02
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.06	1.82	0.29

Table 16: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: White and Black African

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	97.80	97.75	97.84
English Language and Literature	96.81	97.46	96.14
English Literature	82.83	85.03	80.56
Science: Double Award	67.55	66.77	68.36
French	31.08	36.83	25.15
Religious Studies	29.48	30.99	27.93
History	27.89	30.84	24.85
Physical Education/Sports Studies	25.61	15.57	35.96
Geography	22.87	18.86	27.01
Drama and Theatre Studies	19.68	23.20	16.05
Art & Design	19.07	22.60	15.43
Business Studies: Single	14.82	11.68	18.06
Science SA	12.46	14.52	10.34
Information and Communications Technology	11.63	10.18	13.12
D&T Food Technology	11.40	15.42	7.25
D&T Resistant Materials	11.17	5.54	16.98
Music	10.56	11.53	9.57
Statistics	10.26	9.28	11.27
D&T Graphic Products	9.88	7.63	12.19
German	9.65	9.88	9.41
Media/Film/Tv Studies	9.27	10.93	7.56
Biology	8.28	6.14	10.49
Spanish	8.21	9.73	6.64
Chemistry	7.98	5.99	10.03
Physics	7.98	5.99	10.03
D&T Textiles Technology	6.76	11.83	1.54
Art & Design (Fine Art)	6.69	8.23	5.09
Sociology	6.16	8.68	3.55
Office Technology	5.93	5.84	6.02
Home Economics: Child Development	3.50	6.44	0.46
Dance	3.42	6.44	0.31
D&T Product Design	2.96	1.95	4.01
Portuguese	2.58	3.14	2.01
Humanities: Single	2.28	2.40	2.16
D&T Electronic Products	1.90	.	3.86
Science (Core)	1.82	1.50	2.16
D&T Systems and Control	1.29	0.45	2.16
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	1.29	1.95	0.62
Arabic	1.14	1.20	1.08
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.14	2.25	.



Table 17: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: White and Black Caribbean

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	98.10	98.54	97.63
English Language and Literature	96.32	97.68	94.83
English Literature	80.23	85.29	74.71
Science: Double Award	67.55	69.90	65.00
Physical Education/Sports Studies	27.76	18.77	37.57
Religious Studies	24.72	29.11	19.93
History	23.06	24.26	21.76
French	21.85	25.37	18.03
Geography	18.94	17.39	20.63
Drama and Theatre Studies	18.12	21.48	14.45
Art & Design	17.54	20.41	14.41
Science SA	14.07	12.79	15.46
D&T Food Technology	13.47	16.03	10.68
D&T Resistant Materials	11.82	5.56	18.65
Media/Film/Tv Studies	11.47	12.08	10.80
Business Studies: Single	10.50	9.19	11.93
Information and Communications Technology	9.74	8.91	10.64
Statistics	9.11	8.41	9.87
D&T Graphic Products	8.92	7.09	10.92
Music	8.51	8.37	8.66
Art & Design (Fine Art)	7.66	8.94	6.25
Spanish	7.60	9.80	5.21
D&T Textiles Technology	7.36	13.43	0.74
German	7.34	8.30	6.29
Home Economics: Child Development	4.61	8.62	0.23
Office Technology	4.59	4.20	5.01
Dance	4.52	7.94	0.78
Sociology	4.48	6.20	2.60
Biology	4.01	3.56	4.51
Chemistry	3.62	3.06	4.23
Physics	3.61	2.99	4.27
D&T Product Design	2.56	1.96	3.22
Science (Core)	2.21	2.46	1.94
Humanities: Single	2.01	1.71	2.33
D&T Electronic Products	1.65	0.18	3.26
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.41	2.57	0.16
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	1.30	1.64	0.93

Table 18: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Any Other Mixed Background

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	98.20	98.15	98.24
English Language and Literature	96.60	97.43	95.76
English Literature	83.47	87.41	79.47
Science: Double Award	69.57	71.44	67.67
French	30.63	35.60	25.59
History	29.80	32.70	26.86
Religious Studies	29.50	32.90	26.04
Geography	24.70	22.93	26.49
Physical Education/Sports Studies	21.43	13.35	29.63
Art & Design	20.68	24.98	16.33
Drama and Theatre Studies	18.46	22.45	14.41
Business Studies: Single	12.91	10.46	15.39
Information and Communications Technology	11.91	10.42	13.43
D&T Graphic Products	11.55	10.26	12.86
Spanish	11.22	13.23	9.18
Statistics	11.22	10.46	12.00
D&T Food Technology	11.16	14.56	7.71
D&T Resistant Materials	11.06	4.30	17.92
Music	10.80	11.02	10.57
German	10.56	11.22	9.88
Media/Film/Tv Studies	10.39	10.50	10.29
Science SA	10.27	9.57	10.98
Art & Design (Fine Art)	7.76	9.53	5.96
Biology	7.68	6.72	8.65
Physics	7.54	6.32	8.78
Chemistry	7.41	6.28	8.57
D&T Textiles Technology	6.83	12.99	0.57
Office Technology	5.27	4.47	6.08
Sociology	4.03	5.47	2.57
D&T Product Design	3.50	2.29	4.73
Dance	3.34	6.15	0.49
Home Economics: Child Development	3.30	6.48	0.08
D&T Electronic Products	2.01	0.32	3.71
Humanities: Single	1.97	2.41	1.51
Science (Core)	1.97	2.37	1.55
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	1.28	1.77	0.78
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.18	2.05	0.29
D&T Systems and Control	1.13	0.32	1.96
Italian	1.05	1.49	0.61
Design & Technology	1.01	1.25	0.78

Table 19: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Irish

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	98.56	98.52	98.60
English Language and Literature	96.99	96.95	97.02
English Literature	84.04	86.12	81.95
Science: Double Award	69.62	72.53	66.70
Religious Studies	61.50	64.11	58.88
History	40.49	38.95	42.05
French	33.35	37.37	29.30
Geography	29.04	28.12	29.95
Physical Education/Sports Studies	21.15	13.69	28.65
Drama and Theatre Studies	16.65	21.00	12.28
Art & Design	14.66	19.80	9.49
D&T Resistant Materials	13.45	6.29	20.65
Business Studies: Single	12.24	11.19	13.30
Information and Communications Technology	12.20	10.27	14.14
German	11.27	11.56	10.98
Science SA	10.99	10.82	11.16
Music	9.97	10.64	9.30
Statistics	9.55	8.51	10.60
Spanish	9.00	12.30	5.67
Biology	8.81	4.81	12.84
D&T Food Technology	8.77	12.21	5.30
Chemistry	8.72	4.63	12.84
Physics	8.72	4.63	12.84
D&T Graphic Products	8.58	6.85	10.33
Art & Design (Fine Art)	8.40	9.71	7.07
Media/Film/Tv Studies	7.37	7.31	7.44
D&T Textiles Technology	6.26	11.66	0.84
Office Technology	4.17	3.79	4.56
Home Economics: Child Development	4.04	7.96	0.09
D&T Product Design	3.43	3.33	3.53
Sociology	3.01	4.81	1.21
Dance	1.95	3.79	0.09
Science (Core)	1.81	2.31	1.30
Design & Technology	1.62	2.31	0.93
D&T Electronic Products	1.48	.	2.98
Classical Civilisation	1.30	0.83	1.77
Latin	1.16	1.39	0.93

Table 20: Uptake of individual GCSE subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Any Other Ethnic Group

GCSE subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	96.91	97.14	96.70
English Language and Literature	93.00	93.87	92.23
English Literature	78.41	81.99	75.25
Science: Double Award	65.36	66.17	64.65
Religious Studies	30.57	32.55	28.82
French	30.53	36.19	25.52
Geography	24.91	24.72	25.08
History	24.35	27.45	21.60
Art & Design	19.90	22.86	17.27
Physical Education/Sports Studies	14.84	6.38	22.33
Science SA	13.69	12.26	14.96
Spanish	13.54	16.44	10.96
D&T Graphic Products	13.05	10.60	15.22
Business Studies: Single	13.03	10.81	15.00
Information and Communications Technology	12.82	11.76	13.75
Drama and Theatre Studies	12.74	15.74	10.08
D&T Resistant Materials	11.30	4.47	17.35
Statistics	10.75	10.56	10.93
Arabic	10.70	12.01	9.53
Media/Film/Tv Studies	10.09	10.52	9.72
German	8.48	9.07	7.96
D&T Food Technology	7.72	10.81	4.99
D&T Textiles Technology	7.62	15.07	1.03
Art & Design (Fine Art)	7.27	8.78	5.94
Music	6.81	6.75	6.86
Biology	6.63	5.96	7.22
Chemistry	6.22	5.30	7.04
Physics	6.13	5.01	7.11
Office Technology	5.00	5.47	4.58
Sociology	4.78	7.83	2.09
Turkish	4.53	4.76	4.33
Persian	3.62	3.27	3.92
D&T Product Design	3.05	2.11	3.89
Science (Core)	2.51	3.44	1.69
Home Economics: Child Development	1.98	4.18	0.04
Humanities: Single	1.87	1.49	2.20
Dance	1.83	3.52	0.33
D&T Electronic Products	1.67	0.29	2.90
Portuguese	1.56	1.53	1.58
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.44	2.73	0.29
Urdu	1.21	0.87	1.50
Design & Technology	1.09	1.33	0.88
Polish	1.03	1.37	0.73

#### 4. Uptake of A-level subjects by ethnic group

At A-level, differences in subject choices made by different ethnic groups might have their origins in family attitudes towards education and towards what subjects and courses are seen as leading to professional careers. Also, for some A-level subjects, for example the sciences (physics, chemistry and biology), the pool of potential students among some ethnic groups is severely limited by their performance at GCSE.

Previous research in this field (see, for example, Elias *et al.*, 2006) revealed that Indian and Chinese students show a strong preference for science at A-level compared with other ethnic groups. In contrast, Black Caribbean students reveal a strong aversion to science, in particular to chemistry and physics.

In Vidal Rodeiro (2007a) it was shown that in comparison with the White group, African, Chinese, Mixed, Indian and Pakistani students had a higher probability of taking two or more science subjects. In particular, the odds of taking two or more science subjects for a Chinese, Pakistani and Indian student were 6.8, 3.0 and 2.6 times the odds of a White student, respectively. Also, some ethnic minorities such as Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi were less likely to take modern foreign languages.

The patterns mentioned above are also present in the tables presented in this report.

In the 2007 A-level cohort, there were 95 different ethnic codes, grouped in 18 ethnic groups. Table 21 shows the numbers of students taking A-level subjects by ethnic group. A list of ethnic codes and the groups they belong to can be found in Appendix A.

Table 21: Distribution of A-level candidates by ethnic group

Ethnic Group	Frequency	Percent
White British	107550	78.33
Indian	5722	4.17
Any Other White Background	4006	2.92
Pakistani	2979	2.17
African	2167	1.58
Any Other Asian Background	1598	1.16
Any Other Ethnic Group	1579	1.15
Chinese	1390	1.01
Any Other Mixed Background	1363	0.99
Caribbean	1110	0.81
Bangladeshi	943	0.69
White and Asian	889	0.65
Irish	735	0.54
White and Black Caribbean	684	0.50
Any Other Black Background	394	0.29
White and Black African	282	0.21
<i>Gypsy / Romany</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0.01</i>
<i>Traveller Of Irish Heritage</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0.01</i>
<i>Refused</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>1.44</i>
<i>Information Not Obtained</i>	<i>1905</i>	<i>1.39</i>

It is worth noting that the number of students that stay on in education from GCSE to A-level varies by ethnic group. However, the exact figures are not available to us and we can only approximate them. For example, using figures from Tables 1 and 21, around 23% of White British students carried on to study A-levels. This figure was much lower than for Indians (43%) or Chinese students (64%) but higher than for Caribbean students (14%).

#### 4.1 Uptake of subject areas at A-level

In this section, the uptake of subject areas at A-level by ethnic group is presented. A-level subjects were grouped into five areas: Science/Mathematics, English, Languages, Social Science/Humanities and Arts. Details of the subject areas can be found in Appendix B. The analysis described in this section was restricted to those candidates with at least three A-level subjects, excluding general studies.

Pakistani, Indian, Chinese and Bangladeshi pupils, as well as pupils with other Asian backgrounds showed a preference for subjects in the Science/Mathematics area compared with other ethnic groups. On the other hand, the uptake of subjects in the English and Arts areas by pupils from these groups was generally lower than the uptake by pupils from other ethnic groups.

The uptake figures for subjects in the Science/Mathematics area for pupils with a Black background (other than African) were low when compared with other ethnic groups. However, the figures for subjects in the Arts field were slightly higher.

The uptake of subjects in the Social Science/Humanities area was less popular among Chinese pupils and those with other Asian backgrounds.

The uptake of subjects in the area of languages was much higher for Chinese pupils than for any other ethnic group with the exception of pupils with other White backgrounds. As for GCSEs, children from multilingual communities might be studying their languages at school.

Table 22: Uptake of subject areas at A-level by ethnic group (% of students with at least three A-levels, excluding general studies)

Ethnic Group	Subject Area				
	Science Mathematics	English	Social Science Humanities	Arts	Languages
African	58.51	32.13	69.57	19.86	8.16
Caribbean	42.68	46.38	78.43	36.83	7.40
Other Black Background	50.40	40.00	68.80	36.00	10.00
Bangladeshi	62.13	29.84	74.52	19.72	4.36
Chinese	86.05	12.46	54.01	18.10	26.01
Indian	73.72	22.94	68.52	15.09	6.44
Pakistani	68.78	28.01	69.50	11.66	6.46
Other Asian Background	76.30	20.87	56.41	13.62	11.41
White British	48.91	41.71	74.84	35.17	9.70
Irish	43.01	47.67	82.44	28.32	9.14
Other White Background	48.08	41.44	71.45	31.07	30.05
White and Asian	56.38	40.43	68.12	27.54	15.94
White and Black African	41.79	41.79	75.62	33.83	12.94
White and Black Caribbean	43.79	47.28	77.12	42.48	10.68
Other Mixed Background	53.12	41.23	68.78	31.02	16.95
Other Ethnic Group	66.73	25.33	60.23	21.99	22.47
All	50.84	38.25	72.59	33.28	12.24

## **4.2 Uptake of individual A-level subjects**

This section presents the uptake of individual A-level subjects by ethnic group. Ethnic Groups in italics in Table 21 are not considered in the remainder of the report.

General studies was the most popular A-level subject only among the White British pupils with almost 30% of students taking it. This figure compared with the uptake figures for Bangladeshi pupils (7%) and Caribbean pupils (10%).

Pakistani, Indian, Chinese and Bangladeshi pupils, as well as pupils with a mixed White and Asian background and those with any other Asian background showed a preference for mathematics and science subjects compared with other ethnic groups. Clear examples of this were the uptake figures for A-level mathematics (Chinese 55%; Indian 36%; all students 21%; Caribbean 13%) or A-level chemistry (Chinese 31%; Indian 30%; Pakistani 28%; all students 12%; Caribbean 10%).

Pupils with Black backgrounds showed a preference for English literature compared with other ethnic groups, this subject being the most popular A-level among them (e.g. Caribbean 23%; any other Black background 25%; White and Black African 23%; White and Black Caribbean 22%). English literature uptake figures for pupils from Asian backgrounds were much lower (e.g. Pakistani 15%; Indian 13%; Chinese 8%; any other Asian background 12%).

Psychology, being the 5th most popular A-level subject overall (16% of students taking it), seemed to be more popular among students of Caribbean and any other Black background (around 22%) and less popular among Chinese students (12%).

The three main modern foreign languages (French, German and Spanish) were not very popular among the majority of the ethnic minorities. For example, less than 1% of African, Caribbean, Pakistani and Bangladeshi pupils studied German or Spanish and the uptake figures for French among these groups were also lower than the overall uptake figure. Pupils from a White background, other than White British and Irish, favoured languages more than the pupils from any other backgrounds.

History and geography were among the 10 most popular subjects at A-level (16% of students take history and around 11% take geography). However, the uptake of these subjects, in particular geography, decreased among the minority ethnic pupils, being at its lowest in geography for Caribbean and pupils of other Asian backgrounds (4%) and in history for Chinese pupils (6%).

Critical thinking was taken by more Indian, Chinese, White and Asian and other Asian background pupils than by pupils of other ethnic backgrounds.

With regards to the Arts, the subject art & design at A-level was less popular among Pakistani and Indian pupils compared with other ethnic groups.

More details about the uptake figures in the subjects above and in other A-level subjects are given in Tables 23 to 39. These tables present, in rank order, the A-level subjects taken in 2007 (with an uptake higher than 1%) by gender and ethnic group. Figures are expressed as percentages of A-level students by ethnic group and gender.

Table 23: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
All students

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
General Studies	23.37	22.69	24.17
Mathematics	20.98	15.30	27.75
English Literature	17.82	23.04	11.59
Biology	17.72	19.05	16.14
Psychology	17.49	23.95	9.80
History	16.13	14.74	17.78
Chemistry	13.91	12.64	15.42
Geography	10.95	9.01	13.26
Business Studies:Single	10.76	7.91	14.16
Sociology	9.80	13.64	5.23
Physics	9.54	3.79	16.38
Media/Film/Tv Studies	9.41	9.75	9.00
Physical Education/Sports Studies	7.89	5.41	10.83
English Language	7.35	8.85	5.56
Religious Studies	6.22	7.69	4.47
Drama and Theatre Studies	6.05	7.82	3.94
Art & Design (Fine Art)	6.02	7.75	3.97
English Language and Literature	5.97	7.66	3.96
D&T Product Design	5.79	4.46	7.38
Law	5.51	5.87	5.09
Economics	5.51	3.06	8.42
French	4.95	6.19	3.47
Information and Communications Technology	4.42	2.97	6.14
Government and Politics	4.21	3.20	5.41
Art & Design	3.80	4.99	2.38
Art & Design (Photography)	2.91	3.48	2.22
Mathematics (Further)	2.83	1.54	4.37
Music	2.49	2.38	2.63
Film Studies	2.40	2.08	2.79
German	2.32	2.60	1.99
Spanish	2.23	2.69	1.67
Psychology (as a Science)	2.01	2.80	1.07
Computer Studies/Computing	1.88	0.28	3.78
Classical Civilisation	1.44	1.59	1.27
Accounting/Finance	1.31	0.88	1.82
Art & Design (Graphics)	1.28	1.22	1.36
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.24	2.21	0.08
Music Technology	1.21	0.42	2.15
Logic/ Philosophy	1.13	1.03	1.25
Chinese	1.10	1.09	1.11
Biology: Human	1.01	1.14	0.86



Table 24: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: White British

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
General Studies	29.17	27.75	30.82
English Literature	20.54	26.73	13.33
History	18.90	17.40	20.66
Mathematics	18.66	13.25	24.95
Psychology	18.05	24.67	10.34
Biology	17.33	18.93	15.45
Geography	14.02	11.68	16.74
Chemistry	11.60	10.21	13.22
Physical Education/Sports Studies	10.17	7.08	13.77
Media/Film/Tv Studies	9.91	9.92	9.89
Physics	9.69	3.49	16.91
Sociology	9.27	12.82	5.15
Business Studies:Single	9.14	6.57	12.14
D&T Product Design	8.38	6.97	10.01
English Language	7.97	9.47	6.22
Religious Studies	7.44	9.42	5.14
Drama and Theatre Studies	7.44	9.70	4.81
Art & Design (Fine Art)	6.21	8.01	4.12
English Language and Literature	5.67	6.93	4.20
French	4.55	5.94	2.93
Art & Design	4.48	5.93	2.79
Information and Communications Technology	4.14	2.54	6.00
Economics	3.74	1.76	6.03
Government and Politics	3.66	2.68	4.80
Law	3.13	3.01	3.27
Music	2.93	2.78	3.10
German	2.35	2.79	1.84
Mathematics (Further)	2.30	1.08	3.73
Psychology (as a Science)	2.19	3.07	1.16
Art & Design (Photography)	2.03	2.42	1.59
Film Studies	1.61	1.36	1.91
Spanish	1.59	2.06	1.06
Computer Studies/Computing	1.34	0.21	2.66
Music Technology	1.25	0.37	2.27
Business Studies & Economics	1.22	0.95	1.53

Table 25: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Any Other White Background

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
English Literature	21.89	28.06	14.25
Mathematics	21.57	15.56	29.01
History	16.80	16.01	17.78
General Studies	15.00	14.57	15.54
Biology	14.83	15.65	13.81
Psychology	14.73	19.26	9.11
Chemistry	11.91	10.65	13.47
Physics	9.96	3.70	17.72
French	9.56	11.86	6.71
Media/Film/Tv Studies	9.46	9.79	9.06
Religious Studies	8.31	9.83	6.43
Sociology	8.16	10.51	5.25
Geography	8.09	6.59	9.95
Business Studies:Single	7.84	5.32	10.96
Drama and Theatre Studies	7.06	9.20	4.42
D&T Product Design	6.76	6.18	7.49
German	6.02	6.59	5.31
Government and Politics	6.02	5.05	7.21
Spanish	5.84	7.04	4.36
Art & Design (Fine Art)	5.07	6.72	3.02
Economics	4.97	2.48	8.05
Art & Design	4.79	6.36	2.85
English Language and Literature	4.27	5.41	2.85
Physical Education/Sports Studies	4.22	2.26	6.65
English Language	3.27	3.79	2.63
Turkish	3.27	3.97	2.40
Information and Communications Technology	3.20	1.76	4.97
Russian	2.97	2.98	2.96
Polish	2.85	2.80	2.91
Music	2.77	2.75	2.79
Mathematics (Further)	2.65	1.53	4.02
Art & Design (Photography)	2.30	2.57	1.96
Law	2.25	2.26	2.24
Modern Greek	2.07	2.21	1.90
Italian	2.05	2.07	2.01
Film Studies	2.02	2.03	2.01
Portuguese	1.47	1.53	1.40
Psychology (as a Science)	1.40	1.80	0.89
Classical Civilisation	1.05	1.31	0.73
Music Technology	1.05	0.59	1.62
Logic/ Philosophy	1.02	1.13	0.89
Computer Studies/Computing	1.00	0.14	2.07

Table 26: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: African

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
Chemistry	24.55	25.25	23.52
Biology	24.50	26.96	20.91
Mathematics	24.09	20.59	29.20
Psychology	19.57	25.33	11.14
Sociology	18.69	25.10	9.32
English Literature	17.77	20.44	13.86
Business Studies:Single	12.41	10.02	15.91
History	11.63	10.96	12.61
Media/Film/Tv Studies	11.31	11.11	11.59
General Studies	10.52	9.48	12.05
Physics	8.68	5.67	13.07
Economics	7.75	5.75	10.68
Religious Studies	7.06	8.39	5.11
French	6.46	7.69	4.66
Drama and Theatre Studies	5.86	6.68	4.66
Information and Communications Technology	5.21	3.11	8.30
Government and Politics	5.08	5.44	4.55
Law	4.89	5.36	4.20
Geography	4.43	3.65	5.57
English Language and Literature	3.41	4.12	2.39
Physical Education/Sports Studies	3.37	0.70	7.27
D&T Product Design	3.28	2.18	4.89
Art & Design	2.82	3.50	1.82
English Language	2.03	2.25	1.70
Art & Design (Fine Art)	1.71	1.86	1.48
Psychology (as a Science)	1.62	2.25	0.68
Arabic	1.38	1.24	1.59
Accounting/Finance	1.34	1.17	1.59
Business Studies & Economics	1.25	1.32	1.14
Film Studies	1.20	1.55	0.68

Table 27: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Caribbean

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
English Literature	22.70	27.84	14.39
Psychology	21.62	27.41	12.26
Sociology	19.91	24.34	12.74
Media/Film/Tv Studies	17.57	18.08	16.75
Biology	14.96	15.60	13.92
Mathematics	12.61	8.89	18.63
Business Studies:Single	12.34	11.22	14.15
History	11.35	10.20	13.21
Drama and Theatre Studies	11.08	11.95	9.67
Chemistry	9.91	9.48	10.61
General Studies	9.91	9.04	11.32
Physical Education/Sports Studies	7.93	4.52	13.44
Religious Studies	7.30	8.75	4.95
English Language and Literature	6.94	8.45	4.48
Information and Communications Technology	5.50	3.06	9.43
D&T Product Design	4.68	3.35	6.84
Government and Politics	4.68	4.96	4.25
Law	4.32	4.96	3.30
Physics	4.14	1.90	7.78
Geography	4.05	4.37	3.54
Art & Design	3.78	4.66	2.36
Economics	3.69	2.48	5.66
French	3.60	4.52	2.12
Art & Design (Fine Art)	3.15	2.77	3.77
English Language	2.70	2.62	2.83
Art & Design (Photography)	2.34	3.06	1.18
Music	1.98	1.75	2.36
Film Studies	1.80	1.31	2.59
Computer Studies/Computing	1.53	0.44	3.30
Logic/ Philosophy	1.26	0.73	2.12
Psychology (as a Science)	1.26	1.75	0.47
Music Technology	1.17	0.44	2.36

Table 28: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Any Other Black Background

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
English Literature	25.38	30.80	17.20
Psychology	22.34	28.27	13.38
Biology	18.78	17.30	21.02
Mathematics	18.78	13.50	26.75
Sociology	14.97	18.57	9.55
Chemistry	14.47	12.24	17.83
Media/Film/Tv Studies	13.45	12.24	15.29
General Studies	12.18	9.70	15.92
Business Studies:Single	11.17	9.28	14.01
History	9.64	10.97	7.64
Religious Studies	9.14	10.97	6.37
Physics	7.61	2.53	15.29
Drama and Theatre Studies	6.85	9.28	3.18
Physical Education/Sports Studies	6.60	4.22	10.19
Art & Design	5.33	6.33	3.82
Economics	5.33	2.53	9.55
French	4.57	6.33	1.91
Law	4.57	4.64	4.46
Information and Communications Technology	4.31	2.11	7.64
Art & Design (Fine Art)	4.06	5.06	2.55
D&T Product Design	4.06	3.80	4.46
Government and Politics	4.06	4.22	3.82
English Language	3.81	5.06	1.91
English Language and Literature	3.81	5.06	1.91
Geography	3.30	3.38	3.18
Spanish	2.54	2.53	2.55
Psychology (as a Science)	2.28	2.95	1.27
Art & Design (Photography)	2.03	2.95	0.64
Music	1.78	2.11	1.27
Computer Studies/Computing	1.52	0.84	2.55
Film Studies	1.52	0.42	3.18
Business Studies & Economics	1.27	1.27	1.27
German	1.27	1.69	0.64
Communication Studies	1.02	1.27	0.64
Dance	1.02	0.84	1.27
Mathematics (Further)	1.02	0.84	1.27
Portuguese	1.02	0.84	1.27

Table 29: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Pakistani

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
Biology	30.35	29.30	31.95
Chemistry	27.73	25.42	31.27
Mathematics	21.01	14.87	30.42
Psychology	18.09	24.42	8.41
Sociology	17.62	23.36	8.84
General Studies	15.11	11.99	19.88
English Literature	14.57	20.31	5.78
Religious Studies	11.98	14.76	7.73
Business Studies:Single	11.72	8.66	16.40
History	9.20	7.33	12.06
Urdu	8.39	10.21	5.61
Law	6.95	6.88	7.05
Information and Communications Technology	6.92	5.94	8.41
Physics	6.45	2.94	11.81
Media/Film/Tv Studies	6.11	5.94	6.37
Economics	5.34	2.28	10.03
English Language	4.33	4.83	3.57
English Language and Literature	4.33	5.11	3.14
Geography	3.56	2.83	4.67
D&T Product Design	3.39	2.94	4.08
Government and Politics	3.26	2.77	3.99
Psychology (as a Science)	2.99	3.33	2.46
Computer Studies/Computing	1.75	0.28	3.99
Art & Design (Fine Art)	1.61	1.89	1.19
Art & Design	1.51	2.00	0.76
Physical Education/Sports Studies	1.34	0.50	2.63
Accounting/Finance	1.17	0.78	1.78
French	1.07	1.28	0.76

Table 30: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Indian

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	36.00	27.88	45.77
Biology	31.00	32.97	28.64
Chemistry	29.59	28.81	30.52
Psychology	17.67	25.35	8.43
Business Studies:Single	15.66	11.72	20.40
General Studies	14.16	12.68	15.94
English Literature	12.58	17.57	6.58
Sociology	11.95	17.38	5.43
Economics	11.85	7.81	16.71
Physics	10.36	4.42	17.51
History	9.07	9.96	8.01
Media/Film/Tv Studies	7.78	8.48	6.93
Information and Communications Technology	7.11	5.03	9.62
Geography	5.44	4.71	6.31
D&T Product Design	4.96	3.39	6.85
Religious Studies	4.68	6.24	2.81
Law	4.51	5.09	3.81
English Language	3.57	4.61	2.31
English Language and Literature	3.51	4.74	2.04
Government and Politics	3.18	2.69	3.77
Panjabi	2.90	3.84	1.77
Art & Design	2.69	3.39	1.85
Art & Design (Fine Art)	2.62	3.36	1.73
Mathematics (Further)	2.62	1.28	4.23
Physical Education/Sports Studies	2.22	1.09	3.58
Accounting/Finance	2.11	1.54	2.81
Drama and Theatre Studies	1.97	2.66	1.15
Computer Studies/Computing	1.94	0.38	3.81
Psychology (as a Science)	1.75	2.75	0.54
French	1.73	2.30	1.04
Critical Thinking	1.22	1.44	0.96
Business Studies & Economics	1.12	1.15	1.08
German	1.05	1.09	1.00

Table 31: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Chinese

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	55.68	49.07	62.34
Chemistry	30.72	28.12	33.33
Chinese	26.12	28.84	23.38
Biology	24.32	26.97	21.65
Physics	23.74	13.34	34.20
General Studies	19.57	16.21	22.94
Psychology	12.45	17.22	7.65
Mathematics (Further)	12.16	9.33	15.01
Economics	10.58	7.75	13.42
Business Studies:Single	10.36	9.61	11.11
D&T Product Design	8.27	8.90	7.65
English Literature	7.77	11.48	4.04
Information and Communications Technology	6.69	4.88	8.51
History	6.47	6.74	6.20
Geography	5.11	4.73	5.48
Art & Design (Fine Art)	4.89	6.89	2.89
Art & Design	4.75	5.60	3.90
Sociology	3.88	5.17	2.60
Media/Film/Tv Studies	3.74	4.45	3.03
Computer Studies/Computing	2.45	0.43	4.47
French	2.45	3.87	1.01
Business Studies & Economics	2.37	2.73	2.02
Religious Studies	2.30	2.58	2.02
Music	2.23	3.16	1.30
English Language	1.58	2.30	0.87
English Language and Literature	1.58	2.15	1.01
Law	1.51	1.43	1.59
Physical Education/Sports Studies	1.30	1.00	1.59
Art & Design (Graphics)	1.15	1.58	0.72
German	1.15	1.29	1.01
Government and Politics	1.15	1.00	1.30
Accounting/Finance	1.08	1.15	1.01
Critical Thinking	1.08	1.29	0.87
Drama and Theatre Studies	1.01	1.15	0.87



Table 32: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Bangladeshi

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
Biology	24.71	25.04	24.16
Chemistry	22.69	21.81	24.16
Mathematics	20.68	13.97	31.74
English Literature	19.72	25.89	9.55
Sociology	19.72	26.06	9.27
Psychology	19.09	25.55	8.43
Religious Studies	12.73	17.04	5.62
Business Studies:Single	12.09	8.35	18.26
History	10.50	10.39	10.67
Media/Film/Tv Studies	10.39	10.56	10.11
Information and Communications Technology	9.01	6.13	13.76
General Studies	7.74	6.47	9.83
Economics	6.47	3.92	10.67
Physics	6.15	2.90	11.52
Law	5.94	6.64	4.78
D&T Product Design	5.83	3.58	9.55
Government and Politics	5.41	6.30	3.93
Art & Design	4.24	4.77	3.37
Geography	4.14	2.21	7.30
Bengali	3.61	4.60	1.97
Art & Design (Fine Art)	2.55	3.07	1.69
English Language	2.55	3.07	1.69
English Language and Literature	2.01	1.87	2.25
Computer Studies/Computing	1.59	1.02	2.53
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.48	2.39	.
Mathematics (Further)	1.17	0.51	2.25
French	1.06	0.85	1.40
Physical Education/Sports Studies	1.06	.	2.81

Table 33: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Any Other Asian Background

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	43.93	35.76	54.62
Chemistry	34.86	33.44	36.71
Biology	33.04	34.77	30.78
Psychology	16.33	23.40	7.08
English Literature	12.20	16.45	6.65
Physics	12.14	5.63	20.66
General Studies	10.39	8.39	13.01
Business Studies:Single	9.76	7.06	13.29
Sociology	8.76	13.02	3.18
History	8.14	8.17	8.09
Economics	7.70	4.64	11.71
Media/Film/Tv Studies	6.26	7.06	5.20
Information and Communications Technology	5.51	4.97	6.21
Religious Studies	5.44	6.29	4.34
French	5.19	6.51	3.47
Mathematics (Further)	4.19	2.65	6.21
D&T Product Design	4.07	3.31	5.06
Government and Politics	3.82	3.31	4.48
Geography	3.63	3.09	4.34
German	3.00	3.42	2.46
English Language and Literature	2.94	4.30	1.16
English Language	2.82	3.97	1.30
Art & Design	2.69	3.31	1.88
Law	2.69	1.99	3.61
Art & Design (Fine Art)	2.38	3.20	1.30
Drama and Theatre Studies	1.81	1.66	2.02
Physical Education/Sports Studies	1.81	0.33	3.76
Accounting/Finance	1.69	1.21	2.31
Persian	1.63	1.66	1.59
Arabic	1.56	1.66	1.45
Computer Studies/Computing	1.56	0.66	2.75
Critical Thinking	1.56	2.54	0.29
Business Studies & Economics	1.13	0.99	1.30
Music	1.06	0.88	1.30
Psychology (as a Science)	1.00	1.55	0.29

Table 34: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: White and Asian

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	25.87	22.72	32.82
Biology	22.38	26.28	20.77
General Studies	21.71	24.05	21.79
English Literature	21.60	30.51	14.10
Chemistry	20.02	19.60	23.08
Psychology	19.01	29.18	9.74
History	14.40	15.37	15.13
Physics	12.15	4.45	22.56
Media/Film/Tv Studies	10.57	11.36	11.03
Business Studies:Single	9.79	7.13	14.10
Sociology	9.79	14.70	5.38
Religious Studies	8.44	12.47	4.87
Geography	8.10	8.69	8.46
French	7.31	11.58	3.33
English Language and Literature	6.64	9.13	4.62
Drama and Theatre Studies	6.41	10.25	2.82
Economics	5.40	4.23	7.44
English Language	5.29	5.57	5.64
D&T Product Design	5.06	4.90	5.90
Art & Design	4.84	6.68	3.33
Government and Politics	4.84	4.45	5.90
Art & Design (Fine Art)	4.61	6.24	3.33
Physical Education/Sports Studies	4.05	2.67	6.15
Information and Communications Technology	3.04	2.00	4.62
Spanish	3.04	4.68	1.54
German	2.92	4.23	1.79
Music	2.92	2.45	3.85
Law	2.70	2.45	3.33
Mathematics (Further)	2.47	1.11	4.36
Psychology (as a Science)	2.25	2.90	1.79
Computer Studies/Computing	2.14	0.67	4.10
Art & Design (Photography)	1.91	2.67	1.28
Critical Thinking	1.91	2.90	1.03
Business Studies & Economics	1.69	1.11	2.56
Film Studies	1.69	1.78	1.79
Logic/ Philosophy	1.24	1.34	1.28
Music Technology	1.24	0.22	2.56
Classical Civilisation	1.12	1.56	0.77
Japanese	1.01	1.34	0.77

Table 35: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: White and Black African

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
English Literature	23.40	30.72	12.93
Biology	19.50	21.08	17.24
General Studies	19.15	18.07	20.69
Sociology	19.15	24.10	12.07
Mathematics	17.73	9.04	30.17
Psychology	17.73	22.29	11.21
History	17.02	16.27	18.10
Chemistry	13.48	13.25	13.79
Media/Film/Tv Studies	13.48	15.06	11.21
Religious Studies	10.99	15.06	5.17
Business Studies:Single	8.16	6.63	10.34
Government and Politics	8.16	6.63	10.34
Physics	8.16	3.01	15.52
French	7.09	7.23	6.90
Drama and Theatre Studies	6.74	9.64	2.59
Economics	6.38	1.81	12.93
Geography	6.38	4.82	8.62
Physical Education/Sports Studies	6.38	5.42	7.76
English Language and Literature	4.26	6.02	1.72
Art & Design	3.90	4.22	3.45
Art & Design (Fine Art)	3.90	6.02	0.86
Information and Communications Technology	3.90	1.81	6.90
D&T Product Design	3.55	4.22	2.59
English Language	3.19	3.61	2.59
Law	3.19	3.01	3.45
Music	3.19	2.41	4.31
Spanish	2.13	1.81	2.59
Portuguese	1.77	1.81	1.72
Psychology (as a Science)	1.77	2.41	0.86
Art & Design (Photography)	1.42	1.81	0.86
Classical Civilisation	1.42	2.41	.
Film Studies	1.42	1.81	0.86
Italian	1.06	0.60	1.72
Music Technology	1.06	.	2.59

Table 36: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: White and Black Caribbean

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
English Literature	21.64	27.83	12.59
General Studies	21.49	21.18	21.94
Psychology	19.15	22.41	14.39
Biology	15.79	13.55	19.06
History	14.18	13.55	15.11
Sociology	14.18	16.75	10.43
Media/Film/Tv Studies	13.89	14.29	13.31
Mathematics	13.74	10.59	18.35
Physical Education/Sports Studies	11.84	5.91	20.50
Drama and Theatre Studies	11.26	14.53	6.47
Business Studies:Single	9.36	7.88	11.51
Chemistry	9.06	9.36	8.63
D&T Product Design	7.31	5.17	10.43
English Language and Literature	7.31	8.62	5.40
Religious Studies	7.02	8.87	4.32
Art & Design (Fine Art)	6.58	7.14	5.76
Geography	6.29	6.40	6.12
English Language	5.85	6.16	5.40
Physics	5.70	3.20	9.35
Government and Politics	5.56	5.17	6.12
Art & Design	5.12	5.17	5.04
Economics	4.24	2.46	6.83
French	3.95	4.68	2.88
Information and Communications Technology	3.80	2.22	6.12
Law	2.78	2.46	3.24
Music	2.63	2.22	3.24
Art & Design (Photography)	2.49	1.48	3.96
German	2.49	2.71	2.16
Film Studies	1.90	2.22	1.44
Dance	1.75	2.96	.
Psychology (as a Science)	1.75	2.46	0.72
Spanish	1.46	1.97	0.72
Business Studies & Economics	1.32	1.48	1.08
Computer Studies/Computing	1.32	0.25	2.88
Mathematics (Further)	1.32	0.74	2.16
Expressive Arts and Performance Studies	1.17	1.72	0.36
Logic/ Philosophy	1.17	1.23	1.08
Music Technology	1.17	0.49	2.16
Art & Design (Graphics)	1.02	0.99	1.08
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.02	1.72	.
Classical Civilisation	1.02	0.74	1.44

Table 37: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Any Other Mixed Background

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	23.62	17.32	31.61
English Literature	22.74	30.05	13.48
Biology	20.40	21.26	19.30
Psychology	19.44	25.46	11.81
General Studies	19.00	18.24	19.97
Chemistry	17.39	15.49	19.80
History	15.48	14.17	17.14
Media/Film/Tv Studies	12.84	14.04	11.31
Physics	11.01	4.20	19.63
Sociology	9.76	12.73	5.99
Business Studies:Single	8.88	6.82	11.48
Geography	7.70	6.43	9.32
French	7.56	9.06	5.66
Drama and Theatre Studies	7.26	9.06	4.99
Religious Studies	7.26	8.66	5.49
D&T Product Design	6.46	5.38	7.82
Art & Design (Fine Art)	5.94	7.87	3.49
English Language and Literature	5.65	6.30	4.83
Economics	5.06	3.41	7.15
Government and Politics	4.77	4.46	5.16
Art & Design	4.62	6.17	2.66
Physical Education/Sports Studies	4.48	2.62	6.82
English Language	4.18	4.99	3.16
Information and Communications Technology	3.89	2.62	5.49
Spanish	3.82	4.07	3.49
Music	2.93	3.15	2.66
Mathematics (Further)	2.86	1.57	4.49
Art & Design (Photography)	2.20	2.23	2.16
German	2.13	2.49	1.66
Law	1.83	1.05	2.83
Film Studies	1.69	1.44	2.00
Music Technology	1.25	0.79	1.83
Psychology (as a Science)	1.25	1.44	1.00
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.17	2.10	.
Chinese	1.17	1.31	1.00
Classical Civilisation	1.03	1.57	0.33
Critical Thinking	1.03	1.44	0.50

Table 38: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Irish

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
English Literature	30.20	36.75	23.16
History	24.76	21.78	27.97
Mathematics	19.18	12.34	26.55
General Studies	18.50	23.62	12.99
Biology	16.46	16.54	16.38
Religious Studies	15.78	20.21	11.02
Psychology	15.65	20.73	10.17
Chemistry	11.97	9.45	14.69
Geography	11.97	10.24	13.84
Sociology	11.97	17.06	6.50
Drama and Theatre Studies	9.80	12.86	6.50
Business Studies:Single	9.66	8.14	11.30
Media/Film/Tv Studies	8.84	9.19	8.47
Physics	6.94	3.94	10.17
D&T Product Design	6.53	4.72	8.47
Physical Education/Sports Studies	6.53	3.94	9.32
Government and Politics	6.39	4.72	8.19
Economics	5.85	2.62	9.32
Art & Design (Fine Art)	5.17	6.04	4.24
English Language and Literature	5.17	6.30	3.95
French	4.22	5.25	3.11
Law	3.67	3.94	3.39
Music	3.67	3.41	3.95
Art & Design	3.40	5.51	1.13
English Language	3.27	4.46	1.98
Information and Communications Technology	2.99	2.36	3.67
Classical Civilisation	2.45	2.10	2.82
Critical Thinking	1.90	1.31	2.54
Mathematics (Further)	1.77	1.05	2.54
German	1.50	2.10	0.85
Film Studies	1.36	1.57	1.13
Logic/ Philosophy	1.22	0.52	1.98
Psychology (as a Science)	1.22	1.57	0.85

Table 39: Uptake of individual A-level subjects in 2007.  
Ethnic Group: Any Other Ethnic Group

A-level subject	All	Girls	Boys
Mathematics	31.29	24.18	39.10
Biology	26.47	26.84	26.06
Chemistry	26.09	23.82	28.59
General Studies	15.58	15.48	15.69
Psychology	15.07	19.11	10.64
English Literature	13.68	18.98	7.85
Physics	10.20	4.84	16.09
History	9.69	10.76	8.51
Media/Film/Tv Studies	9.18	9.92	8.38
Sociology	9.12	13.18	4.65
Economics	7.35	3.39	11.70
Business Studies:Single	7.16	5.44	9.04
Arabic	6.90	8.59	5.05
Religious Studies	5.64	6.89	4.26
French	5.38	6.65	3.99
D&T Product Design	5.13	4.96	5.32
Information and Communications Technology	4.81	2.90	6.91
Government and Politics	4.69	3.99	5.45
Geography	4.05	3.63	4.52
Spanish	3.93	5.80	1.86
Persian	3.86	3.87	3.86
Art & Design	3.74	4.47	2.93
English Language and Literature	3.36	4.47	2.13
Physical Education/Sports Studies	3.10	1.21	5.19
Art & Design (Fine Art)	2.98	3.75	2.13
Law	2.98	2.90	3.06
English Language	2.79	3.75	1.73
Drama and Theatre Studies	2.66	2.90	2.39
Mathematics (Further)	2.03	0.85	3.32
German	1.90	2.30	1.46
Turkish	1.90	2.54	1.20
Art & Design (Photography)	1.84	2.66	0.93
Computer Studies/Computing	1.84	0.36	3.46
Psychology (as a Science)	1.46	2.06	0.80
Critical Thinking	1.39	1.69	1.06
Music	1.39	1.69	1.06
Japanese	1.33	1.21	1.46



### 4.3 Uptake of combinations of A-level subjects

Tables 40 to 56 show the 10 most popular combinations of three or more A-level subjects (excluding general studies) by ethnic group. Figures are expressed as the percentage of A-level candidates who took three or more A-levels.

The most common combination of at least three A-level subjects, excluding general studies, was biology, chemistry, and mathematics for all ethnic groups. However, the percentage of pupils taking this combination ranged from 2% among the White and Black Caribbean pupils to 16% among pupils of other Asian background.

The second most common combination was chemistry, physics and mathematics for pupils from White British, African, Chinese, White and Asian, any other Asian and any other mixed backgrounds and biology, chemistry and psychology for pupils from Caribbean, Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi backgrounds.

Table 40: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.  
All students

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		3.35	3.35
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		1.49	4.83
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		1.07	5.91
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		0.92	6.83
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	0.83	7.66
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	0.83	8.49
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		0.75	9.24
Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)		0.54	9.78
History	Psychology	English Literature		0.52	10.30
Biology	Chemistry	History		0.47	10.78

Table 41: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.  
Ethnic Group: White British

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		2.34	2.34
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		1.55	3.89
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		0.94	4.83
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		0.87	5.70
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		0.74	6.45
History	Psychology	English Literature		0.74	7.19
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	0.72	7.91
History	Religious Studies	English Literature		0.66	8.56
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	0.58	9.14
Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)		0.56	9.71

Table 42: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Any Other White Background

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		2.03	2.03
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	1.51	3.54
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		1.32	4.86
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	1.13	5.98
History	Psychology	English Literature		0.72	6.70
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		0.68	7.38
History	Government and Politics	English Literature		0.68	8.05
English Literature	Drama and Theatre Studies	Media/Film/Tv Studies		0.56	8.62
History	Religious Studies	English Literature		0.56	9.18
Physics	Mathematics	D&T Product Design		0.56	9.75

Table 43: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: African

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		8.54	8.54
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		3.84	12.38
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		2.39	14.77
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	1.88	16.65
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.74	18.39
History	Psychology	Sociology		1.09	19.48
Biology	Chemistry	English Literature		0.87	20.35
Sociology	English Literature	Media/Film/Tv Studies		0.87	21.22
Biology	Chemistry	History		0.80	22.01
Biology	Chemistry	Religious Studies		0.72	22.74

Table 44: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Caribbean

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		3.02	3.02
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		1.90	4.92
History	Sociology	English Literature		1.59	6.51
Psychology	Sociology	English Literature		1.43	7.94
English Literature	Drama and Theatre Studies	Media/Film/Tv Studies		1.27	9.21
History	Psychology	English Literature		1.27	10.48
Sociology	English Literature	Media/Film/Tv Studies		1.27	11.75
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		1.11	12.86
Biology	Psychology	Sociology		0.95	13.81
Psychology	English Literature	Drama and Theatre Studies		0.79	14.60

Table 45: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Any Other Black Background

Combination			%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	4.92	4.92
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology	2.46	7.38
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	2.46	9.84
History	Psychology	English Literature	1.64	11.48
History	Psychology	Sociology	1.64	13.11
Biology	Chemistry	English Literature	1.23	14.34
Biology	Psychology	Physical Education/Sports Studies	1.23	15.57
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	1.23	16.80
Psychology	English Literature	Media/Film/Tv Studies	1.23	18.03
Psychology	Sociology	English Literature	1.23	19.26

Table 46: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Pakistani

Combination			%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	11.82	11.82
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology	5.06	16.88
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	1.99	18.87
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	1.76	20.64
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	1.53	22.17
Biology	Chemistry	History	1.48	23.65
Religious Studies	Sociology	English Literature	1.48	25.13
Biology	Chemistry	Geography	1.36	26.49
Biology	Chemistry	Sociology	1.36	27.86
Biology	Chemistry	English Literature	1.08	28.94

Table 47: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Indian

Combination			%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	13.02	13.02
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology	2.76	15.78
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	2.39	18.17
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	1.68	19.85
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	1.63	21.49
Chemistry	Mathematics	Economics	1.08	22.57
Biology	Chemistry	Economics	0.88	23.45
Physics	Mathematics	Economics	0.85	24.30
Biology	Chemistry	Geography	0.83	25.13
Biology	Chemistry	Business Studies:Single	0.73	25.86

Table 48: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Chinese

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		7.74	7.74
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		5.33	13.07
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	4.72	17.79
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	3.52	21.31
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Chinese	1.81	23.12
Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	Chinese	1.71	24.82
Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)		1.61	26.43
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	1.21	27.64
Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	Economics	1.11	28.74
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		1.01	29.75

Table 49: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Bangladeshi

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		7.73	7.73
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		3.78	11.51
Biology	Chemistry	Sociology		2.34	13.85
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.98	15.83
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		1.98	17.81
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	1.44	19.24
Religious Studies	Sociology	English Literature		1.44	20.68
Biology	Chemistry	English Literature		1.26	21.94
Biology	Chemistry	History		1.08	23.02
Biology	Chemistry	Information and Communications Technology		1.08	24.10

Table 50: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Any Other Asian Background

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		16.43	16.43
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		3.43	19.86
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		2.98	22.83
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	2.53	25.36
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	1.62	26.99
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.17	28.16
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	0.90	29.06
Biology	Chemistry	English Literature		0.81	29.87
Biology	Mathematics	Psychology		0.81	30.69
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		0.72	31.41

Table 51: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: White and Asian

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		4.79	4.79
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		2.40	7.19
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.35	8.53
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		1.35	9.88
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	1.20	11.08
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	1.05	12.13
Biology	Mathematics	Psychology		0.90	13.02
History	English Literature	French		0.90	13.92
Biology	Chemistry	Sociology		0.75	14.67
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		0.60	15.27

Table 52: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: White and Black African

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		5.21	5.21
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.56	6.77
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		1.56	8.33
Religious Studies	Psychology	Sociology		1.56	9.90
Sociology	English Literature	Media/Film/Tv Studies		1.56	11.46
Biology	Chemistry	French		1.04	12.5
Biology	Chemistry	History		1.04	13.54
Chemistry	Mathematics	Music		1.04	14.58
English Literature	Drama and Theatre Studies	Media/Film/Tv Studies		1.04	15.63
History	English Literature	Media/Film/Tv Studies		1.04	16.67

Table 53: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: White and Black Caribbean

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		1.64	1.64
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		0.94	2.58
Biology	Geography	Physical Education/Sports Studies		0.94	3.51
History	Sociology	English Literature		0.94	4.45
Sociology	English Literature	Media/Film/Tv Studies		0.94	5.39
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		0.70	6.09
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		0.70	6.79
Biology	Mathematics	Psychology		0.70	7.49
Biology	Psychology	Physical Education/Sports Studies		0.70	8.20
Business Studies:Single	Psychology	English Language and Literature		0.70	8.90

Table 54: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Any Other Mixed Background

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		4.02	4.02
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		2.16	6.19
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		1.55	7.73
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	1.34	9.07
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	Mathematics (Further)	1.24	10.31
History	Government And Politics	English Literature		1.03	11.34
Biology	Chemistry	English Literature		0.82	12.16
Biology	Chemistry	History		0.82	12.99
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		0.82	13.81
Biology	Physics	Mathematics		0.82	14.64

Table 55: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Irish

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		1.86	1.86
Biology	Chemistry	History		1.48	3.34
History	Religious Studies	English Literature		1.48	4.82
History	Government And Politics	English Literature		1.30	6.12
Biology	Chemistry	Geography		0.93	7.05
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		0.93	7.98
Business Studies: Single	History	English Literature		0.93	8.91
Religious Studies	Psychology	English Literature		0.93	9.83
Religious Studies	Sociology	English Literature		0.93	10.76
Biology	Chemistry	Physical Education/Sports Studies		0.74	11.50

Table 56: Most popular combinations of at least three A-level subjects in 2007, excluding general studies.

Ethnic Group: Any Other Ethnic Group

Combination				%	Cumulative %
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics		10.82	10.82
Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics		2.38	13.21
Biology	Chemistry	Psychology		1.99	15.19
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Mathematics	1.79	16.98
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Arabic	1.49	18.47
Biology	Chemistry	Physics		1.19	19.66
Biology	Chemistry	English Literature		0.79	20.46
		Information and		0.79	21.25
Biology	Chemistry	Communications Technology			
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	French	0.79	22.05
History	Sociology	English Literature		0.70	22.74

#### 4.4 Uptake of less effective preparation (LEP) A-level subjects

In this section the number of less effective preparation A-levels by ethnic group is investigated.

The list below (Table 57) details the A-level subjects that, taken together, are considered to provide a 'less effective preparation' for the academic courses offered by the University of Cambridge (<http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/requirements/>). To be a realistic applicant, a student will normally need to offer two traditional academic subjects not on this list. However, these subjects may have relevance to non-academic courses offered by other higher education institutions.

Table 57: Less effective preparation (LEP) A-level subjects

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

The following table shows the number of less effective preparation A-levels by ethnic group. Figures are expressed as the percentage of A-level candidates who took three or more A-levels.

Chinese, Indian, Pakistani and pupils with other Asian background were less likely to take LEP subjects. On the other hand, Caribbean and pupils with a mixed White and Black Caribbean background were more likely to take LEP subjects at A-level (e.g. around 18% of those pupils took two LEP subjects, and 4% took three or more).

Table 58: Number of less effective preparation A-levels by ethnic group (% of candidates with at least three A-levels)

Ethnic Group	Number of LEP A-level subject			
	0	1	2	3+
African	59.43	28.23	10.78	1.56
Caribbean	43.91	32.82	18.95	4.31
Other Black Background	45.20	40.00	12.00	2.80
Bangladeshi	58.46	29.67	10.12	1.75
Chinese	62.22	26.90	9.20	1.68
Indian	61.88	25.96	10.26	1.91
Pakistani	66.85	25.69	6.35	1.10
Other Asian Background	67.55	24.58	6.98	0.88
White British	47.51	35.48	14.31	2.71
Irish	54.48	33.33	11.11	1.08
Other White Background	52.51	33.64	11.87	1.98
White and Asian	57.39	28.26	12.61	1.74
White and Black African	55.72	29.85	12.44	1.99
White and Black Caribbean	38.56	41.61	17.65	2.18
Other Mixed Background	53.52	29.93	13.38	3.17
Other Ethnic Group	62.43	26.48	8.70	2.39
All	49.14	33.38	14.26	3.28

## References

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## Appendix A: Ethnicity codes and groups

<b>Ethnicity codes</b>	<b>Ethnicity codes - description</b>	<b>Ethnicity Group</b>
BAFR	AFRICAN	African
BANN	ANGOLAN	African
BAOF	OTHER BLACK AFRICAN	African
BCON	CONGOLESE	African
BGHA	GHANAIAN	African
BNGN	NIGERIAN	African
BSLN	SIERRA LEONIAN	African
BSOM	SOMALI	African
BSUD	SUDANESE	African
AAFR	AFRICAN ASIAN	Any Other Asian Background
AKAO	KASHMIRI OTHER	Any Other Asian Background
ANEP	NEPALI	Any Other Asian Background
AOTA	OTHER ASIAN	Any Other Asian Background
AOTH	ANY OTHER ASIAN BACKGROUND	Any Other Asian Background
ASLT	SRI LANKAN TAMIL	Any Other Asian Background
ASNL	SINHALESE	Any Other Asian Background
BEUR	BLACK EUROPEAN	Any Other Black Background
BNAM	BLACK NORTH AMERICAN	Any Other Black Background
BOTB	OTHER BLACK	Any Other Black Background
BOTH	ANY OTHER BLACK BACKGROUND	Any Other Black Background
OAFG	AFGHANISTANI	Any Other Ethnic Group
OARA	ARAB	Any Other Ethnic Group
OEGY	EGYPTIAN	Any Other Ethnic Group
OFIL	FILIPINO	Any Other Ethnic Group
OIRN	IRANIAN	Any Other Ethnic Group
OIRQ	IRAQI	Any Other Ethnic Group
OJPN	JAPANESE	Any Other Ethnic Group
OKOR	KOREAN	Any Other Ethnic Group
OKRD	KURDISH	Any Other Ethnic Group
OLAM	LATIN AMERICAN	Any Other Ethnic Group
OLEB	LEBANESE	Any Other Ethnic Group
OMAL	MALAY	Any Other Ethnic Group
OMRC	MOROCCAN	Any Other Ethnic Group
OOEG	OTHER ETHNIC GROUP	Any Other Ethnic Group
OOZH	ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP	Any Other Ethnic Group
OTHA	THAI	Any Other Ethnic Group
OVIE	VIETNAMESE	Any Other Ethnic Group
OYEM	YEMENI	Any Other Ethnic Group
MABL	ASIAN AND BLACK	Any Other Mixed Background
MACH	ASIAN AND CHINESE	Any Other Mixed Background
MAOE	ASIAN AND ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP	Any Other Mixed Background
MBCH	BLACK AND CHINESE	Any Other Mixed Background
MBOE	BLACK AND ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP	Any Other Mixed Background
MCOE	CHINESE AND ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP	Any Other Mixed Background
MOTH	ANY OTHER MIXED BACKGROUND	Any Other Mixed Background
MOTM	OTHER MIXED BACKGROUND	Any Other Mixed Background
MWCH	WHITE AND CHINESE	Any Other Mixed Background
MWOE	WHITE AND ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP	Any Other Mixed Background
WALB	ALBANIAN	Any Other White Background
WBOS	BOSNIAN-HERZEGOVINIAN	Any Other White Background
WCRO	CROATION	Any Other White Background
WEEU	WHITE EASTERN EUROPEAN	Any Other White Background
WEUR	WHITE EUROPEAN	Any Other White Background
WGRC	GREEK CYPRIOT	Any Other White Background
WGRE	GREEK/GREEK CYPRIOT	Any Other White Background

<b>Ethnicity codes (continue)</b>	<b>Ethnicity codes - description</b>	<b>Ethnicity Group</b>
WGRK	GREEK	Any Other White Background
WITA	ITALIAN	Any Other White Background
WKOS	KOSOVAN	Any Other White Background
WOTH	ANY OTHER WHITE BACKGROUND	Any Other White Background
WOTW	OTHER WHITE	Any Other White Background
WPOR	PORTUGESE	Any Other White Background
WSER	SERBIAN	Any Other White Background
WTUC	TURKISH CYPRIOT	Any Other White Background
WTUK	TURKISH	Any Other White Background
WTUR	TURKISH/TURKISH CYPRIOT	Any Other White Background
WWEU	WHITE WESTERN EUROPEAN	Any Other White Background
ABAN	BANGLADESHI	Bangladeshi
BCRB	CARIBBEAN	Caribbean
CHKC	HONG KONG CHINESE	Chinese
CHNE	CHINESE	Chinese
CMAL	MALAYSIAN CHINESE	Chinese
COCH	OTHER CHINESE	Chinese
CSNG	SINGAPOREAN CHINESE	Chinese
WROM	GYPSY/ROMA	Gypsy / Romany
AIND	INDIAN	Indian
WIRI	IRISH	Irish
AKPA	KASHMIRI PAKISTANI	Pakistani
AMPK	MIRPURI PAKISTANI	Pakistani
AOPK	OTHER PAKISTANI	Pakistani
APKN	PAKISTANI	Pakistani
WIRT	TRAVELLER OF IRISH HERITAGE	Traveller Of Irish Heritage
MWAI	WHITE AND INDIAN	White and Asian
MWAO	WHITE AND ANY OTHER ASIAN BACKGROUND	White and Asian
MWAP	WHITE AND PAKISTANI	White and Asian
MWAS	WHITE AND ASIAN	White and Asian
MWBA	WHITE AND BLACK AFRICAN	White and Black African
MWBC	WHITE AND BLACK CARIBBEAN	White and Black Caribbean
WBRI	BRITISH	White British
WCOR	CORNISH	White British
WENG	ENGLISH	White British
WOWB	OTHER WHITE BRITISH	White British
WSCO	SCOTTISH	White British
WWEL	WELSH	White British
REFU	REFUSED	Refused
NOBT	INFORMATION NOT OBTAINED	Information Not Obtained

## Appendix B: Subject Classifications

### Science/Maths

LEAP code	Subject Title
0008	Applied Science
0009	Applied Engineering
0010	Applied ICT
1010A	Biology
1030A	Biology: Human
1050A	Biology: Social
1110A	Chemistry
1210A	Physics
1310A	Sci: Single Award
1730A	Sci: Electronics
1750A	Sci: Environmental
1770A	Science: Geology
1830A	Psychology JMB/NEA
1920A	Sci for Public Und
2030A	Science: Other
2210B	Mathematics
2220B	Maths (Mechanics)
2230B	Mathematics (Pure)
2240B	Maths (Decision)
2250B	Mathematics (Appld)
2260B	Mathematics (Statistics)
2330B	Maths (Further)
2340B	Additional Maths
2510B	Statistics
2610C	Com.Stds/Computing
2650C	Information Tech

### English

LEAP code	Subject Title
5010I	English
5030I	English Language
5110I	English Literature
5210I	Drama
5310I	Communication Stds
5330I	Expressive Arts

### Languages

LEAP code	Subject Title
5515J	Welsh (2 <sup>nd</sup> Lang)
5630K	Dutch
5650K	French
5670K	German
5690K	Italian
5710K	Modern Greek
5730K	Portuguese
5750K	Spanish
5910K	Arabic
5930K	Bengali
5950K	Chinese
5970K	Gujarati
5990K	Hindi
6010K	Japanese
6030K	Modern Hebrew
6050K	Panjabi
6070K	Polish
6090K	Russian
6110K	Turkish
6130K	Urdu
6150K	Persian
6310K	Other Languages
6550K	Greek
6610K	Latin
6650K	Other Class. Langs

### Social Science/Humanities

LEAP code	Subject Title
0002	Applied Business
0003	Health & Social Care
0004	Leisure & Tourism
0005	Manufacturing
0006	Construction & the Built Envnt.
0007	Hospitality & Catering
0011	Management Studies
0013	Retail & Distribution
0014	Land & Environment
0016	Leisure & Recreation
0017	Travel & Tourism
0018	Applied Hairdressing
3210D	Bus. Studs: Single
3230D	Bus. Stds & Economics
3310D	Home Economics
3330D	HE: Child Devt
3390D	HE: Home & Family
3910F	Geography
3920F	World Development
4010G	History
4150H	European Studies
4410H	Economics
4430H	Economics & Business
4610H	Religious Studies
4730H	Archaeology
4770H	Law
4790H	Logic / Philosophy
4830H	Politics
4850H	Psychology
4890H	Sociology
4895H	Social Policy
4910H	Soc Sci: Citizenship
6510K	Ancient History
6530K	Class. Civilisation
7410N	Accounting/Finance
7810P	General Studies
7830P	Critical Thinking
8900D	Design & Technology
8910D	D&T Communication
8920D	D&T Design
8930D	D&T Technology
9020D	D&T Food Technology
9030D	D&T Graphic Prods
9040D	D&T Resist. Matrils
9060D	D&T Systems & Cont

Arts	LEAP code	Subject Title
0001	0001	Applied Art and Design
0012	0012	Media: Communication & Production
0015	0015	Performing Arts
3510E	3510E	Art & Design
3550E	3550E	Art & Des (Graphcs)
3570E	3570E	Art & Des (Photo.)
3650E	3650E	Art & Des (Textiles)
3670E	3670E	Art & Des (3D Stds)
3680E	3680E	Art & Des (Crit.Stds)
3690E	3690E	Art & Des - Fine Art
3810E	3810E	Art
3830E	3830E	History Of Art
5350I	5350I	Media/Film/TV Stds
5360I	5360I	Film Studies
5370I	5370I	Theatre Studies
7010L	7010L	Music
7020L	7020L	Music: Practical
7210M	7210M	Sport/P.E. Studies
7230M	7230M	Dance
7570N	7570N	Photography