Uptake of ICT and computing qualifications in schools in England 2007-2009

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The number of students taking ICT (information and communication technology) and computing related GCSE and A level qualifications has dropped in recent years, with a fall of 33% in just three years in ICT GCSE students, a fall of 33% in six years in A level ICT students and a fall of 57% in eight years in A level computing students in England[*].

However, in recent years many alternatives to GCSEs and A levels have been offered by the English awarding bodies (*e.g.* vocationally related qualifications such as the diploma in digital applications or the OCR Nationals). Some of these qualifications have become very popular among 14-19 year olds and some schools have moved away from GCSEs and A levels to take on vocational courses.

This report investigates trends in the numbers of students in England obtaining qualifications in ICT and computing (or any related subjects) at Key Stage 4 and at Key Stage 5 over the years 2007 to 2009.

Data and methods

Data for these analyses was extracted from the National Pupil Database (NPD), compiled by the Department for Education (DfE), for examination years 2007 to 2009 (academic years 2006/07 to 2008/09). Attainment data is supplied to the DfE by awarding bodies and contains individual attainment records and student-level information (*e.g.* month and year of birth, gender, school identification number) for all students in schools within England.

To investigate the uptake of ICT and computing related subjects by students' ability, a measure of the students' prior performance at school was used.

For students at Key Stage 4, ability was measured by the performance on the Key Stage 3 tests (average of the levels achieved in English, Maths and Science). The distribution of this average score was used to divide the students into three attainment groups: low, medium and high.

For students at Key Stage 5, ability was measured using the average performance at GCSE. That is, by assigning marks to the GCSE grades (A*=8, A=7, B=6, C=5, D=4, E=3, F=2, G=1, U=0) it was possible to arrive to a total GCSE score for each student. A 'mean GCSE' indicator was calculated by dividing the total score by the number of subjects attempted. If a subject had been attempted twice the highest grade was considered. The distribution of the 'mean GCSE' indicator was used to divide the students into three attainment groups: low, medium and high.

To investigate the uptake of ICT and computing related subjects by the students' level of deprivation, the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)[†], available in the NPD, was used. The distribution of this index was used to divide the students into three deprivation groups: low, medium and high.

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[*] The Royal Society. (2009). Current ICT and Computer Science in schools - damaging to UK's future economic prospects?. Available at http://royalsociety.org/.

[†] This index is the percentage of children in a small area (Local Super Output Area or LSOA) who live in families that are income deprived (in receipt of Income Support, Income based Jobseeker's Allowance, Working Families' Tax Credit or Disabled Person's Tax Credit below a given threshold). See page 19 of http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/733520.pdf for an explanation of this index.

The three categories of the attainment and the deprivation variables (low, medium and high) were created to give the most even split of students. This was achieved by calculating the 33.3 and 67.7 percentile values for each variable and classifying students accordingly.

To investigate the uptake of ICT and computing related subjects by type of school, school information was obtained from a database maintained by the OCR awarding body. This information was matched to the NPD using the national centre number of the school that the student attended. In this report schools have been categorised into seven different groups: comprehensive schools, grammar schools, independent schools, secondary modern schools, academies, colleges (sixth form, further education and tertiary) and other. For each Key Stage, the proportions of entries in each type of school are presented in Appendix A.

In this report, qualifications in ICT and computing related subjects have been classified as follows:

- GCSE Full Course in ICT
- GCSE Short Course in ICT
- GCSE Short Course in Digital Communications Studies
- Vocational GCSE Double Award in Applied ICT
- GCE A level in Computer Studies/Computing
- GCE A level in ICT
- GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing
- GCE AS level in ICT
- Applied GCE A level in ICT
- Applied GCE A level Double Award in ICT
- Applied GCE AS level in ICT
- Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT
- Functional Skill
- Key Skill
- GNVQ in Applied ICT
- NVQs
- VRQs
- DiDA
- BTEC Firsts for ICT practitioners
- BTEC Nationals for IT practitioners
- OCR Nationals in ICT
- BCS
- Other

Notes:

[1] Functional Skills and Key Skills are in computer appreciation/introduction.

[2] NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications) at levels 1 to 3 can be obtained in the following subjects: systems/network management, computer appreciation/introduction, computer hardware/firmware.

[3] VRQs (Vocationally Related Qualifications) at levels 1 to 3 can be obtained in the following subjects: computer appreciation/introduction, computer architecture/systems, systems/network management, telematics, computer help desk operations, software development, graphics software, multimedia, multimedia software, website development, word processing.

[4] BCS are qualifications awarded by The Chartered Institute for IT, formerly known as the British Computer Society.

Results

The results of the analyses carried out in this report are presented in two sections:

1. Qualifications obtained by pupils reaching the end of Key Stage 4, typically those starting the academic year aged 15 in schools in England.

2. Qualifications obtained by students aged 16-18 at the beginning of the academic year in schools and colleges in England.

For each of the two sections, tables showing the uptake of ICT and computing related qualifications by gender, by students' attainment, by students' deprivation and by school type are presented. The main findings are presented below.

Appendix B contains population estimates of 15 year-olds to 18 year-olds for the years 2007 to 2009 for England. These figures can be used to check for an increase or a decline in the population of students.

Key Stage 4

Overall entries

o Entries in GCSE ICT dropped both for the full course and for the short course in the period of study (32% and 42% respectively). There was also a fall of about 70% in just three years in the entries for the vocational GCSE in Applied ICT.

o The uptake of functional skills at levels 1 and 2 increased from 2008 to 2009 (not available in 2007) and the uptake of key skills decreased between 2007 and 2009.

o The last GNVQs were awarded in 2007. Alternatives to GNVQ qualifications in ICT and computing related subjects include applied GCSEs, BTEC diplomas and certificates, OCR Nationals and other vocationally related qualifications.

o The uptake of vocationally related qualifications at level 2 such as BTEC Firsts, OCR Nationals and qualifications in the DiDA suite has experienced a large increase from 2007 to 2009.

Entries by students' attainment

- o The uptake of GCSE in ICT was higher among the high attaining students than among the low attaining ones. On the other hand, entries for the vocational GCSE in Applied ICT were higher among the low attaining students.

- o The fall in GCSE ICT entries from 2007 to 2009 was more evident among the low attaining students (falls of 37%, 34% and 26% among low, medium and high attaining students, respectively). Entries in the vocational GCSE in Applied ICT fell equally in all the attainment groups.

- o The entries for level 1 and level 2 GNVQs and NVQs were higher among the low attaining students than among the high attaining ones. Furthermore, although the numbers were small, NVQ entries increased among the low attaining students and decreased among the medium and high attaining students in the period of study.

- o At level 1, entries for qualifications in the DiDA suite were higher among the low attaining studies than among the medium and high attaining students. On the contrary, at level 2, entries for these qualifications were higher among the medium and high attainers.

- o Entries for BTEC qualifications and OCR Nationals at level 2 decreased with attainment and were much lower in the low ability group than in the high ability group.

- o At level 2, the uptake of VRQs, qualifications in the DiDA suite, BTECs and OCR Nationals increased similarly in all attainment groups in the three years of study. The exception was the uptake of the OCR National Certificate in ICT, which experienced a much higher increase among the high attaining students.

- o Qualifications offered by the Chartered Institute for IT were slightly favoured by the low attaining students.

Entries by students' level of deprivation

- o The uptake of GCSE in ICT was higher among the low deprived students than among the highly deprived ones. The uptake of the vocational GCSE in Applied ICT followed the opposite pattern.

- o Qualifications in the DiDA suite were slightly favoured by students with medium or high levels of deprivation. At level 1, entries for the DiDA qualifications decreased slightly from 2007 to 2009, particularly for low deprived students.

- o The uptake of VRQs was higher among the low deprived students than among the highly deprived ones. However, the entries for these qualifications at level 2 increased in the period of study among the medium and highly deprived students.

- o The entries for the BTEC First Certificate experienced a bigger increase among the low deprived students than among the highly deprived ones. On the other hand, for the BTEC First Diploma and for the OCR Nationals the opposite was found.

Entries by school type

- o BTEC Firsts, OCR Nationals and qualifications in the DiDA suite were mainly taken in comprehensive and secondary modern schools and in academies.

- o From 2007 to 2009, the decrease in the uptake of GCSE in ICT was bigger in comprehensive and secondary modern schools than in grammar or independent schools. However, the uptake of those qualifications slightly increased in

- From 2007 to 2009 and at level 2, the qualifications in the DiDA suite experienced a large increase in grammar and independent schools and a much smaller increase in comprehensive schools.
- The biggest increase in the entries for VRQs took place in academies, secondary modern schools and comprehensive schools. There was hardly any increase in the entries for these qualifications in independent schools.

Key Stage 5

Overall entries

- From 2007 to 2009 entries in A level and AS level in ICT fell 16% and 9% respectively. The entries for the applied A level and the applied AS level in this subject increased slightly in the same period.
- In the period of study, entries for A level and AS level qualifications in computing or computer studies also experienced a decline (15% and %13 respectively).
- Entries for NVQs and VRQs at level 3 increased in the period of study. In particular, entries for BTEC Nationals experienced a 50% increase from 2007 to 2009.

Entries by students' attainment

- Entries for A level and AS level in ICT were higher among the low and medium attaining students than among the high attaining ones. On the contrary, entries for these qualifications in computing or computer studies were higher among the high attaining students.
- The uptake of applied A level and applied AS level qualifications in ICT was higher among the low attaining students.
- The decrease over time in the uptake of A level and AS level in both ICT and computer studies/computing was more pronounced among the low and medium attaining students than among the high attainers. The same pattern was found for the applied A level in ICT.
- The entries for NVQs and VRQs at level 3, including BTEC Nationals, were much higher among the low attaining students than among the medium or high attaining ones.
- From 2007 to 2009 the increases in the uptake of NVQs and VRQs occurred mainly among the low attaining students.
- For the entries in the BTEC National Award, bigger increases were experienced among the low attainers than among the medium or high attainers. However, entries for the BTEC National Certificate experienced bigger increases among the high attainers.

Entries by students' level of deprivation

The National Pupil Database provides the IDACI index for students in maintained schools (sourced from the School Census for maintained schools only). Students studying at sixth form colleges or further education colleges are not covered by the School Census. At Key Stage 5, and in each of the three years considered in this report, around 50% of the students did not have a value for this index. Therefore, entries in ICT and computing related subjects by students' level of deprivation were not calculated.

Entries by school type

- o From 2007 to 2009, entries for A level and AS level qualifications in ICT and computing or computer studies suffered a bigger decrease in secondary modern schools than in any other type of schools. Furthermore, entries in grammar and independent schools experienced a bigger decrease than entries in comprehensive schools. On the other hand, entries for these qualifications increased in academies over the period of study.

- o The uptake of VRQs at level 3 increased in comprehensive schools and in colleges from 2007 to 2009 and decreased in other types of schools, particularly in independent and grammar schools.

- o Entries for the BTEC National Award increased in all types of schools but academies; entries for BTEC National Certificate increased in all types of schools; and entries for BTEC National Diploma experienced a decline in colleges but increased in all other types of schools.

Key Stage 4

The figures shown in the following tables are based on pupils reaching the end of Key Stage 4, typically those starting the academic year aged 15 in schools in England.

Overall results

Level	Qualification	Entries		
		2007	**2008**	**2009**
Entry	Functional Skill		19	209
	Other[‡]	6693	7296	8792
1	Functional Skill		631	1737
	Key Skill	3158	2656	1895
	GNVQ in Applied ICT	918		
	NVQs	51	45	48
	VRQs	4428	4179	3919
	Award in digital applications	17859	-	11385
	Certificate in digital applications	4446	-	2913
	Diploma in digital applications	313	-	157
	Extended certificate in digital applications	147	-	259
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	29507[§]	-
	OCR National First Award in ICT			193
	OCR National Award in ICT			5
	BCS	3907	3775	3058
	Other	11	69	

[‡] Entry level qualifications can be obtained in the following subjects: computer appreciation/introduction, ICT skills for life, ICT

[§] In 2008, the data for the qualifications in the DiDA suite (award, certificate, extended certificate and diploma) was not available separately. Therefore, figures for these qualifications at level 1 and at level 2 are presented in an aggregated form.

Overall results (continued)

Level	Qualification	Entries		
		2007	**2008**	**2009**
1 / 2	GCSE Full Course in ICT	78414	65211	53082
	GCSE Short Course in ICT	77870	64019	45158
	GCSE Short Course in Digital Communications Studies		53	251
	Vocational GCSE Double Award in Applied ICT	26470	14481	7856
2	Functional Skill		944	5613
	Key Skill	6320	5835	3711
	GNVQ in Applied ICT	48703		
	NVQs	35	50	35
	VRQs	2310	3908	3819
	Award in digital applications	38440	-	42427
	Certificate in digital applications	23501	-	28810
	Diploma in digital applications	4579	-	4397
	Extended certificate in digital applications	2254	-	6916
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications[6]	-	114228	-
	BTEC First Certificate for ICT practitioners	512	5620	8953
	BTEC First Diploma for ICT practitioners	881	4054	5033
	OCR National First Award in ICT	3910	32125	62530
	OCR National Award in ICT	1050	15984	34360
	OCR National First Certificate in ICT	36	5062	9760
	OCR National Certificate in ICT	26	7477	11431
	BCS	5184	7453	5580
	Other	148	193	160
3	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	95	105	267
	GCE AS level in ICT	502	534	687
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	306	422	504
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	4	1	4
All levels		363481	395935	375910

Results by gender

Level	Qualification	2007		2008		2009	
		Female	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**
Entry	Functional Skill			10	9	71	138
	Other	2546	4147	2681	4615	3136	5656
1	Functional Skill			308	323	766	971
	Key Skill	1598	1560	1336	1320	855	1040
	GNVQ in Applied ICT	320	598				
	NVQs	22	29	18	27	12	36
	VRQs	2318	2110	2150	2029	1776	2143
	Award in digital applications	7719	10140	-	-	4835	6550
	Certificate in digital applications	1506	2940	-	-	1011	1902
	Diploma in digital applications	94	219	-	-	43	114
	Extended certificate in digital applications	39	108	-	-	75	184
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	-	11952	17555	-	-
	OCR National First Award in ICT					78	115
	OCR National Award in ICT					1	4
	BCS	2048	1859	1735	2040	1564	1494
	Other	1	10	33	36		
1 / 2	GCSE Full Course in ICT	35116	43298	29093	36118	23675	29407
	GCSE Short Course in ICT	42326	35544	35765	28254	25026	20132
	GCSE Short Course in Digital Communications Studies			22	31	120	131
	Vocational GCSE Double Award in Applied ICT	10820	15650	6001	8480	3477	4379

Results by gender (continued)

Level	Qualification	2007		2008		2009	
		Female	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**
2	Functional Skill			468	476	2617	2996
	Key Skill	3523	2797	3212	2623	2002	1709
	GNVQ in Applied ICT	20947	27756				
	NVQs	19	16	17	33	8	27
	VRQs	898	1412	1742	2168	1526	2299
	Award in digital applications	18099	20341	-	-	19987	22440
	Certificate in digital applications	9715	13786	-	-	12480	16330
	Diploma in digital applications	1748	2831	-	-	1495	2902
	Extended certificate in digital applications	863	1391	-	-	2515	4401
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	-	50026	64202	-	-
	BTEC First Certificate for ICT practitioners	189	323	2462	3158	3813	5140
	BTEC First Diploma for ICT practitioners	330	551	1686	2368	2102	2931
	OCR National First Award in ICT	1893	2017	15432	16693	31290	31240
	OCR National Award in ICT	475	575	7038	8946	15478	18882
	OCR National First Certificate in ICT	8	28	2249	2813	4423	5337
	OCR National Certificate in ICT	8	18	3283	4194	4867	6564
	BCS	2510	2674	3598	3853	2905	2669
	Other	73	75	102	91	63	97
3	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	20	75	19	86	117	150
	GCE AS level in ICT	247	255	209	325	274	413
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	131	175	210	212	209	295
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT		4		1	1	3
All levels		168169	195312	178842	204567	173104	196708

Results by students' attainment

Level	Qualification	2007			2008			2009		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Entry	Functional Skill				19			195	7	7
	Other	5825	549	319	6473	574	249	8027	511	254
1	Functional Skill				362	185	84	1111	411	215
	Key Skill	1700	863	595	1721	669	266	1430	343	122
	GNVQ in Applied ICT	784	112	22						
	NVQs	37	12	2	37	7	1	37	9	2
	VRQs	2317	977	1134	2582	915	682	2505	718	696
	Award in digital applications	10260	5158	2441	-	-	-	7067	2935	1383
	Certificate in digital applications	2529	1365	552	-	-	-	1867	776	270
	Diploma in digital applications	212	71	30	-	-	-	118	27	12
	Extended certificate in digital applications	86	39	22	-	-	-	194	54	11
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	-	-	16972	8603	3932	-	-	-
	OCR National First Award in ICT							175	15	3
	OCR National Award in ICT							5		
	BCS	1530	1083	1294	1563	1004	1208	1213	863	982
	Other	9	2		46	19	4			
1 / 2	GCSE Full Course in ICT	26858	24035	27521	21425	19852	23934	16851	15917	20314
	GCSE Short Course in ICT	28432	23517	25921	22721	19023	22275	15642	12870	16646
	GCSE Short Course in Digital Communications Studies				21	13	19	110	77	64
	Vocational GCSE Double Award in Applied ICT	9252	8815	8403	5045	4960	4476	2753	2576	2527

Results by students' attainment (continued)

Level	Qualification	2007			2008			2009		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
2	Functional Skill				276	322	346	1892	1881	1840
	Key Skill	1632	1952	2736	1522	1901	2412	1187	1190	1334
	GNVQ in Applied ICT	19029	16738	12936						
	NVQs	21	10	4	39	6	5	28	5	2
	VRQs	756	571	983	1399	1064	1447	1209	1115	1501
	Award in digital applications	11134	13795	13511	-	-	-	13061	14455	14911
	Certificate in digital applications	6390	8685	8426	-	-	-	8186	10053	10571
	Diploma in digital applications	1244	1738	1597	-	-	-	1415	1583	1399
	Extended certificate in digital applications	656	862	736	-	-	-	2131	2466	2319
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	-	-	32057	40257	41914	-	-	-
	BTEC First Certificate for ICT practitioners	316	124	72	2481	1855	1284	3793	2886	2274
	BTEC First Diploma for ICT practitioners	360	291	230	1654	1459	941	2074	1823	1136
	OCR National First Award in ICT	1461	1279	1170	12796	10583	8746	25315	20156	17059
	OCR National Award in ICT	369	394	287	5917	5546	4521	12905	11918	9537
	OCR National First Certificate in ICT	13	13	10	1799	1762	1501	3624	3310	2826
	OCR National Certificate in ICT	11	12	3	2969	2528	1980	4342	4174	2915
	BCS	1805	1698	1681	2665	2376	2410	2089	1824	1661
	Other	65	54	29	30	65	98	22	51	87
3	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	21	4	70	14	4	87	29	15	223
	GCE AS level in ICT	141	86	275	87	64	383	123	104	460
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	77	99	130	62	139	221	97	173	234
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	3	1			1		3	1	
All levels		128090	106189	104739	141696	120782	120931	141968	114638	113206

Results by students' level of deprivation

Level	Qualification	2007			2008			2009		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Entry	Functional Skill				10	6	3	127	27	55
	Other	2096	1821	2776	2153	1883	3260	2560	2214	4018
1	Functional Skill				202	222	207	501	492	744
	Key Skill	1465	893	800	1135	746	775	1059	354	482
	GNVQ in Applied ICT	200	265	453						
	NVQs	18	16	17	30	10	5	20	19	9
	VRQs	2324	1088	1016	1683	1158	1338	1938	980	1001
	Award in digital applications	4525	6225	7109	-	-	-	2217	3909	5259
	Certificate in digital applications	1049	1437	1960	-	-	-	643	998	1272
	Diploma in digital applications	107	87	119	-	-	-	59	48	50
	Extended certificate in digital applications	38	49	60	-	-	-	53	80	126
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	-	-	5931	10503	13073	-	-	-
	OCR National First Award in ICT							13	68	112
	OCR National Award in ICT							3		2
	BCS	1991	991	925	1660	1083	1032	1426	934	698
	Other	2	3	6	9	23	37			
1 / 2	GCSE Full Course in ICT	31975	25107	21332	23784	23042	18385	21015	18658	13409
	GCSE Short Course in ICT	33918	25469	18483	23200	23370	17449	17506	16265	11387
	GCSE Short Course in Digital Communications Studies				13	20	20	36	44	171
	Vocational GCSE Double Award in Applied ICT	8275	9050	9145	3592	4969	5920	1981	2628	3247

Results by students' level of deprivation (continued)

Level	Qualification	2007			2008			2009		
		Low	**Medium**	**High**	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
2	Functional Skill				194	331	419	1284	1926	2403
	Key Skill	2953	2015	1352	1954	2190	1691	1454	1328	929
	GNVQ in Applied ICT	11505	16213	20985						
	NVQs	9	9	17	16	11	23	26	5	4
	VRQs	1170	561	579	1457	1172	1281	1342	1201	1282
	Award in digital applications	13246	13777	11417	-	-	-	12297	15711	14419
	Certificate in digital applications	7211	8222	8068	-	-	-	7710	10233	10867
	Diploma in digital applications	1159	1538	1882	-	-	-	984	1387	2026
	Extended certificate in digital applications	558	760	936	-	-	-	1619	2380	2917
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	-	-	31273	41307	41648	-	-	-
	BTEC First Certificate for ICT practitioners	43	133	336	743	1693	3184	1646	2980	4327
	BTEC First Diploma for ICT practitioners	318	174	389	723	974	2357	910	1260	2863
	OCR National First Award in ICT	1081	1245	1584	7324	11973	12828	14491	22801	25238
	OCR National Award in ICT	205	481	364	3149	5518	7317	7424	12327	14609
	OCR National First Certificate in ICT	13	15	8	795	1596	2671	1900	3489	4371
	OCR National Certificate in ICT	14	8	4	1170	2454	3853	1739	3531	6161
	BCS	1993	1442	1749	2302	2479	2670	1744	1761	2069
	Other	17	49	82	23	93	77	9	74	77
3	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	63	28	4	53	27	25	132	92	43
	GCE AS level in ICT	302	152	48	250	175	109	344	232	111
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	137	96	73	127	148	147	158	193	153
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	4			1			2	2	
All levels		123716	110369	104933	113358	134187	135864	108362	127957	133493

Results by school type

Level	Qualification	2007						
		Comprehensive	Grammar	Independent	Secondary Modern	Academy	College	Other
Entry	Functional Skill							
	Other	2184		58	81	7	129	3842
1	Functional Skill							
	Key Skill	1996		7	36	12	72	198
	GNVQ in Applied ICT	741			26	40	42	57
	NVQs	25						13
	VRQs	2908	1	517	111	10	28	271
	Award in digital applications	16346	22	18	869	213	33	318
	Certificate in digital applications	4002		2	120	58	23	236
	Diploma in digital applications	257			8		43	5
	Extended certificate in digital applications	126			12		8	1
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	OCR National First Award in ICT							
	OCR National Award in ICT							
	BCS	2822	154	575	31	31	21	130
	Other	2						2
1 / 2	GCSE Full Course in ICT	61445	4877	5867	4308	486	99	1269
	GCSE Short Course in ICT	63912	4540	4000	2186	536	102	2499
	GCSE Short Course in Digital Communications Studies							
	Vocational GCSE Double Award in Applied ICT	23046	572	253	1347	611	29	600
2	Functional Skill							
	Key Skill	5271	338	171	51	48	79	110
	GNVQ in Applied ICT	42799	195	285	2878	839	15	1678
	NVQs	17						
	VRQs	1540	265	249	83	11	11	44
	Award in digital applications	34474	224	171	2349	374	13	819
	Certificate in digital applications	21450	41	35	985	341	15	628
	Diploma in digital applications	3984		1	335	68	13	174
	Extended certificate in digital applications	1980			172	78	1	23
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	BTEC First Certificate for ICT practitioners	462					26	5
	BTEC First Diploma for ICT practitioners	720						18
	OCR National First Award in ICT	3518	83		54	126	2	107
	OCR National Award in ICT	1007		4		10		2
	OCR National First Certificate in ICT	32				1		
	OCR National Certificate in ICT	16			1			
	BCS	4430	23	361	94	86	22	84
	Other	144						
3	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	62	18	2			13	
	GCE AS level in ICT	287	92	101		7	12	3
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	271	3	6	1		6	18
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	2					2	
All		302278	11448	12683	16138	4019	838	13149

Level	Qualification	2008						
		Comprehensive	Grammar	Independent	Secondary Modern	Academy	College	Other
Entry	Functional Skill	1			1			11
	Other	2217	0	137	69	7	101	4008
1	Functional Skill	550		1			19	28
	Key Skill	1591		13	25	32	53	78
	GNVQ in Applied ICT							
	NVQs	16						
	VRQs	2776		525	45	30	22	266
	Award in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Certificate in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Diploma in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Extended certificate in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	27047	159	134	1160	496	25	323
	OCR National First Award in ICT							
	OCR National Award in ICT							
	BCS	2672	166	618	146	39	5	32
	Other	64			5			
1 / 2	GCSE Full Course in ICT	50397	4027	5424	3840	557	90	805
	GCSE Short Course in ICT	52401	4125	3553	1505	397	110	1699
	GCSE Short Course in Digital Communications Studies	52				1		
	Vocational GCSE Double Award in Applied ICT	12470	451	211	559	488	25	260
2	Functional Skill	764	4	1	5	80	9	73
	Key Skill	5186	119	110	3	48	80	109
	GNVQ in Applied ICT							
	NVQs	31		1				
	VRQs	2697	390	437	190	27	16	64
	Award in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Certificate in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Diploma in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Extended certificate in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	101226	1145	1033	6738	2478	9	1363
	BTEC First Certificate for ICT practitioners	4926			274	147	17	200
	BTEC First Diploma for ICT practitioners	3732			55	21	15	53
	OCR National First Award in ICT	28355	207	75	1633	1041	8	629
	OCR National Award in ICT	13961	8	87	972	415	3	403
	OCR National First Certificate in ICT	4313		10	314	260		130
	OCR National Certificate in ICT	6402	12	1	474	261	2	270
	BCS	6103	294	416	347	135	9	42
	Other	191			1			1
3	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	23	67	3			12	
	GCE AS level in ICT	241	239	42	1		9	2
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	350	26	4		38	2	1
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT						1	
All		330755	11439	12836	18362	6998	641	10850

Level	Qualification	2009						
		Comprehensive	Grammar	Independent	Secondary Modern	Academy	College	Other
Entry	Functional Skill	29					22	70
	Other	2308		128	57	60	201	5284
1	Functional Skill	1237	27	1	68	27	87	169
	Key Skill	790		4	4	9	68	76
	GNVQ in Applied ICT							
	NVQs	19						2
	VRQs	2227		547	100	57	38	290
	Award in digital applications	10268		41	583	357	6	89
	Certificate in digital applications	2611		28	179	42	4	40
	Diploma in digital applications	108			4	14	23	8
	Extended certificate in digital applications	228			16	1	4	10
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	OCR National First Award in ICT	143						50
	OCR National Award in ICT	1			1			
	BCS	2171	74	487	111	43	9	34
	Other							
1 / 2	GCSE Full Course in ICT	40444	3899	5099	2551	656	115	255
	GCSE Short Course in ICT	35304	3887	3116	1033	394	104	1193
	GCSE Short Course in Digital Communications Studies	237						2
	Vocational GCSE Double Award in Applied ICT	6721	117	289	317	305	29	65
2	Functional Skill	4902	165	4	272	176	13	22
	Key Skill	3284		119		4	56	44
	GNVQ in Applied ICT							
	NVQs	11						
	VRQs	2741	415	251	182	81	6	50
	Award in digital applications	38229	853	350	1295	1601	14	44
	Certificate in digital applications	25285	394	114	1424	1552	25	4
	Diploma in digital applications	3684	30	45	304	306	24	2
	Extended certificate in digital applications	5658	137	23	343	731	15	4
	Award/Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma in digital applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	BTEC First Certificate for ICT practitioners	7566			610	481	14	123
	BTEC First Diploma for ICT practitioners	4314			191	138	21	29
	OCR National First Award in ICT	56057	379	168	2897	2258	6	298
	OCR National Award in ICT	30016	102	170	2245	1497	2	75
	OCR National First Certificate in ICT	8388	16	26	597	582		29
	OCR National Certificate in ICT	9794	18	13	782	517	2	166
	BCS	4569	105	401	289	35	10	29
	Other	159						
3	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	65	182	9			11	
	GCE AS level in ICT	322	285	63		1	14	2
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	436	10	3	4	44	5	
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	3					1	
All		310326	11095	11499	16459	11969	948	8558

Key Stage 5

The figures shown in the following tables are based on pupils aged 16-18 at the beginning of the academic year in schools and colleges in England.

Overall results

Level	Qualification	Entries		
		2007	**2008**	**2009**
1	VRQs		15	
	Award in digital applications		1	
2	NVQs	5	1	14
	VRQs		20	
	Extended certificate in digital applications	5		
3	GCE A level in Computer Studies/Computing	4683	4203	3993
	GCE A level in ICT	10968	9726	9208
	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	7657	6828	6644
	GCE AS level in ICT	16848	15543	15291
	Applied GCE A level in ICT	10083	11583	11641
	Applied GCE A level Double Award in ICT	2491	2191	1545
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	14795	15405	15928
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	2780	1935	1455
	Applied GCE A level / AS level combined in ICT		8	4
	Key Skill	4460	4537	4411
	NVQs	31	799	1105
	VRQs	751	1705	2092
	BTEC National Award for IT practitioners	990	1339	2860
	BTEC National Certificate for IT practitioners	1059	1143	1842
	BTEC National Diploma for IT practitioners	3856	4023	4097
	OCR National Certificate in ICT			33
	OCR National Diploma in ICT			8
	Other		3	32
All levels		81462	81008	82203

Results by gender

Level	Qualification	2007		2008		2009	
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
1	VRQs			5	10		
	Award in digital applications			1			
2	NVQs		5		1	2	12
	VRQs			2	18		
	Extended certificate in digital applications	3	2				
3	GCE A level in Computer Studies/Computing	386	4297	315	3888	294	3699
	GCE A level in ICT	4007	6961	3574	6152	3411	5797
	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	726	6931	620	6208	556	6088
	GCE AS level in ICT	6194	10654	5722	9821	5398	9893
	Applied GCE A level in ICT	3842	6241	4360	7223	4468	7173
	Applied GCE A level Double Award in ICT	528	1963	439	1752	305	1240
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	5522	9273	5664	9741	5873	10055
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	550	2230	398	1537	267	1188
	Applied GCE A level / AS level combined in ICT			1	7	1	3
	Key Skill	2486	1974	2567	1970	2450	1961
	NVQs	3	28	117	682	135	970
	VRQs	393	358	648	1057	665	1427
	BTEC National Award for IT practitioners	197	793	283	1056	619	2241
	BTEC National Certificate for IT practitioners	153	906	176	967	232	1610
	BTEC National Diploma for IT practitioners	508	3348	530	3493	505	3592
	OCR National Certificate in ICT					6	27
	OCR National Diploma in ICT					1	7
	Other				3	4	28
All levels		25498	55964	25422	55586	25192	57011

Results by students' attainment

Level	Qualification	2007			2008			2009		
		Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
1	VRQs				9	4	2			
	Award in digital applications				1					
2	NVQs	4	1		1			7	5	2
	VRQs				17	3				
	Extended certificate in digital applications	3	2							
3	GCE A level in Computer Studies/Computing	879	1934	1870	720	1719	1764	677	1635	1681
	GCE A level in ICT	3239	5065	2664	2826	4389	2511	2713	4138	2357
	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	2169	3060	2428	1855	2726	2247	1655	2767	2222
	GCE AS level in ICT	6578	6922	3348	6185	6277	3081	5878	6317	3096
	Applied GCE A level in ICT	4491	4145	1447	5308	4534	1741	5114	4676	1851
	Applied GCE A level Double Award in ICT	1802	551	138	1619	459	113	1025	411	109
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	7464	5458	1873	7695	5589	2121	8058	5813	2057
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	2152	517	111	1425	415	95	1015	353	87
	Applied GCE A level / AS level combined in ICT				3	5		4		
	Key Skill	914	1372	2174	879	1485	2173	808	1411	2192
	NVQs	19	10	2	669	112	18	910	164	31
	VRQs	384	199	168	1174	331	200	1474	468	150
	BTEC National Award for IT practitioners	780	157	53	1035	245	59	2332	444	84
	BTEC National Certificate for IT practitioners	949	101	9	1000	124	19	1618	195	29
	BTEC National Diploma for IT practitioners	3082	666	108	3280	657	86	3353	662	82
	OCR National Certificate in ICT							19	11	3
	OCR National Diploma in ICT							7		1
	Other					1	2	3	6	23
All levels		34909	30160	16393	35701	29075	16232	36670	29476	16057

Results by school type

Level	Qualification	2007						
		Comprehensive	Grammar	Independent	Secondary Modern	Academy	College	Other
1	VRQs							
	Award in digital applications							
2	NVQs				1		2	
	VRQs							
	Extended certificate in digital applications	4					1	
3	GCE A level in Computer Studies/Computing	1317	488	285	16	21	2488	66
	GCE A level in ICT	4770	849	905	117	53	3996	269
	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	2024	600	323	23	8	4549	124
	GCE AS level in ICT	6746	1068	992	123	33	7446	424
	Applied GCE A level in ICT	6869	174	254	526	157	1937	160
	Applied GCE A level Double Award in ICT	893	9		89	26	1410	63
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	9701	267	174	558	143	3641	248
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	912		7	96	26	1628	111
	Applied GCE A level / AS level combined in ICT							
	Key Skill	457	18	139	36	21	3401	6
	NVQs				2		2	1
	VRQs	27	4	20			266	9
	BTEC National Award for IT practitioners	152			5	31	91	9
	BTEC National Certificate for IT practitioners	61		1	12	8	103	10
	BTEC National Diploma for IT practitioners	8					177	26
	OCR National Certificate in ICT							
	OCR National Diploma in ICT							
	Other							
All levels		33941	3477	3100	1604	527	31138	1526

Level	Qualification	2008						
		Comprehensive	Grammar	Independent	Secondary Modern	Academy	College	Other
1	VRQs	6					5	1
	Award in digital applications							
2	NVQs							
	VRQs	2					1	1
	Extended certificate in digital applications							
3	GCE A level in Computer Studies/Computing	1165	451	237	22	32	2242	53
	GCE A level in ICT	4215	771	785	93	92	3566	197
	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	2015	401	216	15	35	4052	87
	GCE AS level in ICT	6562	877	810	89	140	6751	286
	Applied GCE A level in ICT	7683	221	307	522	345	2336	160
	Applied GCE A level Double Award in ICT	826	16	2	69	26	1197	54
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	10218	371	151	683	176	3597	163
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	683		2	65	7	1108	68
	Applied GCE A level / AS level combined in ICT	5					3	
	Key Skill	282	37	75	1		3741	10
	NVQs	8			1	1	4	
	VRQs	64	10	31	9	4	346	10
	BTEC National Award for IT practitioners	271		1	32	31	186	8
	BTEC National Certificate for IT practitioners	111		1	7	15	122	2
	BTEC National Diploma for IT practitioners	34		2	5	2	161	9
	OCR National Certificate in ICT							
	OCR National Diploma in ICT							
	Other		1					
All levels		34150	3156	2620	1613	906	29418	1109

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Level	Qualification	2009						
		Comprehensive	Grammar	Independent	Secondary Modern	Academy	College	Other
1	VRQs							
	Award in digital applications							
2	NVQs	1		1			3	
	VRQs							
	Extended certificate in digital applications							
3	GCE A level in Computer Studies/Computing	1210	366	210	7	29	2122	48
	GCE A level in ICT	4083	743	744	71	121	3282	151
	GCE AS level in Computer Studies/Computing	1928	439	235	14	46	3893	80
	GCE AS level in ICT	6477	900	757	167	200	6423	331
	Applied GCE A level in ICT	7654	275	301	594	465	2230	102
	Applied GCE A level Double Award in ICT	679	14		57	49	727	18
	Applied GCE AS level in ICT	10085	427	183	778	375	3837	140
	Applied GCE AS level Double Award in ICT	678		3	25	16	724	7
	Applied GCE A level / AS level combined in ICT	3				1		
	Key Skill	227	30	12			3702	19
	NVQs	15					10	
	VRQs	115	1	9	10	21	273	3
	BTEC National Award for IT practitioners	582	2	4	43	19	242	7
	BTEC National Certificate for IT practitioners	153		4	19	22	198	3
	BTEC National Diploma for IT practitioners	37	2		11	10	139	2
	OCR National Certificate in ICT	18	1			6	3	
	OCR National Diploma in ICT							
	Other	1	18	2				
All levels		33946	3218	2465	1796	1380	27808	911

Appendix A

These tables present, for each Key Stage, the proportions of entries in each type of school in the three years of study.

Key Stage 4

Year	School type						
	Comprehensive	Grammar	Independent	Secondary Modern	Academy	College	Other
2007	80.45	4.14	7.08	4.07	0.90	0.21	1.27
2008	81.11	4.06	6.49	4.11	1.65	0.19	1.17
2009	80.87	4.02	6.11	4.16	2.99	0.21	1.53

Key Stage 5

Year	School type						
	Comprehensive	Grammar	Independent	Secondary Modern	Academy	College	Other
2007	42.35	8.35	10.06	1.31	0.32	36.09	0.92
2008	42.99	8.09	9.41	1.36	0.59	36.25	0.97
2009	43.87	7.90	8.76	1.57	1.15	35.76	0.97

Appendix B

The following table presents, from 2007 to 2009, the mid-year population estimates for England (estimated resident population) by age[**].

Year	Age			
	15	16	17	18
2007	656400	671700	666800	669800
2008	636000	660800	677000	674900
2009	628700	640900	666900	686400