

Age distribution of GCSE candidates in England 2011

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Introduction

This report is an update of Statistics Report No. 20 (Gill, 2010), which investigated the age distributions of candidates taking GCSEs in 2000, 2004 and 2009. The present report repeats this analysis for 2011.

This report presents the distribution of GCSE entries and candidates by age for June 2011. The results are then broken down by what are considered to be important factors, such as school type and subject. Finally, the most popular subjects taken by candidates of different ages are shown.

Data

The data for this report comes from the National Candidate Results Archive, which consists of all GCSE entries in a particular exam session from all exam boards in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Data on the examination centre (usually a school) where the candidate is registered is also collected, along with the gender and date of birth of the candidate.

The results archive only lists the syllabus code of each exam, not the subject taken. In order to find the subject the data was matched with the National Pupil Database (NPD), which records all exams taken in England only. This means that only exams taken in English schools are included in the analysis. It also means a small amount of data was lost where the syllabus code did not match a subject in the NPD.

It should be noted that an increasing number of candidates in year 11 (i.e. aged 16) take GCSEs in the January exam session (in particular in maths and English). However, as the data analysed here is from the June exam session only these candidates are not included.

A degree of caution about the date of birth information is needed since it is possible that mistakes are made in data entry. Thus, for this report, ages where there were few candidates and entries were grouped together, creating the following categories: 10 or younger, 11-13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20-24, 24-55 and 55 and older. It should also be noted that the age refers to the age of the candidate at the end of the 2010/11 academic year (31st August 2011).

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

Results

Table 1 presents the number, percentage and cumulative percentage of GCSE entries in June 2011 by age group. Table 2 presents the same data on GCSE candidates. This analysis is broken down by gender in Appendix A.

Table 1: Entries by age band

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	68	0.0	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	3,659	0.1	0.1
<i>14</i>	57,625	1.2	1.3
<i>15</i>	311,894	6.5	7.8
<i>16</i>	4,217,163	88.2	96.0
<i>17</i>	104,326	2.2	98.2
<i>18</i>	32,149	0.7	98.9
<i>19</i>	14,594	0.3	99.2
<i>20-24</i>	13,711	0.3	99.5
<i>25-54</i>	24,424	0.5	100.0
<i>55 or older</i>	1,130	0.0	100.0

The vast majority of candidates and entries were from 16 year-olds. The percentage of *entries* by 16 year-olds was much higher (88.2%) than the percentage of 16 year-old *candidates* (61%). The next highest number of entries and candidates were 15 year-olds (6.5% of entries and 21.1% of candidates) and 17 year-olds (2.2% of entries and 5.7% of candidates).

Table 2: Candidates by age band

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	65	<0.1	<0.1
<i>11-13</i>	3,577	0.4	0.4
<i>14</i>	49,904	5.0	5.4
<i>15</i>	210,978	21.1	26.5
<i>16</i>	609,855	61.0	87.4
<i>17</i>	56,485	5.7	93.1
<i>18</i>	25,006	2.5	95.6
<i>19</i>	11,429	1.1	96.7
<i>20-24</i>	10,918	1.1	97.8
<i>25-54</i>	20,655	2.1	99.9
<i>55 or older</i>	1,058	0.1	100.00

The difference in the percentages of entries and the percentages of candidates in each age band can be explained by the number of GCSEs taken. Clearly, 16 year-olds take the highest number on average. Table 3 presents the mean number of GCSEs taken in each year by candidates in each age band, broken down by gender.

Candidates aged 16 had by far the largest number of entries, with females taking 7.2 and males 6.8 on average. Candidates aged 17 had the next highest mean number of entries (1.8 for females and 1.9 for males).

Table 3: Mean number of entries by age band

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>All</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	1.1	1.0	1.0
<i>11-13</i>	1.0	1.0	1.0
<i>14</i>	1.2	1.2	1.2
<i>15</i>	1.5	1.5	1.5
<i>16</i>	7.2	6.8	7.0
<i>17</i>	1.8	1.9	1.9
<i>18</i>	1.3	1.3	1.3
<i>19</i>	1.3	1.3	1.3
<i>20-24</i>	1.2	1.3	1.3
<i>25-54</i>	1.2	1.2	1.2
<i>55 or older</i>	1.1	1.1	1.1

School type

It is clear that the type of school can influence the pattern of early entries. For this reason, the data has also been analysed by school type. Obviously, adult learners do not attend some types of schools as pupils (but they can be recorded as entering examinations at a school e.g. by taking evening classes).

In the following tables the entries by age band and school type are presented, along with the mean number of entries per candidate.

Table 4: Entries by age (Comprehensive Schools)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Mean No of entries</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	21	0.0	1.0
<i>11-13</i>	1,989	0.1	1.0
<i>14</i>	40,751	1.3	1.2
<i>15</i>	201,842	6.4	1.4
<i>16</i>	2,852,840	90.6	7.0
<i>17</i>	37,238	1.2	1.9
<i>18</i>	7,734	0.2	1.2
<i>19</i>	2,019	0.1	1.2
<i>20-24</i>	967	0.0	1.1
<i>25-54</i>	2,827	0.1	1.1
<i>55 or older</i>	159	0.0	1.1

As expected, in comprehensives the vast majority of entries were by candidates aged 16 (90.6%), followed by 15 year-olds (6.4%) and 14 year-olds (1.3%).

Similarly, almost all entries in academy schools (Table 5) were by candidates aged 16. However, a slightly larger percentage of entries were by those aged 15 (8.2%) than in comprehensives.

Table 5: Entries by age (City Academies)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Mean No of entries</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	4	<0.1	1.0
<i>11-13</i>	633	0.1	1.0
<i>14</i>	10,219	1.3	1.2
<i>15</i>	63,031	8.2	1.5
<i>16</i>	682,550	88.6	7.0
<i>17</i>	9,402	1.2	1.7
<i>18</i>	2,593	0.3	1.2
<i>19</i>	748	0.1	1.3
<i>20-24</i>	296	0.0	1.2
<i>25-54</i>	720	0.1	1.1
<i>55 or older</i>	53	0.0	1.1

Table 6: Entries by age (Grammar Schools)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Mean No of entries</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	0	0.0	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	65	<0.1	1.0
<i>14</i>	713	0.5	1.0
<i>15</i>	10,083	6.7	2.2
<i>16</i>	138,464	92.2	9.4
<i>17</i>	580	0.4	2.2
<i>18</i>	99	0.1	1.1
<i>19</i>	12	0.0	1.1
<i>20-24</i>	25	0.0	1.2
<i>25-54</i>	135	0.1	1.1
<i>55 or older</i>	19	0.0	1.1

In grammar schools similar percentages of entries to those in comprehensive schools were by candidates aged 16 (92.2%) or 15 (6.7%). However, entries by 17 years olds made up a smaller percentage (0.4%) than in comprehensives. The mean number of entries was considerably higher for 16 year-olds (9.4) than in comprehensives (7.0)

In independent schools (Table 7) around 90% of entries were by candidates aged 16. However, a smaller percentage of entries than in other school types were by candidates aged 15 (4.1%) and a larger percentage of entries were by candidates aged 17 (4.4%).

The mean number of exams taken by 16 year-olds was very similar to that in comprehensives (7.2). However, 17 and 18 year-olds took more GCSEs on average compared to comprehensives and grammars.

Table 7: Entries by age (Independent Schools)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Mean No of entries</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	6	0.0	1.0
<i>11-13</i>	390	0.1	1.0
<i>14</i>	2,118	0.5	1.2
<i>15</i>	16,446	4.1	1.5
<i>16</i>	358,096	90.2	7.2
<i>17</i>	17,314	4.4	4.3
<i>18</i>	1,661	0.4	1.8
<i>19</i>	273	0.1	1.3
<i>20-24</i>	290	0.1	1.2
<i>25-54</i>	442	0.1	1.1
<i>55 or older</i>	28	<0.1	1.1

In secondary moderns (Table 8), although the vast majority of entries were by 16 year-olds (85.9%), the percentage of entries by 15 year-olds (9.9%) was higher in these schools than it was in any other school type. The average number of GCSEs taken by 16 year-olds (6.2) was slightly lower than in comprehensives.

Table 8: Entries by age (Secondary Modern Schools)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Mean No of entries</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	1	0.0	1.0
<i>11-13</i>	173	0.1	1.0
<i>14</i>	3,225	2.0	1.2
<i>15</i>	15,785	9.9	1.7
<i>16</i>	137,345	85.9	6.2
<i>17</i>	2,444	1.5	1.9
<i>18</i>	534	0.3	1.3
<i>19</i>	139	0.1	1.2
<i>20-24</i>	51	0.0	1.1
<i>25-54</i>	188	0.1	1.1
<i>55 or older</i>	10	0.0	1.0

Entries in FE colleges (Table 9) were quite different from those in schools. The highest percentages of entries were from the 25-54 age band (26.9%) and from 17 year-olds (22.9%). There were also high numbers of entries from candidates aged 18-24. There were very few entries by candidates under 17 years old, which is to be expected given there should not be many pupils in FE colleges below the age of 17.

The mean number of entries did not differ much between age groups, with most FE candidates taking only one or two GCSEs, whatever their age.

Table 9: Entries by age (FE Colleges)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Mean No of entries</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	1	<0.1	1.0
<i>11-13</i>	9	<0.1	1.0
<i>14</i>	23	<0.1	1.2
<i>15</i>	258	0.5	1.2
<i>16</i>	1,004	2.0	1.8
<i>17</i>	11,549	22.9	1.5
<i>18</i>	8,879	17.6	1.4
<i>19</i>	6,486	12.8	1.3
<i>20-24</i>	8,290	16.4	1.3
<i>25-54</i>	13,590	26.9	1.2
<i>55 or older</i>	444	0.9	1.1

Entries in sixth form colleges were mainly by 17 year-olds (54.8%), with a significant number of entries by 18 year-olds (21.2%) and a fairly high number of entries by adult learners. As expected, there were very few entries by under 17 year-olds.

In terms of the number of GCSEs taken by candidates the 17 and 18 year-olds generally only took just over 1 exam on average. These were likely to be either re-takes or an extra GCSE taken whilst studying for A-levels.

Table 10: Entries by age (Sixth Form Colleges)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Mean No of entries</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	2	<0.1	1.0
<i>11-13</i>	12	<0.1	1.0
<i>14</i>	36	0.1	1.0
<i>15</i>	96	0.3	1.8
<i>16</i>	1,694	5.5	4.7
<i>17</i>	16,900	54.8	1.4
<i>18</i>	6,529	21.2	1.2
<i>19</i>	2,642	8.6	1.2
<i>20-24</i>	1,360	4.4	1.3
<i>25-54</i>	1,490	4.8	1.2
<i>55 or older</i>	77	0.2	1.0

The pattern for tertiary colleges (Table 11) was fairly similar to sixth form colleges, in that most entries were by 17 and 18 year-olds (35.1% and 20.1% respectively). However, there were higher percentages of entries by adult learners (although not as high as in FE colleges). There were higher percentages of 16 year-old entries (14.9%) than in either FE or sixth form colleges.

Again, most candidates (except those aged 16) only took one or two GCSEs.

Table 11: Entries by age (Tertiary Colleges)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Mean No of entries</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	0	0.0	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	3	<0.1	1.0
<i>14</i>	3	<0.1	1.0
<i>15</i>	14	0.1	1.3
<i>16</i>	1,813	14.9	5.7
<i>17</i>	4,280	35.1	1.2
<i>18</i>	2,454	20.1	1.2
<i>19</i>	1,320	10.8	1.2
<i>20-24</i>	982	8.1	1.2
<i>25-54</i>	1,268	10.4	1.2
<i>55 or older</i>	48	0.4	1.1

Key subjects

The patterns of entries for the most common GCSE subjects are given in this report (full tables for all GCSE subjects can be found in Appendix B).

On the following pages the age distribution for entries in key subjects is presented.

Table 12: Entries by age (English Language)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	2	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	89	0.0
<i>14</i>	1,515	0.3
<i>15</i>	48,576	8.3
<i>16</i>	483,702	82.3
<i>17</i>	27,736	4.7
<i>18</i>	10,361	1.8
<i>19</i>	5,167	0.9
<i>20-24</i>	4,353	0.7
<i>25-54</i>	6,153	1.0
<i>55 or older</i>	174	0.0

For English language GCSE (Table 12), entries were mainly by 16 year-olds, but there were a substantial number by 15 and 17 year-olds. English language was also fairly popular amongst adult learners, presumably many of whom need the qualification to help them get into higher education or employment.

In English literature (Table 13), the vast majority of entries were by 16 year-olds (96.4%), followed by 15 and 17 year-olds (2.6% and 0.9% respectively). There were very few entries by adult learners or those younger than 15.

Table 13: Entries by age (English Literature)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	0	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	7	<0.1
<i>14</i>	82	<0.1
<i>15</i>	12,012	2.6
<i>16</i>	437,837	96.4
<i>17</i>	3,874	0.9
<i>18</i>	257	0.1
<i>19</i>	75	<0.1
<i>20-24</i>	70	<0.1
<i>25-54</i>	101	<0.1
<i>55 or older</i>	8	<0.1

Maths (Table 14) was the most popular subject taken by under 16 year-olds, with 14.9% of entries by 15 year-olds and 1.4% by 14 year-olds. It was also taken by a significant percentage of 17 year-olds (4.6%) and 18 year-olds (2%). It was another subject popular amongst adult learners, again presumably to assist with getting a job or entry to higher education.

Table 14: Entries by age (Mathematics)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	38	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	1,088	0.2
<i>14</i>	10,224	1.4
<i>15</i>	105,488	14.9
<i>16</i>	519,595	73.4
<i>17</i>	32,570	4.6
<i>18</i>	14,380	2.0
<i>19</i>	6,577	0.9
<i>20-24</i>	6,236	0.9
<i>25-54</i>	11,627	1.6
<i>55 or older</i>	425	0.1

Core science (Table 15) had a fairly high percentage of entries by candidates aged 15 (9.0%), in contrast to additional science which was almost entirely taken by 16 year-olds (97.8%). This is not surprising given that additional science builds on knowledge gained in core science. Many of the candidates taking core science a year early then go on to take additional science when they are 16.

Core science was also fairly popular amongst adult learners, but very few took additional science.

Table 15: Entries by age (Combined Science)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Core Science</i>		<i>Additional Science</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	2	<0.1	0	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	13	<0.1	2	<0.1
<i>14</i>	2,810	0.7	8	<0.1
<i>15</i>	34,003	9.0	1642	0.6
<i>16</i>	330,207	87.3	253,417	97.8
<i>17</i>	5,583	1.5	3,202	1.2
<i>18</i>	1,354	0.4	437	0.2
<i>19</i>	638	0.2	142	0.1
<i>20-24</i>	1,123	0.3	133	0.1
<i>25-54</i>	2,483	0.7	143	0.1
<i>55 or older</i>	54	<0.1	3	<0.1

Table 16: Entries by age (Biology)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	0	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	5	<0.1
<i>14</i>	315	0.2
<i>15</i>	1,776	1.3
<i>16</i>	134,297	94.5
<i>17</i>	2,470	1.7
<i>18</i>	682	0.5
<i>19</i>	426	0.3
<i>20-24</i>	705	0.5
<i>25-54</i>	1,369	1.0
<i>55 or older</i>	24	<0.1

Table 17: Entries by age (Chemistry)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	0	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	0	0.0
<i>14</i>	42	<0.1
<i>15</i>	1,226	0.9
<i>16</i>	131,669	97.3
<i>17</i>	1,720	1.3
<i>18</i>	269	0.2
<i>19</i>	131	0.1
<i>20-24</i>	118	0.1
<i>25-54</i>	129	0.1
<i>55 or older</i>	5	<0.1

Table 18: Entries by age (Physics)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	0	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	0	0.0
<i>14</i>	1,444	0.7
<i>15</i>	5,159	2.6
<i>16</i>	192,048	95.8
<i>17</i>	1,502	0.7
<i>18</i>	103	0.1
<i>19</i>	35	0.0
<i>20-24</i>	29	0.0
<i>25-54</i>	103	0.1
<i>55 or older</i>	7	0.0

The pattern amongst each of the separate sciences (Tables 16-18) was very similar. Most entries were by 16 year-olds, with just over 1% by 17 year-olds. However, a slightly higher percentage of entries in biology were by 15 year-olds (1.3%) than in chemistry (0.9%) or physics (0.8%).

Table 19: Entries by age (Geography)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	0	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	1	<0.1
<i>14</i>	1,026	0.6
<i>15</i>	4,228	2.6
<i>16</i>	158,154	95.7
<i>17</i>	1,730	1.0
<i>18</i>	94	0.1
<i>19</i>	14	<0.1
<i>20-24</i>	14	<0.1
<i>25-54</i>	18	<0.1
<i>55 or older</i>	6	<0.1

Table 20: Entries by age (History)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	0	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	0	0.0
<i>14</i>	27	<0.1
<i>15</i>	1,138	0.8
<i>16</i>	130,637	97.5
<i>17</i>	1,571	1.2
<i>18</i>	231	0.2
<i>19</i>	131	0.1
<i>20-24</i>	111	0.1
<i>25-54</i>	128	0.1
<i>55 or older</i>	6	<0.1

Geography and history (Tables 19 and 20) had very high percentages of entries by 16 year-olds. The percentage of entries by 15 year-olds in geography (2.6%) was higher than in history (0.8%). Neither subject was popular amongst adult learners.

In both French and German (Tables 21 and 22), there were substantial percentages of early takers, mainly 15 year-olds, but many at age 14. These two subjects were amongst the most popular for 11-13 year-olds. Many of these candidates will be native speakers of the language.

Table 21: Entries by age (French)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	2	<0.1
<i>11-13</i>	186	0.1
<i>14</i>	5,579	3.9
<i>15</i>	7,543	5.3
<i>16</i>	127,639	89.7
<i>17</i>	1,043	0.7
<i>18</i>	64	<0.1
<i>19</i>	18	<0.1
<i>20-24</i>	24	<0.1
<i>25-54</i>	186	0.1
<i>55 or older</i>	45	<0.1

Table 22: Entries by age (German)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	0	<0.1
<i>11-13</i>	127	0.2
<i>14</i>	1,519	2.6
<i>15</i>	2,638	4.5
<i>16</i>	53,870	91.9
<i>17</i>	360	0.6
<i>18</i>	22	<0.1
<i>19</i>	4	<0.1
<i>20-24</i>	5	<0.1
<i>25-54</i>	48	0.1
<i>55 or older</i>	7	<0.1

Most popular subjects taken by different ages

It is of interest to look at the most popular subjects taken by candidates who are not the usual age for taking GCSEs. This is both in terms of the absolute number of candidates, and also the percentage of all candidates taking the subject.

15 year-old candidates

Table 23 presents the ten most popular subjects taken by candidates aged 15. The left side presents the subjects with the highest entries; the right side presents the subjects with the highest percentages of 15 year old candidates.

Table 23: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 15 year-old pupils

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	105,488	<i>Other Classical Languages</i>	73.1
<i>English Language</i>	48,576	<i>Methods in Mathematics</i>	63.1
<i>Science (Core)</i>	34,003	<i>Applications of Mathematics</i>	48.3
<i>Statistics</i>	15,831	<i>Computer Studies/Computing</i>	40.2
<i>Religious Studies</i>	15,222	<i>Polish</i>	35.7
<i>English Literature</i>	12,012	<i>Modern Hebrew</i>	33.9
<i>French</i>	7,543	<i>Portuguese</i>	32.9
<i>Media/Film/Tv Studies</i>	5,462	<i>Turkish</i>	32.4
<i>History</i>	5,159	<i>Gujarati</i>	31.9
<i>Geography</i>	4,228	<i>Statistics</i>	30.5

Mathematics was easily the most popular subject in terms of absolute numbers, followed by English language and core science. The numbers of candidates taking maths or English language a year early has increased markedly in recent years.

The subject with the highest percentage of 15 year old candidates was other classical languages, with 73.1% of candidates aged 15, followed by methods in mathematics. The only subject to feature in both tables was statistics.

17 -19 year-old candidates

For older teenagers (Tables 24-26) maths and English language were by far the most popular subjects. Most of these are likely to be re-sits by candidates trying to improve their grades.

For 17 year-olds core science and English literature were also amongst the most popular. Other popular subjects for 18 and 19 year-olds included biology and psychology.

In terms of candidate percentages, high percentages of those taking the Use of Mathematics GCSE were aged 17, 18 or 19 (29.7%, 42.6% and 19.1% respectively). However, this qualification is for post-16 students only. Other subjects with relatively high percentages of candidates were general studies, psychology, law, Italian and Japanese. Although 100% of candidates taking the Construction & the Built Environment GCSE were aged 18 (Table 25) only 4 candidates took this course.

Table 24: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 17 year-old pupils

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	32,570	<i>Use of Mathematics</i>	29.7
<i>English Language</i>	27,736	<i>General Studies</i>	19.3
<i>Science (Core)</i>	5,583	<i>Ancient History</i>	14.5
<i>English Literature</i>	3,874	<i>Law</i>	9.6
<i>Additional Science</i>	3,202	<i>Chinese</i>	9.0
<i>Biology</i>	2,470	<i>Psychology</i>	8.9
<i>Religious Studies</i>	1,736	<i>Italian</i>	8.6
<i>Geography</i>	1,730	<i>Japanese</i>	8.3
<i>Chemistry</i>	1,720	<i>Home Economics</i>	7.1
<i>Physics</i>	1,571	<i>Persian</i>	6.4

Table 25: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 18 year-old pupils

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	14,380	<i>Construction & the Built Env.</i>	100.0
<i>English Language</i>	10,361	<i>Use of Mathematics</i>	42.6
<i>Science (Core)</i>	1,354	<i>Japanese</i>	8.6
<i>Biology</i>	682	<i>Italian</i>	4.9
<i>Additional Science</i>	437	<i>Chinese</i>	3.6
<i>Psychology</i>	301	<i>Classical Greek</i>	3.6
<i>Chemistry</i>	269	<i>Law</i>	3.3
<i>English Literature</i>	257	<i>General Studies</i>	3.0
<i>General Studies</i>	242	<i>Psychology</i>	2.6
<i>Use of Mathematics</i>	232	<i>Arabic</i>	2.6

Table 26: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 19 year-old pupils

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	6,577	<i>Use of Mathematics</i>	19.1
<i>English Language</i>	5,167	<i>Arabic</i>	1.6
<i>Science (Core)</i>	638	<i>Japanese</i>	1.5
<i>Biology</i>	426	<i>Psychology</i>	1.3
<i>Psychology</i>	152	<i>General Studies</i>	1.1
<i>Additional Science</i>	142	<i>Ancient History</i>	1.0
<i>Chemistry</i>	131	<i>Italian</i>	1.0
<i>Physics</i>	131	<i>Mathematics</i>	0.9
<i>Sociology</i>	108	<i>English Language</i>	0.9
<i>Use of Mathematics</i>	104	<i>Law</i>	0.7

14 year-old candidates

The most popular subjects taken by 14 year-old candidates are presented in Table 27:

Table 27: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 14 year-old pupils

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	10,224	<i>Modern Greek</i>	36.1
<i>French</i>	5,579	<i>Expressive Arts & Performance</i>	29.5
<i>Media/Film/Tv Studies</i>	4,790	<i>Welsh (Second Language)</i>	28.6
<i>Humanities: Single</i>	4,428	<i>Humanities: Single</i>	26.0
<i>Statistics</i>	3,636	<i>Polish</i>	23.2
<i>Science (Core)</i>	2,810	<i>Gujarati</i>	22.0
<i>Spanish</i>	2,138	<i>Turkish</i>	20.8
<i>German</i>	1,519	<i>Film Studies</i>	19.6
<i>English Language</i>	1,515	<i>Methods in Mathematics</i>	18.8
<i>History</i>	1,444	<i>Astronomy</i>	18.2

Maths was the most popular subject in terms of absolute numbers by some distance. Modern languages were also popular amongst the 14 year-old pupils, with French, Spanish and German all featuring in the top ten.

The subject with the highest percentage of candidates aged 14 was Modern Greek, followed by expressive arts & performance. Other modern languages also featured in the top ten (Polish, Gujarati and Turkish).

11-13 year-old candidates

For the 11-13 year-old age group modern languages dominated, although maths was again the most popular subject in terms of absolute numbers. The subjects with the highest percentages of candidates aged 11 to 13 were all modern languages, with nearly 20% of the candidates taking Dutch GCSE being in this age group.

Table 28: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by 11-13 year-old pupils

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	1,088	<i>Dutch</i>	18.3
<i>Polish</i>	391	<i>Punjabi</i>	12.5
<i>Arabic</i>	234	<i>Polish</i>	12.3
<i>Spanish</i>	222	<i>Gujarati</i>	11.8
<i>French</i>	186	<i>Modern Greek</i>	11.3
<i>German</i>	127	<i>Bengali</i>	9.9
<i>Punjabi</i>	113	<i>Arabic</i>	8.7
<i>Portuguese</i>	106	<i>Persian</i>	8.0
<i>Turkish</i>	105	<i>Portuguese</i>	7.5
<i>Bengali</i>	99	<i>Turkish</i>	7.3

Adult candidates

For the 20-24, 25-54 and 55+ age groups (Tables 29-31) maths and English language were by far the most popular subjects in terms of absolute numbers. Other popular subjects amongst all three age groups were core science, psychology and biology

Modern languages were more popular amongst the older age groups, with Spanish, French and Italian all in the top 10. These subjects are often studied in evening classes.

Different modern languages were in the top 10 subjects in each age group in terms of the percentage of candidates (Japanese, Arabic and Modern Greek). Italian had the highest percentage for both the 25-54 and 55+ age groups and Psychology was also in the top 10 in each age group.

Table 29: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by candidates aged 20-24 years

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	6,236	<i>Use of Mathematics</i>	8.3
<i>English Language</i>	4,353	<i>Japanese</i>	1.9
<i>Science (Core)</i>	1,123	<i>Arabic</i>	1.9
<i>Biology</i>	705	<i>Psychology</i>	1.3
<i>Psychology</i>	151	<i>Mathematics</i>	0.9
<i>Additional Science</i>	133	<i>Modern Greek</i>	0.8
<i>Chemistry</i>	118	<i>English Language</i>	0.7
<i>Physics</i>	111	<i>Urdu</i>	0.5
<i>Spanish</i>	73	<i>Ancient History</i>	0.5
<i>English Literature</i>	70	<i>Biology</i>	0.5

Table 30: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by candidates aged 25-54 years

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	11,627	<i>Italian</i>	4.1
<i>English Language</i>	6,153	<i>Psychology</i>	3.7
<i>Science (Core)</i>	2,483	<i>Astronomy</i>	3.2
<i>Biology</i>	1,369	<i>Japanese</i>	2.8
<i>Spanish</i>	564	<i>Portuguese</i>	2.3
<i>Psychology</i>	421	<i>Modern Greek</i>	1.9
<i>French</i>	186	<i>Arabic</i>	1.8
<i>Italian</i>	175	<i>Punjabi</i>	1.7
<i>Additional Science</i>	143	<i>Mathematics</i>	1.6
<i>Chemistry</i>	129	<i>Law</i>	1.6

Table 31: Most popular GCSE subjects taken by candidates aged 55 and older

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entries</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>	425	<i>Italian</i>	2.1
<i>English Language</i>	174	<i>Astronomy</i>	0.7
<i>Spanish</i>	148	<i>Portuguese</i>	0.5
<i>Italian</i>	91	<i>Russian</i>	0.4
<i>Science (Core)</i>	54	<i>Geology</i>	0.3
<i>French</i>	45	<i>Japanese</i>	0.3
<i>Psychology</i>	27	<i>Spanish</i>	0.2
<i>Biology</i>	24	<i>Psychology</i>	0.2
<i>Astronomy</i>	16	<i>Law</i>	0.2
<i>Art & Design (Fine Art)</i>	9	<i>Modern Greek</i>	0.2

Reference

Gill, T. (2010). *How old are GCSE candidates?* Statistics Report Series No. 20. Cambridge: Cambridge Assessment.

Appendix A: GCSE entries and candidates by age band and gender (June 2011)

Entries by age band (female)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	34	<0.1	<0.1
<i>11-13</i>	1,972	0.1	0.1
<i>14</i>	29,984	1.2	1.3
<i>15</i>	156,615	6.4	7.8
<i>16</i>	2,142,533	88.1	95.9
<i>17</i>	49,773	2.0	97.9
<i>18</i>	16,835	0.7	98.6
<i>19</i>	7,408	0.3	98.9
<i>20-24</i>	7,849	0.3	99.2
<i>25-54</i>	17,930	0.7	100.0
<i>55 or older</i>	758	<0.1	100.0

Entries by age band (male)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	34	<0.1	<0.1
<i>11-13</i>	1,686	0.1	0.1
<i>14</i>	27,639	1.2	1.2
<i>15</i>	155,277	6.6	7.9
<i>16</i>	2,074,622	88.3	96.2
<i>17</i>	54,548	2.3	98.5
<i>18</i>	15,314	0.7	99.2
<i>19</i>	7,184	0.3	99.5
<i>20-24</i>	5,862	0.2	99.7
<i>25-54</i>	6,492	0.3	100.0
<i>55 or older</i>	371	<0.1	100.0

Candidates by age band (female)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	32	<0.1	0.01
<i>11-13</i>	1,929	0.4	0.39
<i>14</i>	25,990	5.2	5.56
<i>15</i>	104,608	20.8	26.37
<i>16</i>	300,492	59.8	86.16
<i>17</i>	27,945	5.6	91.72
<i>18</i>	13,283	2.6	94.37
<i>19</i>	5,877	1.2	95.54
<i>20-24</i>	6,371	1.3	96.80
<i>25-54</i>	15,351	3.1	99.86
<i>55 or older</i>	717	0.1	100.00

Candidates by age band (male)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Cum Percent</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	33	<0.1	0.01
<i>11-13</i>	1,647	0.3	0.34
<i>14</i>	23,912	4.8	5.15
<i>15</i>	106,368	21.4	26.53
<i>16</i>	309,361	62.2	88.74
<i>17</i>	28,539	5.7	94.48
<i>18</i>	11,723	2.4	96.84
<i>19</i>	5,550	1.1	97.95
<i>20-24</i>	4,547	0.9	98.87
<i>25-54</i>	5,302	1.1	99.93
<i>55 or older</i>	340	0.1	100.00

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Additional Applied Science

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	165	0.6
15	267	0.9
16	28319	97.3
17	309	1.1
18	27	0.1
19	8	0.0
20-24	3	0.0
25-54	8	0.0

subject=Additional Mathematics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	7	0.1
14	59	0.6
15	428	4.1
16	9664	93.3
17	132	1.3
18	21	0.2
19	14	0.1
20-24	17	0.2
25-54	16	0.2
55 or older	1	0.0

subject=Additional Science

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	2	0.0
14	8	0.0
15	1642	0.6
16	253417	97.8
17	3202	1.2
18	437	0.2
19	142	0.1
20-24	133	0.1
25-54	143	0.1
55 or older	3	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Ancient History

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	5	2.5
15	26	13.0
16	132	66.0
17	29	14.5
18	5	2.5
19	2	1.0
20-24	1	0.5

subject=Applications of Mathematics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	22	1.6
15	670	48.3
16	692	49.9
17	1	0.1
25-54	1	0.1

subject=Applied Art & Design

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	13	0.8
15	50	3.2
16	1452	93.6
17	26	1.7
18	2	0.1
20-24	3	0.2
25-54	5	0.3

subject=Applied Business

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	152	1.7
15	478	5.4
16	8013	90.1
17	183	2.1
18	49	0.6
19	10	0.1
20-24	7	0.1

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Applied Engineering

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
15	183	5.0
16	3473	94.1
17	28	0.8
18	5	0.1
19	1	0.0
20-24	2	0.1

subject=Applied ICT

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	2	0.1
15	122	4.0
16	2867	94.1
17	56	1.8

subject=Applied Science

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	77	0.6
15	133	1.0
16	12336	96.9
17	136	1.1
18	26	0.2
19	15	0.1
20-24	5	0.0
25-54	8	0.1

subject=Arabic

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	234	8.7
14	377	14.0
15	596	22.1
16	1154	42.9
17	117	4.3
18	69	2.6
19	43	1.6
20-24	50	1.9
25-54	49	1.8
55 or older	2	0.1

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Art & Design

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	23	0.0
14	958	1.1
15	2379	2.7
16	83061	94.7
17	1122	1.3
18	122	0.1
19	33	0.0
20-24	9	0.0
25-54	29	0.0
55 or older	8	0.0

subject=Art & Design (3d Studies)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	50	2.0
15	54	2.2
16	2250	91.1
17	79	3.2
18	19	0.8
19	4	0.2
20-24	4	0.2
25-54	9	0.4
55 or older	1	0.0

subject=Art & Design (Critical Studies)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	1	0.4
15	84	30.1
16	183	65.6
17	9	3.2
18	2	0.7

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Art & Design (Fine Art)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	2	0.0
14	526	1.0
15	1421	2.7
16	49440	94.6
17	720	1.4
18	79	0.2
19	17	0.0
20-24	5	0.0
25-54	21	0.0
55 or older	9	0.0

subject=Art & Design (Graphics)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	23	0.4
15	204	3.4
16	5527	93.4
17	116	2.0
18	27	0.5
19	11	0.2
20-24	4	0.1
25-54	3	0.1
55 or older	1	0.0

subject=Art & Design (Photography)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	2	0.0
14	360	3.1
15	688	6.0
16	9513	83.2
17	576	5.0
18	150	1.3
19	58	0.5
20-24	14	0.1
25-54	63	0.6
55 or older	6	0.1

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Art & Design (Textiles)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	141	1.8
15	228	3.0
16	7105	93.0
17	126	1.6
18	28	0.4
19	7	0.1
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	5	0.1

subject=Astronomy

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
10 or younger	1	0.0
11-13	45	1.9
14	434	18.2
15	659	27.6
16	993	41.6
17	115	4.8
18	32	1.3
19	10	0.4
20-24	6	0.3
25-54	77	3.2
55 or older	16	0.7

subject=Bengali

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
10 or younger	2	0.2
11-13	99	9.9
14	111	11.1
15	97	9.7
16	664	66.4
17	14	1.4
18	1	0.1
19	2	0.2
20-24	4	0.4
25-54	6	0.6

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Biology

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	5	0.0
14	315	0.2
15	1776	1.3
16	134297	94.5
17	2470	1.7
18	682	0.5
19	426	0.3
20-24	705	0.5
25-54	1369	1.0
55 or older	24	0.0

subject=Business Studies:Single

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
10 or younger	1	0.0
11-13	1	0.0
14	274	0.5
15	1166	2.1
16	53019	95.6
17	812	1.5
18	117	0.2
19	40	0.1
20-24	28	0.1
25-54	8	0.0
55 or older	2	0.0

subject=Business Studies & Economics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	6	0.2
15	55	1.5
16	3499	96.2
17	68	1.9
18	7	0.2
19	1	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Catering Studies

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	325	1.9
15	681	4.0
16	15792	93.1
17	147	0.9
18	13	0.1
19	3	0.0
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	1	0.0

subject=Chemistry

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	42	0.0
15	1226	0.9
16	131669	97.3
17	1720	1.3
18	269	0.2
19	131	0.1
20-24	118	0.1
25-54	129	0.1
55 or older	5	0.0

subject=Chinese

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	79	3.9
14	203	10.1
15	381	19.0
16	1056	52.5
17	180	9.0
18	73	3.6
19	7	0.3
20-24	9	0.4
25-54	18	0.9
55 or older	4	0.2

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Classical Civilisation

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	12	0.3
15	106	2.7
16	3657	94.0
17	106	2.7
18	7	0.2
19	1	0.0
25-54	1	0.0

subject=Classical Greek

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	1	0.1
14	2	0.2
15	51	4.4
16	999	85.7
17	64	5.5
18	42	3.6
19	3	0.3
20-24	1	0.1
25-54	1	0.1
55 or older	2	0.2

subject=Computer Studies/Computing

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
15	37	40.2
16	55	59.8

subject=Construction & the Built Environment

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
18	4	100.0

subject=D&T Electronic Products

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	29	0.3
15	305	3.1
16	9561	96.1
17	54	0.5

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=D&T Engineering

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
16	436	99.5
17	2	0.5

subject=D&T Food Technology

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	622	1.1
15	1662	3.0
16	52203	95.1
17	356	0.6
18	14	0.0
19	1	0.0
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	5	0.0

subject=D&T Graphic Products

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	470	1.1
15	1377	3.1
16	42170	95.1
17	293	0.7
18	26	0.1
19	2	0.0
25-54	4	0.0

subject=D&T Product Design

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	6	0.0
14	913	2.8
15	1205	3.7
16	30092	92.6
17	284	0.9
18	9	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=D&T Resistant Materials

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	795	1.3
15	1936	3.3
16	55924	94.1
17	710	1.2
18	51	0.1
19	2	0.0
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	4	0.0
55 or older	1	0.0

subject=D&T Systems & Control

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	37	0.8
15	60	1.4
16	4257	97.4
17	15	0.3
18	1	0.0

subject=D&T Textiles Technology

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	7	0.0
14	326	1.0
15	910	2.7
16	32480	95.8
17	175	0.5
18	9	0.0
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	7	0.0

subject=Dance

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	4	0.0
14	244	1.8
15	675	5.1
16	12142	92.0
17	98	0.7
18	20	0.2
19	4	0.0
20-24	6	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Drama & Theatre Studies

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	2	0.0
14	497	0.7
15	2034	2.7
16	72617	95.8
17	664	0.9
18	10	0.0
19	3	0.0
20-24	1	0.0
25-54	2	0.0

subject=Dutch

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	93	18.3
14	86	17.0
15	134	26.4
16	162	32.0
17	21	4.1
18	5	1.0
20-24	1	0.2
25-54	5	1.0

subject=Economics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	1	0.0
15	95	2.6
16	3374	93.0
17	144	4.0
18	10	0.3
20-24	2	0.1
25-54	2	0.1

subject=Electronics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
15	23	3.9
16	528	88.6
17	31	5.2
18	8	1.3
19	4	0.7

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
20-24	1	0.2
25-54	1	0.2

subject=English Language

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
10 or younger	2	0.0
11-13	89	0.0
14	1515	0.3
15	48576	8.3
16	483702	82.3
17	27736	4.7
18	10361	1.8
19	5167	0.9
20-24	4353	0.7
25-54	6153	1.0
55 or older	174	0.0

subject=English Literature

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	7	0.0
14	82	0.0
15	12012	2.6
16	437837	96.4
17	3874	0.9
18	257	0.1
19	75	0.0
20-24	70	0.0
25-54	101	0.0
55 or older	8	0.0

subject=English Studies

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	1	0.0
14	285	5.3
15	1326	24.7
16	3587	66.7
17	121	2.2
18	45	0.8
19	11	0.2
25-54	2	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Environmental Science

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	64	2.7
15	82	3.4
16	2116	88.2
17	95	4.0
18	23	1.0
19	8	0.3
20-24	6	0.3
25-54	4	0.2

subject=Expressive Arts & Performance Studies

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	58	1.2
14	1420	29.5
15	603	12.5
16	2698	56.1
17	17	0.4
18	8	0.2
19	4	0.1

subject=Film Studies

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	826	19.6
15	355	8.4
16	2721	64.4
17	210	5.0
18	78	1.8
19	17	0.4
20-24	10	0.2
25-54	4	0.1
55 or older	1	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=French

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	2	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	186	0.1
<i>14</i>	5579	3.9
<i>15</i>	7543	5.3
<i>16</i>	127639	89.7
<i>17</i>	1043	0.7
<i>18</i>	64	0.0
<i>19</i>	18	0.0
<i>20-24</i>	24	0.0
<i>25-54</i>	186	0.1
<i>55 or older</i>	45	0.0

subject=General Studies

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>11-13</i>	1	0.0
<i>14</i>	81	1.0
<i>15</i>	517	6.4
<i>16</i>	5557	68.4
<i>17</i>	1568	19.3
<i>18</i>	242	3.0
<i>19</i>	86	1.1
<i>20-24</i>	31	0.4
<i>25-54</i>	42	0.5
<i>55 or older</i>	3	0.0

subject=Geography

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>11-13</i>	1	0.0
<i>14</i>	1026	0.6
<i>15</i>	4228	2.6
<i>16</i>	158154	95.7
<i>17</i>	1730	1.0
<i>18</i>	94	0.1
<i>19</i>	14	0.0
<i>20-24</i>	14	0.0
<i>25-54</i>	18	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Geology

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	48	5.3
15	80	8.9
16	738	82.1
17	11	1.2
18	12	1.3
20-24	1	0.1
25-54	6	0.7
55 or older	3	0.3

subject=German

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	127	0.2
14	1519	2.6
15	2638	4.5
16	53870	91.9
17	360	0.6
18	22	0.0
19	4	0.0
20-24	5	0.0
25-54	48	0.1
55 or older	7	0.0

subject=Gujarati

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
10 or younger	2	0.3
11-13	76	11.8
14	142	22.0
15	206	31.9
16	184	28.5
17	22	3.4
18	5	0.8
19	1	0.2
20-24	2	0.3
25-54	5	0.8

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Health & Social Care

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	185	1.1
15	730	4.3
16	15560	92.4
17	284	1.7
18	53	0.3
19	19	0.1
20-24	9	0.1
25-54	2	0.0

subject=History

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	1444	0.7
15	5159	2.6
16	192048	95.8
17	1502	0.7
18	103	0.1
19	35	0.0
20-24	29	0.0
25-54	103	0.1
55 or older	7	0.0

subject=Home Economics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
16	13	92.9
17	1	7.1

subject=Home Economics: Child Development

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	149	0.8
15	423	2.3
16	17303	95.4
17	222	1.2
18	33	0.2
19	11	0.1
20-24	3	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Home Economics: Food

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	56	0.5
15	327	3.0
16	10253	94.9
17	154	1.4
18	18	0.2
25-54	1	0.0

subject=Home Economics: Textiles

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	12	4.4
15	48	17.8
16	205	75.9
17	4	1.5
20-24	1	0.4

subject=Hospitality & Catering

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	46	2.0
15	60	2.6
16	2181	94.1
17	22	0.9
18	4	0.2
19	1	0.0
25-54	2	0.1
55 or older	1	0.0

subject=Humanities: Single

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	1	0.0
14	4428	26.0
15	1414	8.3
16	10698	62.8
17	344	2.0
18	82	0.5
19	36	0.2
20-24	18	0.1
25-54	11	0.1
55 or older	2	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Information & Communications Technology

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	11	0.0
14	292	0.9
15	1747	5.3
16	29823	90.8
17	743	2.3
18	131	0.4
19	56	0.2
20-24	26	0.1
25-54	13	0.0

subject=Italian

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	59	1.4
14	229	5.4
15	331	7.8
16	2726	64.3
17	366	8.6
18	209	4.9
19	41	1.0
20-24	15	0.4
25-54	175	4.1
55 or older	91	2.1

subject=Japanese

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
10 or younger	1	0.1
11-13	60	5.4
14	73	6.6
15	83	7.5
16	636	57.1
17	92	8.3
18	96	8.6
19	17	1.5
20-24	21	1.9
25-54	31	2.8
55 or older	3	0.3

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Latin

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	6	0.1
14	47	0.6
15	446	5.4
16	7600	91.2
17	120	1.4
18	81	1.0
19	11	0.1
20-24	6	0.1
25-54	7	0.1
55 or older	9	0.1

subject=Law

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	4	0.2
14	49	1.9
15	283	10.7
16	1881	71.4
17	254	9.6
18	88	3.3
19	19	0.7
20-24	9	0.3
25-54	43	1.6
55 or older	6	0.2

subject=Leisure & Tourism

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	142	2.7
15	183	3.5
16	4622	88.3
17	225	4.3
18	39	0.7
19	16	0.3
20-24	6	0.1

subject=Manufacturing

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
15	2	0.1
16	1451	98.8
17	16	1.1

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Mathematics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	38	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	1088	0.2
<i>14</i>	10224	1.4
<i>15</i>	105488	14.9
<i>16</i>	519595	73.4
<i>17</i>	32570	4.6
<i>18</i>	14380	2.0
<i>19</i>	6577	0.9
<i>20-24</i>	6236	0.9
<i>25-54</i>	11627	1.6
<i>55 or older</i>	425	0.1

subject=Media/Film/Tv Studies

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>14</i>	4790	7.5
<i>15</i>	5462	8.6
<i>16</i>	52124	81.9
<i>17</i>	946	1.5
<i>18</i>	180	0.3
<i>19</i>	67	0.1
<i>20-24</i>	31	0.0
<i>25-54</i>	4	0.0
<i>55 or older</i>	1	0.0

subject=Methods in Mathematics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>14</i>	738	18.8
<i>15</i>	2473	63.1
<i>16</i>	707	18.0
<i>17</i>	1	0.0
<i>25-54</i>	1	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Modern Greek

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	3	0.6
<i>11-13</i>	53	11.3
<i>14</i>	170	36.1
<i>15</i>	121	25.7
<i>16</i>	94	20.0
<i>17</i>	10	2.1
<i>18</i>	6	1.3
<i>20-24</i>	4	0.8
<i>25-54</i>	9	1.9
<i>55 or older</i>	1	0.2

subject=Modern Hebrew

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>11-13</i>	9	1.9
<i>14</i>	69	14.7
<i>15</i>	159	33.9
<i>16</i>	213	45.4
<i>17</i>	16	3.4
<i>18</i>	2	0.4
<i>19</i>	1	0.2

subject=Motor Vehicle Studies

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>15</i>	14	9.8
<i>16</i>	129	90.2

subject=Music

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>11-13</i>	11	0.0
<i>14</i>	341	0.8
<i>15</i>	1324	3.0
<i>16</i>	41279	94.9
<i>17</i>	509	1.2
<i>18</i>	39	0.1
<i>19</i>	6	0.0
<i>25-54</i>	4	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Office Technology

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	463	2.8
15	1494	9.1
16	14209	86.6
17	192	1.2
18	29	0.2
19	4	0.0
20-24	8	0.0
25-54	10	0.1

subject=Other Classical Languages

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	6	1.1
14	57	10.4
15	400	73.1
16	84	15.4

subject=Performing Arts

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	2	0.0
14	562	11.8
15	1294	27.1
16	2875	60.3
17	29	0.6
18	7	0.1
19	1	0.0

subject=Persian

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	35	8.0
14	76	17.3
15	128	29.2
16	161	36.7
17	28	6.4
18	7	1.6
19	2	0.5
20-24	2	0.5

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Physical Education/Sports Studies

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	1	0.0
14	330	0.3
15	4078	4.0
16	96483	94.9
17	758	0.7
18	33	0.0
19	11	0.0
20-24	4	0.0
25-54	4	0.0
55 or older	1	0.0

subject=Physics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	27	0.0
15	1138	0.8
16	130637	97.5
17	1571	1.2
18	231	0.2
19	131	0.1
20-24	111	0.1
25-54	128	0.1
55 or older	6	0.0

subject=Polish

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	391	12.3
14	739	23.2
15	1135	35.7
16	837	26.3
17	64	2.0
18	12	0.4
19	1	0.0
25-54	2	0.1
55 or older	2	0.1

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Portuguese

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	106	7.5
14	252	17.9
15	462	32.9
16	485	34.5
17	42	3.0
18	12	0.9
19	5	0.4
20-24	1	0.1
25-54	33	2.3
55 or older	7	0.5

subject=Psychology

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	1	0.0
14	119	1.0
15	557	4.8
16	8745	76.0
17	1027	8.9
18	301	2.6
19	152	1.3
20-24	151	1.3
25-54	421	3.7
55 or older	27	0.2

subject=Punjabi

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
10 or younger	1	0.1
11-13	113	12.5
14	138	15.3
15	196	21.7
16	372	41.2
17	43	4.8
18	15	1.7
19	4	0.4
20-24	4	0.4
25-54	15	1.7
55 or older	1	0.1

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Religious Studies

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	33	0.0
14	544	0.3
15	15222	7.5
16	184703	91.3
17	1736	0.9
18	89	0.0
19	18	0.0
20-24	22	0.0
25-54	44	0.0
55 or older	2	0.0

subject=Russian

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	85	4.5
14	157	8.4
15	306	16.4
16	1153	61.6
17	88	4.7
18	45	2.4
19	4	0.2
20-24	3	0.2
25-54	23	1.2
55 or older	7	0.4

subject=Science (Core)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
10 or younger	2	0.0
11-13	13	0.0
14	2810	0.7
15	34003	9.0
16	330207	87.3
17	5583	1.5
18	1354	0.4
19	638	0.2
20-24	1123	0.3
25-54	2483	0.7
55 or older	54	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Social Science: Citizenship

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	67	0.7
15	636	6.9
16	8337	90.5
17	126	1.4
18	29	0.3
19	14	0.2
20-24	3	0.0

subject=Sociology

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
11-13	4	0.0
14	132	0.7
15	492	2.5
16	17804	90.4
17	814	4.1
18	218	1.1
19	108	0.5
20-24	61	0.3
25-54	52	0.3
55 or older	1	0.0

subject=Spanish

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
10 or younger	2	0.0
11-13	222	0.4
14	2138	3.5
15	2664	4.3
16	54614	88.7
17	870	1.4
18	215	0.3
19	52	0.1
20-24	73	0.1
25-54	564	0.9
55 or older	148	0.2

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Statistics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	1	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	18	0.0
<i>14</i>	3636	7.0
<i>15</i>	15831	30.5
<i>16</i>	32021	61.7
<i>17</i>	302	0.6
<i>18</i>	40	0.1
<i>19</i>	8	0.0
<i>20-24</i>	3	0.0
<i>25-54</i>	9	0.0
<i>55 or older</i>	1	0.0

subject=Turkish

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	8	0.6
<i>11-13</i>	105	7.3
<i>14</i>	297	20.8
<i>15</i>	463	32.4
<i>16</i>	507	35.5
<i>17</i>	26	1.8
<i>18</i>	5	0.3
<i>19</i>	3	0.2
<i>20-24</i>	2	0.1
<i>25-54</i>	14	1.0

subject=Urdu

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>10 or younger</i>	2	0.0
<i>11-13</i>	63	1.6
<i>14</i>	326	8.1
<i>15</i>	646	16.0
<i>16</i>	2738	67.9
<i>17</i>	167	4.1
<i>18</i>	42	1.0
<i>19</i>	11	0.3
<i>20-24</i>	21	0.5
<i>25-54</i>	18	0.4
<i>55 or older</i>	1	0.0

Appendix B: Entries by age band for all GCSE subjects

subject=Use of Mathematics

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
17	162	29.7
18	232	42.6
19	104	19.1
20-24	45	8.3
25-54	2	0.4

subject=Welsh (Second Language)

<i>Age band</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
14	2	28.6
15	2	28.6
16	3	42.9