

Uptake of level 2 qualifications in English schools 2008-2012

Statistics Report Series No.61

Tim Gill

August 2013

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

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to investigate changes over time in the uptake of different qualifications by pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 (KS4) in English schools. This should give an overall picture of qualifications taken by school pupils, rather than focussing on one or two qualifications only (e.g. GCSEs).

Uptake of a subject is usually defined as the percentage of students (who take the qualification in at least one subject) taking the subject (either in the current, or a previous year). For example, uptake of GCSE English is the percentage of GCSE students taking a GCSE in English. However, as this report looks at multiple qualifications this definition is redefined as the percentage of all students (at the end of KS4) taking a particular qualification (or a particular subject in that qualification).

Data

The data for these analyses were taken from the National Pupil Database (NPD). This is a database held by the Department for Education, consisting of results for all students in all subjects in schools and colleges in England. The Key Stage 4 (KS4) extract of the NPD was used, consisting of all students who were at the end of KS4 (i.e. in year 11).

One of the main purposes of this report was to look at changes to patterns of uptake over time, so three separate cohorts of data were analysed, consisting of students at the end of KS4 in 2007/08, 2009/10 and 2011/12. All exams taken by these students were included, even if taken in previous years. It is also of interest to investigate patterns of uptake in different types of school, so most of the analyses were broken down into the following school types: comprehensive, city academy, grammar, independent and secondary modern. Table 1 presents the number of students (at the end of KS4) in each school type in each year

Table 1: Number and percentage of students in different school types (2007/08-2011/12)

School type	2007/08		2009/10		2011/12	
	Students (n)	Students (%)	Students (n)	Students (%)	Students (n)	Students (%)
City Academy	11,797	1.8	30,763	4.9	183,089	29.8
Comprehensive	521,296	80.8	486,051	77.3	334,050	54.4
Grammar	23,059	3.6	22,975	3.7	11,496	1.9
Independent	48,085	7.5	47,279	7.5	50,319	8.2
Secondary Modern	26,064	4.0	25,953	4.1	16,821	2.7

It should be noted that over the period investigated a large number of schools (mainly comprehensives) converted to become city academies. This explains the large increase in the number of students in academies and the decrease in the number in comprehensives and grammar schools (particularly between 2009/10 and 2011/12).

There were a very large number of different qualifications recorded in the KS4 extract of the NPD in all three years, but not all of these were included in this report. To make the analyses more manageable only KS4 qualifications that are worth at least the same as a GCSE (according to the NPD) were included. Table 2 lists the qualifications and in which years they were available. Thus, apart from the Diploma and the IGCSE (which were not available in

2007/08) and the GNVQ (only available in 2007/08) all these qualifications were available in all three years.

Table 2: List of qualifications included in report and availability by year

Qualification	Years available
AS level	2007/08, 2009/10, 2011/12
BTEC	2007/08, 2009/10, 2011/12
Diploma	2009/10, 2011/12
GCSE	2007/08, 2009/10, 2011/12
GNVQ	2007/08
IGCSE	2009/10, 2011/12
OCR Nationals	2007/08, 2009/10, 2011/12
Other GQ	2007/08, 2009/10, 2011/12
Vocational GCSE	2007/08, 2009/10, 2011/12
VRQ	2007/08, 2009/10, 2011/12

One of the more common alternatives to GCSEs is the International GCSE (IGCSE). These were originally developed for use overseas, but independent schools in England began using them in recent years. More recently, accredited versions of some subjects have been developed for use in English state schools¹. Thus, there are currently two types of IGCSEs available to schools in England (accredited and non-accredited). However, accredited IGCSEs were only included for the first time in the NPD in 2009/10 and non-accredited IGCSEs for the first time in 2011/12. Therefore, in the tables which follow, there will be some missing data for years prior to 2011/12 (mainly non-accredited IGCSEs taken by pupils in independent schools). In the tables for 2011/12 the accredited and non-accredited IGCSEs are shown separately so that changes in the uptake of accredited IGCSEs between 2009/10 and 2011/12 can be seen.

Results

Overall volumes

Tables 3 to 5 summarise the volume of level 2 qualifications taken by students at the end of KS4 in each of the three years. This is broken down by the size of the qualification in terms of GCSE equivalence, with an overall total volume {= sum of (number taken x equivalent size)} for each qualification type. Thus GCSEs are available as either a single or double, whereas BTECs and OCR Nationals are equivalent to 1, 2, 3 or 4 GCSEs. Some vocationally related qualifications (VRQs) and the diploma are worth 5 GCSEs.

There were no recorded volumes for IGCSEs in 2007/08 and this was before the diploma was available. GNVQs had been phased out by 2009/10 so do not appear in more recent years.

The data in each table is sorted by 2011/12 total volume.

¹ Technically these are called either Cambridge International Certificates or EdExcel Certificates, but they are generally referred to as IGCSEs

Table 3: Frequency of qualifications taken in 2007/08, by type and GCSE equivalent size

Qualification	GCSE equivalent size					Total volume
	1	2	3	4	5	
GCSE	4,953,484	6,784	0	0	0	4,967,052
BTEC	1,408	57,995	50	44,635	0	296,088
OCR Nationals	32,451	21,014	4,951	10,483	0	131,264
IGCSE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
Vocational GCSE	57,876	114,444	0	0	0	286,764
VRQ	22,038	3,639	510	2,263	899	44,393
Other GQ	46,310	26,130	6,511	2,424	0	127,799
Diploma	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
AS level	0	16,692	0	0	0	33,384
GNVQ	0	0	0	6,875	0	27,500

Table 4: Frequency of qualifications taken in 2009/10, by type and GCSE equivalent size

Qualification	GCSE equivalent size					Total volume
	1	2	3	4	5	
GCSE	4,654,742	3,136	0	0	0	4,661,014
BTEC	7,394	186,304	647	80,722	0	704,831
OCR Nationals	102,979	74,181	16,037	23,334	0	392,788
IGCSE	8,572	0	0	0	0	8,572
Vocational GCSE	45,332	68,825	0	0	0	182,982
VRQ	31,782	5,492	0	0	0	42,766
Other GQ	36,725	17,282	3,815	2,227	0	91,642
Diploma	0	0	0	0	4,830	24,150
AS level	0	16,821	0	0	0	33,642
GNVQ	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0

Table 5: Frequency of qualifications taken in 2011/12, by type and GCSE equivalent size

Qualification	GCSE equivalent size					Total volume
	1	2	3	4	5	
GCSE	4,424,332	8,418	0	0	0	4,441,168
BTEC	90,382	275,674	395	90,959	0	1,006,751
OCR Nationals	139,138	103,297	17,024	23,419	0	490,480
IGCSE	118,489	3,360	0	0	0	125,209
Vocational GCSE	49,246	23,191	0	0	0	95,628
VRQ	57,908	5,025	2,406	2,851	450	88,830
Other GQ	38,700	15,504	3,372	1,566	0	86,088
Diploma	0	0	0	0	14,184	70,920
AS level	0	16,714	0	0	0	33,428
GNVQ	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0

Figures 1 and 2 show the change in total volumes over time (excluding GNVQs and AS levels because of their very small volumes). GCSEs are presented in a separate graph because their volumes were much greater than the other qualifications. There is a clear trend in terms of falling uptake of GCSEs (and vocational GCSEs), and increasing uptake of alternative qualifications, particularly BTECs and OCR Nationals.

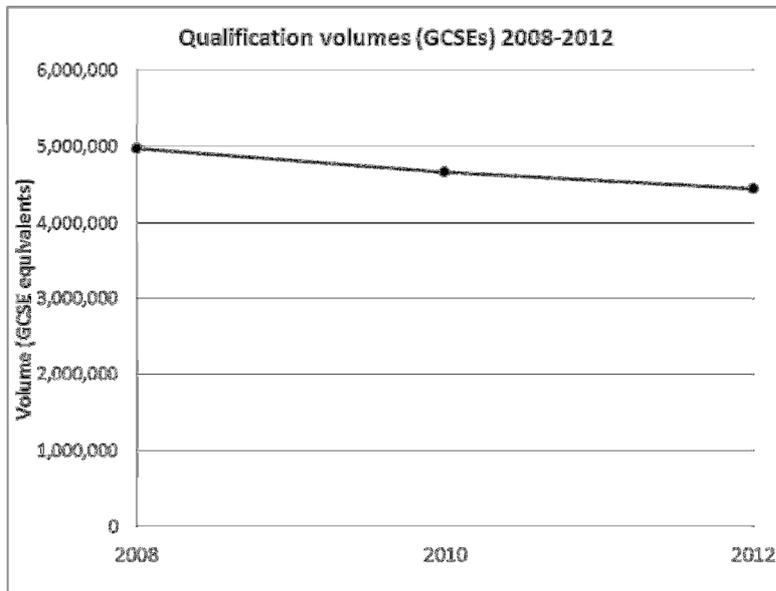


Figure 1: Volumes of GCSEs taken by students 2008-2012

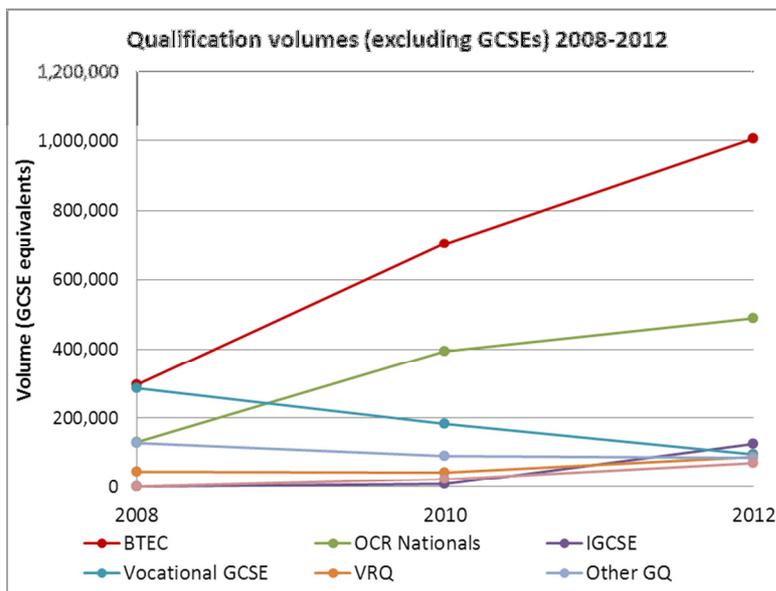


Figure 2: Volumes of non-GCSE qualifications taken by students 2008-2012

Tables 6 to 8 present the uptake of the different qualifications, by students in each school type, and overall.

Table 6: Uptake of level 2 qualifications in 2007/08, by school type (% of students at end of KS4)

Qualification	Acad	Comp	Grammar	Ind	Sec Mod	All
AS level	3.5	1.7	8.0	2.8	0.7	2.0
BTEC	35.7	14.5	0.4	1.1	22.4	13.6
Diploma	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
GCSE	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.7	99.8	99.7
GNVQ	3.4	1.0	1.7	0.7	0.8	1.1
IGCSE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OCR Nationals	20.7	11.1	1.0	0.8	14.1	10.0
Other GQ	19.7	14.1	3.4	1.8	14.5	12.6
Vocational GCSE	28.5	26.3	4.6	1.9	27.6	23.3
VRQ	5.1	4.5	3.7	2.2	5.8	4.3

Table 7: Uptake of level 2 qualifications in 2009/10, by school type (% of students at end of KS4)

Qualification	Acad	Comp	Grammar	Ind	Sec Mod	All
AS level	2.2	2.2	10.6	1.9	1.1	2.4
BTEC	61.9	33.3	1.6	1.3	45.2	31.1
Diploma	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.8
GCSE	99.7	99.8	100.0	99.6	99.7	99.6
GNVQ	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
IGCSE	0.2	0.0	0.0	10.5	0.0	0.8
OCR Nationals	43.6	34.0	8.4	2.4	36.1	30.6
Other GQ	9.1	10.9	6.2	1.1	8.5	9.5
Vocational GCSE	15.0	18.9	3.3	1.3	18.3	16.4
VRQ	11.7	6.0	4.2	2.4	6.8	5.9

Table 8: Uptake of level 2 qualifications in 2011/12, by school type (% of students at end of KS4)

Qualification	Acad	Comp	Grammar	Ind	Sec Mod	All
AS level	3.0	2.1	7.9	2.3	1.4	2.4
BTEC	49.1	51.7	3.1	5.2	65.3	45.8
Diploma	2.4	2.6	1.6	0.2	2.6	2.3
GCSE	99.7	99.7	99.9	98.0	99.6	99.4
GNVQ	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
IGCSE	3.2	2.5	6.0	54.8	3.5	7.2
OCR Nationals	42.5	45.2	16.8	6.1	46.1	39.7
Other GQ	10.2	10.4	9.5	3.5	6.6	9.4
Vocational GCSE	11.9	12.2	2.7	1.3	11.9	10.8
VRQ	11.6	10.3	6.7	3.8	10.5	10.0

In terms of the alternatives to GCSEs, students in secondary modern schools in 2011/12 and academies in 2007/08 and 2009/10 were most likely to take either BTECs or OCR Nationals.

Vocational GCSEs were most likely to be taken by those in comprehensives, academies or secondary modern schools. In 2011/12 (the first year where accredited and non-accredited versions were in the NPD) IGCSEs were taken by just 7.2% of all students, but 54.8% of independent school students. Students in grammar schools were much more likely to take OCR Nationals (16.8% in 2011/12) than BTECs (3.1% in 2011/12).

The increases in uptake of BTECs and OCR Nationals over time were biggest amongst students in comprehensives and secondary modern schools.

Combinations of qualifications taken by students

Tables 9 to 11 present the top 10 most common combinations of qualifications taken by students in each year. It is a sign of the variety of qualifications available currently that there were 148 different combinations of qualifications taken by students in 2011/12.

Table 9: Most popular combinations of qualifications taken by students in 2007/08

Combination	Students	% Students
GCSEs only	311,432	48.3
GCSE-Vocational GCSE	94,335	14.6
GCSE-Other GQ	49,721	7.7
GCSE-BTEC	44,520	6.9
GCSE-OCR National	33,738	5.2
GCSE-BTEC- Vocational GCSE	13,833	2.1
GCSE-Other GQ-Vocational GCSE	13,814	2.1
GCSE-OCR National- Vocational GCSE	12,482	1.9
GCSE-VRQ	12,108	1.9
GCSE-BTEC-OCR National	8,535	1.3

Table 10: Most popular combinations of qualifications taken by students in 2009/10

Combination	Students	% Students
GCSEs only	208,238	33.1
GCSE-OCR National	86,298	13.7
GCSE-BTEC	76,854	12.2
GCSE-BTEC-OCR National	54,945	8.7
GCSE-Vocational GCSE	37,636	6.0
GCSE-Other GQ	30,988	4.9
GCSE-OCR National-Vocational GCSE	19,980	3.2
GCSE-BTEC- Vocational GCSE	16,343	2.6
GCSE-BTEC-Other GQ	11,629	1.9
GCSE-BTEC-OCR National- Vocational GCSE	10,758	1.7

Table 11: Most popular combinations of qualifications taken by students in 2011/12

Combination	Students	% Students
GCSEs only	125,579	20.5
GCSE-BTEC-OCR National	94,492	15.4
GCSE-BTEC	87,755	14.3
GCSE-OCR National	78,969	12.9
GCSE-IGCSE	28,008	4.6
GCSE-Other GQ	22,432	3.7
GCSE-BTEC-Other GQ	15,249	2.5
GCSE-BTEC-VRQ	14,719	2.4
GCSE-Vocational GCSE	13,872	2.3
GCSE-BTEC-OCR National-VRQ	13,395	2.2

In each year the most popular combination was GCSEs only, which was taken by 48.3% of students in 2007/08, just over 33% in 2009/10 and 20.5% 2011/12. This is an interesting finding as it shows that by 2011/12 nearly 80% of students at the end of Key Stage 4 took more than one qualification. The next most popular combinations were GCSEs with vocational GCSEs or other general qualifications (2007/08) and GCSEs with either BTECs, OCR Nationals or both of these (2009/10 and 2011/12).

Figure 3 presents the combinations that featured in the top 10 in all three years. This demonstrates the fall in the number of students taking GCSEs only. The biggest increases were in the number of students taking combinations of GCSEs with BTECs, OCR Nationals or both.

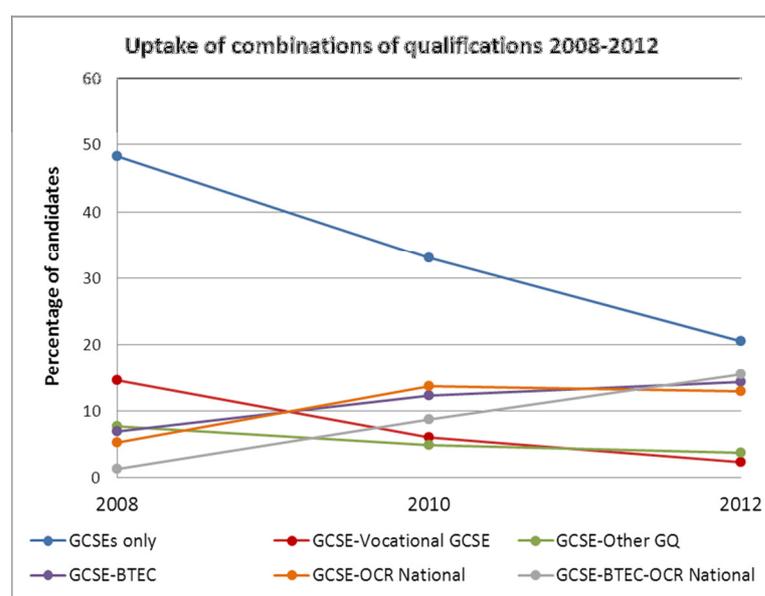


Figure 3: Uptake of popular combinations of qualifications 2007/08 – 2011/12 (% of students)

Appendix A presents the five most popular combinations in each school type in each year.

Uptake of individual subjects

Compulsory subjects

The National Curriculum requires state-funded schools to provide pupils with access to core subjects (English, Mathematics and Sciences). In science the requirement is access to a course of study leading to at least two GCSEs (or equivalent). This essentially means offering core science and additional science or all three separate sciences. In English, most students take either a combined English qualification or a separate qualification in English (2007/08 and 2009/10) or English language (2011/12), together with English literature.

It is necessary for schools to offer these subjects, but not for all pupils to take them or to be entered for the exams. For instance, some lower ability pupils may not be entered for some subjects if they have little chance of getting a grade. This may explain why some totals in the tables below are less than 100%.

Furthermore, when looking at the school type breakdown, it is worth noting that independent schools and academy schools (of which there are a greatly increasing number) do not have to follow the National Curriculum and therefore do not have to offer these subjects.

Mathematics

Tables 12 to 14 present the uptake of different mathematics qualifications. In the tables the sum of the percentage of students taking each qualification may not add up to the total in the 'Any' row because some students make take more than one qualification.

In 2007/08 and 2009/10 virtually all students taking mathematics took a GCSE in the subject (more than 99.9%). In 2011/12 this was not the case, as 96.4% of these students took a GCSE. This was due to the growth in the number of students taking IGCSEs in mathematics (4.4% in 2011/12). Students taking the IGCSE were most likely to take the non-accredited version (3.5%, compared to 0.9%).

In 2007/08 and 2009/10 around 5% of students apparently did not take a mathematics qualification. However, this is likely to be partly due to the fact that IGCSEs were not recorded in the 2007/08 NPD, and only accredited IGCSEs were recorded in the 2009/10 NPD. In 2011/12 there were still 2.7% of students who did not take a mathematics qualification.

Table 12: Uptake of different mathematics qualifications in 2007/08

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking mathematics
GCSE	612,599	94.9	>99.9
AS level	1,398	0.2	0.2
Any	612,831	95.0	100.0
None	32,385	5.0	n/a

Table 13: Uptake of different mathematics qualifications in 2009/10

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking mathematics
GCSE	595,106	94.7	>99.9
IGCSE - Acc	308	0.0	0.1
AS level	1,280	0.2	0.2
Any	595,351	94.7	100.00
None	33,174	5.3	n/a

Table 14: Uptake of different mathematics qualifications in 2011/12

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking mathematics
GCSE	575,394	93.7	96.4
IGCSE – Acc	5,565	0.9	0.9
IGCSE – Non Acc	21,502	3.5	3.6
AS level	1,135	0.2	0.2
Any	597,076	97.3	100.0
None	16,692	2.7	n/a

By school type

Tables 15 to 17 present the same analysis but broken down by school type.

Table 15: Uptake of different mathematics qualifications, by school type, in 2007/08

	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking mathematics
Academies	GCSE	11,452	97.08	100.00
	AS level	12	0.10	0.10
	Any	11,452	97.08	100.00
	None	345	2.92	3.01
Comprehensive	GCSE	513,398	98.48	99.99
	AS level	848	0.16	0.17
	Any	513,433	98.49	100.00
	None	7,863	1.51	1.53
Grammar	GCSE	22,950	99.53	99.83
	AS level	208	0.90	0.90
	Any	22,990	99.70	100.00
	None	69	0.30	0.30
Independent	GCSE	28,506	59.28	99.62
	AS level	201	0.42	0.70
	Any	28,616	59.51	100.00
	None	19,469	40.49	68.04
Secondary Modern	GCSE	25,602	98.23	100.00
	AS level	18	0.07	0.07
	Any	25,602	98.23	100.00
	None	462	1.77	1.80

Table 16: Uptake of different mathematics qualifications, by school type, in 2009/10

	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking mathematics
Academies	GCSE	29,771	96.78	99.99
	IGCSE – Acc	38	0.12	0.13
	AS level	50	0.16	0.17
	Any	29,773	96.78	100.00
	None	990	3.22	3.33
Comprehensive	GCSE	478,204	98.39	100.00
	IGCSE – Acc	36	0.01	0.01
	AS level	865	0.18	0.18
	Any	478,212	98.39	100.00
	None	7,839	1.61	1.64
Grammar	GCSE	22,914	99.73	100.00
	IGCSE – Acc	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	273	1.19	1.19
	Any	22,914	99.73	100.00
	None	61	0.27	0.27
Independent	GCSE	27,582	58.34	99.32
	IGCSE – Acc	193	0.41	0.69
	AS level	51	0.11	0.18
	Any	27,771	58.74	100.00
	None	19,508	41.26	70.25
Secondary Modern	GCSE	25,479	98.17	100.00
	IGCSE – Acc	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	26	0.10	0.10
	Any	25,479	98.17	100.00
	None	474	1.83	1.86

The data from 2007/08 and 2009/10 show that most of the students who apparently did not take a mathematics qualification were in independent schools (over 40% of independent schools students, compared with under 3% of students in all other school types), and so we can assume that the majority of these took an IGCSE which was not recorded in the NPD.

In 2011/12 students in independent school were much more likely to take an IGCSE (42%) than those in other schools. However, they were also the most likely to not take a mathematics qualification (3.7%). Grammar school pupils were the least likely to not take a mathematics qualification (0.39%), which is probably related to their intake (mainly high ability students). Students in secondary modern schools were the second most likely to take an IGCSE (2.65%).

Only 3.7% of independent school students in 2011/12 did not take a mathematics qualification, which supports the contention that in the previous years' data most students who apparently did not take mathematics actually took a (non-accredited) IGCSE. This is also supported by the fact that in 2011/12 almost all students in independent schools taking the IGCSE took the non-accredited version (20,468) compared with 690).

It is interesting to note that a substantial number of students in comprehensive schools (382) took the non-accredited IGCSE, despite the fact that the school would not receive funding for this.

Table 17: Uptake of different mathematics qualifications, by school type, in 2011/12

	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking mathematics
Academies	GCSE	179,364	97.97	99.80
	IGCSE – Acc	1,306	0.71	0.73
	IGCSE – Non Acc	392	0.21	0.22
	AS level	454	0.25	0.25
	Any	179,723	98.16	100.00
	None	3,366	1.84	1.87
Comprehensive	GCSE	327,057	97.91	99.97
	IGCSE – Acc	2,982	0.89	0.91
	IGCSE – Non Acc	382	0.11	0.12
	AS level	484	0.14	0.15
	Any	327,162	97.94	100.00
	None	6,888	2.06	2.11
Grammar	GCSE	11,364	98.85	99.24
	IGCSE – Acc	85	0.74	0.74
	IGCSE – Non Acc	62	0.54	0.54
	AS level	63	0.55	0.55
	Any	11,451	99.61	100.00
	None	45	0.39	0.39
Independent	GCSE	27,556	54.76	56.87
	IGCSE – Acc	690	1.37	1.42
	IGCSE – Non Acc	20,468	40.68	42.24
	AS level	31	0.06	0.06
	Any	48,455	96.30	100.00
	None	1,864	3.70	3.85
Secondary Modern	GCSE	16,398	97.49	99.96
	IGCSE – Acc	378	2.25	2.30
	IGCSE – Non Acc	68	0.40	0.41
	AS level	30	0.18	0.18
	Any	16,405	97.53	100.00
	None	416	2.47	2.54

English

In 2007/08 and 2009/10 students usually took either English or both English and English Literature. In 2011/12, most students took either English or both English *Language* and English Literature.

The following tables present the uptake of different qualifications in the three English subjects. Students taking only the combined English were treated separately from those taking English and English literature in 2007/08 and 2009/10. In 2011/12 the distinction was between those taking the combined English (with or without other English subjects) and those taking English language and English literature.

First, Tables 18 to 20 present the uptake of the combined English qualifications.

Table 18: Uptake of different English qualifications in 2007/08 (students not taking English literature)

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking English
GCSE	108,479	16.8	100.0
AS level	42	<0.1	<0.1
Any	108,485	16.8	100.0

Table 19: Uptake of different English qualifications in 2009/10 (students not taking English literature)

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking English
GCSE	136,220	21.7	100.0
AS level	57	0.1	0.1
Any	136,220	21.7	100.0

Table 20: Uptake of different English qualifications in 2011/12

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking English
GCSE	133,031	21.7	99.4
IGCSE	112	<0.1	0.1
AS level	645	0.1	0.5
Any	133,785	21.8	100.0

Very few of these students took anything other than a GCSE in the subject in any of the three years. Only 112 students took an IGCSE in English (in 2011/12). Table 21 presents the breakdown by school type.

Almost all of the IGCSEs were taken by students in academies (87 out of 112).

Table 21: Uptake of different English qualifications by school type in 2011/12

	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking English
Academies	GCSE	42,351	23.11	99.11
	IGCSE	87	0.05	0.20
	AS level	296	0.16	0.69
	Any	42,733	23.32	100.00
Comprehensive	GCSE	75,748	22.64	99.56
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	336	0.10	0.44
	Any	76,080	22.74	100.00
Grammar	GCSE	408	3.55	96.00
	IGCSE	17	0.15	4.00
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
	Any	425	3.70	100.00
Independent	GCSE	3,277	6.51	99.73
	IGCSE	8	0.02	0.24
	AS level	1	0.00	0.03
	Any	3,286	6.53	100.00
Secondary Modern	GCSE	5,863	34.86	100.00
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
	Any	5,863	34.86	100.00

The next analysis looks at those taking combinations of English and English literature (2007/08 and 2009/10) or English language and English literature (2011/12). Tables 22 to 24 present the results for English (2007/08 and 2009/10) or English language (2011/12) separately. Tables 25 to 27 present the results for English literature:

Table 22: Uptake of different English qualifications in 2007/08 (students also taking English Literature)

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of students taking English & English lit
GCSE	511,081	79.2	100.0
AS level	265	<0.1	0.1
Any	511,081	79.2	

Table 23: Uptake of different English qualifications in 2009/10 (students also taking English Literature)

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of students taking English & English lit
GCSE	466,921	74.3	100.0
AS level	283	<0.1	0.1
Any	466,921	74.3	100.0

Table 24: Uptake of different English language qualifications in 2011/12 (students also taking English Literature)

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of students taking English lang & lit
GCSE	425,581	69.3	95.9
IGCSE – Acc	4,351	0.7	1.0
IGCSE – Non Acc	16,751	2.7	3.8
AS level	291	<0.1	0.1
Any	443,992	72.3	100.0

Table 25: Uptake of different English Literature qualifications in 2007/08 (students also taking English)

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of students taking English & English lit
GCSE	510,974	79.2	100.0
AS level	622	0.1	0.1
Any	511,081	79.2	100.0

Table 26: Uptake of different English Literature qualifications in 2009/10 (students also taking English)

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of students taking English & English Lit
GCSE	466,125	74.2	99.8
IGCSE – Acc	563	0.1	0.1
AS level	560	0.1	0.1
Any	466,921	74.3	100.0

Table 27: Uptake of different English Literature qualifications in 2011/12 (students also taking English Language)

Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of students taking English lang & lit
GCSE	425,712	69.4	95.9
IGCSE – Acc	3,463	0.6	0.8
IGCSE – Non-Acc	14,693	2.4	3.3
AS level	635	0.1	0.1
Any	443,992	72.3	100.0

In 2007/08 and 2009/10 the vast majority of students took a GCSE (however, non-accredited IGCSEs were not included in the NPD in these years). In 2011/12 3.4% took an IGCSE in English Language and 3% took an IGCSE in English Literature. Most of these students (around 80%) took the non-accredited version.

By school type

This analysis was only undertaken for English language and English literature in 2011/12, when IGCSEs were taken in significant numbers.

Table 28: Uptake of different English language qualifications, by school type in 2011/12 (students also taking English literature)

	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking English lang & lit
Academies	GCSE	132,071	72.13	99.33
	IGCSE – Acc	1,541	0.84	1.16
	IGCSE – Non Acc	436	0.24	0.33
	AS level	138	0.08	0.10
	Any	132,956	72.62	100.00
Comprehensive	GCSE	244,030	73.05	99.67
	IGCSE – Acc	2,042	0.61	0.83
	IGCSE – Non Acc	181	0.05	0.07
	AS level	126	0.04	0.05
	Any	244,827	73.29	100.00
Grammar	GCSE	10,648	92.62	96.71
	IGCSE – Acc	369	3.21	3.35
	IGCSE – Non Acc	3	0.03	0.03
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
	Any	11,010	95.77	100.00
Independent	GCSE	25,512	50.70	61.14
	IGCSE – Acc	252	0.50	0.60
	IGCSE – Non Acc	16,049	31.89	38.46
	AS level	1	0.00	0.00
	Any	41,729	82.93	100.00
Secondary Modern	GCSE	10,234	60.84	99.92
	IGCSE – Acc	58	0.34	0.57
	IGCSE – Non Acc	8	0.05	0.08
	AS level	26	0.15	0.25
	Any	10,242	60.89	100.00

Independent schools had by far the highest uptake of IGCSEs in both subjects, with 32.4% taking English Language (Table 28) and 29.2% taking English Literature (Table 29). The vast majority of these were the non-accredited version. Around 3% of grammar school students took IGCSEs in these subjects (almost all the accredited version), but otherwise uptake was very low.

Table 29: Uptake of different English literature qualifications, by school type in 2011/12 (students also taking English language)

	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking English lang & lit
Academies	GCSE	131,662	71.91	99.03
	IGCSE – Acc	1,163	0.64	0.87
	IGCSE – Non	111	0.06	0.08
	AS level	184	0.10	0.14
	Any	132,956	72.62	100.00
Comprehensive	GCSE	243,154	72.79	99.32
	IGCSE – Acc	1,569	0.47	0.64
	IGCSE – Non	72	0.02	0.03
	AS level	297	0.09	0.12
	Any	244,827	73.29	100.00
Grammar	GCSE	10,602	92.22	96.29
	IGCSE – Acc	382	3.32	3.47
	IGCSE – Non	3	0.03	0.03
	AS level	31	0.27	0.28
	Any	11,010	95.77	100.00
Independent	GCSE	26,938	53.53	64.55
	IGCSE – Acc	265	0.53	0.64
	IGCSE – Non	14,429	28.68	34.58
	AS level	107	0.21	0.26
	Any	41,729	82.93	100.00
Secondary Modern	GCSE	10,207	60.68	99.66
	IGCSE – Acc	30	0.18	0.29
	IGCSE – Non	5	0.03	0.05
	AS level	15	0.09	0.15
	Any	10,242	60.89	100.00

Sciences

Students usually take either combined science (one or two qualifications) or all three of the separate sciences. Combined science is either GCSEs in Core Science and (usually) Additional Science or an IGCSE in Double Science.

There were a very large number of separate combinations of the science subjects taken by students, so they are not all presented here. Tables 30 to 32 summarise the top 10 most popular combinations of science subjects taken. It is worth noting the difference between the Applied Sciences and the Applied Science qualifications. The first refers to either a BTEC or an OCR National (which are equivalent to 1, 2 or 4 GCSEs), whereas the latter is a vocational GCSE double award.

Table 30: Combinations of science subjects taken by students in 2007/08

Combination	Students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core), Science (Additional)	348,487	56.9
Science (Core)	86,610	14.2
Biology, Physics, Chemistry	60,217	9.8
Science (Core), Additional Applied Science	49,647	8.1
Applied Science (Double Award)	20,801	3.4
Applied Sciences	15,672	2.6
Science (Core), Applied Sciences	4,175	0.7
Biology, Science (Core)	3,746	0.6
Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Science (Core)	3,643	0.6
Science (Additional)	2,649	0.4
Any	611,968	100.0
None	33,248	n/a

Table 31: Combinations of science subjects taken by students in 2009/10

Combination	Students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core), Science (Additional)	280,882	47.2
Biology, Physics, Chemistry	102,203	17.2
Science (Core)	61,195	10.3
Applied Sciences	53,277	8.9
Science (Core), Additional Applied Science	36,438	6.1
Science (Core), Applied Sciences	20,147	3.4
Applied Science (Double Award)	15,642	2.6
Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Science (Core)	5,382	0.9
Science (Additional)	2,990	0.5
Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Science (Core), Science (Additional)	2,558	0.4
Any	595,386	100.0
None	33,139	n/a

Table 32: Combinations of science subjects taken by students in 2011/12

Combination	Students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core), Science (Additional)	234,494	40.0
Biology, Physics, Chemistry	142,995	24.4
Applied Sciences	102,174	17.4
Science (Core)	32,625	5.6
Science (Core), Applied Sciences	20,562	3.5
Science (Core), Additional Applied Science	15,215	2.6
Applied Science (Double Award)	7,365	1.3
Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Science (Core)	5,902	1.0
Science (Core), Science (Additional), Applied Sciences	4,879	0.8
Science (Double Award)	3,320	0.6
Any	586,582	100.0
None	27,186	n/a

In each year the most popular combination was Core and Additional science, although the percentage of students taking this fell from 56.9% in 2007/08 to 40% in 2011/12. Meanwhile students taking all three separate sciences (without other qualifications) increased from 9.8% to 24.4%. Uptake of Applied Sciences only also increased significantly, from 2.6% to 17.4%.

Tables 33 to 35 present the number of students taking each science subject, by qualification type.

Table 33: Uptake of different science qualifications 2007/08

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	502,234	77.84	82.07
	AS level	132	0.02	0.02
Science (Additional)	GCSE	354,331	54.92	57.90
Biology	GCSE	75,099	11.64	12.27
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	374	0.06	0.06
Chemistry	GCSE	69,319	10.74	11.33
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	338	0.05	0.06
Physics	GCSE	68,281	10.58	11.16
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	249	0.04	0.04
Applied Sciences	BTEC	15,669	2.43	2.56
	OCR National	4,917	0.76	0.80
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	20,129	3.12	3.29
	GNVQ	1,312	0.20	0.21
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	51,167	7.93	8.36
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	3,510	0.54	0.57
Any	Any	611,968	94.85	100.00

Table 34: Uptake of different science qualifications 2009/10

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	414,496	65.95	69.62
	AS level	297	0.05	0.05
Science (Additional)	GCSE	290,705	46.25	48.83
Biology	GCSE	117,690	18.72	19.77
	IGCSE – Acc	473	0.08	0.08
	AS level	161	0.03	0.03
Chemistry	GCSE	113,404	18.04	19.05
	IGCSE – Acc	735	0.12	0.12
	AS level	91	0.01	0.02
Physics	GCSE	112,450	17.89	18.89
	IGCSE – Acc	581	0.09	0.10
	AS level	98	0.02	0.02
Applied Sciences	BTEC	62,143	9.89	10.44
	OCR National	14,532	2.31	2.44
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	16,211	2.58	2.72
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	38,192	6.08	6.41
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
Any	Any	595,386	94.73	100.00

Table 35: Uptake of different science qualifications 2011/12

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	320,310	52.19	54.61
	AS level	182	0.03	0.03
Science (Additional)	GCSE	247,166	40.27	42.14
Biology	GCSE	150,509	24.52	25.66
	IGCSE – Acc	1,256	0.20	0.21
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	6,824	1.11	1.16
	AS level	150	0.02	0.03
Chemistry	GCSE	147,723	24.07	25.18
	IGCSE – Acc	1,109	0.18	0.19
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	6,563	1.07	1.12
	AS level	101	0.02	0.02
Physics	GCSE	146,578	23.88	24.99
	IGCSE – Acc	1,443	0.24	0.25
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	7,072	1.15	1.21
	AS level	88	0.01	0.02
Applied Sciences	BTEC	112,024	18.25	19.10
	OCR National	20,562	3.35	3.51
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	8,046	1.31	1.37
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	17,564	2.86	2.99
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE – Acc	71	0.01	0.01
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	3,289	0.54	0.56
Any	Any	586,582	95.57	100.00

In the separate sciences, IGCES were taken by very small numbers in 2009/10 and by just over 1% of students in 2011/12. Over 80% of IGCSE students took the non-accredited version (and were presumably mostly from independent schools). However, some students may have taken IGCSEs in these subjects that were not recorded in the NPD in 2007/08 or in 2009/10.

Both Applied Sciences qualifications showed significant growth, with BTECs increasing from 2.43% to 18.25% and OCR Nationals from 0.76% to 3.35%. In terms of the Vocational GCSEs, the Additional Applied Science was more popular than the Applied Science, although both saw significant drops in uptake.

Appendix B presents the same analysis broken down by school type.

Uptake of individual subjects in other level 2 qualifications

Finally the uptake of the most common subjects to be taken in other popular qualifications (BTECs, OCR Nationals and vocational GCSEs) is summarised below. These are worth reporting as they make up a substantial percentage of the volume of qualifications taken at level 2. Tables 36 to 44 present the 10 most popular subjects taken in these qualifications in the three different years.

Table 36: Uptake of popular BTEC subjects (2007/08)

Subject	Students (n)	Students (%)
Sports Studies	23,503	3.6
Applied Sciences	15,669	2.4
Business & Finance	10,806	1.7
Systems / Network Management	9,796	1.5
Speech & Drama	9,465	1.5
Art & Design	6,913	1.1
Film / Video / Television Production	4,513	0.7
Health & Social Care	4,309	0.7
Tourism	3,667	0.6
Engineering Studies	2,719	0.4

Table 37: Uptake of popular BTEC subjects (2009/10)

Subject	Students (n)	Students (%)
Applied Sciences	62,143	9.9
Sports Studies	56,879	9.0
Business & Finance	26,109	4.2
Speech & Drama	21,043	3.3
Systems / Network Management	18,340	2.9
Art & Design	17,349	2.8
Health & Social Care	13,517	2.2
Film / Video / Television Production	8,937	1.4
Building / Construction Operations	7,074	1.1
Music Studies (General)	6,534	1.0

Table 38: Uptake of popular BTEC subjects (2011/12)

Subject	Students (n)	Students (%)
Applied Sciences	112,024	18.3
Sports Studies	100,755	16.4
Business Studies	35,908	5.9
Speech & Drama	32,123	5.2
Art & Design	30,203	4.9
Health Studies	20,226	3.3
Preparation for Work	15,908	2.6
Music Studies (General)	13,299	2.2
Computer Appreciation / Introduction	13,030	2.1
Systems / Network Management	12,536	2.0

Table 39: Uptake of popular OCR Nationals subjects (2007/08)

Subject	Students (n)	Students (%)
Computer Appreciation / Introduction	61,293	9.5
Applied Sciences	4,917	0.8
Business Studies	910	0.1
Film / Video / Television Production	685	0.1
Tourism	433	0.1
Art & Design	199	0.0
Health Studies	199	0.0
Sports Studies	159	0.0
Applied Art & Design	81	0.0
Public Services	23	0.0

Table 40: Uptake of popular OCR Nationals subjects (2009/10)

Subject	Students (n)	Students (%)
Computer Appreciation / Introduction	190,027	30.2
Applied Sciences	14,532	2.3
Business Studies	5,085	0.8
Health Studies	2,274	0.4
Sports Studies	1,547	0.2
Film / Video / Television Production	1,435	0.2
Tourism	903	0.1
Art & Design	699	0.1
Public Services	29	0.0

Table 41: Uptake of popular OCR Nationals subjects (2011/12)

Subject	Students (n)	Students (%)
Computer Appreciation / Introduction	244,668	39.9
Applied Sciences	20,562	3.4
Business Studies	7,803	1.3
Health Studies	2,926	0.5
Sports Studies	2,189	0.4
Film / Video / Television Production	2,024	0.3
Tourism	1,485	0.2
Art & Design	1,069	0.2
Public Services	152	0.0

Table 42: Uptake of popular Vocational GCSE subjects (2007/08)

Subject	Students (n)	Students (%)
Additional Applied Science	51,167	7.9
Health & Social Care	27,830	4.3
Applied Science	20,129	3.1
Applied Business	17,917	2.8
Applied ICT	15,287	2.4
Leisure & Tourism	12,897	2.0
Applied Art & Design	7,229	1.1
Applied Engineering	6,354	1.0
Performing Arts	4,435	0.7
Applied Physical Education	3,678	0.6

Table 43: Uptake of popular Vocational GCSE subjects (2009/10)

Subject	Students (n)	Students (%)
Additional Applied Science	38,192	6.1
Health & Social Care	17,085	2.7
Applied Science	16,211	2.6
Applied Business	10,656	1.7
Leisure & Tourism	5,976	1.0
Applied ICT	5,303	0.8
Applied Art & Design	4,315	0.7
Applied Engineering	4,063	0.6
Performing Arts	3,840	0.6
Applied Physical Education	3,837	0.6

Table 44: Uptake of popular Vocational GCSE subjects (2011/12)

Subject	Students (n)	Students (%)
Catering Studies	18,521	3.0
Additional Applied Science	17,564	2.9
Health & Social Care	10,696	1.7
Applied Science	8,046	1.3
Applied Business	7,666	1.2
Leisure & Tourism	3,721	0.6
Hospitality & Catering	2,310	0.4
Applied Engineering	1,820	0.3
Manufacturing	945	0.2
Applied ICT	386	0.1

Appendix A: Combinations by school type

Table A1: Most popular combinations of qualifications taken, by school type (2007/08)

	Combination	Students	% Students
Academy	GCSE	2,857	24.2
	GCSE-BTEC	1,723	14.6
	GCSE-Vocational GCSE	1,658	14.1
	GCSE-OCR National	819	6.9
	GCSE-Other GQ	686	5.8
Comprehensive	GCSE	225,658	43.3
	GCSE-Vocational GCSE	86,960	16.7
	GCSE-Other GQ	45,652	8.8
	GCSE-BTEC	38,663	7.4
	GCSE-OCR National	30,482	5.8
Grammar	GCSE	18,362	79.6
	GCSE-AS level	1,377	6.0
	GCSE-Vocational GCSE	752	3.3
	GCSE-VRQ	743	3.2
	GCSE-Other GQ	701	3.0
Independent	GCSE	43,348	90.1
	GCSE-AS level	1,101	2.3
	GCSE-VRQ	985	2.0
	GCSE-Other GQ	716	1.5
	GCSE-Vocational GCSE	536	1.1
Secondary Modern	GCSE	9,422	36.1
	GCSE- Vocational GCSE	4,032	15.5
	GCSE-BTEC	3,036	11.6
	GCSE-OCR National	1,927	7.4
	GCSE-Other GQ	1,907	7.3

Table A2: Most popular combinations of qualifications taken, by school type (2009/10)

	Combination	Students	% Students
Academy	GCSE-BTEC	6,181	22.2
	GCSE-BTEC-OCR National	5,970	19.4
	GCSE	4,401	14.3
	GCSE-OCR National	3,316	10.8
	GCSE-BTEC-OCR National-VRQ	1,046	3.4
Comprehensive	GCSE	132,253	27.2
	GCSE-OCR National	76,345	15.7
	GCSE-BTEC	63,750	13.1
	GCSE-BTEC-OCR National	45,272	9.3
	GCSE-Vocational GCSE	33,987	7.0
Grammar	GCSE	16,075	70.0
	GCSE-AS level	1,681	7.3
	GCSE-OCR National	1,671	7.3
	GCSE-Other GQ	984	4.3
	GCSE-VRQ	738	3.2
Independent	GCSE	38,379	81.2
	GCSE-IGCSE	4,387	9.3
	GCSE-VRQ	908	1.9
	GCSE-OCR National	828	1.7
	GCSE-AS level	615	1.3
Secondary Modern	GCSE	5,862	22.6
	GCSE-BTEC	4,704	18.1
	GCSE-BTEC-OCR National	3,505	13.5
	GCSE-OCR National	3,440	13.3
	GCSE-Vocational GCSE	1,553	6.0

Table A3: Most popular combinations of qualifications taken, by school type (2011/12)

	Combination	Students	% Students
Academy	GCSE	34,805	19.0
	GCSE-BTEC-OCR National	30,252	16.5
	GCSE-BTEC	27,737	15.1
	GCSE-OCR National	24,466	13.4
	GCSE-Other GQ	7,465	4.1
Comprehensive	GCSE-BTEC-OCR National	59,169	17.7
	GCSE	56,146	16.8
	GCSE-BTEC	53,390	16.0
	GCSE-OCR National	48,827	14.6
	GCSE-Other GQ	13,023	3.9
Grammar	GCSE	6,244	54.3
	GCSE-OCR National	1,465	12.7
	GCSE-Other GQ	778	6.8
	GCSE-IGCSE	606	5.3
	GCSE-AS level	588	5.1
Independent	GCSE-IGCSE	23,811	47.3
	GCSE	16,972	33.7
	GCSE-OCR National	1,242	2.5
	GCSE-BTEC	836	1.7
	IGCSE	749	1.5
Secondary Modern	GCSE-BTEC-OCR National	3,898	23.2
	GCSE-BTEC	3,701	22.0
	GCSE	1,990	11.8
	GCSE-OCR National	1,805	10.7
	GCSE-BTEC-VRQ	663	3.9

Appendix B: Science uptake by school type.

Table B1: Uptake of science qualifications in academies (2007/08)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	8,309	70.43	75.22
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
Science (Additional)	GCSE	4,470	37.89	40.47
Biology	GCSE	951	8.06	8.61
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	12	0.10	0.11
Chemistry	GCSE	744	6.31	6.74
	IGCSE			
	AS level	5	0.04	0.05
Physics	GCSE	701	5.94	6.35
	IGCSE			
	AS level	6	0.05	0.05
Applied Sciences	BTEC	801	6.79	7.25
	OCR National	438	3.71	3.97
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	545	4.62	4.93
	GNVQ	118	1.00	1.07
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	873	7.40	7.90
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	457	3.87	4.14
Any	Any	11,046	93.63	100.00

Table B2: Uptake of science qualifications in comprehensives (2007/08)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	432,403	82.95	85.28
	AS level	120	0.02	0.02
Science (Additional)	GCSE	305,454	58.60	60.25
Biology	GCSE	45,113	8.65	8.90
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	153	0.03	0.03
Chemistry	GCSE	41,297	7.92	8.15
	IGCSE			
	AS level	122	0.02	0.02
Physics	GCSE	40,706	7.81	8.03
	IGCSE			
	AS level	98	0.02	0.02
Applied Sciences	BTEC	14,042	2.69	2.77
	OCR National	3,988	0.77	0.79
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	18,653	3.58	3.68
	GNVQ	1,180	0.23	0.23
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	47,094	9.03	9.29
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	1,809	0.35	0.36
Any	Any	507,010	97.26	100.00

Table B3: Uptake of science qualifications in grammar schools (2007/08)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	11,736	50.90	51.36
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
Science (Additional)	GCSE	10,599	45.96	46.39
Biology	GCSE	11,270	48.87	49.32
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	80	0.35	0.35
Chemistry	GCSE	11,091	48.10	48.54
	IGCSE			
	AS level	57	0.25	0.25
Physics	GCSE	11,176	48.47	48.91
	IGCSE			
	AS level	39	0.17	0.17
Applied Sciences	BTEC	0	0.00	0.00
	OCR National	0	0.00	0.00
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	32	0.14	0.14
	GNVQ	0	0.00	0.00
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	175	0.76	0.77
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	396	1.72	1.73
Any	Any	22,850	99.09	100.00

Table B4: Uptake of science qualifications in independent schools (2007/08)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	21,201	44.09	54.57
	AS level	12	0.02	0.03
Science (Additional)	GCSE	18,774	39.04	48.32
Biology	GCSE	16,179	33.65	41.64
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	79	0.16	0.20
Chemistry	GCSE	15,393	32.01	39.62
	IGCSE			
	AS level	84	0.17	0.22
Physics	GCSE	14,855	30.89	38.23
	IGCSE			
	AS level	60	0.12	0.15
Applied Sciences	BTEC	157	0.33	0.40
	OCR National	221	0.46	0.57
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	88	0.18	0.23
	GNVQ	1	0.00	0.00
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	194	0.40	0.50
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	253	0.53	0.65
Any	Any	38,853	80.80	100.00

Table B5: Uptake of science qualifications in secondary moderns (2007/08)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	22,958	88.08	91.05
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
Science (Additional)	GCSE	14,422	55.33	57.19
Biology	GCSE	1,057	4.06	4.19
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	1	0.00	0.00
Chemistry	GCSE	548	2.10	2.17
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
Physics	GCSE	588	2.26	2.33
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
Applied Sciences	BTEC	600	2.30	2.38
	OCR National	266	1.02	1.05
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	738	2.83	2.93
	GNVQ	1	0.00	0.00
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	2,737	10.50	10.85
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	68	0.26	0.27
Any	Any	25,216	96.75	100.00

Table B6: Uptake of science qualifications in academies (2009/10)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	17,967	58.40	62.40
	AS level	24	0.08	0.08
Science (Additional)	GCSE	10,874	35.35	37.77
Biology	GCSE	3,259	10.59	11.32
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	4	0.01	0.01
Chemistry	GCSE	3,052	9.92	10.60
	IGCSE			
	AS level	6	0.02	0.02
Physics	GCSE	3,182	10.34	11.05
	IGCSE			
	AS level	3	0.01	0.01
Applied Sciences	BTEC	6,520	21.19	22.65
	OCR National	2,586	8.41	8.98
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	969	3.15	3.37
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	1,275	4.14	4.43
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
Any	Any	28,791	93.59	100.00

Table B7: Uptake of science qualifications in comprehensives (2009/10)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	341,894	70.34	72.31
	AS level	225	0.05	0.05
Science (Additional)	GCSE			
Biology	GCSE	79,217	16.30	16.75
	IGCSE	5	0.00	0.00
	AS level	79	0.02	0.02
Chemistry	GCSE	76,629	15.77	16.21
	IGCSE	3	0.00	0.00
	AS level	37	0.01	0.01
Physics	GCSE	76,424	15.72	16.16
	IGCSE	4	0.00	0.00
	AS level	53	0.01	0.01
Applied Sciences	BTEC	52,141	10.73	11.03
	OCR National	11,447	2.36	2.42
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	14,310	2.94	3.03
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	34,420	7.08	7.28
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
Any	Any	478,822	97.28	100.00

Table B8: Uptake of science qualifications in grammar schools (2009/10)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	9,101	39.61	39.75
	AS level	48	0.21	0.21
Science (Additional)	GCSE	8,206	35.72	35.83
Biology	GCSE	14,391	62.64	62.86
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	73	0.32	0.32
Chemistry	GCSE	14,209	61.85	62.06
	IGCSE	1	0.00	0.00
	AS level	39	0.17	0.17
Physics	GCSE	14,204	61.82	62.04
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	33	0.14	0.14
Applied Sciences	BTEC	27	0.12	0.12
	OCR National	0	0.00	0.00
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	57	0.25	0.25
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	164	0.71	0.72
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
Any	Any	22,895	99.65	100.00

Table B9: Uptake of science qualifications in independent schools (2009/10)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	18,418	38.96	48.46
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
Science (Additional)	GCSE	16,047	33.94	42.22
Biology	GCSE	18,001	38.07	47.36
	IGCSE	448	0.95	1.18
	AS level	1	0.00	0.00
Chemistry	GCSE	17,387	36.78	45.75
	IGCSE	714	1.51	1.88
	AS level	2	0.00	0.01
Physics	GCSE	16,528	34.96	43.49
	IGCSE	546	1.15	1.44
	AS level	1	0.00	0.00
Applied Sciences	BTEC	232	0.49	0.61
	OCR National	2	0.00	0.01
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	49	0.10	0.13
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	144	0.30	0.38
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
Any	Any	38,008	80.39	100.00

Table B10: Uptake of science qualifications in secondary moderns (2009/10)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	20,323	78.31	80.69
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
Science (Additional)	GCSE	13,084	50.41	51.95
Biology	GCSE	2,288	8.82	9.08
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
Chemistry	GCSE	1,957	7.54	7.77
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	1	0.00	0.00
Physics	GCSE	1,952	7.52	7.75
	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
	AS level	1	0.00	0.00
Applied Sciences	BTEC	3,018	11.62	11.96
	OCR National	461	1.77	1.83
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	736	2.83	2.92
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	2,027	7.80	8.04
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE	0	0.00	0.00
Any	Any	25,186	97.04	100.00

Table B11: Uptake of science qualifications in academies (2011/12)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	96,577	52.75	54.28
	AS level	151	0.08	0.08
Science (Additional)	GCSE	75,071	41.00	42.19
Biology	GCSE	47,869	26.15	26.90
	IGCSE – Acc	320	0.17	0.18
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	32	0.02	0.02
	AS level	64	0.03	0.04
Chemistry	GCSE	47,225	25.79	26.54
	IGCSE – Acc	191	0.10	0.11
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	15	0.01	0.01
	AS level	29	0.02	0.02
Physics	GCSE	47,071	25.71	26.45
	IGCSE – Acc	212	0.12	0.12
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	20	0.01	0.01
	AS level	24	0.01	0.01
Applied Sciences	BTEC	36,235	19.79	20.36
	OCR National	6,727	3.67	3.78
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	3,208	1.75	1.80
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	5,915	3.23	3.32
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE – Acc	54	0.03	0.03
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	24	0.01	0.01
Any	Any	177,932	97.18	100.00

Table B12: Uptake of science qualifications in comprehensives (2011/12)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	183,783	55.02	56.96
	AS level	24	0.01	0.01
Science (Additional)	GCSE	144,271	43.19	44.71
Biology	GCSE	73,433	21.98	22.76
	IGCSE – Acc	91	0.03	0.03
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	34	0.01	0.01
	AS level	51	0.02	0.02
Chemistry	GCSE	72,290	21.64	22.40
	IGCSE – Acc	78	0.02	0.02
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	26	0.01	0.01
	AS level	34	0.01	0.01
Physics	GCSE	72,161	21.60	22.36
	IGCSE – Acc	72	0.02	0.02
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	33	0.01	0.01
	AS level	32	0.01	0.01
Applied Sciences	BTEC	69,307	20.75	21.48
	OCR National	12,928	3.87	4.01
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	4,433	1.33	1.37
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	10,707	3.21	3.32
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE – Acc	16	0.00	0.00
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	22	0.01	0.01
Any	Any	322,622	96.59	100.00

Table B13: Uptake of science qualifications in grammar schools (2011/12)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	4,195	36.49	36.62
	AS level	7	0.06	0.06
Science (Additional)	GCSE	3,659	31.83	31.95
Biology	GCSE	7,641	66.47	66.71
	IGCSE – Acc	88	0.77	0.77
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	3	0.03	0.03
	AS level	21	0.18	0.18
Chemistry	GCSE	7,588	66.01	66.25
	IGCSE – Acc	99	0.86	0.86
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	3	0.03	0.03
	AS level	19	0.17	0.17
Physics	GCSE	7,587	66.00	66.24
	IGCSE – Acc	100	0.87	0.87
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	3	0.03	0.03
	AS level	18	0.16	0.16
Applied Sciences	BTEC	31	0.27	0.27
	OCR National	1	0.01	0.01
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	0	0.00	0.00
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	14	0.12	0.12
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE – Acc	0	0.00	0.00
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	2	0.02	0.02
Any	Any	11,454	99.63	100.00

Table B14: Uptake of science qualifications in independent schools (2011/12)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	17,481	34.74	36.48
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
Science (Additional)	GCSE	14,472	28.76	30.20
Biology	GCSE	18,287	36.34	38.16
	IGCSE – Acc	712	1.41	1.49
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	6,655	13.23	13.89
	AS level	7	0.01	0.01
Chemistry	GCSE	17,689	35.15	36.91
	IGCSE – Acc	715	1.42	1.49
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	6,461	12.84	13.48
	AS level	6	0.01	0.01
Physics	GCSE	16,866	33.52	35.19
	IGCSE – Acc	1,022	2.03	2.13
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	6,952	13.82	14.51
	AS level	2	0.00	0.00
Applied Sciences	BTEC	971	1.93	2.03
	OCR National	330	0.66	0.69
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	90	0.18	0.19
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	79	0.16	0.16
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE – Acc	0	0.00	0.00
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	3,221	6.40	6.72
Any	Any	47,925	95.24	100.00

Table B15: Uptake of science qualifications in secondary moderns (2011/12)

Subject	Qualification	Students	% of all students	% of all taking Sciences
Science (Core)	GCSE	10,386	61.74	64.37
	AS level	0	0.00	0.00
Science (Additional)	GCSE	7,676	45.63	47.57
Biology	GCSE	2,125	12.63	13.17
	IGCSE – Acc	1	0.01	0.01
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	3	0.02	0.02
	AS level	3	0.02	0.02
Chemistry	GCSE	2,039	12.12	12.64
	IGCSE – Acc	1	0.01	0.01
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	1	0.01	0.01
	AS level	8	0.05	0.05
Physics	GCSE	2,017	11.99	12.50
	IGCSE – Acc	0	0.00	0.00
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	2	0.01	0.01
	AS level	5	0.03	0.03
Applied Sciences	BTEC	4,295	25.53	26.62
	OCR National	494	2.94	3.06
Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	148	0.88	0.92
Additional Applied Science	Voc. GCSE	477	2.84	2.96
Science (Double Award)	IGCSE – Acc	0	0.00	0.00
	IGCSE – Non-Acc	2	0.01	0.01
Any	Any	16,136	95.93	100.00