

# Uptake of IGCSE subjects 2012

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Tom Sutch

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

## **Introduction**

This report looks at the uptake of IGCSE subjects in England in 2012, in a similar manner to the series of Cambridge Assessment Statistics Reports on GCSE uptake (e.g. Gill, 2013). 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, as well as pupil and school background characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity and level of deprivation.

For the analysis of uptake at IGCSE the Key Stage 4 (KS4) extract of the NPD was used, consisting of all students who were at the end of KS4 in 2012 (i.e. in Year 11). Uptake in this report is defined as the percentage of these students taking an IGCSE in the subject, and includes exams taken by these students in previous years.

IGCSEs are offered in England by AQA, Edexcel, Cambridge International Examinations and WJEC. Some IGCSE syllabuses have been approved for teaching in state schools; these are more formally known as Level 1/Level 2 Certificates (and are identified as such in the NPD) and are accredited by Ofqual. In this report, uptake of accredited and unaccredited IGCSEs has been presented separately.

Table 1 presents a breakdown of the number of IGCSEs taken by students.

**Table 1: Number of IGCSEs taken (% of KS4 students)**

**a) All IGCSEs**

Number of IGCSEs	Number of students	%
0	568427	92.7
1	20130	3.3
2	6253	1.0
3	5943	1.0
4	3590	0.6
5	2874	0.5
6	2490	0.4
7	1917	0.3
8	1292	0.2
9	480	0.1
10	45	0.0
11	2	0.0
Number of students	613443	100.0
At least one IGCSE	45016	7.3

**b) Split by accreditation status**

Number of IGCSEs	Unaccredited		Accredited	
	Number of students	%	Number of students	%
0	583567	95.1	592904	96.7
1	8645	1.4	16640	2.7
2	4500	0.7	2621	0.4
3	5671	0.9	519	0.1
4	3511	0.6	285	0.0
5	2328	0.4	294	0.0
6	2469	0.4	158	0.0
7	1774	0.3	22	0.0
8	783	0.1	.	.
9	175	0.0	.	.
10	19	0.0	.	.
11	1	0.0	.	.

Uptake of IGCSEs in this report is presented by different student classifications: gender, school type, prior attainment and school gender. (Note that uptake by deprivation level is not provided, because of the lack of deprivation information for students at independent schools, who dominate the IGCSE entry.) In the following tables the numbers of students in each of the classifications are presented.

### *School type*

There are several different types of school where students study at KS4. For this report these were classified into five groups. Table 2 presents the number of KS4 students attending each school type, and the percentage in each group taking IGCSEs.

**Table 2: Uptake of IGCSEs by school type**

School type	Number of students	Percentage taking IGCSE		
		Any	Accredited	Unaccredited
Academy	185343	3.3	2.6	0.8
Comprehensive	339043	2.6	2.3	0.4
Grammar	11573	6.0	3.8	2.2
Independent	51153	54.0	12.2	51.6
Secondary Modern	17061	3.5	2.9	0.6

### *Pupil attainment*

Students were classified by their attainment at KS4, using combined results from GCSE and both accredited and unaccredited IGCSEs. Grades were converted into scores (A\* = 8, A= 7, B= 6 etc) and a mean score was calculated for each student, which was then used to divide students up into three approximately equally sized attainment groups: low, medium and high. Table 3 presents the number in each group as well as the mean, minimum and maximum value of mean score for each group.

**Table 3: Uptake of IGCSEs by attainment**

Pupils' attainment group	Number of students	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Percentage taking IGCSE		
					Any	Accredited	Unaccredited
Low	204945	0.00	4.38	3.11	3.7	3.0	0.9
Medium	204268	4.38	5.67	5.04	4.1	2.4	2.0
High	202161	5.69	8.00	6.61	14.3	4.7	11.9

### *School gender*

The school gender variable was determined by the female ratio (number of females over the total number of students) in the school. If this ratio was greater than 0.95, the school was considered to be a "Girls" school. If the female ratio was less than 0.05, then the school was designated a "Boys" school. The rest of the schools were considered "Mixed" schools. Table 4 shows the numbers and percentages of students attending the different types of schools.

**Table 4: Uptake of IGCSEs by school gender**

School gender	Number of students	Percentage taking IGCSE		
		Any	Accredited	Unaccredited
Boys school	31998	24.9	11.7	19.4
Girls school	47889	15.6	4.3	13.1
Mixed school	524286	5.4	2.6	3.2

## Number of IGCSEs taken

The number of IGCSEs taken by students in each of the classifications is presented in Tables 5 to 7. For example, Table 5 shows that 0.3% of students in academies took two accredited IGCSEs, compared with 1.6% of students in independent schools. Table 6 shows that 0.1% of students with low attainment took two unaccredited IGCSEs, compared with 1.7% of students with high attainment.

**Table 5: Number of IGCSEs taken by school type (% of KS4 students)**

### a) Unaccredited

Number of IGCSEs	School type				
	Academy Comprehensive		Grammar	Independent	Secondary Modern
	%	%	%	%	%
0	99.2	99.6	97.8	48.4	99.4
1	0.7	0.3	2.1	11.0	0.5
2	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0
3	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.9	0.0
4	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0
5	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.0
6	0.0	0.0	.	4.8	.
7	.	.	.	3.5	0.0
8	0.0	0.0	.	1.5	.
9	.	0.0	.	0.3	.
10	.	.	.	0.0	.
11	.	.	.	0.0	.
Number of students	185343	339043	11573	51153	17061

### b) Accredited

Number of IGCSEs	School type				
	Academy Comprehensive		Grammar	Independent	Secondary Modern
	%	%	%	%	%
0	97.4	97.7	96.2	87.8	97.1
1	2.1	1.9	0.7	9.5	2.8
2	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.6	0.1
3	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.5	.
4	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.2	.
5	0.1	.	0.5	0.1	.
6	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	.
7	.	.	.	0.0	.
Number of students	185343	339043	11573	51153	17061

**Table 6: Number of IGCSEs taken by attainment (% of KS4 students)**

**a) Unaccredited**

Number of IGCSEs	Attainment group		
	Low %	Medium %	High %
0	99.1	98.0	88.1
1	0.6	0.9	2.7
2	0.1	0.4	1.7
3	0.1	0.3	2.4
4	0.0	0.1	1.6
5	0.0	0.1	1.1
6	0.0	0.0	1.2
7	0.0	0.0	0.9
8	0.0	0.0	0.4
9	0.0	.	0.1
10	.	.	0.0
11	.	.	0.0
Number of students	204945	204268	202161

**b) Unaccredited**

Number of IGCSEs	Attainment group		
	Low %	Medium %	High %
0	97.0	97.6	95.3
1	2.7	2.1	3.4
2	0.3	0.3	0.7
3	0.0	0.1	0.2
4	0.0	0.0	0.1
5	0.0	0.0	0.1
6	.	0.0	0.1
7	.	.	0.0
Number of students	204945	204268	202161

**Table 7: Number of IGCSEs taken by school gender (% of KS4 students)**

**a) Unaccredited**

Number of IGCSEs	School gender		
	Boys school	Girls school	Mixed school
	%	%	%
0	80.6	86.9	96.8
1	3.6	4.3	1.2
2	1.3	2.4	0.6
3	3.4	3.0	0.7
4	3.0	1.9	0.4
5	2.0	1.2	0.3
6	2.8	1.0	0.2
7	2.9	0.6	0.1
8	1.4	0.1	0.1
9	0.3	0.0	0.0
10	0.0	.	0.0
11	.	.	0.0
Number of students	31998	47889	524286

**b) Accredited**

Number of IGCSEs	School gender		
	Boys school	Girls school	Mixed school
	%	%	%
0	88.3	95.7	97.4
1	9.0	3.2	2.4
2	1.7	0.9	0.3
3	0.5	0.1	0.1
4	0.2	0.3	0.0
5	0.7	0.1	0.0
6	0.4	0.0	0.0
7	0.1	.	0.0
Number of students	31998	47889	524286

## Uptake of individual IGCSE subjects

In the following tables the uptake of individual IGCSE subjects is presented, broken down into the classifications outlined above.

**Table 8: Uptake of individual subjects by gender (% of KS4 students)**

### a) Unaccredited

Subject	Boys	Girls	All
Art & Design	0.00	0.00	0.00
Biology	1.42	0.79	1.11
Chemistry	1.39	0.74	1.07
Chinese	0.16	0.17	0.16
English Language	3.58	2.73	3.16
English Literature	2.80	2.06	2.44
English for Speakers of other Languages	0.10	0.08	0.09
French	1.08	0.69	0.89
Geography	0.56	0.24	0.41
German	0.24	0.19	0.21
Hindi	0.00	0.00	0.00
History	0.53	0.25	0.39
Information & Communications Technology	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mathematics	3.82	3.18	3.51
Music	0.00	0.00	0.00
Physics	1.48	0.81	1.15
Science: Double Award	0.52	0.55	0.54
Spanish	0.51	0.38	0.44

### b) Accredited

Subject	Boys	Girls	All
Applied Business	0.00	0.00	0.00
Art & Design	0.02	0.02	0.02
Biology	0.27	0.14	0.21
Business Studies	0.07	0.03	0.05
Chemistry	0.21	0.15	0.18
English Language	1.15	0.85	1.00
English Language & Literature	0.02	0.02	0.02
English Literature	0.72	0.65	0.69
English for Speakers of other Languages	0.19	0.14	0.17
French	0.10	0.04	0.07
Geography	0.20	0.16	0.18
German	0.01	0.01	0.01
Hindi	0.00	0.00	0.00
History	0.61	0.22	0.42
Information & Communications Technology	0.18	0.11	0.15
Mathematics	1.04	0.84	0.95
Modern Greek	0.00	0.00	0.00
Music	0.07	0.03	0.05
Physics	0.32	0.15	0.24
Science: Double Award	0.02	0.00	0.01
Spanish	0.01	0.03	0.02

**Table 9: Uptake of individual subjects by school type (% of KS4 students)****a) Unaccredited**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Academy</b>	<b>Compre- hensive</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Secondary Modern</b>
Art & Design	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Biology	0.01	0.01	0.03	13.25	0.02
Chemistry	0.01	0.01	0.03	12.85	0.01
Chinese	0.02	0.01	0.07	1.82	0.00
English Language	0.36	0.20	0.05	35.20	0.14
English Literature	0.06	0.02	1.57	28.83	0.03
English for Speakers of other Languages	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.73	0.00
French	0.07	0.01	0.01	10.42	0.01
Geography	0.05	0.01	0.00	4.69	0.02
German	0.03	0.00	0.00	2.49	0.01
Hindi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
History	0.01	0.01	0.02	4.55	0.03
Information & Communications Technology	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Mathematics	0.22	0.12	0.54	40.72	0.40
Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Physics	0.01	0.01	0.03	13.83	0.01
Science: Double Award	0.01	0.01	0.02	6.41	0.01
Spanish	0.01	0.01	0.00	5.29	0.07

**b) Accredited**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Academy</b>	<b>Compre- hensive</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Secondary Modern</b>
Applied Business	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
Art & Design	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00
Biology	0.18	0.03	0.77	1.41	0.00
Business Studies	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.00
Chemistry	0.11	0.02	0.86	1.42	0.00
English Language	1.10	0.79	3.22	0.66	0.52
English Language & Literature	0.05	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.00
English Literature	0.73	0.61	3.32	0.69	0.19
English for Speakers of other Languages	0.09	0.14	0.00	0.69	0.02
French	0.05	0.01	1.06	0.35	0.00
Geography	0.06	0.00	0.02	1.91	0.00
German	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
Hindi	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
History	0.07	0.03	0.66	4.53	0.00
Information & Communications Technology	0.14	0.04	0.64	0.83	0.00
Mathematics	0.73	0.94	0.74	1.37	2.31
Modern Greek	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.61	0.00
Physics	0.12	0.02	0.87	2.03	0.00
Science: Double Award	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00

**Table 10: Uptake of individual subjects by attainment (% of KS4 students)****a) Unaccredited**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Low attainment</b>	<b>Medium attainment</b>	<b>High attainment</b>
Art & Design	0.00	0.00	0.00
Biology	0.05	0.18	3.14
Chemistry	0.03	0.15	3.07
Chinese	0.01	0.06	0.42
English Language	0.56	1.03	7.98
English Literature	0.10	0.70	6.59
English for Speakers of other Languages	0.06	0.08	0.12
French	0.02	0.13	2.54
Geography	0.03	0.08	1.12
German	0.00	0.04	0.61
Hindi	0.00	0.00	0.00
History	0.04	0.13	1.02
Information & Communications Technology	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mathematics	0.24	1.09	9.31
Music	0.00	0.00	0.00
Physics	0.04	0.19	3.28
Science: Double Award	0.04	0.19	1.39
Spanish	0.01	0.07	1.26

**b) Accredited**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Low attainment</b>	<b>Medium attainment</b>	<b>High attainment</b>
Applied Business	0.00	0.00	0.00
Art & Design	0.01	0.02	0.03
Biology	0.06	0.11	0.45
Business Studies	0.01	0.03	0.11
Chemistry	0.03	0.08	0.45
English Language	1.35	0.76	0.89
English Language & Literature	0.01	0.03	0.02
English Literature	0.40	0.57	1.09
English for Speakers of other Languages	0.19	0.17	0.14
French	0.00	0.01	0.19
Geography	0.01	0.06	0.47
German	0.00	0.00	0.03
Hindi	0.00	0.00	0.01
History	0.02	0.07	1.19
Information & Communications Technology	0.02	0.08	0.34
Mathematics	1.23	0.80	0.82
Modern Greek	0.00	0.00	0.00
Music	0.00	0.00	0.15
Physics	0.03	0.10	0.59
Science: Double Award	0.01	0.00	0.02
Spanish	0.00	0.00	0.05

**Table 11: Uptake of individual subjects by school gender (% of KS4 students)****a) Unaccredited**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Boys school</b>	<b>Girls school</b>	<b>Mixed school</b>
Art & Design	0.00	0.00	0.00
Biology	8.12	2.48	0.58
Chemistry	7.72	2.29	0.58
Chinese	0.34	0.56	0.12
English Language	14.26	7.59	2.11
English Literature	12.17	5.95	1.58
English for Speakers of other Languages	0.04	0.05	0.08
French	6.48	2.31	0.43
Geography	3.30	0.71	0.21
German	1.06	0.71	0.12
Hindi	0.00	0.00	0.00
History	2.19	0.32	0.29
Information & Communications Technology	0.01	0.00	0.00
Mathematics	16.32	10.31	2.19
Music	0.00	0.01	0.00
Physics	7.67	2.52	0.65
Science: Double Award	1.91	1.78	0.35
Spanish	2.96	1.26	0.23

**b) Accredited**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Boys school</b>	<b>Girls school</b>	<b>Mixed school</b>
Applied Business	0.00	0.00	0.00
Art & Design	0.11	0.04	0.01
Biology	1.64	0.44	0.09
Business Studies	0.26	0.00	0.04
Chemistry	1.28	0.52	0.08
English Language	2.73	1.12	0.78
English Language & Literature	0.00	0.00	0.02
English Literature	2.14	1.03	0.57
English for Speakers of other Languages	0.34	0.14	0.16
French	0.83	0.15	0.02
Geography	0.77	0.46	0.12
German	0.06	0.06	0.00
Hindi	0.01	0.00	0.00
History	4.48	0.70	0.16
Information & Communications Technology	0.42	0.37	0.11
Mathematics	2.75	1.25	0.81
Modern Greek	0.00	0.00	0.00
Music	0.44	0.13	0.02
Physics	1.63	0.34	0.14
Science: Double Award	0.17	0.00	0.00
Spanish	0.11	0.16	0.00

**References**

Gill, T. (2013). *Uptake of GCSE subjects 2012*. Statistics Report Series No. 57. Cambridge: Cambridge Assessment.