

# Uptake of GCE A level subjects 2012

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**Please note that this is a revised report. The previous version did not include A levels taken by candidates prior to summer of year 13. The true levels of uptake in some subjects were therefore underestimated. The report has now been amended to include these qualifications.**

## **Introduction**

This report looks at the uptake of A level subjects in England in 2012. 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 A level the Key Stage 5 (KS5) extract of the NPD was used. This data was restricted to exams taken by students who were in year 13 in 2011/12. It includes exams taken by these students in previous years, to allow for A levels taken in year 12 or earlier. Uptake in this report is defined as the percentage of year 13 A level students taking an A level in the subject.

Tables 1 and 2 are a breakdown of the number of A levels taken by students.

**Table 1: Number of A levels taken (% of A level students)**

<b>Number of A levels</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	11.3
2	15.0
3	54.2
4	17.3
5+	2.2
No of students	262,741

**Table 2: Number of A levels taken, excluding General Studies (% of A level students)**

<b>Number of A levels</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	11.7
2	16.3
3	62.4
4	8.8
5+	0.8
No of students	262,246

Uptake of A levels in this report is presented by different student classifications: school type, prior attainment, school gender and deprivation level. 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 for A levels. For this report these were classified into seven groups. Table 3 presents the number and percentage of A level students attending each school type (schools denoted as 'other' or 'unidentified' are not included).

**Table 3: A level students by school type**

<b>School type</b>	<b>Number of students</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Academy	59,146	22.5
Comprehensive	73,000	27.8
FE/Tertiary College	21,811	8.3
Grammar	10,594	4.0
Independent	34,944	13.3
Secondary Modern	2,388	0.9
Sixth Form College	57,981	22.1

*Prior attainment*

Students were classified by their attainment at GCSE. GCSE grades were converted into scores (A\* = 8, A= 7, B= 6 etc) and a mean GCSE was calculated for each student, which was then used to divide them up into three approximately equally sized attainment groups: low, medium and high. Table 4 presents the number in each group as well as the mean, minimum and maximum value of mean GCSE for each group. There was a small amount of missing data for this measure, with about 3% of students having no GCSEs recorded in the NPD.

**Table 4: A level students by prior attainment**

<b>Prior attainment group</b>	<b>Number of students</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Low	84,607	1.0	5.7	5.2
Medium	84,878	5.7	6.6	6.1
High	85,620	6.6	8.0	7.2

*Deprivation level*

The level of deprivation that a student experiences was measured by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI). This is a measure of the percentage of children in a very small geographical area (Lower Layer Super Output Area or LSOA) who live in families that are income deprived. It varies between 0 and 1, with 0 representing minimum deprivation and 1 maximum deprivation.

It should be noted that there was a significant amount of missing data for this measure (43.1% of students had no record). Students who did have a measure of deprivation were divided up into three equally sized groups. Table 5 presents the number of students and the mean, minimum and maximum IDACI values in each group.

**Table 5: A level students by deprivation level**

<b>Deprivation Group</b>	<b>Number of students</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Low	49,947	0.00	0.07	0.04
Medium	49,941	0.07	0.17	0.11
High	49,945	0.17	0.99	0.33

### 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 6 shows the numbers and percentages of students attending the different types of schools.

**Table 6: A level students by school gender**

School gender	Number of students	Percentage
Boys school	9,532	3.6
Girls school	17,174	6.5
Mixed school	236,035	89.8

### Number of A levels taken

The number of A levels taken by students in each of the classifications are presented in Tables 7-10. For example, Table 7 shows that 11.2% of A level students in Academies took only one A level. Table 8 shows that 41.6% of A level students with low prior attainment took 3 A levels.

**Table 7: Number of A levels taken, by school type (% of students)**

Number of A levels	Acad	Comp	FE/Ter College	Grammar	Ind	Sec Mod	6th Form College
1	11.1	13.1	15.3	1.8	5.5	28.4	12.0
2	15.6	18.6	19.3	4.0	6.8	27.3	14.6
3	53.1	53.8	57.6	49.0	65.1	37.3	49.2
4	17.9	13.3	7.3	36.7	19.8	6.7	21.5
5+	2.3	1.2	0.6	8.5	2.9	0.4	2.6
No of students	59,146	73,000	21,811	10,594	34,944	2,388	57,981

**Table 8: Number of A levels taken, by prior attainment (% of students)**

Number of A levels	Low	Medium	High
1	25.1	6.8	1.6
2	27.6	14.5	3.6
3	41.4	62.1	60.2
4	5.7	15.7	29.5
5+	0.2	0.8	5.1
No of students	84,607	84,878	85,620

**Table 9: Number of A levels taken, by deprivation level (%of students)**

Number of A levels	Low	Medium	High
1	7.9	10.9	16.4
2	14.0	16.6	19.1
3	55.7	52.8	50.2
4	19.8	17.5	12.8
5+	2.6	2.2	1.6
No of students	49,947	49,941	49,945

**Table 10: Number of A levels taken, by school gender (%)**

Number of A levels	Boys school	Girls school	Mixed school
1	5.4	5.3	12.0
2	6.2	7.5	15.9
3	53.1	62.4	53.6
4	30.0	21.7	16.5
5+	5.3	3.2	2.0
No of students	9,532	17,174	236,035

**Uptake of individual A level subjects**

In the following tables the uptake of individual subjects is presented, broken down into the classifications outlined above. Subjects with an overall uptake level of less than 1% are not included. In each table the subjects are ordered by overall uptake (highest first). Thus, Mathematics had the highest level of uptake, being taken by 26.8% of all A level students, 35.1% of males and 19.8% of females.

**Table 11: Uptake of individual subjects by gender (% of A level students)**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Mathematics	27.0	35.4	20.0
Biology	20.0	19.0	20.8
Psychology	19.5	11.3	26.3
History	16.8	17.8	15.9
English Literature	16.2	9.4	22.0
Chemistry	15.9	18.4	13.7
General Studies	14.1	14.1	14.1
Physics	11.2	19.4	4.3
Geography	10.5	12.0	9.2
Sociology	10.2	5.5	14.2
Business Studies: Single	9.4	12.1	7.2
English Language	8.7	6.1	10.8
Media/Film/TV Studies	8.5	7.9	8.9
Economics	7.6	11.3	4.5
Religious Studies	6.9	4.8	8.6
Physical Education/Sports Studies	5.6	8.0	3.6
English Language & Literature	5.5	3.6	7.2
Art & Design (Fine Art)	5.2	2.9	7.1
Drama & Theatre Studies	5.1	3.5	6.4
Government & Politics	4.9	6.1	4.0
Art & Design (Photography)	4.8	2.8	6.4
Mathematics (Further)	4.4	6.8	2.5
Law	4.4	3.8	5.0
French	4.0	2.8	5.0
D&T Product Design	3.8	5.9	2.1
Information & Communications Technology	3.0	4.1	2.1
Art & Design	2.6	1.4	3.6
Film Studies	2.4	2.8	2.0
Spanish	2.3	1.7	2.8
Music	1.9	2.1	1.8
Art & Design (Graphics)	1.6	1.7	1.5
German	1.5	1.3	1.7
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.4	0.1	2.5
Classical Civilisation	1.3	1.1	1.5
Computer Studies/Computing	1.3	2.6	0.2
Accounting/Finance	1.2	1.6	0.8
Logic/ Philosophy	1.1	1.2	1.1
Chinese	1.1	1.1	1.1
Music Technology	1.1	2.0	0.3

**Table 12: Uptake of individual subjects by school type (% of A level students)**

Subject	FE/Ter						6th Form
	Acad	Comp	College	Grammar	Ind	Sec Mod	College
Mathematics	28.0	24.5	18.6	41.2	39.5	15.8	22.9
Biology	21.6	19.0	14.3	31.5	24.5	13.1	17.3
Psychology	20.3	20.9	23.8	18.4	9.5	18.2	21.6
History	18.0	17.6	12.3	20.7	20.4	17.5	13.5
English Literature	18.1	17.9	11.5	20.6	18.5	17.8	11.9
Chemistry	16.6	14.2	10.2	27.7	22.5	8.5	13.7
General Studies	15.2	12.1	2.4	36.3	5.5	4.8	21.9
Physics	12.1	10.4	6.7	18.3	16.6	7.1	8.6
Geography	11.5	10.7	6.3	14.4	15.6	11.0	7.1
Sociology	10.0	11.1	17.0	6.4	0.9	12.3	12.8
Business Studies: Single	8.2	8.1	13.1	8.9	10.0	7.9	10.5
English Language	7.8	9.2	10.9	5.8	2.7	8.3	12.2
Media/Film/TV Studies	8.5	9.8	12.0	4.3	1.6	11.2	10.0
Economics	6.8	5.2	4.4	10.8	16.9	2.1	6.8
Religious Studies	7.9	8.3	2.3	7.9	9.3	8.9	4.3
Physical Education/Sports Studies	6.0	6.0	3.4	5.6	5.7	4.9	5.6
English Language & Literature	4.9	5.2	11.7	3.5	1.0	2.7	7.4
Art & Design (Fine Art)	5.0	5.1	4.9	5.1	6.6	5.1	4.8
Drama & Theatre Studies	5.9	5.5	3.9	3.5	5.5	4.7	4.3
Government & Politics	4.4	3.9	3.9	6.9	8.0	3.0	5.1
Art & Design (Photography)	4.2	4.6	8.0	0.8	2.4	8.2	6.2
Mathematics (Further)	4.3	3.5	2.4	7.7	9.0	1.0	3.4
Law	2.4	3.1	9.5	2.0	0.3	3.3	9.2
French	4.1	3.1	2.0	5.8	8.7	2.0	2.8
D&T Product Design	4.7	5.1	0.5	5.0	4.5	4.9	2.0
Information & Communications Technology	2.8	3.2	4.5	3.0	1.6	0.9	3.3
Art & Design	3.1	3.1	1.1	2.1	3.1	5.2	1.6
Film Studies	1.7	2.0	5.1	1.1	0.4	1.7	4.0
Spanish	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.9	5.3	1.0	1.9
Music	2.1	1.8	1.1	2.4	3.2	0.5	1.5
Art & Design (Graphics)	0.9	1.0	3.4	0.2	0.5	0.9	3.2
German	1.8	1.2	0.7	2.2	2.8	0.8	1.1
Art & Design (Textiles)	1.0	1.1	2.1	0.5	0.9	1.4	2.3
Classical Civilisation	0.9	0.7	1.1	2.7	2.8	.	1.7
Computer Studies/Computing	1.1	0.7	1.9	1.4	0.6	0.0	2.3
Accounting/Finance	0.4	0.5	3.2	0.0	0.7	0.5	2.5
Logic/ Philosophy	0.6	0.5	1.8	0.4	1.1	.	2.3
Chinese	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.3	5.8	0.2	0.4
Music Technology	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.4	0.6	1.0	1.5

**Table 13: Uptake of individual subjects by prior attainment (% of A level students)**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>
Mathematics	7.6	22.4	48.2
Biology	5.7	19.4	35.1
Psychology	18.4	25.4	15.5
History	11.8	17.7	21.7
English Literature	12.4	17.3	19.8
Chemistry	3.1	11.7	32.0
General Studies	8.5	15.5	19.2
Physics	2.7	9.6	20.0
Geography	6.3	12.0	13.5
Sociology	16.9	10.9	3.4
Business Studies: Single	12.0	11.6	4.5
English Language	10.6	10.4	5.5
Media/Film/TV Studies	16.6	7.6	1.8
Economics	3.5	7.2	11.0
Religious Studies	6.9	7.3	6.8
Physical Education/Sports Studies	5.8	7.7	3.7
English Language & Literature	7.2	6.3	3.3
Art & Design (Fine Art)	5.4	5.6	4.7
Drama & Theatre Studies	6.2	5.7	3.5
Government & Politics	3.7	5.2	6.0
Art & Design (Photography)	8.5	4.7	1.3
Mathematics (Further)	0.5	2.0	9.4
Law	5.9	5.4	2.3
French	0.9	2.5	8.5
D&T Product Design	5.0	4.3	2.4
Information & Communications Technology	4.5	3.5	1.2
Art & Design	2.8	2.8	2.2
Film Studies	4.7	2.1	0.5
Spanish	0.7	1.6	4.2
Music	1.1	2.0	2.8
Art & Design (Graphics)	2.4	1.7	0.7
German	0.5	1.1	2.7
Art & Design (Textiles)	2.0	1.5	0.7
Classical Civilisation	0.9	1.5	1.7
Computer Studies/Computing	1.2	1.6	1.1
Accounting/Finance	1.5	1.3	0.5
Logic/ Philosophy	0.6	1.2	1.6
Chinese	0.3	0.3	0.6
Music Technology	1.4	1.3	0.6

**Table 14: Uptake of individual subjects by deprivation group (% of A level students)**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>
Mathematics	29.0	26.1	25.7
Biology	22.2	21.0	19.4
Psychology	19.7	20.6	21.1
History	19.3	18.6	16.0
English Literature	17.7	18.3	18.2
Chemistry	16.8	15.4	15.8
General Studies	18.3	15.9	10.3
Physics	13.4	11.8	9.6
Geography	13.9	12.2	7.6
Sociology	8.5	9.4	13.1
Business Studies: Single	9.1	8.1	7.6
English Language	9.5	8.8	6.5
Media/Film/TV Studies	7.6	9.4	9.9
Economics	6.8	5.4	6.4
Religious Studies	7.4	7.8	8.8
Physical Education/Sports Studies	7.3	6.5	4.0
English Language & Literature	4.7	5.2	5.1
Art & Design (Fine Art)	5.1	5.5	4.7
Drama & Theatre Studies	5.7	5.7	5.0
Government & Politics	4.5	4.2	4.2
Art & Design (Photography)	4.0	4.6	4.4
Mathematics (Further)	5.0	4.1	3.2
Law	2.5	2.7	3.2
French	4.4	3.7	3.0
D&T Product Design	5.2	5.2	4.4
Information & Communications Technology	2.9	2.9	3.4
Art & Design	2.7	3.2	3.2
Film Studies	1.6	1.9	2.0
Spanish	2.0	1.7	1.7
Music	2.3	2.2	1.4
Art & Design (Graphics)	1.0	0.9	0.8
German	1.8	1.5	1.2
Art & Design (Textiles)	0.9	1.2	1.1
Classical Civilisation	1.0	0.9	0.8
Computer Studies/Computing	1.1	1.0	0.8
Accounting/Finance	0.2	0.3	0.7
Logic/ Philosophy	0.5	0.5	0.7
Chinese	0.2	0.2	0.3
Music Technology	1.0	1.1	0.8

**Table 15: Uptake of individual subjects by school gender (% of A level students)**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Boys School</b>	<b>Girls School</b>	<b>Mixed School</b>
Mathematics	50.8	33.3	25.6
Biology	25.5	30.3	19.0
Psychology	5.9	21.0	19.9
History	22.3	19.0	16.4
English Literature	14.4	23.6	15.8
Chemistry	28.1	24.6	14.7
General Studies	15.4	12.1	14.2
Physics	24.6	9.4	10.7
Geography	14.3	12.6	10.2
Sociology	1.2	6.1	10.9
Business Studies: Single	7.6	6.0	9.7
English Language	2.8	4.8	9.2
Media/Film/TV Studies	2.4	3.4	9.1
Economics	21.1	9.2	7.0
Religious Studies	7.2	12.5	6.5
Physical Education/Sports Studies	4.9	2.9	5.8
English Language & Literature	2.4	2.3	5.9
Art & Design (Fine Art)	4.1	5.9	5.2
Drama & Theatre Studies	2.6	5.4	5.2
Government & Politics	10.4	6.7	4.6
Art & Design (Photography)	0.9	2.8	5.1
Mathematics (Further)	12.3	5.4	4.1
Law	0.8	0.7	4.9
French	6.6	8.2	3.6
D&T Product Design	4.5	1.7	4.0
Information & Communications Technology	1.6	2.3	3.1
Art & Design	1.5	4.1	2.5
Film Studies	0.5	0.6	2.6
Spanish	3.9	4.7	2.0
Music	2.3	2.4	1.9
Art & Design (Graphics)	0.4	0.4	1.7
German	2.4	2.2	1.5
Art & Design (Textiles)	.	1.3	1.5
Classical Civilisation	0.9	3.6	1.2
Computer Studies/Computing	2.4	0.1	1.3
Accounting/Finance	0.2	0.2	1.3
Logic/ Philosophy	0.9	0.4	1.2
Chinese	1.3	3.3	0.9
Music Technology	0.8	0.2	1.1

## Combinations of subjects

The ten most common combinations of at least three A levels are presented in Table 16. Tables 17 and 18 present the most common combinations for males and females, respectively.

**Table 16: Most common combinations of A level subjects, excluding general studies (% of students with at least 3 A levels)**

<b>Combination</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative percent</b>
Biology - Chemistry - Mathematics	4.9	4.9
Chemistry - Mathematics - Physics	2.1	7.1
Biology - Chemistry - Psychology	1.3	8.4
Mathematics - Mathematics (Further) - Physics	1.2	9.5
Chemistry - Mathematics - Mathematics (Further) - Physics	1.1	10.6
Biology - Chemistry - Physics	0.8	11.4
Biology - Chemistry - Mathematics - Physics	0.8	12.2
Biology - Mathematics - Physics	0.7	13.0
Biology - Chemistry - Geography	0.7	13.7
English Literature - History - Psychology	0.6	14.3

**Table 17: Most common combinations of A level subjects, excluding general studies (% of males with at least 3 A levels)**

<b>Combination</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative percent</b>
Biology - Chemistry - Mathematics	4.9	4.9
Chemistry - Mathematics - Physics	3.9	8.8
Mathematics - Mathematics (Further) - Physics	2.2	10.9
Chemistry - Mathematics - Mathematics (Further) - Physics	1.9	12.8
Biology - Chemistry - Physics	1.3	14.1
Biology - Mathematics - Physics	1.2	15.3
Biology - Chemistry - Mathematics - Physics	1.2	16.5
Economics - Mathematics - Physics	0.9	17.4
D&T Product Design - Mathematics - Physics	0.8	18.3
Biology - Chemistry - Psychology	0.8	19.1

**Table 18: Most common combinations of A level subjects, excluding general studies (% of females with at least 3 A levels)**

<b>Combination</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative percent</b>
Biology - Chemistry - Mathematics	5.0	5.0
Biology - Chemistry - Psychology	1.7	6.7
English Literature - History - Psychology	1.0	7.6
Biology - Mathematics - Psychology	0.8	8.4
Biology - Chemistry - Geography	0.7	9.1
Chemistry - Mathematics - Physics	0.7	9.8
English Literature - History - Religious Studies	0.7	10.4
English Literature - Psychology - Sociology	0.6	11.1
English Literature - Government & Politics - History	0.6	11.7
Biology - English Literature - Psychology	0.5	12.2

## Subject areas and domains

Table 19 presents the uptake of five subject areas at A level. The subjects were grouped into five areas: Science/Mathematics, English, Languages, Social Science/Humanities and Arts. Grouping subjects is not a straightforward task and the allocation of subject areas is always debatable. Details of the subject areas can be found in the Appendix. This analysis is restricted to those students with at least three A level results.

**Table 19: Uptake of subject areas by gender and prior attainment (% of students with at least three A levels)**

Subject area	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
Arts	32.3	24.5	45.6	33.5	17.9	28.8
English	45.9	23.0	45.5	39.1	29.5	35.5
Languages	13.1	8.8	4.1	6.5	16.1	11.2
Science	44.7	64.8	26.9	47.1	70.3	53.8
Social Science	74.1	67.0	78.8	76.7	63.3	70.9
Number of Students	103,546	85,242	37,839	64,692	80,613	188,788

Thus, 32.2% of female students taking at least three A levels took at least one arts subject.

Subjects were also grouped in three different domains: Science and Mathematics, Arts and Languages, Social Science and Humanities (see Bell *et al.* 2005). Students who entered subjects at A level in only one domain have been classified as specialists, and students that entered for two of the domains have been classified as partly-mixed. The uptake of these domains is presented in Table 20.

**Table 20: Uptake of combinations of subject domains by gender and prior attainment (% of students with at least three A levels )**

	Science / Maths	Arts	Social Sci / Hum	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
<b>Specialist</b>	Yes	-	-	8.8	20.5	4.3	10.0	21.6	14.1
	-	Yes	-	8.6	3.6	12.8	6.5	3.3	6.3
	-	-	Yes	6.8	8.4	12.4	9.1	4.2	7.5
<b>Total</b>				<b>24.2</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>27.9</b>
<b>Partly mixed</b>	Yes	Yes	-	8.5	9.0	4.1	6.7	11.8	8.7
	Yes	-	Yes	16.3	25.3	11.8	19.9	24.8	20.3
	-	Yes	Yes	39.9	23.2	47.9	37.3	22.3	32.4
<b>Total</b>				<b>64.7</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>61.4</b>
<b>Completely mixed</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	<b>11.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>10.6</b>

Thus, 9.2% of female students took science subjects only at A level (Specialist - Science / Maths), and 24.6% took subjects in only one domain (Specialist - Total). Meanwhile 23.2% of male students took a mix of Arts and Social Science subjects (Partly Mixed - Arts - Social Science / Humanities), and 57.3% took some mix of two domains (Partly mixed - Total).

## Facilitating subjects

In a recent guide to making decisions about post-16 education the Russell Group of leading universities defined a group of 'facilitating' subjects: Maths, Further Maths, English, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History and Classical and Modern Languages (Russell Group, 2011). These are subjects that are required more often than others for university entry and therefore give students a wider range of possible degree courses. Table 21 shows the number of

the facilitating subjects taken by students at A level, broken down by gender and prior attainment.

Table 22 presents the uptake of these subjects by school type and Table 23 the uptake by deprivation level.

**Table 21: Number of 'facilitating' subjects taken, by gender and attainment (% of students with at least three A levels )**

No of subjects	F	M	Low	Medium	High	All
0	17.9	13.1	37.1	18.2	4.2	15.7
1	32.3	25.6	41.1	36.9	18.0	29.3
2	28.3	29.1	16.7	29.7	33.4	28.7
3 or more	21.5	32.3	5.0	15.1	44.4	26.4

**Table 22: Number of 'facilitating' subjects taken, by school type (% of candidates with at least three A levels)**

No of subjects	Acad	Comp	FE/Ter College	Grammar	Ind	Sec Mod	6th Form College
0	12.8	14.8	26.3	7.9	7.7	15.9	23.6
1	27.9	30.3	36.9	22.6	23.7	34.5	32.1
2	30.2	29.4	21.9	32.0	32.2	27.1	25.3
3 or more	29.0	25.4	15.0	37.5	36.4	22.5	19.0

**Table 23: Number of 'facilitating' subjects taken, by deprivation level (% of candidates with at least three A levels)**

No of subjects	Low	Medium	High
0	12.7	13.6	14.3
1	27.7	28.7	29.7
2	30.3	30.1	29.3
3 or more	29.3	27.6	26.6

## **References**

Bell J.F., Malacova E. and Shannon M. (2005) The changing pattern of A-level/AS uptake in England. *The Curriculum Journal*, 16(3): 391-400.

The Russell Group (2011). *Informed Choices: A Russell Group guide to making decisions about post-16 education*. London: The Russell Group

## Appendix: Subject Classifications

### **Science/Maths**

Additional Mathematics  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Computer Studies/Computing  
Electronics  
Environmental Science  
Geology  
Information & Communications Technology  
Mathematics  
Mathematics (Further)  
Mathematics (Pure)  
Mathematics (Statistics)  
Physics  
Science in Society  
Use of Mathematics

### **Social Science and Humanities**

Accounting/Finance  
Ancient History  
Archaeology  
Business Studies: Single  
Business Studies & Economics  
Classical Civilisation  
Classics (General)  
Critical Thinking  
D&T Food Technology  
D&T Product Design  
D&T Systems & Control  
Economics  
Geography  
Government & Politics  
History  
Home Economics: Food  
Law  
Logic/ Philosophy  
Psychology  
Religious Studies  
Social Science: Citizenship  
Sociology  
World Development

### **English**

Communication Studies  
Drama & Theatre Studies  
English Language  
English Language & Literature  
English Literature  
Expressive Arts & Performance Studies

### **Languages**

Arabic  
Bengali  
Chinese  
Classical Greek  
Dutch  
French  
German  
Gujarati  
Italian  
Japanese  
Latin  
Modern Greek  
Modern Hebrew  
Other Classical Languages  
Persian  
Polish  
Portuguese  
Punjabi  
Russian  
Spanish  
Turkish  
Urdu  
Welsh Language

### **Arts**

Art & Design  
Art & Design (3d Studies)  
Art & Design (Critical Studies)  
Art & Design (Fine Art)  
Art & Design (Graphics)  
Art & Design (Photography)  
Art & Design (Textiles)  
D&T Textiles Technology  
Dance  
Film Studies  
History of Art  
Media/Film/TV Studies  
Music  
Music Technology  
Physical Education/Sports Studies