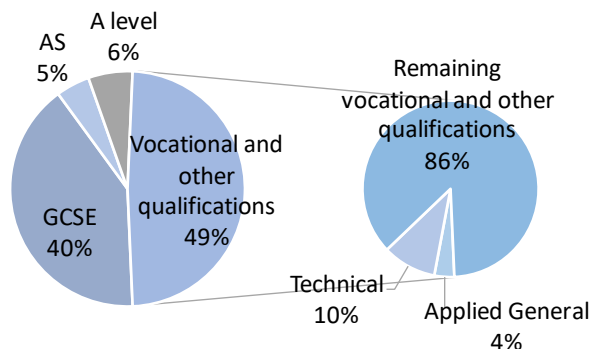


This release provides information on the number and types of qualifications available for award in England over the academic year 2016/17 and the number of certificates awarded by recognised awarding organisations.

12.5 million certificates in 2016/17

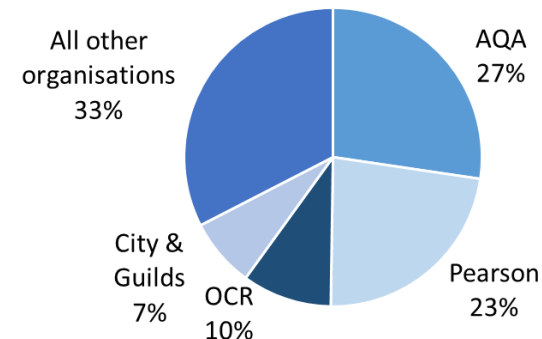


Most popular sector subject area



Preparation for life and work is the largest subject area within vocational and other qualifications with just over 1.5 million certificates awarded.

Market share of awarding organisations



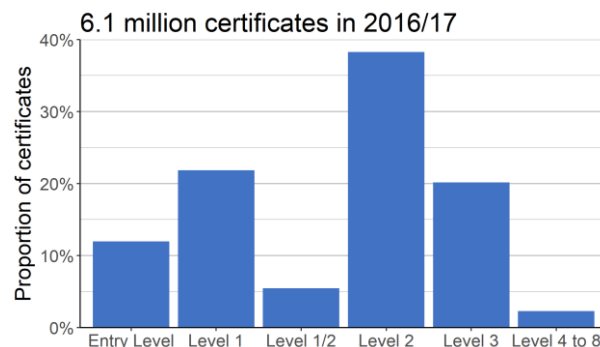
Available regulated qualifications

22.2K

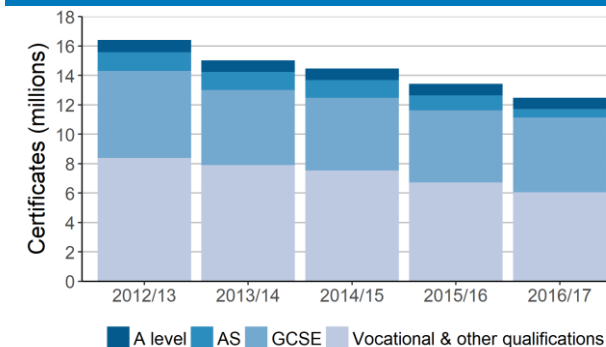
Number of qualifications available for certification in 2016/17.

2% decrease on the previous year.

Vocational & other qualifications by level



Overall certificates have been declining



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Published 22 February 2018
Ofqual/18/6350/1

Annual Qualifications Market Report

This report presents data on the number and types of qualifications available for award in England over the academic year 2016/17 by recognised awarding organisations (organisations recognised by Ofqual to develop, deliver and award qualifications). For the purpose of this report the 2016/17 academic year is considered the start of October 2016 to the end of September 2017. It provides an overview of the qualifications market and offers a single reference point about participants in the market.

Data presented in this release covers the number of awarding organisation, regulated qualifications and certificates awarded for all types of qualifications in the first instance. The market share of certificates is further presented for GCSE, AS level and A level qualifications by awarding organisation and subject. The market share of certificates for vocational and other qualifications is presented by sector subject area, awarding organisations and qualification level.

This report is produced annually and is based primarily on information that Ofqual holds or collects from awarding organisations and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).

Note that where this report refers to ‘vocational and other’ qualifications, this means all qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level.

Reports published in previous years included data for learners in Wales and Northern Ireland as well. As such, historical figures in this year’s report reflect England only figures and may therefore differ from previously published figures. Following a [transition arrangement](#) with Qualifications Wales (the regulator in Wales) and CCEA (the regulator in Northern Ireland), Ofqual is publishing separate data tables for learners in Wales and Northern Ireland without commentary for the academic year 2016/17.

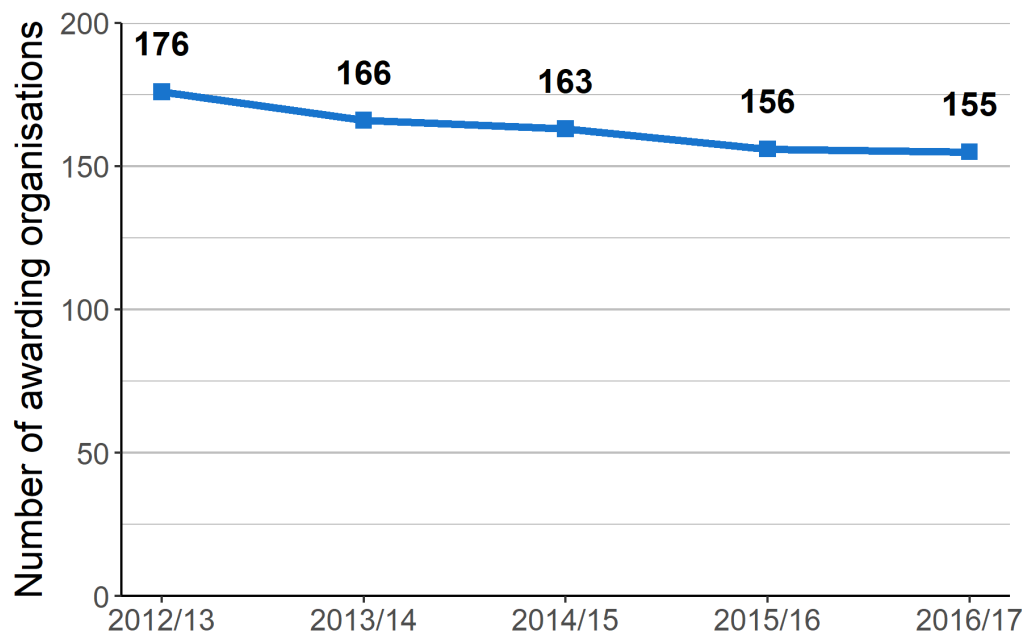
Figures for number of certificates are rounded to the nearest 5, with values 1 to 4 denoted “0~”. Figures for the number of qualifications are not rounded. Further information on this release is available in the [background information](#) as well as [data tables](#) accompanying this report.

Awarding organisations and regulated qualifications

Any organisation that wants to offer regulated qualifications in England has to be recognised by Ofqual. Since July 2011, any new awarding organisation needs to meet Ofqual's [Criteria for Recognition](#) and, once recognised, all awarding organisations need to continue to meet Ofqual's [General Conditions of Recognition](#).

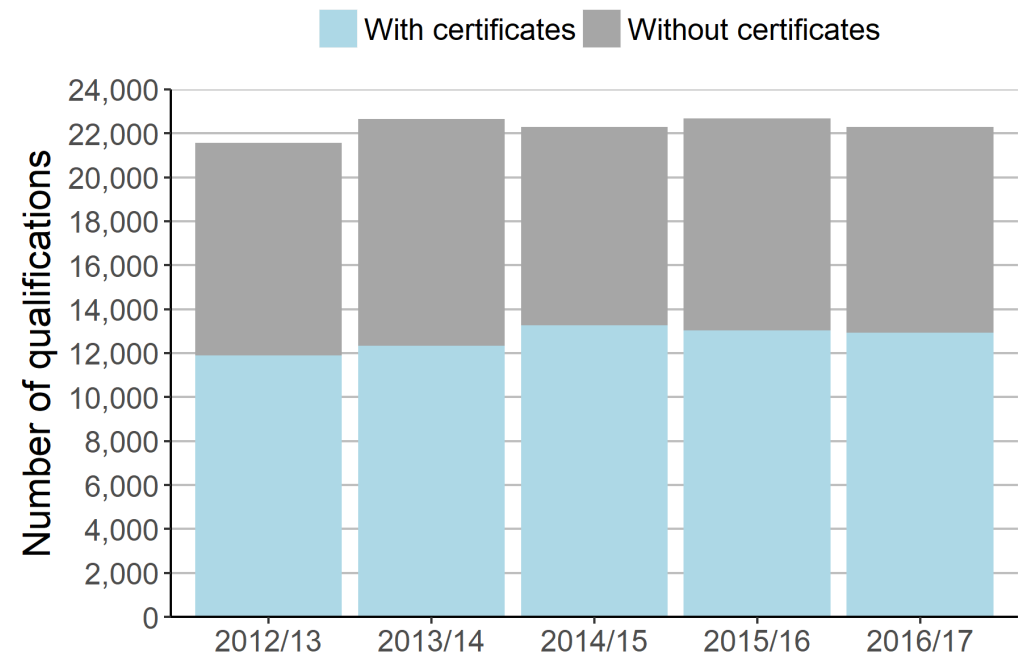
Information on qualifications (covering title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level) is taken from Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications (referred to as the Register in this report).

Number of awarding organisations remains steady



There is 1 fewer awarding organisation in 2016/17, compared to 2015/16.

Number of qualifications available for certification declines marginally



There is a 2% decrease in the number of qualifications available to certificate in 2016/17, compared to the previous year. Some available qualifications have no certificates because they are new and may require a 1 or 2 year course of study before students can certificate.

Qualification type

Qualification types are used to describe the nature of qualifications and are contained within the Ofqual register.

The largest increase in the number of qualifications in 2016/17 was seen in Vocationally-Related Qualifications (VRQ). It includes qualifications such as paediatric first aid and sports leadership. This increase is likely caused by awarding organisations replacing qualifications with the qualification type of QCF (Qualifications and Credit Framework) with Vocationally-Related Qualification. The largest decrease in the number of qualifications available to certificate has been in QCF due to the removal of QCF design rules.

Vocationally-Related qualifications expanding

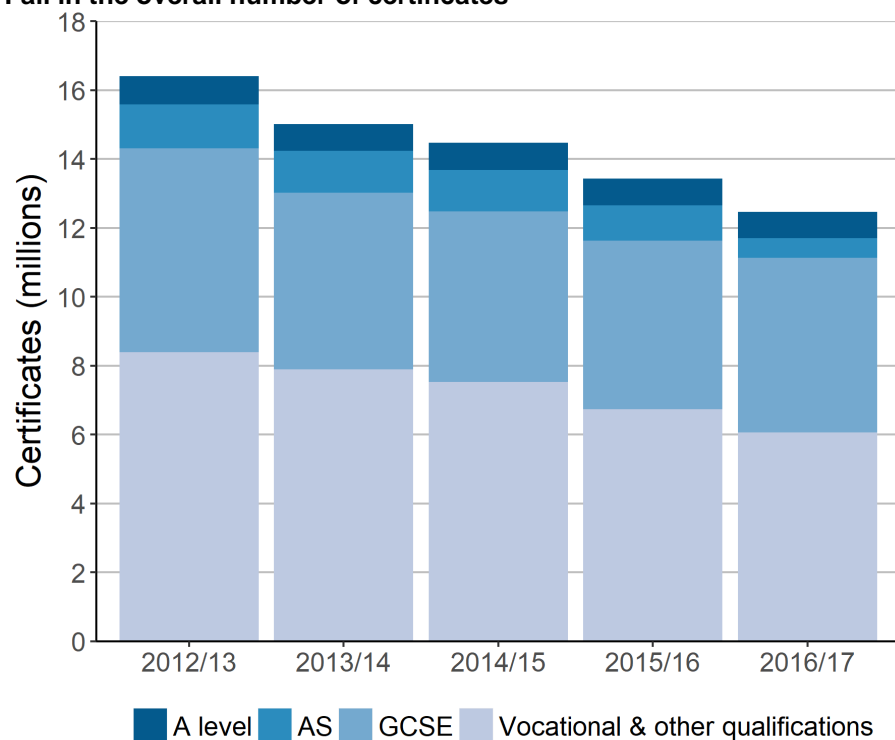
Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate		Number of available qualifications with certificates		Percentage change in the number of qualifications with certificates in 2016/17 from 2015/16				
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
Vocationally-Related Qualification	2,643	3,657	1,543	2,020					
National Vocational Qualification	397	403	235	274					
Other General Qualification	560	619	419	480					
Occupational Qualification	252	327	180	206					
Entry Level	223	202	175	187					
Advanced Extension Award	1	1	1	1					
Basic Skills	4	0	0	0					
End-Point Assessment	0	1	0	0					
Functional Skills (QCF)	0	0	0	0					
GCE A Level	283	282	221	271					
GCE AS Level	281	313	279	295					
GCSE (9 to 1)	12	12	0	12					
GCSE (A* to G)	350	344	340	334					
Project	17	14	12	12					
Higher Level	112	127	46	45					
Functional Skills	221	227	209	203					
QCF	16,961	15,436	9,178	8,428					
English For Speakers of Other Languages	259	238	151	129					
Free Standing Mathematics Qualification	14	14	13	10					
Principal Learning	13	11	5	3					
Key Skills	80	55	22	10					
Total	22,683	22,283	13,029	12,920					

GCE A and AS levels have seen increases in the number of available qualifications. This is because in some subjects reformed A and AS level qualifications are available at the same time as their legacy qualifications, for resitting opportunities.

Certificates awarded for all qualifications

The total number of certificates awarded fell by 7% compared to the previous year, continuing the trend seen over several years.

Fall in the overall number of certificates



GCSEs are the only major qualification group to have seen an increase in the number of certificates awarded (almost 4% increase in 2016/17 compared to the previous year). This is likely due to changes in school performance tables such that schools have moved students back to GCSE from Level 1/Level 2 certificates. This also explains the fall in the number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications as Level 1/Level 2 certificates were categorised as vocational and other qualifications. Approximately 50% of the drop in the number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications is due to the drop in the number of Level 1/Level 2 certificates. The remaining decrease can be attributed to changes in 16- to 19-year-old [funding](#) and accountability measures in response to the [Wolf report](#).

AS levels see the biggest percentage drop in the number of certificates (down by 43% compared to 2015/16). This could partly be due to the decoupling of AS from A levels as part of the government policy reforms.

The number of certificates for A levels has declined only slightly.

Qualification	2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		Percentage change 2015/16 & 2016/17
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
A level	821,910	5%	777,705	5%	791,705	5%	775,480	6%	760,860	6%	-2%
AS	1,272,395	8%	1,219,870	8%	1,201,065	8%	1,026,210	8%	580,440	5%	-43%
GCSE	5,917,050	36%	5,130,585	34%	4,951,335	34%	4,894,330	36%	5,067,635	41%	4%
Vocational and other qualification:	8,394,920	51%	7,890,060	53%	7,527,950	52%	6,731,020	50%	6,060,835	49%	-10%
Total	16,406,270	100%	15,018,215	100%	14,472,050	100%	13,427,040	100%	12,469,775	100%	-7%

Qualification uptake

There are significant differences between qualifications in terms of the numbers of certificates. A GCSE in a EBacc subject may have several hundred thousand certificates, while a niche vocational qualification may attract the order of a hundred candidates in a given year. A significant proportion of the certificates awarded in 2016/17 were for a very small number of the available qualifications.

Qualifications available to certificate in 2016/17

A quarter of certificates are awarded against 1% of the available qualifications

Percentage of certificates	GCSE, AS and A level qualifications		Vocational and other qualifications	
	N	%	N	%
25%	5	1%	38	0~%
50%	25	3%	244	1%
75%	83	9%	889	4%
90%	190	20%	2,232	10%
100%	914	96%	12,209	57%

For GCSE, AS and A level qualifications, a quarter of all certificates awarded were awarded against just 5 qualifications, which was 1% of the available qualifications.

In vocational and other qualifications, a quarter of all certificates were awarded against 38 qualifications, which was less than 1% of the available qualifications. Almost half of vocational and other qualifications available to certificate had zero certificates awarded against them.

Note: The number of vocational and other qualifications given here includes 201 qualifications which were either no longer available to certificate in 2016/17, or were not offered in England (they were offered in either Wales or Northern Ireland), but had certificates awarded against them. The number of GCSE, AS and A level qualifications includes such 2 qualifications.

Awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates

Training Qualifications UK Ltd had the largest increase in certificates compared with the previous year, largely due to the Level 2 ‘Emergency first aid at work’ and Level 1 ‘Health and safety in a construction environment’ qualifications. The increase in the number of certificates for Ascentis was driven by increases in the preparation for life and work sector subject area. Training Qualifications UK Ltd and Ascentis are both new to the top 20 in this year. The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of all certificates in 2016/17 awarded 88% of certificates. The top 5 awarding organisations by volume accounted for 71% of all certificates. The organisations are displayed in order of volume of certificates in 2016/17.

Top five awarding organisations remain the same, despite reduction in total number of certificates awarded.

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change in certificates awarded				
	2015/16	2016/17	-80%	-40%	0%	40%	80%
AQA Education	3,390,495	3,412,635					
Pearson Education Ltd	3,161,290	2,882,140					
OCR	1,531,710	1,214,500					
City and Guilds of London Institute	972,315	925,495					
WJEC-CBAC	505,910	427,175					
NCFE	282,735	316,995					
Highfield Qualifications	200,590	242,825					
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	217,310	216,100					
Trinity College London	209,775	207,110					
Qualsafe Awards	161,080	181,485					
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	154,485	172,130					
Cambridge Assessment English	228,665	159,235					
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	191,205	107,620					
First Aid Awards Ltd	97,710	104,495					
NOCN	86,970	95,870					
Cambridge Assessment International Education	300,715	77,250					
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	51,775	71,230					
Ascentis	61,515	70,915					
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	75,860	68,430					
LAMDA	61,185	63,935					
Other organisations	1,483,740	1,452,200					
Total	13,427,040	12,469,775					

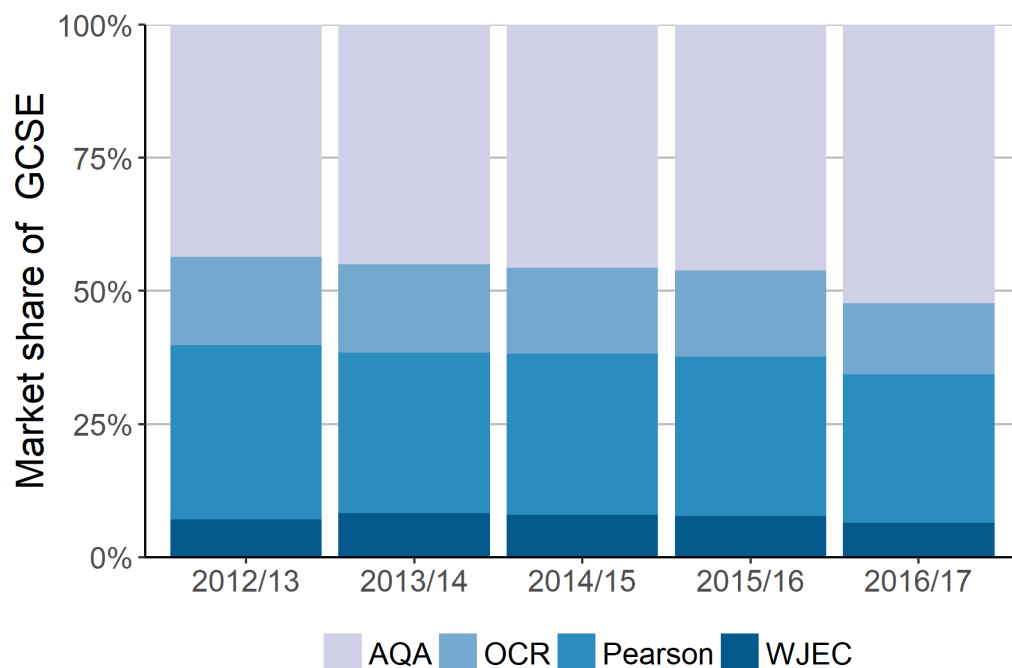
Data for all awarding organisations is available in the accompanying data tables (Table 3).

Cambridge Assessment International Education (formerly Cambridge International Examinations) has seen the largest reduction in certificates, largely due to removal of Level 1/Level 2 qualifications from performance tables in England. The decline in the certificates awarded by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health is due to their phased withdrawal from Ofqual regulation and final surrender of recognition in August 2017.

Market share: GCSE

There are four main awarding organisations in the England GCSE market: AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC (CCEA also awarded some certificates in England – less than 0.01% of the market in 2016/17).

GCSE – AQA have increased their market share



The total number of certificates for GCSE has remained largely stable (increasing by 4% between 2015/16 and 2016/17), with some of the increase driven by the increase in English language and English literature certificates.

AQA has increased its market share of GCSE. This is mainly due to the increase in the number of certificates in GCSE English language and GCSE English literature, with AQA having the main market share in both these qualifications. A breakdown of GCSE market share by subject is given on page 10 of this report.

The market shares of other three main awarding organisations have decreased.

Awarding Organisation	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
AQA	44%	45%	46%	46%	52%
OCR	17%	17%	16%	16%	13%
Pearson	33%	30%	30%	30%	28%
WJEC	7%	8%	8%	8%	6%

* CCEA has had less than 0.01% of certificates except for 2012/13 where it was 0.06%

Certificates awarded in GCSE subjects in 2016/17

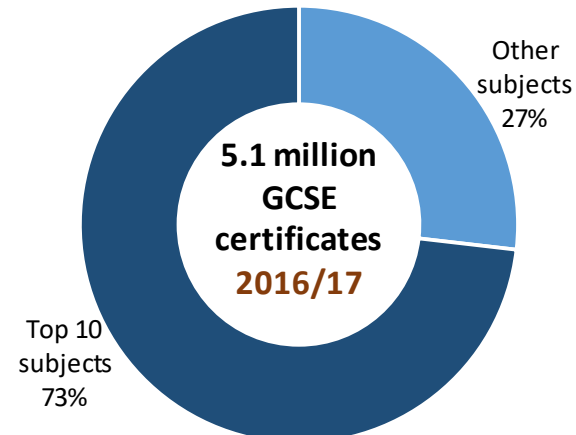
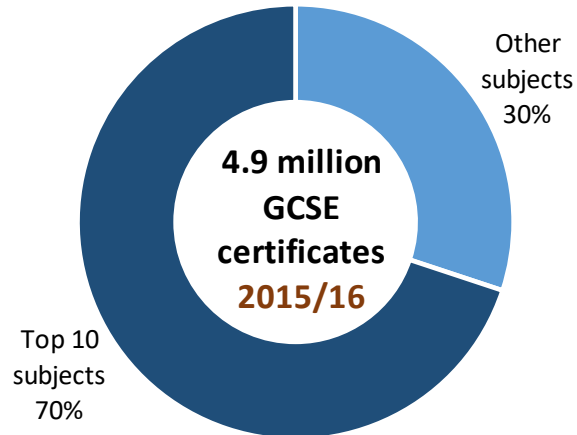
GCSEs are typically taken at the end of year 11 by students aged 16. The removal of Level 1/Level 2 certificates in English language and English literature from performance tables has seen an increase in the corresponding GCSE qualifications in 2016/17.

Mathematics remains the highest volume subject, with the numbers of certificates having risen slightly since 2015/16.

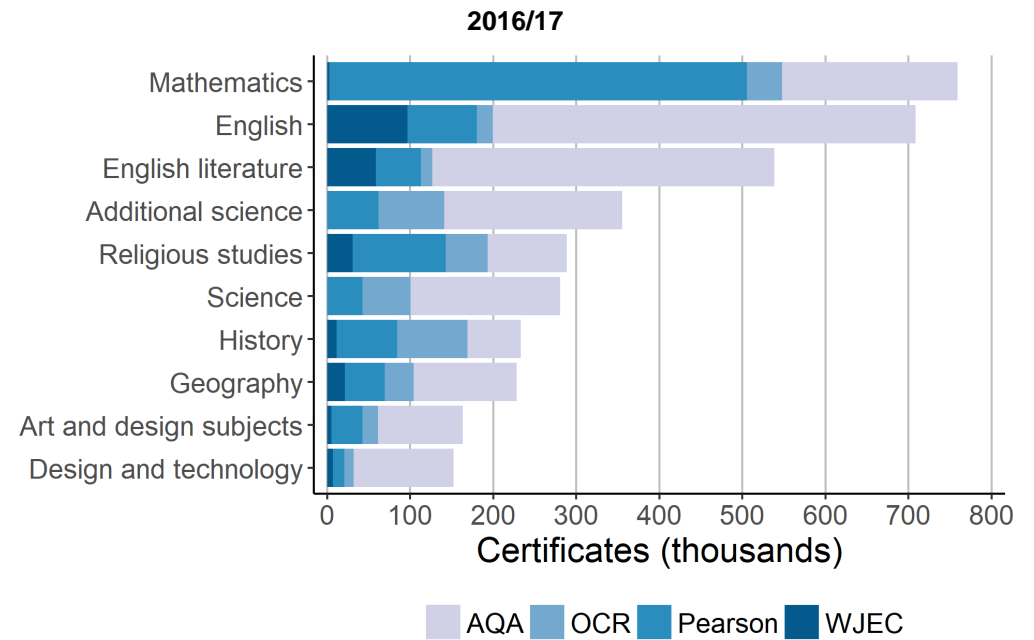
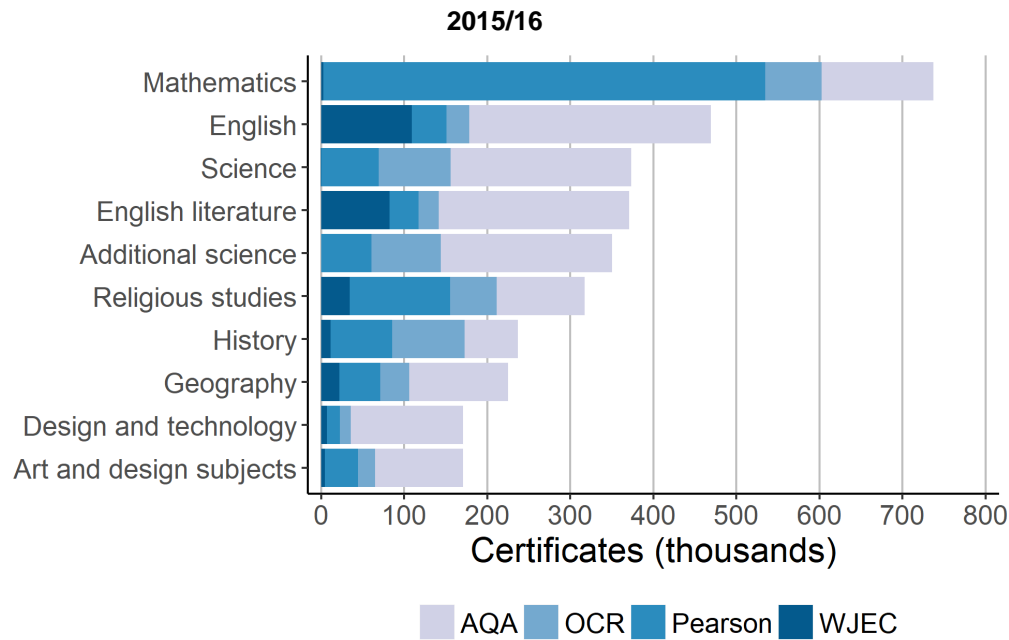
AQA has the largest market share in 7 of the 10 highest volume subjects.

English/English language and English literature have increased significantly due to the removal of alternative qualifications in these subjects from school performance measures.

The top 10 highest volume subjects account for 73% of all certificates, 3 percentage points more than the previous year.



10 highest volume GCSE subjects



The market share of GCSE qualifications in particular has been impacted by reform, with schools re-evaluating the specifications for which their students are entered in reformed subjects. There is a noticeable increase in English and English literature, while the number of certificates awarded in GCSE science qualifications dropped in 2016/17. This is due to qualification reform as those students who would have previously taken GCSE science at the end of year 10 (and GCSE additional science at the end of year 11) will be taking the new GCSE 9 to 1 in combined science (double award available in 2018).

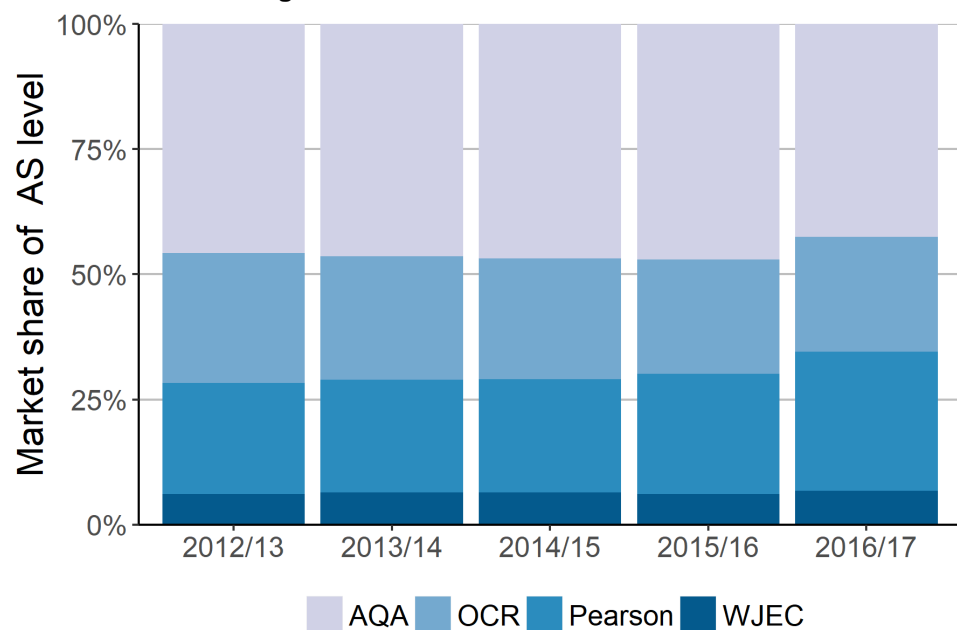
Note: The market share of awarding organisations in all GCSE subjects is given in the data tables accompanying this release (Table 7).

Market share: AS and A level

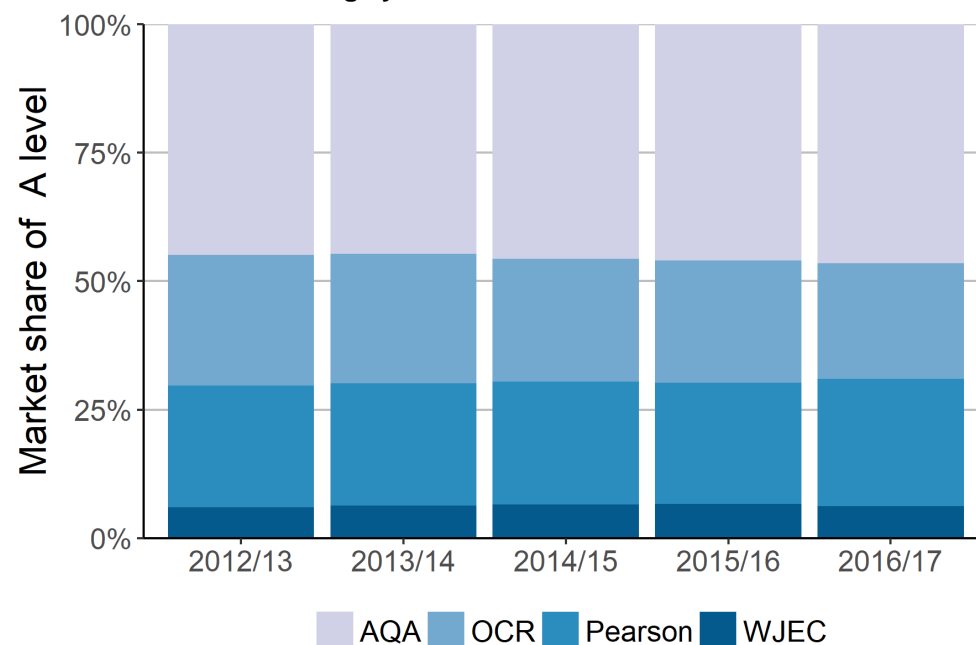
The AS market is in flux due to the phased reforms, with different subjects being reformed in different years. There are changes in market shares of awarding organisations, including a fall in AQA and increases in Pearson and WJEC. The total number of AS certificates in 2016/17 declined by 43%.

The A level market has been comparatively stable, with a slight decline in the number of certificates in recent years (falling 2% between 2015/16 and 2016/17) and only slight changes in awarding organisations' market share as a whole and in individual subjects.

AS level – some changes in market shares



A level – market shares largely stable



Awarding Organisation	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
AQA	46%	46%	47%	47%	43%
OCR	26%	25%	24%	23%	23%
Pearson	22%	23%	23%	24%	28%
WJEC	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%

*CCEA has had less than 0.05% of certificates for all years shown

Awarding Organisation	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
AQA	45%	45%	46%	46%	47%
OCR	25%	25%	24%	24%	22%
Pearson	24%	24%	24%	24%	25%
WJEC	6%	6%	7%	7%	6%

*CCEA has had less than 0.05% of certificates for all years shown

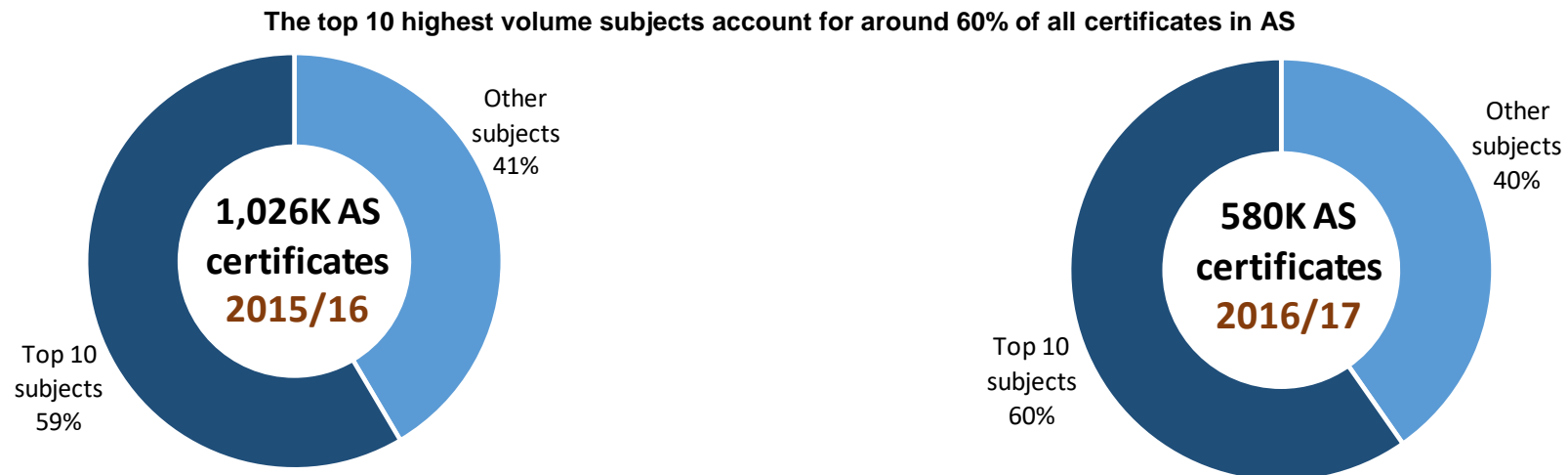
Certificates awarded in AS subjects in 2016/17

AS qualifications are typically taken at the end of year 12 by students aged 17. The programme of qualification reform and changes to funding and enrolment patterns mean that while the top 10 subjects account for a similar proportion of certificates, very little else has remained the same for AS this year compared to last year.

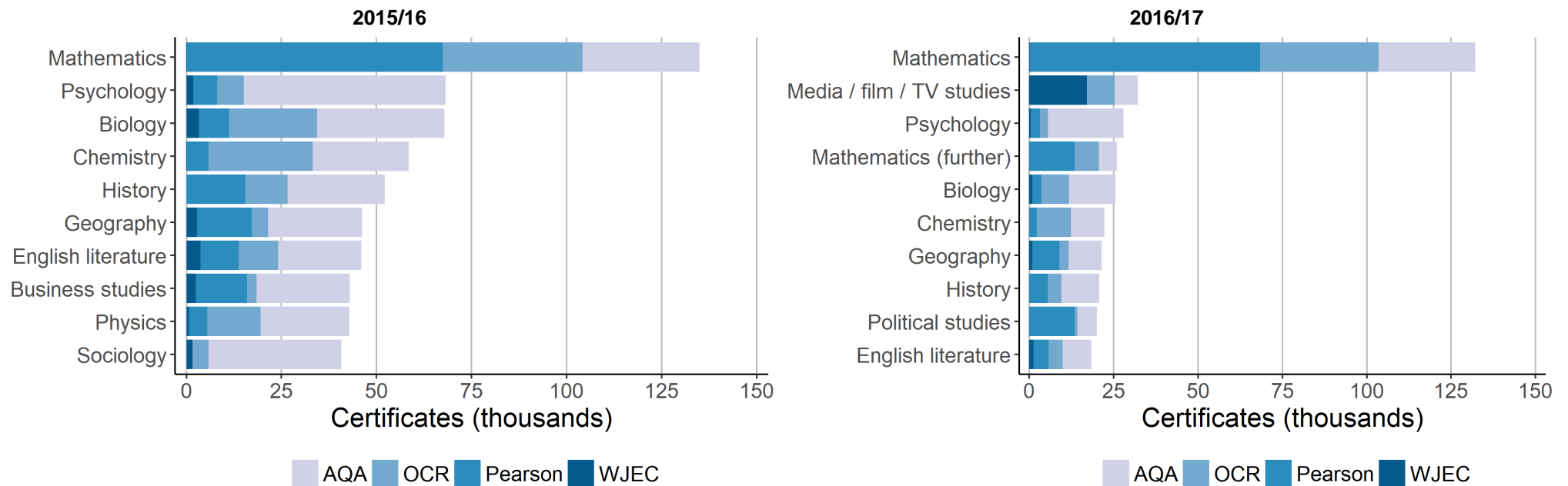
The overall volume of AS certificates has declined and this is the case across all subjects which have been reformed where the AS no longer contributes to the whole A level.

Subject areas in the top 10 but with reformed specifications (psychology, biology, chemistry, history, English literature) have all seen a drop in certificates.

Unreformed subject areas have experienced less of a drop in the volume of certificates. This explains the appearance this year of political studies and media related subjects in the top 10.



10 highest volume AS subjects

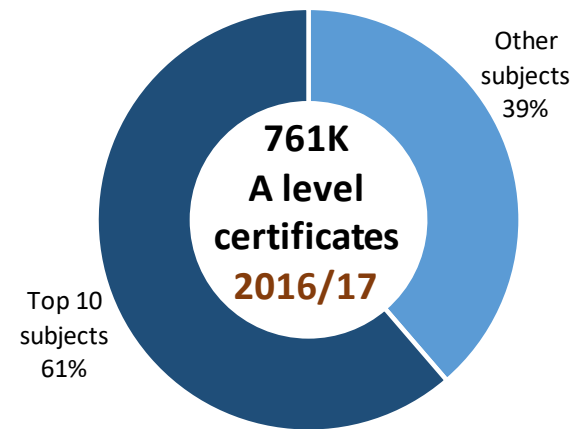
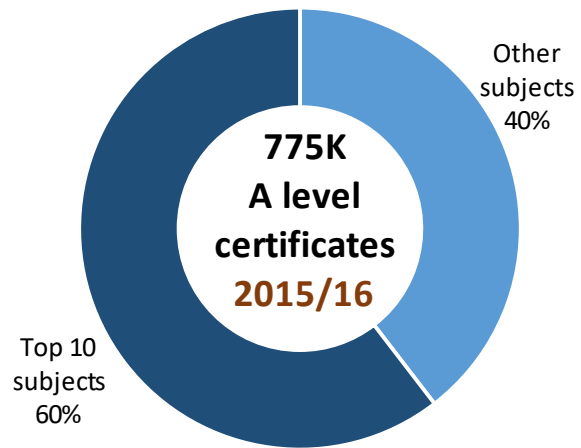


Note: The market share of awarding organisations in all AS level subjects is given in the data tables accompanying this release (Table 8).

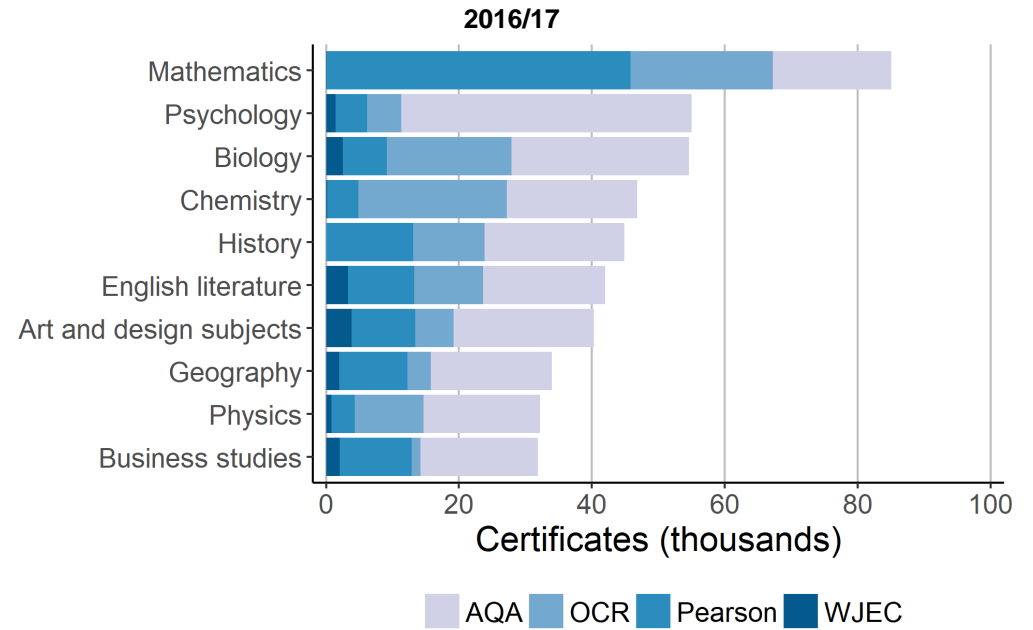
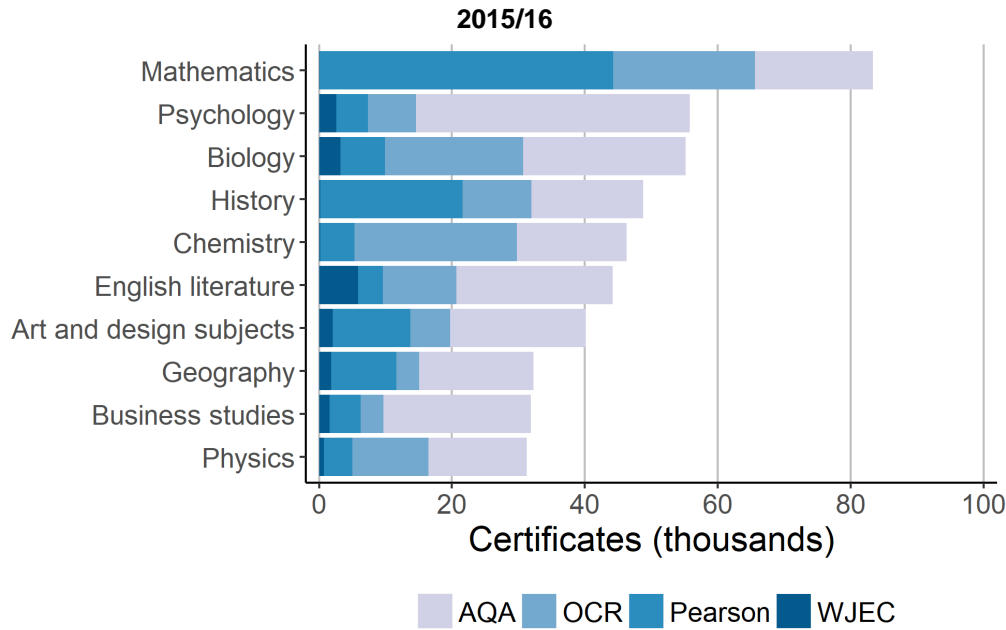
Certificates awarded in A level subjects in 2016/17

A level qualifications are typically taken at the end of year 13 by students aged 18.

The top 10 highest volume subjects account for around 60% of all certificate



10 highest volume A level subjects



Chemistry and physics (rank 4 and rank 9 respectively in 2016/17) have both slightly increased their volume of certificates relative to other subjects and have each moved up one place in the rankings compared to 2015/16.

The total number of A level certificates has been relatively stable. Additionally, each of the top 10 subjects has a similar number of certificates in 2016/17 compared to 2015/16 and this is regardless of whether the subject area has reformed specifications or not.

Note: The market share of awarding organisations in all A level subjects is given in the data tables accompanying this release (Table 9).

Certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications

The number of certificates in Vocational and other qualifications fell by 10% between 2015/16 and 2016/17. The figure below shows the trends in the total number of certificates awarded for vocational and other qualifications for the 20 awarding organisations that reported the overall highest volume of certificates in 2016/17. These organisations awarded 77% of all certificates in 2016/17. The organisations are displayed in order of the number of certificates in this year.

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change in certificates awarded				
	2015/16	2016/17	-80%	-40%	0%	40%	80%
Pearson Education Ltd	1,262,065	1,116,235					
City and Guilds of London Institute	972,315	925,495					
NCFE	282,735	316,995					
Highfield Qualifications	200,590	242,825					
OCR	323,980	234,170					
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	217,310	216,100					
Trinity College London	209,775	207,110					
Qualsafe Awards	161,080	181,485					
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	154,485	172,130					
AQA Education	290,910	161,890					
Cambridge Assessment English	228,665	159,235					
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	191,205	107,620					
First Aid Awards Ltd	97,710	104,495					
NOCN	86,970	95,870					
Cambridge Assessment International Education	300,715	77,250					
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	51,775	71,230					
Ascentis	61,515	70,915					
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	75,860	68,430					
LAMDA	61,185	63,935					
BIIAB	59,135	63,620					
Other organisations	1,441,030	1,403,805					
Total	6,731,020	6,060,835					

The top 5 awarding organisations by volume remain the same compared to last year, although OCR has dropped from being the third largest to the fifth largest. Two notable declines (AQA and Cambridge Assessment International Education) can be explained by the removal of Level 1/ Level 2 certificates from school performance tables in 2017. Cambridge Assessment English has also seen a notable drop in the number of certificates. This is due to the withdrawal of Skills for Life qualifications. There was also a decline in the number of certificates awarded by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

Data for all awarding organisations is available in the [Vocational and Other qualifications quarterly](#) published by Ofqual.

Vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area

The table shows the number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in each subject sector area (SSA). Each SSA represents a broad subject domain. There are 15 altogether.

Sector subject area	Number of certificates		Percentage share in 2016/17	Percentage change of number of certificates 2015/16 to 2016/17					Number of awarding organisations with certificates		Change in the number of awarding organisations 2015/16 to 2016/17
	2015/16	2016/17		-80%	-40%	0%	40%	80%	2015/16	2016/17	
Preparation for Life and Work	1,751,805	1,514,545	25%						48	45	↓
Health, Public Services and Care	1,057,100	1,094,995	18%						66	64	↓
Arts, Media and Publishing	755,635	743,980	12%						37	34	↓
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	496,325	445,435	7%						58	57	↓
Business, Administration and Law	440,155	422,705	7%						74	73	↓
Information and Communication Technology	367,315	344,270	6%						24	26	↑
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	350,000	328,730	5%						38	37	↓
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	333,985	315,385	5%						49	48	↓
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	258,555	299,530	5%						33	34	↑
Languages, Literature and Culture	516,820	187,505	3%						17	16	↓
Science and Mathematics	202,570	156,125	3%						13	16	↑
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	86,840	91,295	2%						30	29	↓
Education and Training	79,405	80,020	1%						63	62	↓
History, Philosophy and Theology	23,755	24,360	0.4%						12	10	↓
Social Sciences	10,755	11,955	0.2%						9	11	↑
Total	6,731,020	6,060,835	100%								

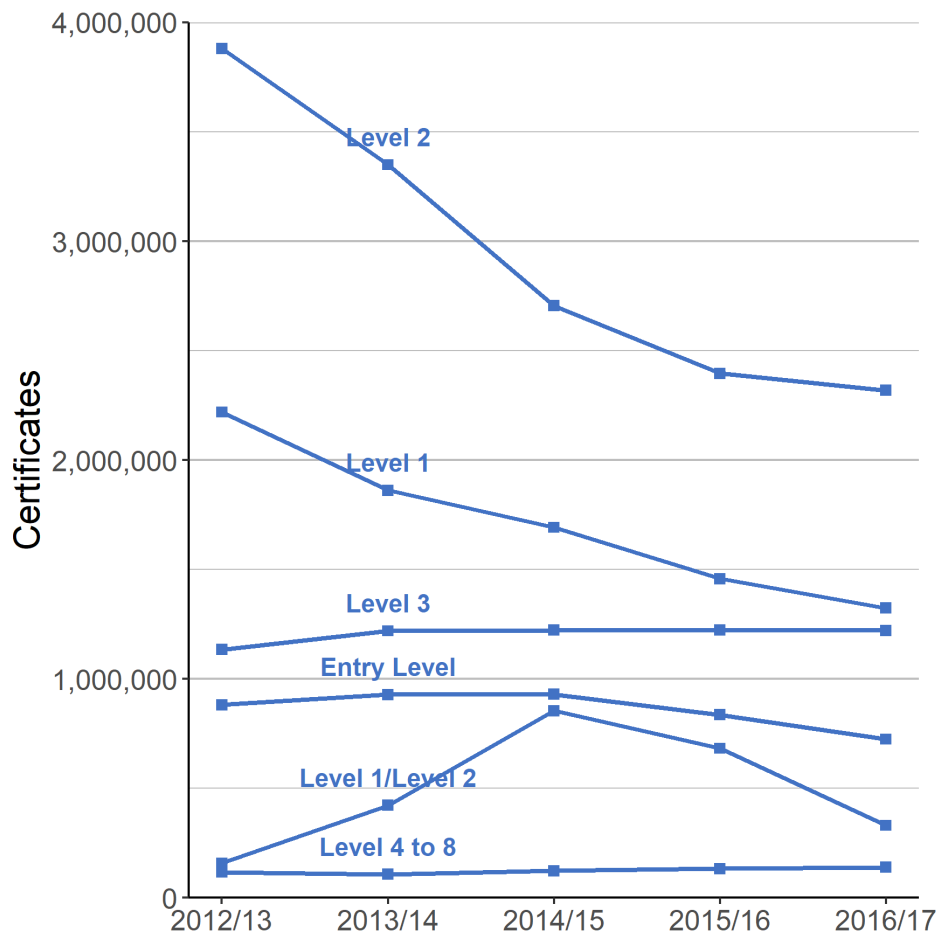
Consistent with the overall picture of a reduction in the volume of certificates, most sector subject areas have seen a slight decline. Languages, literature and culture, and science and mathematics have the most substantial declines due to the removal of qualifications in these area (Level 1/Level 2 Certificates) from school performance tables.

The largest increase in the number of certificates was seen in the Construction, Planning and the Built Environment sector. The largest increases in this sector were in several Level 1 'Health and safety in a construction environment' qualifications.

Vocational and other qualifications by level

Qualification level gives an indication of the difficulty of the qualification, with higher levels being more difficult. However, the content and number of study hours can vary significantly within a qualification level. More information on qualification level can be found [here](#).

Level 1 and Level 2 certificate numbers continue to decline



Certificates in Entry Level, Level 3, and Level 4 to Level 8 have remained stable over the last five years.

The decline in Level 1/Level 2 certificates in the last two years is due to a small number of high volume qualifications being removed from school performance tables.

The five year decline in Level 1 certificates and Level 2 certificates also reflects changes in the qualifications offered in schools as the range of qualifications which can contribute to performance tables or EBacc have changed in response to [the Wolf Report](#).

Vocational and other qualifications by qualification type

The qualification type with the biggest increases in certificates are Vocationally-Related Qualifications (VRQ). This is likely due to a number of qualifications previously classed as QCF being mainly re-designated as VRQ now that the QCF design rules have been withdrawn.

Large increase in the number of certificates in Vocationally-Related Qualifications, and decrease in Other General Qualifications

Qualification type	Number of certificates		Percentage change in certificates awarded					
	2015/16	2016/17	-50%	-30%	-10%	10%	30%	50%
Vocationally-Related Qualification	459,840	671,885						
National Vocational Qualification	56,400	65,645						
Occupational Qualification	34,965	39,295						
Project	45,405	48,360						
Basic Skills	0~	0~						
Diploma	0	0						
Functional Skills (QCF)	0~	0						
English For Speakers of Other Languages	254,140	245,540						
Higher Level	11,590	11,165						
Functional Skills	830,200	754,475						
QCF	4,090,415	3,682,005						
Advanced Extension Award	355	305						
Entry Level	65,750	51,480						
Other General Qualification	841,240	469,940						
Key Skills	4,710	2,620						
Principal Learning	810	445						
Free Standing Mathematics Qualification	35,195	17,670						
Total	6,731,020	6,060,835						

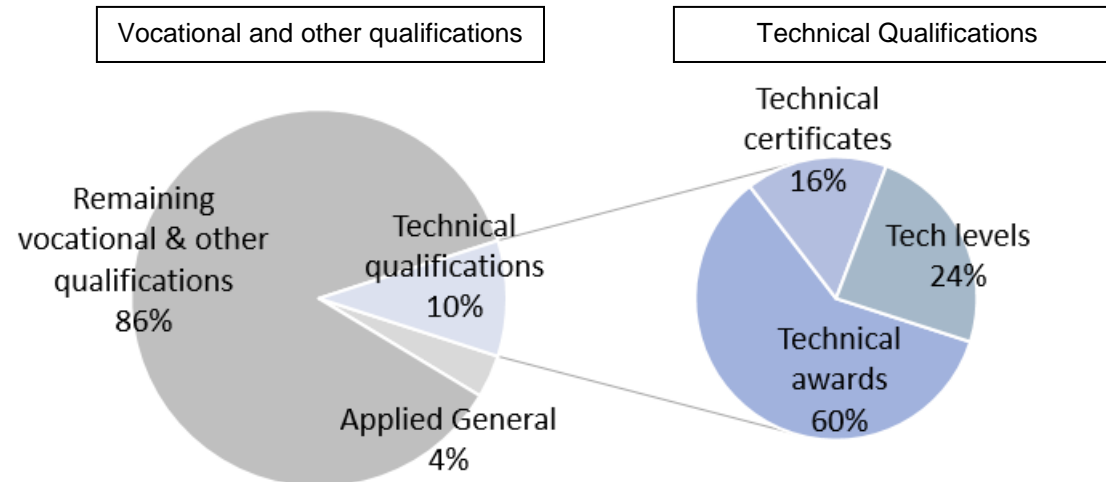
*Note: the bars for 'Basic Skills' and 'Functional Skills (QCF)' have been set to zero for clarity

The reduction in the 'Other general qualifications' may be an effect of the introduction of the English Baccalaureate and other school performance indicators. Functional Skills qualifications continue to replace Key Skills qualifications leading to a reduction in the number of certificates in the latter.

Technical Qualifications

Technical Qualifications are designated as such according to Department for Education criteria and can count towards school [performance tables](#). The purpose of Technical Qualifications is to equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills not usually associated with general qualifications.

10% of the 6 million Vocational and other qualifications certificates were in Technical Qualifications



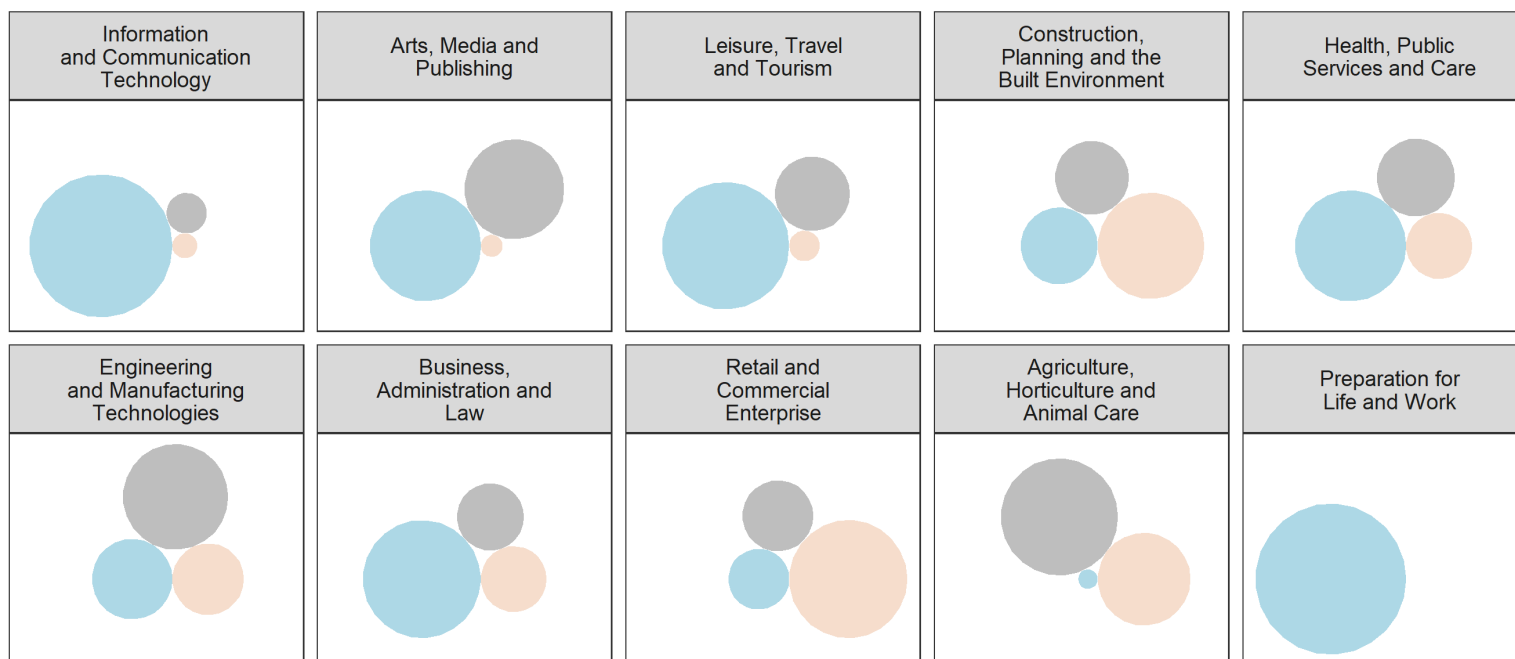
The 600K technical qualification certificates awarded in 2016/17 comprise:

- **Technical Awards:** these are designed for study at key stage 4 (14-16 year olds) and require the same or more guided learning hours as a GCSE. These are Level 1, Level 2 or Level 1/2 qualifications. There were nearly 357K certificates in Technical Awards in 2016/17.
- **Technical Certificates:** these are designed for study at key stage 5 (16-19 year olds) and are intended for students that wish to specialise in a specific industry or prepare for a particular job. They are recognised by employers. They are level 2 qualifications. There were nearly 98K certifications in Technical Certificates in 2016/17.
- **Tech Levels,** like Technical Certificates, are designed for study at key stage 5 and are recognised by employers. These are level 3 qualifications. There were nearly 145K certificates in Tech Levels in 2016/17.

Technical Awards and Technical Certificates were included for the first time in performance tables for the 2017 reporting year, therefore no comparison is shown here. Prior to this, Level 1/Level 2 qualifications in performance tables were known as key stage 4 14-16 non-GCSE qualifications.

Technical Qualifications and sector subject area

Different sector subject areas have a different profile of type of technical qualifications. For instance, the Retail and Commercial enterprise sector is dominated by Technical Certificates whereas Preparation for Life and Work comprises entirely of Technical Awards.



■ Technical award
 ■ Technical certificate
 ■ Tech level

Number of certificates in Technical Qualifications in 2016/17

Sector subject area	Technical awards	Technical certificates	Technical levels	Total 2016/17
	2016/2017	2016/2017	2016/2017	
Information and Communication Technology	176,985	5,445	14,060	196,495
Arts, Media and Publishing	38,795	1,520	31,560	71,875
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	45,125	2,575	15,615	63,315
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	14,505	27,670	13,355	55,530
Health, Public Services and Care	29,135	10,385	14,355	53,875
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	15,255	12,050	26,215	53,515
Business, Administration and Law	27,975	8,690	9,055	45,720
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	5,615	21,155	7,685	34,455
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	360	8,120	12,960	21,440
Preparation for Life and Work	3,670	0	0	3,670
Total	357,425	97,615	144,855	599,895

Technical qualifications by awarding organisation

Number of certificates in Technical Qualifications in 2016/17

Awarding Organisation	Technical awards 2016/2017	Technical certificates 2016/2017	Technical levels 2016/2017	Total 2016/17
Pearson Education Ltd	145,650	9,915	79,970	235,535
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	146,400	0	0	146,400
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,150	53,505	31,945	86,605
OCR	32,320	6,265	3,370	41,955
NCFE	14,800	0	4,665	19,465
VTCT	1,320	8,825	3,800	13,945
The Institute of the Motor Industry	730	6,170	3,980	10,885
Cskills Awards, part of the NOCN Group	0	7,645	2,005	9,650
Association of Accounting Technicians	0	4,140	4,510	8,650
The Learning Machine	6,430	0	0	6,430
Active IQ	0	395	5,560	5,950
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	3,670	0	0	3,670
WJEC-CBAC	3,445	0	0	3,445
Rock School Ltd	920	0	2,145	3,065
YMCA Awards	0	0	1,535	1,535
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	580	5	940	1,525
BPEC Certification Ltd	0	445	130	570
ABC Awards	0	145	110	260
Education & Media Services Ltd trading as ITEC	0	135	90	225
Central Qualifications	0	25	105	125
Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment	0	0	0	0
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	0	0	0	0
IMI Awards Ltd	0	0	0	0
Total	357,425	97,615	144,855	599,895

BCS had a significant proportion of the Technical Award market due to its 'Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills'. However, it has been removed from performance tables for future years.

City and Guilds dominate the Technical Certificate market and Pearson the Tech Level market. Pearson is also the single largest provider of Technical Awards.

Certificates awarded in Applied General Qualifications

Applied General Qualifications are designated as such according to Department for Education criteria and can count towards school [performance tables](#). They are for students who want to continue their education through applied learning. Higher education institutions have pledged support for these qualifications. They are all Level 3 qualifications. Applied Generals have a smaller volume of certificates compared to Technical Qualifications at 4% of the Vocational and other qualification certificates. There were fewer Applied General certificates in 2016/17 than in the previous year.

Applied Generals represent 4% of Vocational and other qualifications.

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change in certificates awarded						
	2015/16	2016/17	-150%	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%	150%
NCFE	20	50							
University of the Arts London	13,075	20,715							
WJEC-CBAC	440	605							
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	5,920	7,015							
Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment	0	15							
The Learning Machine	0	10							
VTCT	0	160							
OCR	14,440	13,585							
Pearson Education Ltd	198,050	180,225							
AQA Education	130	65							
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	745	0							
Total	232,825	222,445							

The largest provider of Applied Generals is Pearson, whose qualifications represent 81% of all Applied General certificates. University of the Arts London has the second highest volume of certificates (around 9%).

Applied General Qualifications by sector subject area

Applied General Qualifications span multiple sector subject areas. Due to the nature of these qualifications the distribution of sector subject area is different to those of Technical Qualifications.

Business, Administration and Law is the largest sector of Applied General Qualifications

Sector subject area	Number of certificates		Percentage share in 2016/17	Percentage change of number of certificates 2015/16 to 2016/17					Number of awarding organisations with certificates		Change in the number of awarding organisations 2015/16 to 2016/17
	2015/16	2016/17		-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%	2015/16	2016/17	
Retail and Commercial Enterprise*	70	505	0%						2	2	—
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	45	75	0%						1	2	↑
Social Sciences	380	410	0%						1	1	—
Arts, Media and Publishing	42,385	45,435	20%						4	5	↑
Business, Administration and Law	54,635	54,385	24%						3	4	↑
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	160	150	0%						1	1	—
Science and Mathematics	24,805	23,595	10.6%						1	2	↑
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	44,790	40,930	18.4%						2	3	↑
Health, Public Services and Care	35,255	32,210	14.5%						2	2	—
Information and Communication Technology	28,500	24,005	10.8%						2	2	—
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	920	675	0.3%						1	2	↑
Preparation for Life and Work	875	65	0.03%						2	1	↓
Total	232,825	222,445	100%								

There is a decline in the number of certificates in Applied General Qualifications across major sector subject areas in 2016/17. Only the very small sector subject areas within Applied General Qualifications experienced an increase in the number of certificates.

*Retail and commercial enterprise have increased by 600%, rescaled for clarity.

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