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DIPLOMA LEARNING, ENGLAND, 2010/11

INTRODUCTION

This publication reports on the awarding of Diplomas for 14-19 year olds in the academic year 2010/11, by Diploma subject, level and key personal characteristics such as age and gender. The figures include achievements by students who achieved their Diploma over both 1 and 2 years.

The last publication of this Release in November 2010 also included figures on participation in Diplomas during the academic year. However, over this third year of Diploma delivery the data has not been maintained locally with sufficient accuracy to enable reliable identification of those participating in 2010/11. Therefore only achievement data are being published.

This is an Official Statistics publication. The statistics are presented as latest available findings and have been released to help planning, to study trends and to inform a variety of programmes and initiatives.

KEY POINTS

- Overall 11,472 Diplomas were achieved over the 2010/11 academic year. The majority of these – 74% - were achieved at level 2 (Higher). 11% were achieved at level 1 (Foundation) and the remaining 15% at level 3 (Advanced or Progression). These are similar levels to those seen last year.
- 25% of the awards were for a Creative & Media Diploma, which had the highest number of achievements at all levels. Engineering was next highest with 19% of students at all levels achieving a Diploma in this subject.
- Overall 14% of achieved Diplomas were awarded the highest grades of A*-A.

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All of the above tables are available in Excel format under the “Additional Information” section of the publication found on the Department’s website at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001038/index.shtml>

As part of a Government drive for data transparency in official publications and to make data more accessible, supporting underlying data for this publication has been published at the same time as the publication and is available in the ‘Publication’s Underlying Data’ section from the link above.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Course

14-19 Diplomas are modular courses, available in England only, which combine theoretical study with practical experience in the chosen subject, as well as core training via Functional Skills and Personal Learning. The course is designed to be studied by 14-19 year olds at several levels incorporating level 1 (Foundation), 2 (Higher) and 3 (Advanced and Progression).

Coverage

The coverage of this publication is students in all schools and FE colleges in England who were recorded as having achieved a Diploma programme of study during the academic year 2010/11. Students who completed a Diploma but were awarded a U grade are not included.

Data

The statistics in this publication cover the data gathered and provided to the Department for Education (DfE) by the Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS) on the achievement of the Diploma, which was first introduced at the beginning of the academic year 2008/09.

DAS was set up within the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) to administer the provision of Diplomas, including registering Diploma students as they enter, leave or complete a Diploma programme. This also includes aggregating students’ component achievements in order that the Diploma award can be confirmed. DAS gathers limited details on each Diploma student including name, date of birth and gender.

The number of students taking a Diploma has increased year-on-year as it has become an established qualification and as the number of available subjects has increased. Most Diplomas are taken as a two-year course meaning achievements in each new subject can greatly increase after the year in which they were introduced.

Further information on the students achieving a Diploma, such as ethnic origin, eligibility for free school meals and whether they have some form of special educational need, was gathered by matching the DAS data to the National Pupil Database (NPD) using Unique Learner Number (ULN). Not all Diploma students could be matched into the NPD (2.7% were unmatched), therefore analysis by these personal characteristics will include fewer students than the total number of achievers recorded on DAS.

DAS transferred from QCDA to the DfE on 1 November 2011.

Definitions

Achievements – Diplomas awarded at any point during the 2010/11 academic year with a grade of A* - B for the Foundation Diploma, A* - C for the Higher Diploma and A*-E for the Progression and Advanced Diplomas. U grades are not included.

Subjects – there were 14 subjects available to Diploma students in 2010/11. Five became available at the start of the 2008/09 academic year:

- Construction & the Built Environment (CBE);
- Creative & Media (CM);
- Engineering (Eng);
- Information Technology (IT); and
- Society Health & Development (SHD).

A further five subjects became available at the start of the 2009/10 academic year:

- Business Administration & Finance (BAF);
- Environmental & Land Based Studies (ELBS);
- Hair & Beauty Studies (HBS);
- Hospitality (Hosp); and
- Manufacturing & Product Design (MPD).

A final four subjects became available at the start of the 2010/11 academic year:

- Public Services (PS);
- Retail Business (RB);
- Sport & Active Leisure (SAL); and
- Travel & Tourism (TT).

Level – Diplomas can be taken at different levels: Foundation (equivalent to 5 GCSEs at grades D-G, comparable with an NQF level 1), Higher (7 GCSEs at grades A*-C, NQF level 2), Progression (2.5 A levels, NQF level 3) and Advanced (3.5 A levels, NQF level 3).

Age – The age of a student is as at the beginning of the academic year, 31st August 2010. It has been calculated from the date of birth provided with the DAS data.

Ethnicity – The ethnic grouping has been calculated on the basis of the following amalgamation:

White - White British, Irish, Gypsy/Romany, Any Other White Background.
Non-white - Black (Black Caribbean, Black African, Any Other Black Background), Asian (Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, Chinese, Any Other Asian Background), Mixed (White & Asian, White & Black African, White & Black Caribbean, Any Other Mixed Background), and Any Other Ethnic Group.

Refused/not obtained.

FSM – whether a student was eligible for free school meals. This has been measured on the basis of whether the student was eligible for FSM at the point they took their Key Stage 4 (KS4) or, where no information was available at KS4, whether the latest information available indicated that they were eligible for FSM. A student at an FE college will have been included if they were recorded as being eligible for free school meals when they last attended a school.

SEN – whether a student is identified as having special educational needs. Special educational needs can be School Action, School Action Plus or SEN with a Statement. This has been measured on the basis of

whether the student was recorded as having some form of SEN at the point they took their KS4 or, where no information was available at KS4, whether the latest information available indicated that they had some form of SEN. A student at an FE college will have been included if they were identified as having special educational needs when they last attended a school.

ULN - the Unique Learner Number reference by which a student (aged 14 and over) is uniquely identified within the UK education and training system.

Rounding conventions and suppression

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was less than 3 or the denominator was less than 3, they have been suppressed and replaced by *.

Negligible percentages, which are greater than 0 but less than 0.5, and which would therefore be rounded to 0, are replaced with - .

Note that percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic. The rule generally applied in these circumstances is to suppress the next smallest data item.

This suppression is consistent with the Departmental statistical policy which can be found at <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/nat-stats.shtml>.

Data Quality

Students who register for an Advanced Diploma can, if at the end of their course of study they have not reached the required standard overall to be awarded an Advanced Diploma, opt to achieve at Progression level. A Progression level student can also, if they do better than expected, opt to take further components to achieve at Advanced level, although this is less likely to occur. Thus it is likely that some of the 286 achieved Progression Diplomas in 2010/11 may originally have been registered on the basis that the student was participating at Advanced level.

Due to late notifications of some Diploma awards, the true level of Diploma achievement in 2010/11 is likely to be slightly higher than that reflected in this release.

A small number of students have two achievement records where either the Diploma level or subject is different. In these cases both records have been left in as it is possible for a student to achieve one Diploma at the start of the year and then achieve a further Diploma at the next level at the end of the year. In addition, there have been a few examples of a Diploma student choosing to take two Diplomas, at the same level but in different subjects, at about the same time.

JCQ also publish figures on Diploma results as part of their reporting for A level and GCSE results days. The JCQ figures (once U grades have been removed) are approximately 14% lower than the DAS achievement totals. This is for several reasons including the inclusion in DAS of achievements in the Autumn and Spring terms and where the result of the Diploma was received after results day (18th and 25th August respectively) but before the end of the academic year on 31st August 2011.

Revisions

This publication is produced using a final version of the academic year 2010/11 dataset and we do not plan to make any revisions. If we later discover that a revision is necessary, this will be made in accordance with our revisions policy which is published at <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/nat-stats.shtml>.

User Feedback

We are currently engaging with users on the future of this publication. If you would like to provide any comments, then please see <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/onlinesurveys.shtml>

Related publications

Diploma results are included as GCSE or GCE equivalent results in the Performance Tables, which will next be published as:

GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2010/11 (Revised),
and
GCE/Applied GCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2010/11 (Revised),

These publications are scheduled to be released in January 2012:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001036/index.shtml>

Participation and achievement for the first year of Diploma provision, England, 2008/09
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000888/index.shtml>
and
Diploma Learning, England, 2009/10
<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000967/index.shtml>

These publications were made available on 11th November 2009 and 10th November 2010 respectively.

ENQUIRIES

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Table 1a - ALL STUDENTS AWARDED DIPLOMAS¹ IN ENGLAND, ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/11

Students awarded a Diploma by subject² and personal characteristics³ - gender, age band, ethnicity, FSM and SEN status

England

	All subjects		Percentages of students awarded a Diploma by subject ^{1,2,4}													
	Number	%	BAF	CBE	CM	Eng	ELBS	HBS	Hosp	IT	MPD	PS	RB	SAL	SHD	TT
Diploma awards	11,472	100	10	6	25	19	3	7	2	15	1	-	-	*	13	*
Diploma awards by personal characteristics (where known)																
By gender																
Male	6,114	53	11	10	16	34	2	-	2	23	1	*	-	*	2	*
Female	5,358	47	9	1	35	2	3	14	3	7	-	-	-	*	26	*
Total	11,472	100	10	6	25	19	3	7	2	15	1	-	-	*	13	*
By age band⁵																
Under 16	8,955	78	8	6	26	20	3	8	2	15	1	*	*	*	10	*
16 to 17	1,773	15	13	4	23	15	1	1	2	17	-	*	1	*	22	*
18 and over	744	6	16	6	19	15	1	3	2	16	*	*	*	*	21	*
Total	11,472	100	10	6	25	19	3	7	2	15	1	-	-	*	13	*
By ethnicity																
White	9,591	86	9	6	25	19	3	7	2	15	1	-	-	*	13	*
Non-White	1,459	13	12	4	25	21	*	3	2	19	*	*	*	*	13	*
Refused/Not obtained	112	1	13	6	29	19	*	5	3	14	*	*	*	*	7	*
Total	11,162	100	9	6	25	19	3	7	2	15	1	-	-	*	13	*
By FSM eligibility																
Eligible	1,260	11	8	5	22	16	2	9	3	17	1	*	-	*	15	*
Non-eligible	9,902	89	10	6	26	20	3	6	2	15	1	*	-	*	13	*
Total	11,162	100	9	6	25	19	3	7	2	15	1	-	-	*	13	*
By SEN⁶																
Some SEN	1,650	15	8	6	22	21	4	9	3	16	1	*	-	*	11	*
No SEN	9,512	85	10	6	26	19	2	6	2	15	1	-	-	*	13	*
Total	11,162	100	9	6	25	19	3	7	2	15	1	-	-	*	13	*

Source: DAS Diploma data and NPD³

1 Students who have been awarded a Diploma between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011.

2 Diploma subjects consist of Business, Administration & Finance (BAF), Construction & the Built Environment (CBE), Creative & Media (CM), Engineering (Eng), Environmental & Land-Based Studies (ELBS), Hair & Beauty Studies (HBS), Hospitality (Hosp), Information Technology (IT), Manufacturing & Product Design (MPD), Public Services (PS), Retail Business (RB), Sport & Active Leisure (SAL), Society, Health & Development (SHD) and Travel & Tourism (TT).

3 The DAS system recorded 11,472 students as having been awarded a Diploma during 2010/11 and provided age and gender information. The DAS data was subsequently matched with data from the National Pupil Database (NPD) to obtain further information on student characteristics. Only students where a match was found (11,162) are included in the remaining student characteristics sections of this table.

4 The four subjects added to the curriculum in September 2010 (PS, RB, SAL and TT) can only be achieved at Foundation or Higher level, as a 1-year course, in the academic year 2010/11.

5 Academic age as at 31 August 2010.

6 Includes School Action, School Action Plus and SEN with a statement.

* Suppressed, where the numerator is less than 3 or the denominator less than 3. Other figures may also have been suppressed if they would have allowed a number less than 3 to be deduced from other figures in the tables.

- Negligible, percentage below 0.5%.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

Table 1b - LEVEL 1 AND 2 STUDENTS AWARDED DIPLOMAS¹ IN ENGLAND, ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/11Foundation and Higher Diploma students awarded a Diploma by subject² and personal characteristics³ - gender, age band, ethnicity, FSM and SEN status

England

	All subjects		Percentages of students awarded a level 1 or 2 Diploma by subject ^{1,2}													
	Number	%	BAF	CBE	CM	Eng	ELBS	HBS	Hosp	IT	MPD	PS	RB	SAL	SHD	TT
Diploma awards by level																
Foundation	1,218	12	3	9	11	23	5	23	4	9	1	*	-	*	12	*
Higher	8,536	88	9	6	27	20	3	5	2	16	1	-	-	*	11	*
Total	9,754	100	9	6	25	20	3	8	2	15	1	-	-	*	11	*
Foundation and Higher Diploma awards by personal characteristics (where known)																
By gender																
Male	5,260	54	9	10	16	35	2	-	2	22	1	*	-	*	2	*
Female	4,494	46	8	1	37	3	4	16	3	7	-	-	-	*	22	*
Total	9,754	100	9	6	25	20	3	8	2	15	1	-	-	*	11	*
By age band⁴																
Under 16	8,955	92	8	6	26	20	3	8	2	15	1	*	*	*	10	*
16 and over	799	8	10	5	22	19	1	5	4	18	*	*	2	*	15	*
Total	9,754	100	9	6	25	20	3	8	2	15	1	-	-	*	11	*
By ethnicity																
White	8,317	86	8	6	25	20	3	8	2	15	1	-	-	*	11	*
Non-White	1,239	13	10	4	26	21	*	4	3	20	*	*	*	*	10	*
Refused/Not obtained	95	1	13	5	29	19	*	6	*	15	*	*	*	*	7	*
Total	9,651	100	9	6	25	20	3	8	2	15	1	-	-	*	11	*
By FSM eligibility																
Eligible	1,105	11	7	5	23	17	2	10	4	17	1	*	-	*	13	*
Non-eligible	8,546	89	9	6	26	21	3	7	2	15	1	*	-	*	11	*
Total	9,651	100	9	6	25	20	3	8	2	15	1	-	-	*	11	*
By SEN⁵																
Some SEN	1,469	15	7	6	21	22	4	10	3	16	1	*	-	*	10	*
No SEN	8,182	85	9	6	26	20	3	7	2	15	1	-	-	*	11	*
Total	9,651	100	9	6	25	20	3	8	2	15	1	-	-	*	11	*

Source: DAS Diploma data and NPD³

1 Students who have been awarded a Foundation (A*-B) or Higher (A*-C) Diploma between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011.

2 Diploma subjects consist of Business, Administration & Finance (BAF), Construction & the Built Environment (CBE), Creative & Media (CM), Engineering (Eng), Environmental & Land-Based Studies (ELBS), Hair & Beauty Studies (HBS), Hospitality (Hosp), Information Technology (IT), Manufacturing & Product Design (MPD), Public Services (PS), Retail Business (RB), Sport & Active Leisure (SAL), Society, Health & Development (SHD) and Travel & Tourism (TT).

3 The DAS system recorded 9,754 students as having been awarded a Foundation or Higher Diploma during 2010/11 and provided age and gender information. The DAS data was subsequently matched with data from the National Pupil Database (NPD) to obtain further information on student characteristics. Only data where a match was found (9,651) are included in the remaining student characteristics sections of this table.

4 Academic age as at 31 August 2010.

5 Includes School Action, School Action Plus and SEN with a statement.

* Suppressed, where the numerator is less than 3 or the denominator less than 3. Other figures may also have been suppressed if they would have allowed a number less than 3 to be deduced from other figures in the tables.

- Negligible, percentage below 0.5%.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

Table 1c - LEVEL 3 STUDENTS AWARDED DIPLOMAS¹ IN ENGLAND, ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/11Progression and Advanced Diploma students awarded a Diploma by subject² and personal characteristics³ - gender, age band, ethnicity, FSM and SEN status

England

	All subjects		Percentages of students awarded a level 3 Diploma by subject ^{1, 2, 4}													
	Number	%	BAF	CBE	CM	Eng	ELBS	HBS	Hosp	IT	MPD	PS	RB	SAL	SHD	TT
Diploma awards by level⁴																
Progression	286	17	19	3	21	12	*	1	1	15	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	28	n/a
Advanced	1,432	83	16	5	22	14	1	1	1	16	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	n/a
Total	1,718	100	16	5	22	14	1	1	1	16	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	n/a
Advanced and Progression Diploma awards by personal characteristics (where known)⁴																
By gender																
Male	854	50	19	9	16	26	1	*	-	26	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
Female	864	50	14	*	28	2	1	1	1	5	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	48	n/a
Total	1,718	100	16	5	22	14	1	1	1	16	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	n/a
By age band⁵																
Under 18	1,095	64	16	4	23	13	-	*	-	16	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	26	n/a
18 and over	623	36	17	7	20	15	2	2	1	14	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	n/a
Total	1,718	100	16	5	22	14	1	1	1	16	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	n/a
By ethnicity																
White	1,274	84	14	4	24	13	-	1	-	17	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	26	n/a
Non-White	220	15	20	*	17	18	*	*	1	*	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	n/a
Refused/Not obtained	17	1	18	*	29	18	*	*	*	*	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	n/a
Total	1,511	100	15	4	23	14	1	1	1	16	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	26	n/a
By FSM eligibility																
Eligible	155	10	17	3	17	10	*	*	*	15	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	35	n/a
Non-eligible	1,356	90	15	4	24	14	*	*	1	16	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	n/a
Total	1,511	100	15	4	23	14	1	1	1	16	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	26	n/a
By SEN⁶																
Some SEN	181	12	17	6	24	11	*	*	*	23	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	n/a
No SEN	1,330	88	15	4	23	14	1	1	-	15	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	27	n/a
Total	1,511	100	15	4	23	14	1	1	1	16	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	26	n/a

Source: DAS Diploma data and NPD³

1 Students who have been awarded a Progression or Advanced (A*-E) diploma between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011.

2 Diploma subjects consist of Business, Administration & Finance (BAF), Construction & the Built Environment (CBE), Creative & Media (CM), Engineering (Eng), Environmental & Land-Based Studies (ELBS), Hair & Beauty Studies (HBS), Hospitality (Hosp), Information Technology (IT), Manufacturing & Product Design (MPD), Public Services (PS), Retail Business (RB), Sport & Active Leisure (SAL), Society, Health & Development (SHD) and Travel & Tourism (TT).

3 The DAS system recorded 1,718 students as having been awarded a Progression or Advanced Diploma during 2010/11 and provided age and gender information. The DAS data was subsequently matched with data from the National Pupil Database (NPD) to obtain further information on student characteristics. Only data where a match was found (1,511) are included in the remaining student characteristics sections of this table.

4 The four subjects added to the curriculum in September 2010 (PS, RB, SAL and TT) can only be achieved at Foundation or Higher level, as a 1-year course, in the academic year 2010/11.

5 Academic age as at 31 August 2010.

6 Includes School Action, School Action Plus and SEN with a statement.

* Suppressed, where the numerator is less than 3 or the denominator less than 3. Other figures may also have been suppressed if they would have allowed a number less than 3 to be deduced from other figures in the tables.

- Negligible, percentage below 0.5%.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

Table 2 - STUDENTS AWARDED DIPLOMAS¹ IN ENGLAND AND PERCENTAGE ACHIEVING A*-A, ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/11

Students awarded a Diploma by subject² and percentages achieving A*-A

England

	Number of students awarded a Diploma by subject, and percentage at A*-A grade ^{1, 2}														
	Total	BAF	CBE	CM	Eng	ELBS	HBS	Hosp	IT	MPD	PS	RB	SAL	SHD	TT
All Diploma awards³															
Number of awards	11,472	1,119	657	2,859	2,214	294	754	239	1,768	64	*	12	*	1,482	*
A*-A grade (percentage of total awards)	14	15	7	15	17	17	26	16	11	8	*	*	*	10	*
Foundation Diploma															
Number of awards	1,218	38	106	140	277	62	277	47	107	7	*	*	*	151	*
A*-A grade (percentage of Foundation awards)	32	66	22	34	28	*	35	*	51	*	*	*	*	17	*
Higher Diploma															
Number of awards	8,536	799	471	2,340	1,701	217	465	180	1,393	51	*	*	*	903	*
A*-A grade (percentage of Higher awards)	14	17	*	15	18	14	*	13	9	*	*	67	*	12	*
Progression/Advanced Diploma³															
Number of awards	1,718	282	80	379	236	15	12	12	268	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	428	n/a
A*-A grade (percentage of Level 3 awards)	3	2	*	6	2	*	*	*	1	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	n/a

Source: DAS Diploma data

1 Students who have been awarded a Diploma between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011.

2 Diploma subjects consist of Business, Administration & Finance (BAF), Construction & the Built Environment (CBE), Creative & Media (CM), Engineering (Eng), Environmental & Land-Based Studies (ELBS), Hair & Beauty Studies (HBS), Hospitality (Hosp), Information Technology (IT), Manufacturing & Product Design (MPD), Public Services (PS), Retail Business (RB), Sport & Active Leisure (SAL), Society, Health & Development (SHD) and Travel & Tourism (TT).

3 The four subjects added to the curriculum in September 2010 (PS, RB, SAL and TT) can only be achieved at Foundation or Higher level, as a 1-year course, in the academic year 2010/11.

* Suppressed, where the numerator is less than 3 or the denominator less than 3. Other figures may also have been suppressed if they would have allowed a number less than 3 to be deduced from other figures in the tables.

- Negligible, percentage below 0.5%.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding