

Statistical Release

Annual Qualifications Market Report England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2013/14 Academic Year

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This release provides information on the number and types of qualifications available for study in England, Wales and Northern Ireland over the academic year 2013/14 by regulated awarding organisations.

In summary:

- Just over 16 million certificates were awarded in 2013/14 – around 10 per cent fewer than in 2012/13. The fall was driven primarily by changes in school entry patterns and accountability frameworks.
- The number of regulated awarding organisations fell to 166 – ten fewer than a year earlier. There was no single reason for the decline.
- The number of available qualifications increased to almost 25,000 – around 6 per cent more than in 2012/13. The increase was mainly due to a rise in qualifications designed to meet the Qualifications and Credit Framework requirements.
- Twenty awarding organisations accounted for more than 90 per cent of all certificates awarded during the academic year. Pearson Education Ltd awarded nearly one-quarter of all certificates.
- More certificates were awarded in the preparation for life and work sector subject area than any other in 2013/14. This sector accounted for just under one-third of all certificates awarded during the year.

Introduction

Ofqual regulates qualifications, exams and assessments in England, and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. Ofqual's objectives include securing the standards of and promoting public confidence in regulated qualifications.

This report is produced annually and in a similar format year on year, so that readers can see developments and trends. It is based primarily on information that Ofqual holds or collects from awarding organisations. The data in this release covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We will consider over the next year how we can develop and improve this report in future years. In particular, we want to change the way we report on qualification types in the light of the removal of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) rules. We think there are, in any case, more useful ways of classifying qualifications for reporting purposes. We would welcome views on these issues.

A glossary of terms is available towards the end of this release.

Key statistics

The number of awarding organisations regulated by Ofqual fell to 166 in 2013/14, from 176 the previous year.

The number of available qualifications in 2013/14 increased by 6 per cent (from 23,642 to almost 24,965). Most available qualifications have been developed to meet the design requirements of the QCF¹ and their number increased by 16 per cent (from 16,770 to 19,474). The number of other qualifications decreased or very slightly increased.

The number of certificates awarded in 2013/14 fell by 10 per cent to just over 16 million. There were more than 13,000 qualifications with at least one certificate awarded, representing 53 per cent of available qualifications (which is similar to the previous year).

Overall market shares are well established and the number of certificates awarded is concentrated in a small number of qualifications. For GCSE, AS and A level, 90 per cent of certificates were awarded in just one-third of available qualifications. For vocational qualifications and academic qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level, 90 per cent of certificates were awarded in around one-fifth of the available qualifications.

Ninety per cent of certificates were awarded by 20 awarding organisations. The market shares of the four awarding organisations that offer GCSE, AS and A level qualifications remained largely unchanged compared to the previous year, based on the proportion of certificates awarded. Pearson Education Ltd awarded nearly one-quarter of all certificates (down from 27 per in 2012/12).

The number of certificates awarded in the largest sector subject area (preparation for life and work) decreased by 13 per cent (from just over 3 million to 2.6 million). Health, public services and care is now the second-largest sector subject area, with over 1 million certificates awarded. This follows a large increase of 15 per cent in the number of certificates awarded (from just over 1 million to nearly 1.2 million).

¹ The Qualifications and Credit Framework is a set of regulatory rules for designing credit-based qualifications, which most current vocational qualifications were designed to meet. The rules were withdrawn on 1st October 2015.

External drivers

Interests of users of qualifications

The development and take-up of qualifications is influenced by a range of factors. There is a complex and dynamic relationship between those providing qualifications (awarding organisations), purchasers (schools, colleges and training providers), students and 'end users' (employers and further and higher education providers). Government reforms of qualifications, performance measures and public funding policies will all have a significant impact on these relationships.

All users of qualifications respond to incentives, many of which come into play as a result of government policy changes:

- Awarding organisations respond to market demand for their qualifications and to incentives to develop and deliver new qualifications to meet government policy requirements, and to meet changing skills requirements.
- In deciding what to offer, schools and colleges are increasingly influenced by accountability measures and funding considerations, as well as student needs and institutional priorities, with decisions often balanced against practical delivery considerations such as availability of staff and student numbers. They may be informed by support groups and networks that help them to navigate the system, which can lead to changes to the qualifications on offer.
- Students generally want to study qualifications that will best help them progress in work or in higher or further education.
- Awarding organisations respond to feedback from employers and from schools, colleges and universities about whether their qualifications assess the knowledge, skills and understanding that they value, to the required standard.

Change that will impact on the market in England

GCSE, AS and A level reform

GCSEs, AS and A levels in England are being comprehensively reformed. First teaching of the reformed GCSEs in English language, English literature and mathematics started in September 2015. GCSEs in other subjects are being developed for first teaching in 2016 and 2017. The current modular structure of A levels will be replaced with a linear structure and AS qualifications will be decoupled from A levels to become stand-alone qualifications. The first teaching of some reformed A levels started in September 2015, with others following in 2016 and 2017.

These reforms will be likely to have a future impact on the market but are unlikely to have impacted on the figures presented in this report.

School performance measures

The Department for Education has changed its rules for how school and college performance tables in England are calculated. In previous years, school performance measures were determined using the best result that a pupil achieved in a subject, regardless of how many times they took that qualification. The Department for Education introduced a new expectation that applied for the first time in the academic year 2013/14 that only the first result a pupil achieved in their GCSEs would count in all Key Stage 4 performance measures. This appears to have had a significant impact on the numbers of GCSE certifications as schools have reduced the number of times that they enter a student for a qualification (see figure 3).

Changes to the assessment of qualifications

In 2012, Ofqual announced that its regulatory requirements² for GCSEs in England would change. Where previously students could be assessed on units of their qualification at different times, they must now take all GCSE assessments at the end of the course for awards made from summer 2014 onwards.

In addition, Ofqual removed the opportunity for awarding organisations to assess AS and A level students in January. Following consultation, this change took effect from January 2014.

These restrictions to the availability of GCSE and A level assessments are likely to have contributed to reductions in the number of certificates issued in these qualifications in 2013/14 (see figure 3).

Funding reform – public funding changes by the Skills Funding Agency³

The Skills Funding Agency is responsible for public funding of qualifications for students over the age of 19 in England. In the last few years, the funding rules for vocational qualifications for these students have been changed to reduce the number of qualifications that are available for funding. This year, for example, there has been a 7 per cent decrease in the total number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level compared to the previous year (from 9.2 million to 8.6 million). The Skills Funding Agency introduced new business rules in September 2013 to target funding on qualifications that most closely align with government skills policy.⁴ Qualifications with low or no enrolment have been

² Announced in December 2011, following a consultation exercise.

³ The Skills Funding Agency funds skills training for further education in England. It supports over 1,000 colleges, private training organisations and employers with more than £4 billion of funding each year.

⁴ *Skills Funding Statement 2013–2016*:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278529/bis-14-p172a-skills-funding-statement-2013-2016.pdf

withdrawn. The funding rule changes for 2014/15 include a requirement that qualifications have at least 15 credits for adult learning and have clear outcomes for progression to employment or to the next level of learning.⁵

School funding and study programmes in England

Previously for post-16 education, schools and colleges in England received funding based on the qualifications that students took. This has now changed and from 2013/14, schools and colleges receive funding per student. Students aged 16 to 19 are still undertaking learning programmes but may no longer be taking as many qualifications as they had in the past. According to the new funding criteria, students are expected to either take a study programme that includes a qualification of the size and difficulty of an A level (aged 16 to 18) or participate in a Key Stage 4 programme of learning (the two years of school education that incorporate GCSEs, and other exams in maintained schools, normally known as Years 10 and 11) if they have not already achieved that level.⁶

School performance tables⁷

In 2010, the government commissioned Professor Alison Wolf to carry out a review of vocational education for students aged 14 to 19. The review considered how vocational education for this age group could be improved to enable successful progression into the labour market and into higher education and training routes. The Wolf Review was published in March 2011.⁸ One of the report's many recommendations was that the government should distinguish between qualifications (both academic and vocational) that can contribute to school performance measures at Key Stage 4, and those that cannot. The report also recommended that vocational qualifications should make a limited contribution to an individual student's score on any performance measure.

In academic year 2012/13, any qualification on the section 96⁹ funding list could count towards school performance tables. For 2013/14, while a large number of qualifications were still funded, only a small number of non-GCSEs, AS or A levels were included in performance tables. This is likely to have led schools to focus on

⁵ There are some areas where these rules do not apply, such as qualifications to help the unemployed. Full details of the changes are published at:
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/340925/Qualifications_Information_Guide_2014_to_2015.pdf

⁶ *Study Programmes for 16- to 19-Year-Olds*:
www.education.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/1.%20Government%20response%20to%20consultation%20on%20study%20programmes%20for%2016-%20to%2019-year-olds%20for%20publication%20july%202012.pdf

⁷ The key government benchmark for the attainment of Key Stage 4 pupils (aged 15 to 16) is the percentage of pupils gaining the equivalent of at least five A* to C GCSE passes, including English and mathematics. In the tables, vocational qualifications such as BTECs and NVQs are given equivalency scores to GCSEs.

⁸ *Review of Vocational Education – The Wolf Report*:
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180504/DFE-00031-2011.pdf

⁹ www.education.gov.uk/section96

those qualifications included in the performance tables. Moreover, qualifications in the tables were previously weighted – larger qualifications gained a higher rating and could be worth more than one qualification. This is no longer the case and all qualifications now count the same.

Awarding organisations

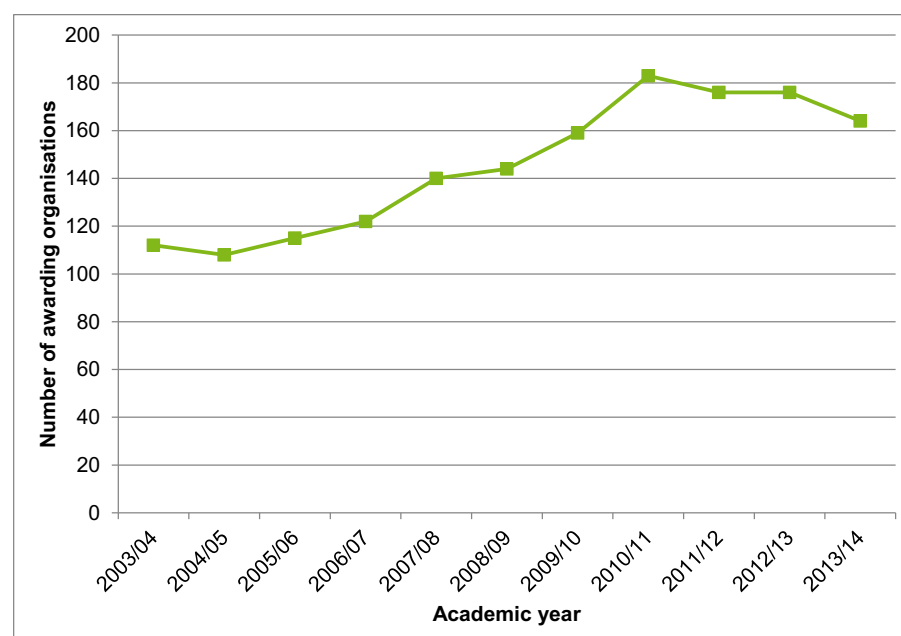
Any organisation that wants to offer regulated qualifications in England or vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland has to be recognised by Ofqual. Since July 2011, any new awarding organisation needs to meet Ofqual's *Criteria for Recognition*¹⁰ and, once recognised, all awarding organisations need to continue to meet Ofqual's *General Conditions of Recognition*.¹¹

Number of recognised awarding organisations

Figure 1 shows changes in the number of recognised awarding organisations over the past 11 years.

The number of recognised awarding organisations in 2013/14 has decreased by 7 per cent from the previous year (from 176 to 166). This has happened for a variety of reasons including regulatory action, whereby two awarding organisations had their recognition withdrawn during the year, and surrender of recognition, including a number of organisations that were not awarding any qualifications.

Figure 1: The number of awarding organisations recognised to deliver regulated qualifications on 30th September each year, 2004–2014



Source: Ofqual

¹⁰ www.gov.uk/government/publications/criteria-for-recognition

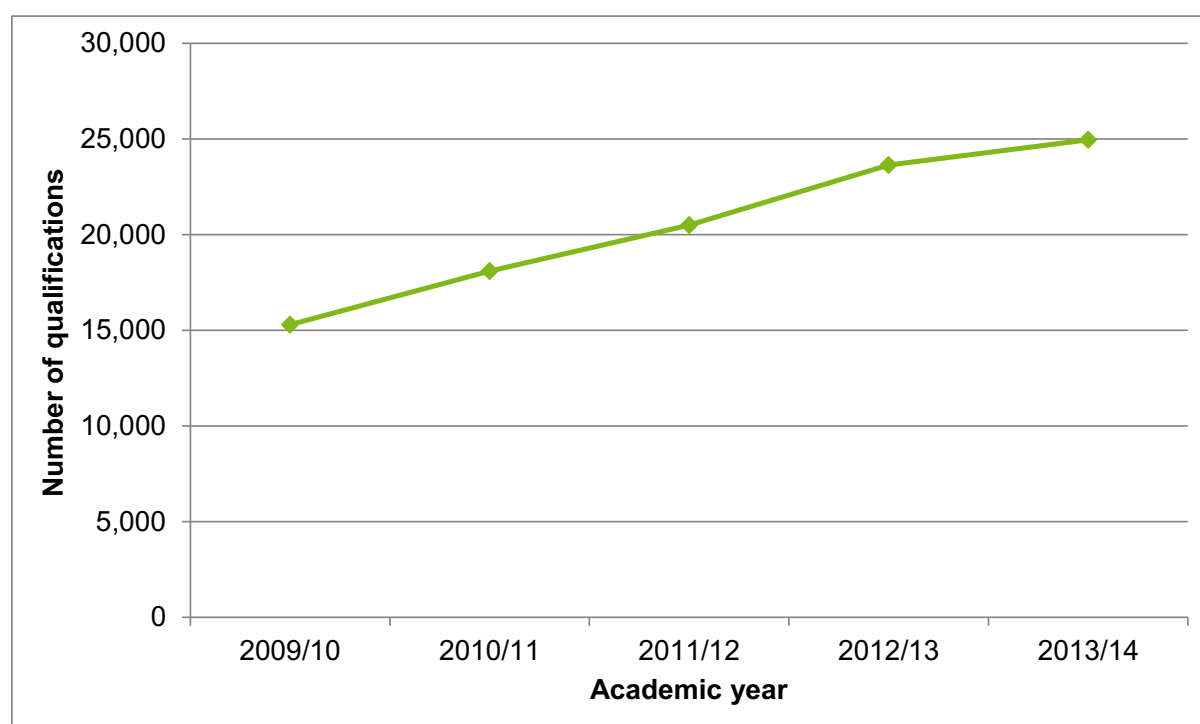
¹¹ www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461218/general-conditions-of-recognition-september-2015.pdf

Regulated qualifications

Figure 2 shows the change in the number of available regulated qualifications over the past five years.

The number of available¹² qualifications in 2013/14 increased by more than 1,300 from the previous year, to nearly 25,000 (6 per cent increase). The number of available qualifications has increased by 63 per cent in the last five years but the increase between 2012/13 and 2013/14 was less pronounced. Available qualifications are recorded on the Register of Regulated Qualifications¹³ (referred to as the Register).

Figure 2: Number of available regulated qualifications from 2009/10 to 2013/14



Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

¹² Qualifications are available until they pass their certification end date or if they have made an award in the academic year being considered.

¹³ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

Trends in the number of qualifications by qualification type

Table 1 shows the change in the number of available qualifications for each qualification type in 2013/14 compared with the previous year.

The largest increase was in qualifications developed to meet the design requirements of the QCF (16 per cent, to 19,474). There are many different types of qualifications that make up this group, mostly vocational qualifications. Where appropriate in this report, we will indicate areas of specific growth and decline within this group, for example sector changes. Increases were also seen in the numbers of functional skills (3 per cent, to 240) and ESOL (3 per cent, to 198) qualifications.

There were a number of areas where there were large decreases – basic skills, key skills, national vocational qualifications and vocationally related qualifications. There were large decreases in basic skills and key skills – which have been replaced by functional skills qualifications – and in national vocational qualifications and vocationally related qualifications, which have in the main been replaced by ‘equivalent’ QCF qualifications.

Table 1: The number of regulated qualifications of each type for 2012/13 and 2013/14

Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate		
	2012/13	2013/14	Percentage change
QCF	16,770	19,474	16
Functional skills	232	240	3
English for speakers of other languages	193	198	3
GCE AS	276	277	0
Advanced extension award	1	1	0
Diploma	196	196	0
Free standing mathematics qualification	14	14	0
GCE A level	284	282	-1
Other general qualification	824	817	-1
Project	18	17	-6
GCSE	593	555	-6
Entry level	301	280	-7
Higher level	419	363	-13
Occupational qualification	85	68	-20
Principal learning	201	157	-22
Vocationally-related qualification	1,654	1,129	-32
National vocational qualification	1,133	672	-41
Key skills	368	192	-48
Basic skills	80	33	-59
Total	23,642	24,965	6

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Table A1 in the appendix shows the number of available qualifications for each qualification type over the past five years.

Available qualifications with certificates

Table 2 shows the change in the number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded in 2013/14 compared to the previous year.

Certificates were awarded in more than 13,000 qualifications in 2013/14. This corresponds to 53 per cent of available qualifications – 1 per cent lower than in the previous year. Qualifications developed to meet the design requirements of the QCF accounted for 80 per cent of qualifications with certificates awarded.

In some areas, government policy changes (such as those affecting the Diploma and principal learning) have made some qualifications obsolete, which accounts for the decreases. In other areas, we see qualifications such as basic skills decrease as qualifications such as functional skills ‘replace’ them.

Table 2: The number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded for 2012/13 and 2013/14

Qualification type	Number of qualifications with certificates		
	2012/13	2013/14	Percentage change
Free standing mathematics qualification	7	14	100
QCF	8,989	10,604	18
Functional skills	183	204	11
Project	9	10	11
English for speakers of other languages	146	148	1
GCE AS	260	261	0
Advanced extension award	1	1	0
GCE A level	254	249	-2
GCSE	436	408	-6
Other general qualification	512	379	-26
Higher level	172	108	-37
Vocationally-related qualification	586	355	-39
Key skills	202	117	-42
Entry level	218	119	-45
National vocational qualification	596	293	-51
Occupational qualification	34	16	-53
Basic skills	56	26	-54
Diploma	79	6	-92
Principal learning	70	5	-93
Total	12,810	13,323	4

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Table A2 in the appendix shows the number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded over the past five years.

Trends in certificates – qualifications with low take-up

Table 3 shows that in 2013/14, relatively few qualifications had large numbers of certificates awarded. CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF) and Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English were the two qualifications that had certification numbers higher than 100,000. The CIEH qualification has consistently been the qualification with the most certificates awarded in recent years.

There were almost 24,000 qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level. Fifty-two per cent of these had certificates awarded. Only 9 per cent (2,242 qualifications) had more than 500 certificates awarded.

For GCSE, AS and A level, over 1,100 qualifications were available on the Register for 2013/14. Eighty-two per cent of these had certificates awarded and 60 per cent (673 qualifications) had more than 500 certificates awarded.

Table 3: Number of qualifications by number of certificates awarded in 2013/14

Number of certificates	Qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level		GCSE, AS and A level qualifications	
	Number of qualification	Proportion (%)	Number of qualification	Proportion (%)
More than 100,000	2	0%	7	1%
50,000 - 99,999	14	0%	19	2%
10,000 - 49,999	114	1%	133	12%
5,000 - 9,999	213	1%	109	9%
1,000 - 4,999	1,087	5%	297	26%
500 - 999	812	4%	108	10%
250 - 499	1,055	4%	73	8%
100 - 249	1,601	7%	59	6%
50 - 99	1,399	6%	34	3%
10 - 49	3,222	13%	61	4%
1 - 9	2,886	12%	18	2%
Zero	11,446	47%	196	18%
Total	23,851	100%	1,114	100%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: 'Qualifications' includes all subjects and variants offered in the year or part of the year, by all awarding organisations.

Table 4 shows the number of qualifications accounting for 25, 50, 75, 90 and 100 per cent of the certificates awarded for each of GCSE, AS and A level qualifications and other qualifications.

A high proportion of certificates awarded were concentrated in relatively few qualifications. For qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level, 2 per cent (246 qualifications) accounted for half of the number of certificates awarded in that category. For GCSE, AS and A level qualifications, 5 per cent (50 qualifications) accounted for 50 per cent of the certificates awarded.

Table 4: Cumulative number of qualifications accounting for percentages of total certificates awarded in 2013/14

Percentage of certificates(%)	Qualifications other than GCSE and A level		Qualifications in GCSE and A level	
	Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
25%	47	0	11	1
50%	246	2	50	5
75%	880	7	139	15
90%	2,185	18	297	32
100%	12,405	100	918	100

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: 'Qualifications' includes all subjects and variants offered in the year or part of the year, by all awarding organisations.

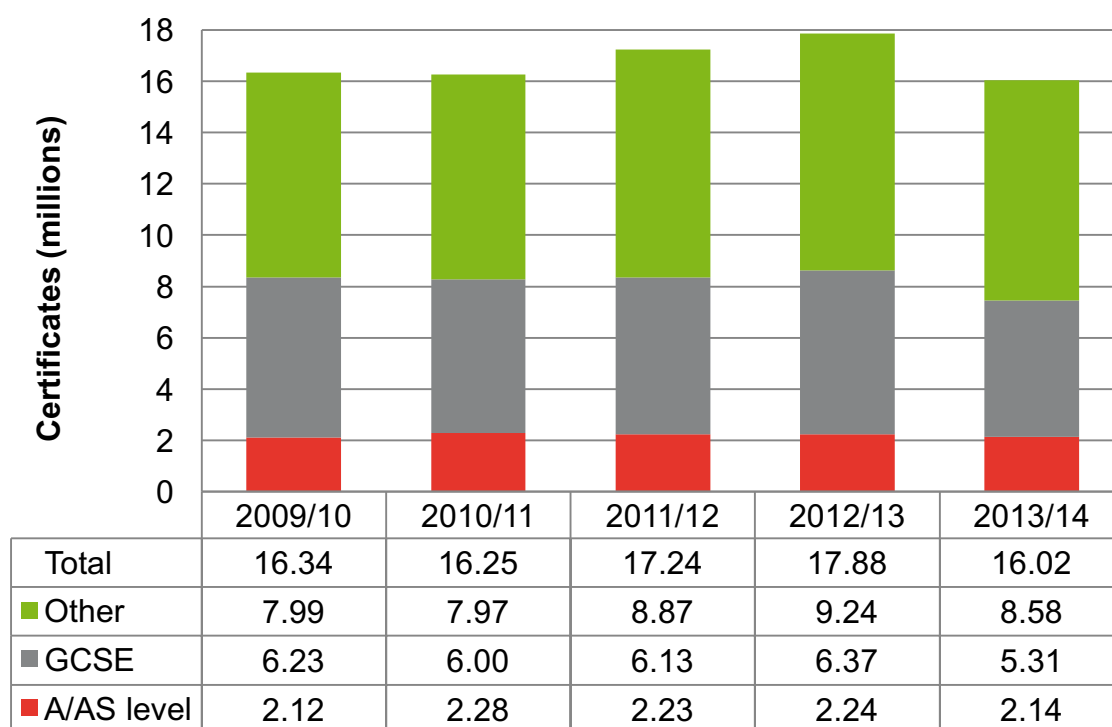
Certificates awarded for all qualifications

Overall picture

Figure 3 shows the total numbers of certificates awarded in the past five years. Between 2009/10 and 2013/14, the number of certificates awarded has fallen by 2 per cent (from 16.3 million to 16 million).

Certificates awarded fell by 10 per cent in 2013/14 compared to the previous year (from 17.88 to 16.02 million). Change in GCSE take-up is the biggest factor, with certificates awarded decreasing by 17 per cent (from 6.4 million to 5.3 million). Certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level decreased by 7 per cent (from 9.2 million to 8.6 million), in part caused by changes to funding and accountability measures. Certificates awarded in AS and A level qualifications decreased by 4 per cent (from 2.2 million to 2.1 million). A number of factors are likely to have influenced these figures. In particular, as set out above, at GCSE changes made to school performance tables and the structure of the qualification are likely to have been significant factors in the decrease in certifications.

Figure 3: Number of certificates awarded, broken down into GCSE, AS and A level and other qualifications, from 2009/10 to 2013/14



Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: 'Other' refers to qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level.

Awarding organisation share of certificates awarded

Table 5 shows the trends in the total number of certificates awarded for all qualifications for the 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of certificates in 2013/14. These organisations awarded over 90 per cent of all certificates in the past five years.

The five largest awarding organisations by number of certificates awarded were Pearson Education Ltd (Pearson), AQA Education (AQA), OCR, City & Guilds of London Institute (City & Guilds) and WJEC-CBAC (WJEC). They have awarded around 75 per cent of certificates in each year for the past five years. However, all five organisations awarded fewer certificates in 2013/14 than in the previous year (13 per cent decrease). Pearson had the largest decrease (19 per cent), followed by OCR (16 per cent). AQA Education decreased by 10 per cent, and WJEC-CBAC and City and Guilds of London Institute both decreased by 2 per cent.

The number of certificates awarded by OCR over the past five years has decreased (31 per cent), while increases have been seen by WJEC (17 per cent) and Pearson (10 per cent).

Table 5: The 20 awarding organisations with the most certificates awarded in all qualifications, 2012/13 and 2013/14

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change
	2012/13	2013/14	
Pearson Education Ltd	4,957,300	3,996,900	-19
AQA Education	3,778,900	3,418,000	-10
OCR	2,361,900	1,977,300	-16
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,432,600	1,399,600	-2
WJEC-CBAC	1,131,300	1,106,700	-2
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	309,800	304,800	-2
NCFE	455,500	302,600	-34
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	273,100	267,200	-2
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	187,800	256,500	37
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	215,600	227,500	6
Cambridge English Language Assessment	170,900	194,200	14
Trinity College London	123,200	170,600	38
Cambridge International Examinations	110,200	165,700	50
National Open College Network	298,000	138,900	-53
Qualsafe Awards	34,300	124,100	262
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	117,300	91,300	-22
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	88,000	83,000	-6
Sports Leaders UK	84,400	81,400	-4
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	91,600	79,700	-13
First Aid Awards Ltd	39,800	78,300	97
Others	1,619,200	1,560,200	-4
Total	17,880,600	16,024,700	-10

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

Seven of the 20 largest awarding organisations by number of certificates awarded reported an increase in the number of certificates awarded in 2013/14 compared to the previous year. Of these, Quasafe Awards showed the biggest increase (262 per cent). This is in part due to an increase of 284 per cent in awards for their Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF) (from 18,650 to 71,700).

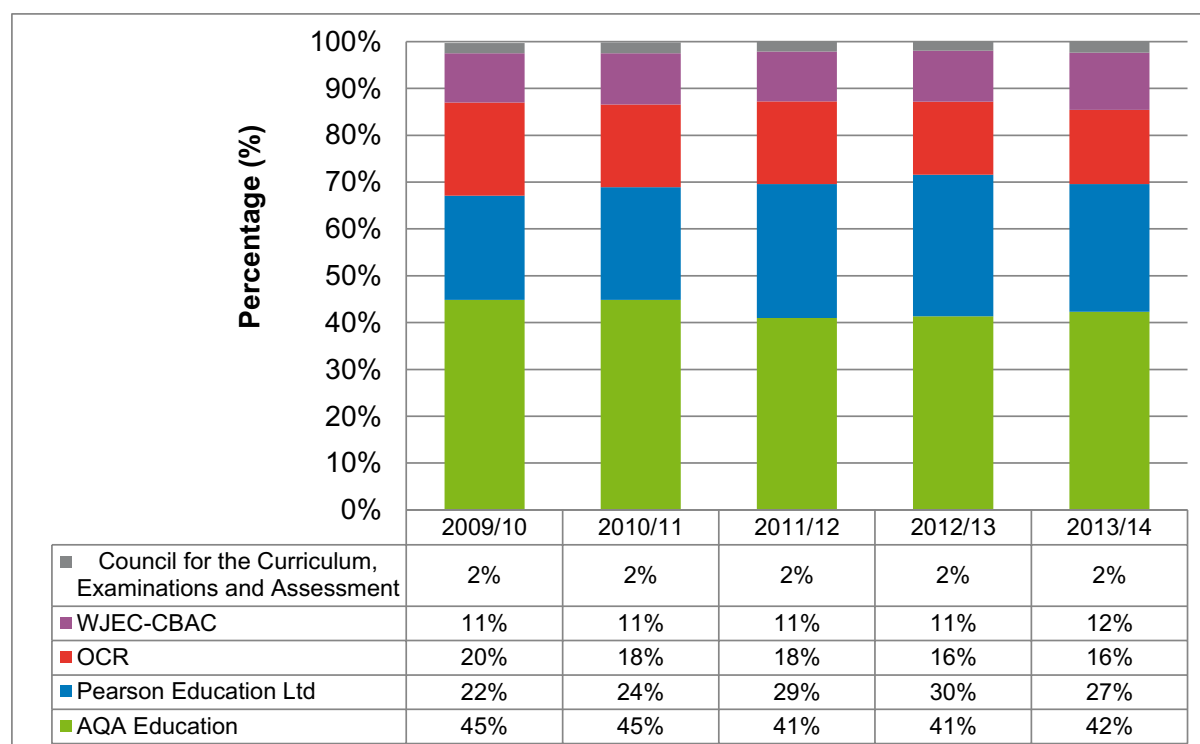
Pearson had the largest decrease in absolute terms, with nearly 1 million fewer certificates awarded. AQA, OCR and WJEC-CBAC also showed decreases. This is partly due to the drop in certificates awarded at GCSE, AS and A level, as outlined above.

Over the past five years, Cambridge International Examinations and Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance showed the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates awarded, while OCR showed the largest decrease. Table A3 in the appendix shows the number of certificates awarded in this period.

Certificates awarded in GCSE qualifications

Figure 4 shows that awarding organisations' shares of the GCSE market have been relatively static over the past five years, although volumes have decreased. The largest three organisations account for over 85 per cent of all certificates awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Figure 4: GCSE certificate data by awarding organisation from 2009/10 to 2013/14 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Source: JCQ data

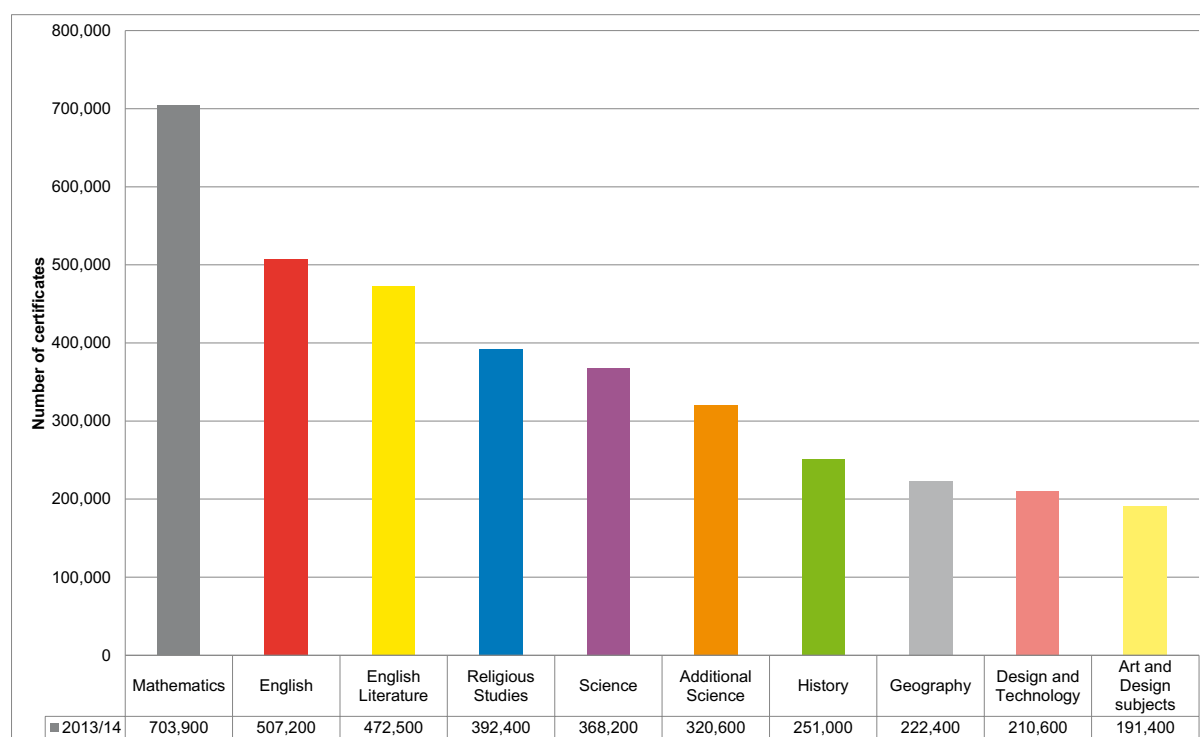
Certificates in GCSE subjects

Figure 5 shows the distribution of certificates awarded across different subjects for GCSE qualifications in 2013/14.

The ten subjects with the highest number of certificates awarded remained the same as in the previous year, but science has seen a large drop (from 526,800 to 368,200). This is mainly because of a reduction in the number of younger candidates (Year 10 and below) entering for science exams,¹⁴ which is linked to the changes in the rules for school and college performance tables described above.

There was a considerable decrease in the number of certificates awarded in mathematics (from 1.3 million to 703,900) and English (from 792,800 to 507,200) compared to the previous year. Again, this reflects changes in entry patterns, which have probably been strongly influenced by changes made to school and college performance tables with only the first result in a subject now counting towards the school's performance table result.

Figure 5: Number of GCSE certificates awarded for the ten subjects with the most certificates for 2013/14 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland¹⁵



Source: JCQ data

Note: In 2013/14, there were 1.7 million certificates awarded in other GCSE subjects.

¹⁴ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/summer-2015-exam-entries-gcses-level-1-2-certificates-as-and-a-levels-in-england

¹⁵ English includes qualifications in English and English language.

Distribution of GCSE qualifications across awarding organisations

Table 6 highlights the variability of subject market share between awarding organisations. Table A4 in the appendix shows the 20 GCSE qualifications with the most certificates during the academic year.

Table 6: The distribution of certificates awarded by awarding organisation for all GCSE subjects in 2013/14 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Subject	Awarding organisation									
	AQA	%	CCEA	%	OCR	%	Pearson	%	WJEC	%
Additional Science	179,300	56	0	0	80,200	25	52,900	17	8,300	3
All other subjects	10,200	27	300	1	0	0	0	0	27,800	73
Art and Design subjects	109,000	57	4,200	2	22,700	12	44,600	23	10,900	6
Biology	76,500	54	3,400	2	45,300	32	11,100	8	4,600	3
Business & Comm. Systems	11,500	75	500	3	1,600	10	1,800	12	0	0
Business Studies	24,700	27	3,400	4	15,000	16	42,700	47	5,900	6
Chemistry	73,700	54	2,800	2	45,400	33	10,900	8	4,600	3
Citizenship Studies	10,700	27	0	0	9,600	24	19,200	49	0	0
Classical subjects	1,500	9	0	0	15,600	92	0	0	0	0
Computing	1,700	10	0	0	14,200	88	0	0	300	2
Construction	0	0	600	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Design and Technology	157,200	75	2,800	1	18,600	9	19,000	9	12,900	6
Drama	21,600	29	1,100	1	5,800	8	41,300	55	5,300	7
Economics	3,800	58	200	3	2,600	39	0	0	0	0
Engineering	4,000	61	300	5	800	12	1,400	21	0	0
English	269,700	53	17,400	3	31,400	6	43,300	9	145,500	29
English Literature	271,300	57	7,400	2	30,300	6	38,800	8	124,600	26
French	89,500	53	4,100	2	11,100	7	47,300	28	15,600	9
Geography	105,300	47	5,400	2	35,400	16	46,200	21	30,100	14
German	31,500	53	700	1	4,000	7	17,700	30	6,000	10
Health & Social Care	3,200	17	500	3	6,700	35	7,400	39	1,400	7
History	59,000	24	6,300	3	91,200	36	72,000	29	22,400	9
Home Economics	11,800	33	4,500	13	12,000	34	0	0	7,300	21
Hospitality	0	0	400	10	0	0	0	0	3,500	90
Humanities	5,300	58	0	0	1,900	21	0	0	2,000	22
ICT	12,900	12	8,600	8	10,700	10	58,400	56	13,500	13
Irish	0	0	2,100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Law	1,900	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure & Tourism	2,300	33	100	1	500	7	3,000	43	1,000	14
Manufacturing	0	0	200	40	200	40	200	40	0	0
Mathematics	105,000	15	16,800	2	61,800	9	483,800	69	36,400	5
Mathematics (Additional)	0	0	1,000	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Media / Film / TV Studies	34,700	54	400	1	7,100	11	0	0	21,600	34
Music	14,700	32	1,600	3	8,600	19	18,900	41	2,600	6
Other Modern Languages	12,600	38	0	0	5,500	17	14,600	45	0	0
Other Sciences	3,500	35	0	0	2,200	22	2,700	27	1,500	15
Other Technology	0	0	1,100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Performing / Expressive Arts	19,000	90	0	0	1,400	7	0	0	800	4
Physical Education	35,700	29	1,800	1	10,700	9	67,000	55	6,400	5
Physics	72,700	53	2,600	2	45,400	33	11,100	8	4,500	3
Prep. For Life and Work	0	0	8,100	99	0	0	0	0	100	1
Religious Studies	117,100	30	8,100	2	74,800	19	130,000	33	62,400	16
Science	197,200	54	4,500	1	94,800	26	59,300	16	12,300	3
Social Science subjects	23,400	56	0	0	10,500	25	3,200	8	5,000	12
Spanish	50,900	55	2,500	3	5,600	6	25,000	27	8,600	9
Statistics	11,100	18	0	0	0	0	49,300	82	0	0
Welsh Literature	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,700	100
Welsh: First Language	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,600	100
Welsh: Second Language	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24,500	100
Total	2,246,900	42	125,600	2	841,100	16	1,444,100	27	649,600	12

Certificates awarded in AS and A level qualifications

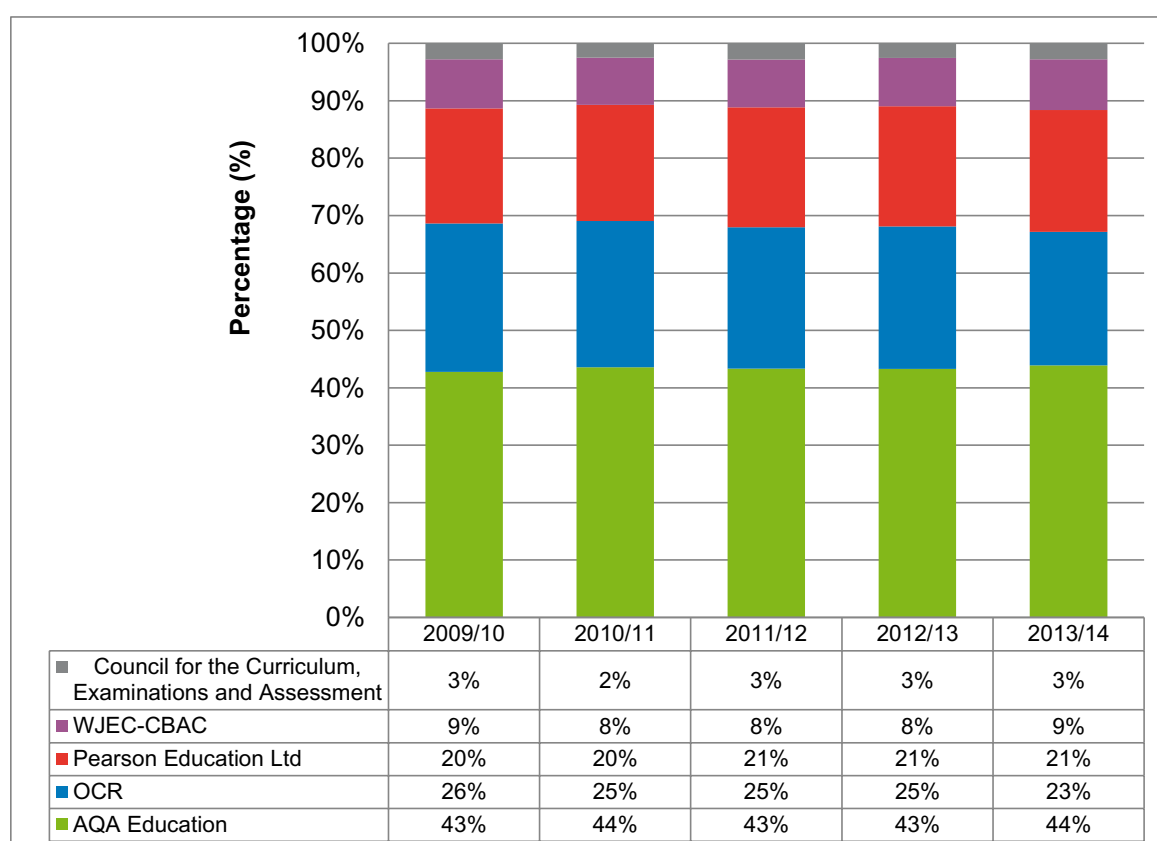
A levels are currently¹⁶ made up of advanced subsidiary (AS) units and A2 units. This section shows data and trends in the distribution of certificates awarded for AS and A levels across awarding organisations. It also highlights high-volume AS and A level qualifications for 2013/14.

Certificates awarded for AS qualifications

Figure 6 shows that, as with GCSEs, changes in market share across awarding organisations over the past five years have been small.

AQA has the highest market share in 2013/14 at 44 per cent – similar to its GCSE share. The three largest organisations account for almost 90 per cent of all certificates awarded for AS qualifications.

Figure 6: AS certificate data split by awarding organisation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 2009/10 to 2013/14



Source: JCQ data

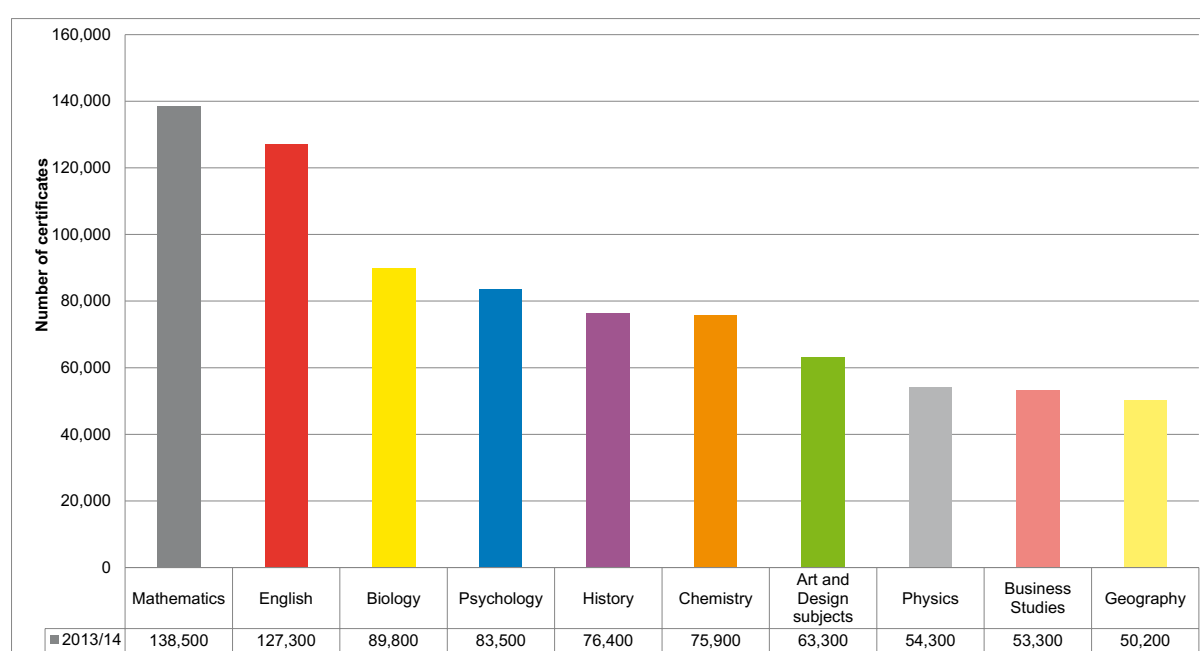
¹⁶ Under the A level reforms in England, AS qualifications will be stand-alone qualifications and will no longer contribute to A levels.

Certificates awarded in AS subjects

Figure 7 shows certificates awarded by subject for AS qualifications in 2013/14. Table A5 in the appendix shows the 20 AS qualifications with the most certificates during the academic year.

The ten largest subjects by number of certificates awarded, and their rankings by certificate, have remained largely unchanged since the previous year. However, the number of certificates awarded in history in 2013/14 was higher than in chemistry, and the number in geography was higher than in general studies.

Figure 7: Number of AS certificates awarded for the ten subjects with the most certificates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2013/14¹⁷



Source: JCQ data

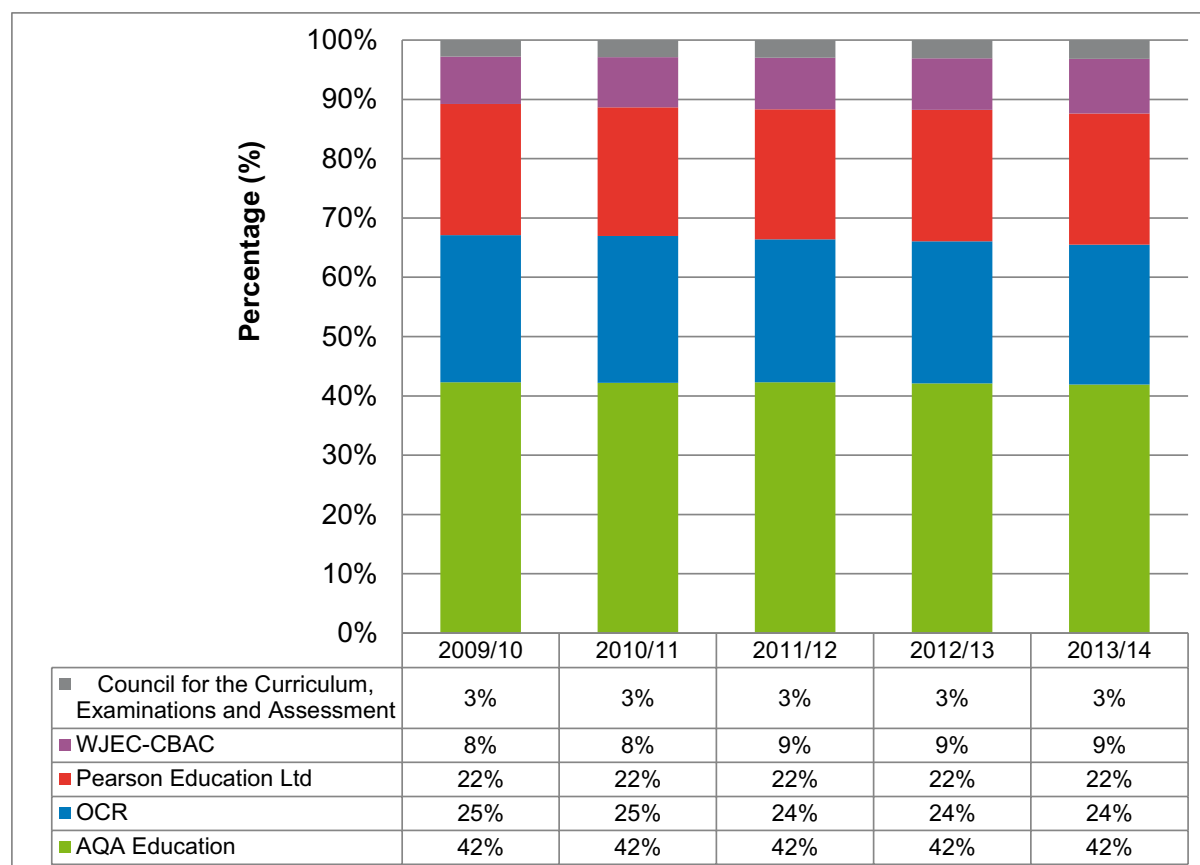
Note: In 2013/14, there were 483,900 certificates awarded in other AS subjects.

¹⁷ English refers to English literature, English language and English language and literature.

Certificates awarded for A level qualifications

Figure 8 shows that changes in market share across awarding organisations over the past five years have been negligible. AQA consistently awarded the largest proportion of certificates over the period, with a market share of 42 per cent in 2013/14.

Figure 8: A level certificate data by awarding organisation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 2009/10 to 2013/14



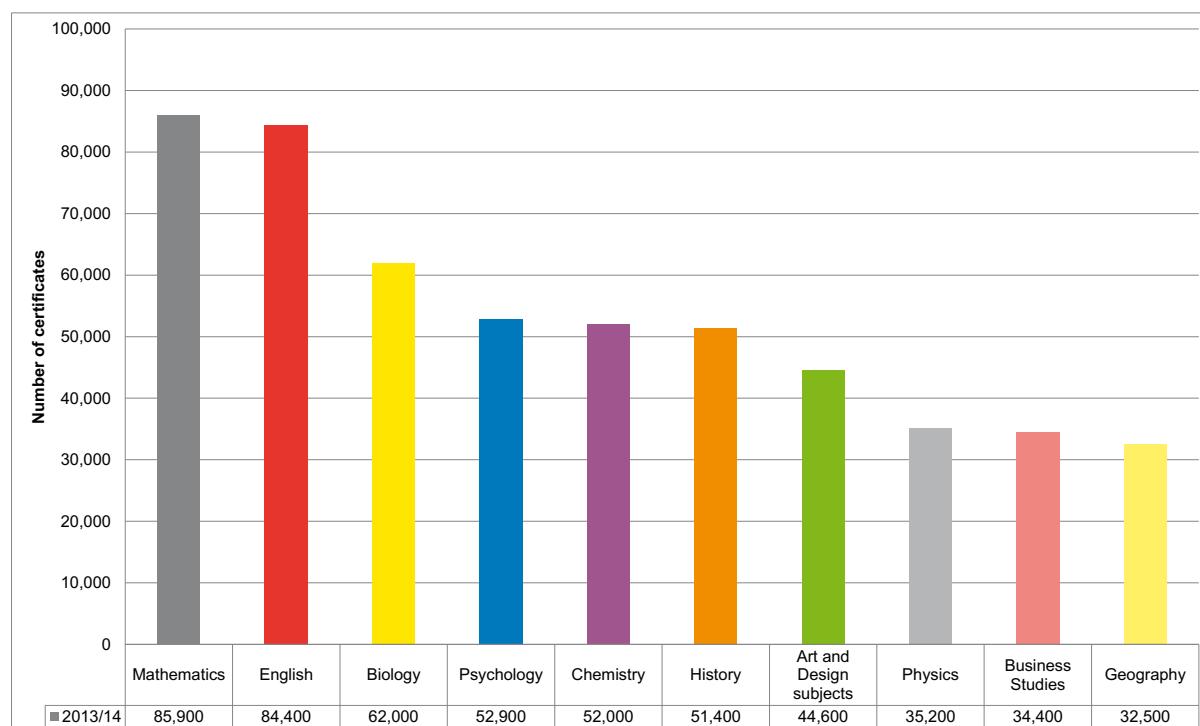
Source: JCQ data

Certificates in A level subjects

Figure 9 shows certificates awarded by subject for A level qualifications in 2013/14. Table A6 in the appendix shows the 20 A level qualifications with the most certificates during the academic year.

The ten largest subjects by number of certificates awarded, and their rankings by certificate, have remained largely unchanged from the previous year. However, in 2013/14, the number of certificates awarded in mathematics was higher than in English and the number awarded in physics was higher than in business studies. Compared to the previous year, all ten subjects showed a decrease in the number of certificates awarded, varying between 1 per cent and 6 per cent. It is likely that some of this decrease is linked to the reduction in flexibility about when students may take assessments in AS and A levels, as described above.

Figure 9: Number of A level certificates for the ten subjects with the most certificates awarded in 2013/14 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland¹⁸



Source: JCQ data

Note: In 2013/14, there were 320,800 certificates awarded in other A level subjects.

¹⁸ English refers to English literature, English language and English language and literature.

Certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level

Over the past five years, the total number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level has increased overall from 8 million to 8.6 million. This period has also seen big increases in the number of qualifications designed to meet the QCF requirements, in parallel with big reductions in the qualification types that they typically replaced.

However, there has been a 7 per cent decrease in the total number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level compared to the previous year (from 9.2 million to 8.6 million). This is likely to be due to changes in funding and the accountability framework that reduced the number of vocational qualifications recognised in schools for performance table purposes.

Distribution of certificates awarded for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by awarding organisation

Whereas only five awarding organisations offer qualifications for GCSE, AS and A level, the market for other qualifications is not as concentrated and many of the awarding organisations specialise in particular sectors or subject areas.

Table 7 shows the change in the number of certificates awarded for the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates compared to the previous year. Pearson awarded nearly one-quarter of all certificates in 2013/14. The largest ten organisations account for nearly 70 per cent of all certificates awarded. Table A7 in the appendix presents the same data but over a five year period.

Table 7: Distribution of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2013/14 (ten largest awarding organisations by number of certificates awarded)

Awarding organisation	2012/13	2013/14	Percentage change
Pearson Education Ltd	2,548,900	2,090,500	-18
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,432,500	1,399,600	-2
OCR	821,300	636,000	-23
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	309,800	304,800	-2
NCFE	455,500	302,600	-34
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	273,100	267,200	-2
WJEC-CBAC	244,600	265,200	8
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	187,800	256,500	37
AQA Education	186,700	248,000	33
Cambridge English Language Assessment	170,900	194,200	14
Others	2,605,800	2,612,400	0
Total	9,236,900	8,577,100	-7

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance saw a large increase (37 per cent), which was mainly due to certificates awarded in HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF) (up 39,000) and HABC Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work (QCF) (up 11,900).

AQA also saw a large increase (33 per cent), mainly due to an increase in certificates awarded in three project qualifications (from 0 to 33,600). Another reason for this increase is the introduction of seven new free-standing mathematics qualifications, which are part of a number that meet the government's funding condition for the provision of post-16 mathematics in England.¹⁹

NCFE had the biggest decrease in certificates awarded (34 per cent), most of which was in the preparation for life and work sector subject area. The qualification with the largest decrease was NCFE Level 1 Award in Learning to Learn (QCF) (from 32,200 to 2,400).

Certificates by sector subject area

Table 8 shows the change in the number of certificates awarded in 2013/14 compared to the previous year in the 15 sector subject areas.

Table 8: Number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in each sector subject area from 2012/13 to 2013/14

Sector subject area	Number of certificates		Percentage change
	2012/13	2013/14	
Preparation for life and work	3,005,400	2,617,400	-13
Health, public services and care	1,025,600	1,183,300	15
Arts, media and publishing	897,700	882,500	-2
Retail and commercial enterprise	754,300	688,400	-9
Business, administration, finance and law	697,500	647,500	-7
Information and communication technology	632,200	480,100	-24
Leisure, travel and tourism	548,200	475,000	-13
Languages, literature and culture	436,500	433,500	-1
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	442,700	401,300	-9
Science and mathematics	280,600	288,200	3
Construction, planning and the built environment	243,200	232,500	-4
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	120,300	111,500	-7
Education and training	106,500	99,700	-6
History, philosophy and theology	41,400	30,200	-27
Social sciences	4,700	6,000	28
Total	9,236,900	8,577,100	-7

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

¹⁹ Condition of Funding on Maths and English: Qualifications List:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/condition-of-funding-on-maths-and-english-qualifications-list#history

The largest number of certificates awarded was in the preparation for life and work sector subject area (over 2.6 million), representing just under one-third of all certificates awarded. Of the 20 qualifications with the most certificates awarded, seven of them are from this sector subject area. There were just over 1 million certificates awarded in functional skills in this sector, representing 39 per cent of all certificates awarded in this sector subject area.

Health, public services and care was the second-largest sector subject area and the fastest-growing sector after social sciences. It also had the largest increase (15 per cent) in terms of the absolute number of certificates awarded. This is mainly due to an increase in first aid at work qualifications”, given the recent requirement by the Health and Safety Executive for individuals to complete an accredited qualification as one of the ways to comply with the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981.

Over the past five years, science and mathematics has been the fastest-growing sector, with a doubling in the number of certificates awarded. Table A8 in the appendix shows the number of certificates awarded in this period.

Distribution of certificates awarded across awarding organisations by sector subject area for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level

Although there are over 160 awarding organisations providing regulated qualifications, most of them provide qualifications in only a small number of sector subject areas.

Table 9 shows the distribution of certificates awarded in 2013/14 in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level across the largest five awarding organisations by sector subject area, and how this compares to the previous year.

In each sector subject area, the three largest awarding organisations by number of certificates awarded account for more than 50 per cent of certificates (except in health, public services and care where it is 49 per cent). In two sector subject areas (science and mathematics and social sciences), the two largest awarding organisations account for 80 per cent or more of the certificates awarded. The two largest awarding organisations by numbers of certificates awarded account for 50 per cent or more of the certificates awarded in 12 sector subject areas.

Table 9: The five awarding organisations with the most certificates awarded in each sector subject area in 2013/14

Sector subject area	Awarding organisation	Number of certificates	Percentage of certificates	% change from 2012/13 to 2013/14
01 - Health, public services and care	Pearson Education Ltd	287,400	24%	-6
	Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	161,500	14%	40
	NCFE	126,000	11%	-18
	Qualsafe Awards	120,100	10%	252
	City and Guilds of London Institute	94,700	8%	-9
02 - Science and mathematics	Pearson Education Ltd	168,300	58%	-5
	AQA Education	69,800	24%	60
	OCR	33,400	12%	-25
	Cambridge International Examinations	11,600	4%	10
	WJEC-CBAC	3,900	1%	19
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	City and Guilds of London Institute	68,400	61%	5
	Pearson Education Ltd	16,200	15%	-6
	Equestrian Qualifications Limited	9,900	9%	-8
	ABC Awards	3,200	3%	-34
	Royal Horticultural Society	3,000	3%	-26
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	93,900	23%	-1
	Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	67,000	17%	-17
	Pearson Education Ltd	66,200	16%	-11
	City and Guilds of London Institute	64,900	16%	-25
	IMI Awards Ltd	44,400	11%	-7
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	City and Guilds of London Institute	98,400	42%	10
	Cskills Awards	72,800	31%	-24
	Pearson Education Ltd	35,700	15%	-5
	Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	6,600	3%	127
	Ascentis	5,300	2%	-47
06 - Information and communication technology	OCR	225,200	47%	-24
	Pearson Education Ltd	98,600	21%	-41
	BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	79,700	17%	-5
	City and Guilds of London Institute	36,600	8%	-11
	The Learning Machine	14,300	3%	58
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	City and Guilds of London Institute	190,100	28%	-12
	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	168,000	24%	-11
	Pearson Education Ltd	114,900	17%	-17
	Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	55,400	8%	10
	BIAB	52,000	8%	13
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	Pearson Education Ltd	171,300	36%	-16
	Sports Leaders UK	81,100	17%	-4
	1st4sport Qualifications	56,000	12%	-9
	Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	32,800	7%	-28
	Active IQ	32,200	7%	7
09 - Arts, media and publishing	Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	267,200	30%	-2
	Pearson Education Ltd	188,200	21%	-15
	Trinity College London	97,400	11%	8
	LAMDA	65,300	7%	20
	Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	59,100	7%	5
10 - History, philosophy and theology	NOCN	17,800	59%	-39
	Cambridge International Examinations	4,900	16%	41
	OCR	3,000	10%	-41
	AQA Education	2,800	9%	-5
	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	1,300	4%	100
11 - Social sciences	Cambridge International Examinations	3,300	55%	39
	AQA Education	2,400	40%	57
	OCR	200	3%	-43
	Signature	100	2%	-71
	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	0~		133
12 - Languages, literature and culture	Cambridge English Language Assessment	159,900	37%	19
	Cambridge International Examinations	140,400	32%	135
	AQA Education	44,500	10%	-18
	OCR	29,400	7%	-73
	City and Guilds of London Institute	21,900	5%	42
13 - Education and training	City and Guilds of London Institute	30,300	30%	-10
	Pearson Education Ltd	17,400	17%	-13
	Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	13,700	14%	2
	OCR	10,500	11%	-10
	NCFE	5,400	5%	-32
14 - Preparation for life and work	City and Guilds of London Institute	701,900	27%	4
	Pearson Education Ltd	669,600	26%	-25
	WJEC-CBAC	245,200	9%	7
	OCR	230,200	9%	2
	AQA Education	123,500	5%	63
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	Pearson Education Ltd	256,100	40%	-6
	City and Guilds of London Institute	71,700	11%	-3
	OCR	67,700	10%	-18
	Institute of Leadership & Management	39,900	6%	-1
	Association of Accounting Technicians	38,700	6%	6

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

Table 10 shows the number of awarding organisations for each sector subject area and the number of certificates awarded compared to the previous year.

Business, administration, finance and law had the largest number of awarding organisations with certificates awarded. Preparation for life and work, which is the largest sector subject area by certificates awarded, had 53 awarding organisations with certificates awarded.

Table 10: The number of awarding organisations with qualifications and with certificates awarded in each sector subject area in 2013/14

Sector subject area	certificates	No. of awarding organisations	No. of awarding organisations with certificates	Change in number with certificates 2012/13 to 2013/14
01 - Health, public services and care	1,183,300	76	65	↑
02 - Science and mathematics	288,200	14	11	↑
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	111,500	37	27	↑
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	401,300	64	45	↑
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	232,500	35	26	→
06 - Information and communication technology	480,100	34	24	↓
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	688,400	68	57	↑
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	475,000	47	37	↓
09 - Arts, media and publishing	882,500	40	36	↑
10 - History, philosophy and theology	30,200	12	9	↓
11 - Social sciences	6,000	11	5	↓
12 - Languages, literature and culture	433,500	23	20	↑
13 - Education and training	99,700	71	60	↑
14 - Preparation for life and work	2,617,400	61	53	↓
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	647,500	93	69	↓

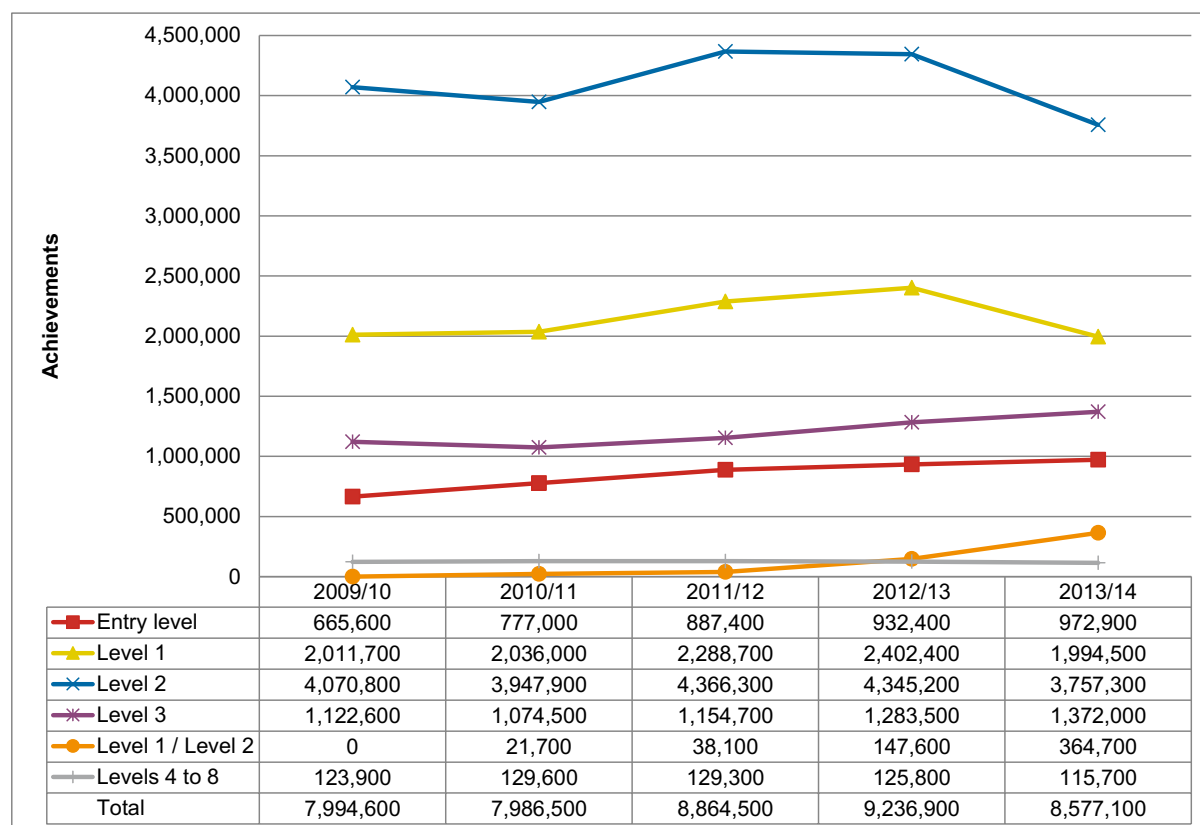
Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Certificates awarded by qualification level

Qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are grouped into levels, from Entry level (1 to 3) to Level 8. Qualifications at the same level are at a broadly similar level of demand, but the size and content of the qualifications varies.²⁰

Figure 10 shows the number of certificates awarded over the past five years. Level 2 qualification certificates (excluding Level 1/Level 2 qualifications) account for 44 per cent of all certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2013/14. The number of certificates awarded in Level 1/Level 2 qualifications (including qualifications known as Level 1/Level 2 Certificates or IGCSEs, which are taken as an alternative to GCSEs), increased by nearly 150 per cent compared to the previous year.

Figure 10: Number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by level from 2009/10 to 2013/14



Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

²⁰ Level comparisons can be found at: www.ofqual.gov.uk/help-and-advice/comparing-qualifications. Ofqual is currently introducing new level descriptors as part of its removal of the QCF requirements.

Certificates awarded by qualification type

Table 11 shows the certificates awarded in 2013/14 for all qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by type compared to the previous year. Table A9 in the appendix shows the number of certificates awarded over the past five years in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level. Definitions are in the glossary of terms.

Table 11: Number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by qualification type in 2012/13 and 2013/14

Qualification type	Number of certificates		Percentage change
	2012/13	2013/14	
QCF	6,235,900	5,885,300	-6
Functional skills	864,600	1,021,400	18
Other general qualification	638,500	834,300	31
English for speakers of other languages	287,600	356,200	24
Vocationally-related qualification	348,200	179,700	-48
Key skills	545,600	122,800	-77
Entry level	102,500	80,900	-21
Project	43,900	41,500	-5
Free standing mathematics qualification	23,100	35,800	55
National vocational qualification	28,700	7,800	-73
Higher level	7,600	5,200	-32
Basic skills	101,800	4,600	-95
Principal learning	5,200	900	-83
Advanced extension award	300	400	33
Occupational qualification	600	100	-83
Diploma	2,800	0~	-100
Total	9,236,900	8,577,100	-7

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

There has been a 7 per cent decrease in the total number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level compared to the previous year. Eight of the 16 qualification types had a decrease of more than 30 per cent, and five of these decreased by more than 75 per cent – in the main caused by the qualification becoming 'obsolete'.

Other than the QCF 'type', which, as noted above, actually covers a wide range of different types of qualifications, functional skills is the largest qualification type by certificates awarded. The increased numbers here reflect the change in funding that has also led to the decrease in certificates awarded for basic skills and key skills qualifications.

Finally, the number of certificates awarded for ESOL qualifications increased by 24 per cent compared to the previous year. This is due to an increase in awards in Entry level 3 (from 63,600 to 143,300), particularly in ESOL International – Speaking and Listening and Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening). Since October 2013, non-English-speaking applicants for settlement and citizenship in Britain must complete

an approved English qualification, such as ESOL qualifications at Entry level 3 and above.²¹

²¹ Home Office (2013) *Knowledge of Language and Life in the UK for Settlement and Naturalisation*: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182545/statement-of-intent-koll.pdf

Background notes

The certificate data in this release covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It has been compiled in accordance with our statistical policies.²²

Data source

Information on qualifications is taken from Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications, which contains details of recognised awarding organisations and regulated qualifications in England (Ofqual), Wales (Welsh government) and Northern Ireland (Ofqual for vocational qualifications and CCEA Accreditation for all other qualifications).

The Register is used by awarding organisations to submit certain qualifications for accreditation and to maintain details of those qualifications. The data submitted by the awarding organisations includes information on qualifications, covering title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level. Ofqual uses the Register for regulatory activity, and it is regarded as administrative data. Ofqual cannot amend this information – it is the responsibility of the awarding organisations. Where Ofqual sees anomalies in the data it requires awarding organisations to correct their information. Available qualifications are taken from the Register and awarding bodies are asked to send the associated data on certificates awarded.

Each quarter, all recognised awarding organisations submit data to Ofqual about the number of certificates they have awarded for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, regardless of the age of the student and the type of school or college. Certificates are counted in the quarter when the qualification was awarded. This release shows the number of awards broken down by awarding organisation, sector subject area, type of qualification, level of qualification and country.

The number of qualifications and certificates awarded in all specifications for GCSEs, AS and A levels taken in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is sent to Ofqual annually by the Joint Council for Qualifications, which represents the GCSE, AS and A level awarding organisations. GCSE certificates cover full course, short course, applied double and applied single awards. A level includes A level applied double award and A level applied single award. Similarly, AS includes AS applied double award and AS applied single award. The data has been cleaned to exclude candidates who achieved grade U or were absent. This data source will be referred to as 'JCQ data' throughout the report.

²² www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

Subject-level analysis based on subject categories is used by the Joint Council for Qualifications when publishing exam results.

Limitations of data

Certification data for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level is collected at the earliest point available, which is the first day of the next reporting period. This reduces the time between the activity and reporting on the activity.

Ofqual cannot guarantee that the number of certificates sent are correct, although it expects awarding organisations to send correct data. Summary data is sent to awarding organisations for checking and confirmation. The figures reported in this release reflect the certificates awarded by awarding organisations at the time of data collection.

Ofqual carries out quality assurance procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data and challenges or questions it where necessary. Publication may be deferred if the statistics are not considered fit for purpose.

Geographical coverage

The certificate data in this release covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Revisions

Once published, data on the number of certificates awarded for any qualification is not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases may be revised to insert late data or to correct an error. Qualifications may also be re-categorised to a different type, level, sector subject area or awarding organisation. In some cases, data may be amended to reflect the new categorisation.

Completeness of the data

All awarding organisations with regulated available qualifications in the year being reported have been included. Figures for past years include data about awarding organisations that are no longer recognised.

Confidentiality

To ensure confidentiality of the raw data published online, the number of certificates awarded for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level has been rounded to the nearest five. If the value is less than five, it is represented as 0~ and 0 represents no certificates awarded.

Rounding

Figures in the commentary and tables for the number of certificates awarded are rounded to the nearest 100 for ease of use. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in any pie charts may not necessarily add up to 100. The numbers of qualifications have been left as exact figures.

Users of these statistics

These statistics are of particular interest to recognised awarding organisations who use these statistics for product development and business development strategies, and to gain insight into market share. Other users include the Department for Education and the Examination Officers' Association.

Related statistics and publications

This statistical release presents annual data. There will be some overlap between the figures in this release and those in Ofqual's *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly* publication.

A number of other statistical releases and publications relate to this one, including:

- *Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England 2013/14*,²³ published by the Department for Education, which covers students' certificates awarded in GCSEs and equivalent regulated qualifications in schools in England at the end of Key Stage 4. The *Statistical First Release: A Level and Other Results, 2013/14*²⁴ covers certificates awarded for students aged 16 to 18 at schools and colleges in England in all Level 3 qualifications. These releases can be used to add context to the trends seen in Level 2 and Level 3 A level, AS and GCSE equivalent qualifications.
- The quarterly *Statistical First Release*,²⁵ published by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, reports on apprenticeship volumes that cover statistics on adult (19+) government-funded participation, certificate and success rates for further education, and apprenticeships participation and certificates awarded for all ages (16+) in England. It also shows figures on certificates awarded for vocational qualifications in the UK, as collected by Ofqual and through the National Vocational Qualifications Database.

²³ www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/406314/SFR_02_2015-revised_GCSE_and_equivalents.pdf

²⁴ www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398719/SFR03_2015_revised_A_level_and_level_3_SFR.pdf

²⁵ www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/324008/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-release-june14.pdf

Useful information

A glossary of terms is available in the next section to help you interpret this release.

You can find Ofqual's publication schedule for the next releases online.²⁶

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.²⁷

²⁶ www.gov.uk/government/statistics
²⁷ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

Glossary of terms

A levels – also known as General Certificates of Education, are currently available as advanced level qualifications (A levels) and advanced subsidiary (AS). They are one of the main qualifications that young people use to gain entry to university.

Accreditation – a process by which Ofqual reviews and confirms that proposed qualifications meet specific criteria before they can be offered. Ofqual no longer requires all regulated qualifications to have been accredited.

Accredited qualification – this is an old term that is sometimes used to mean ‘regulated qualification’ (see below). Ofqual now allows awarding organisations to submit most qualifications for regulation without having to be accredited, so it is strictly incorrect to refer to regulated qualifications as accredited.

Active qualification – a qualification where certificates have been awarded.

Available qualification – a qualification eligible for an award or a qualification that has made an award even if it is no longer eligible (no longer available for students to enrol on). For the purpose of this release, a qualification is available until the certification end date or if an award has been certified during the reporting period.

Awarding organisation – an organisation recognised by Ofqual to develop, deliver and award qualifications.

Certificate/certification – a formal acknowledgement of a student’s achievement. This will be any award that is not graded as U, absent or X (fail).

Certification end date – the last date on which a student may be issued with a certificate of achievement for the qualification.

GCSEs – General Certificates of Secondary Education are the main school-leaving qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They are available in a range of subjects and can be studied alongside other qualifications. They are generally sat by 15 to 18 year olds in schools and colleges but are open to anyone who wants to gain a qualification.

Level – qualifications are assigned a level from Entry level, then Level 1 through to Level 8 (equivalent to a doctorate), indicating the broad level of demand of the qualification.

National vocational qualifications (NVQs) – work-related, competence-based qualifications that cover a broad range of industry sectors and occupations, and are delivered in a workplace setting.

Other general qualifications – qualifications that assess a particular subject area, such as music or art, other than GCSEs, AS and A levels. These qualifications are not directly work related but may support career development. They are often graded. The category also includes Level 1/Level 2 Certificates, also known as IGCSEs.

Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) – a set of regulatory rules for vocational qualifications that Ofqual has withdrawn from October 2015.

Quarter – refers to calendar quarters. Quarter 1 (Q1) refers to January – March, quarter 2 (Q2) to April – June, quarter 3 (Q3) to July – September, and quarter 4 (Q4) to October – December.

Recognition – the formal process that Ofqual operates whereby applicant awarding organisations that wish to offer regulated qualifications can demonstrate that they meet the recognition criteria. The scope of recognition is the qualifications or types of qualification that the awarding organisation is recognised to offer, which may be quite narrow or very broad depending on the type of organisation and the qualifications it wishes to offer. Recognition is a robust gateway into the regulated marketplace. Only applicants who meet the criteria in full will be recognised. Recognised organisations have to meet Ofqual's Conditions of Recognition on an ongoing basis.

Register – the Register of Regulated Qualifications contains details of recognised awarding organisations and the regulated qualifications they offer.

Regulated qualifications – a qualification that is offered by a recognised awarding organisation within the scope of its recognition. Regulated qualifications must be added to the Register of qualifications and have to meet Ofqual's requirements. Some qualifications are subject to an accreditation requirement and have to be checked by the regulator before they can be offered as regulated qualifications.

Vocationally related qualifications – work-related, competence-based qualifications designed to give students the skills and knowledge they need to do a job. They are related to employment but, unlike NVQs, do not necessarily require a work placement.

Appendix

Table A1	The number of regulated qualifications of each type from 2009/10 to 2013/14
Table A2	The number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded from 2009/10 to 2013/14
Table A3	The 20 awarding organisations with the most certificates in all qualifications from 2009/10 to 2013/14
Table A4	The 20 GCSE qualifications with the most certificates in 2013/14
Table A5	The 20 AS qualifications with the most certificates in 2013/14
Table A6	The 20 A level qualifications with the most certificates in 2013/14
Table A7	Percentage change in number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level for the seven awarding organisations with the most certificates from 2009/10 to 2013/14
Table A8	Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in each sector subject area from 2009/10 to 2013/14
Table A9	Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by qualification type from 2009/10 to 2013/14

Table A1: The number of regulated qualifications of each type from 2009/10 to 2013/14

Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Advanced extension award	19	1	1	1	1
Basic skills	83	88	89	80	33
Diploma	196	196	196	196	196
English for speakers of other languages	174	186	187	193	198
Entry level	339	367	338	301	280
Free standing mathematics qualification	22	22	20	14	14
Functional skills	235	208	203	232	240
GCE A level	460	276	280	284	282
GCE AS	457	269	273	276	277
General certificate of secondary education	743	775	635	593	555
Higher level	578	554	491	419	363
Key skills	356	377	377	368	192
National vocational qualification	1,755	1,606	1,422	1,133	672
Occupational qualification	95	94	87	85	68
Other general qualification	729	762	798	824	817
Principal learning	188	206	216	201	157
Project	19	18	18	18	17
QCF	6,076	9,695	12,764	16,770	19,474
Vocationally-related qualification	2,773	2,395	2,105	1,654	1,129
Total	15,297	18,095	20,500	23,642	24,965

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Table A2: The number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded from 2009/10 to 2013/14

Qualification type	Number of qualifications with certificates				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Advanced extension award	1	1	1	1	1
Basic skills	70	70	66	56	26
Diploma	58	75	109	79	6
English for speakers of other languages	121	146	140	146	148
Entry level	257	272	239	218	119
Free standing mathematics qualification	18	19	11	7	14
Functional skills	93	149	154	183	204
GCE A level	372	258	257	254	249
GCE AS	316	263	262	260	261
General certificate of secondary education	437	436	426	436	408
Higher level	344	298	221	172	108
Key skills	252	234	217	202	117
National vocational qualification	1,257	1,137	923	596	293
Occupational qualification	69	68	61	34	16
Other general qualification	531	611	520	512	379
Principal learning	56	80	96	70	5
Project	14	15	15	9	10
QCF	1,692	4,535	6,846	8,989	10,604
Vocationally-related qualification	1,959	1,602	1,000	586	355
Total	7,917	10,269	11,564	12,810	13,323

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Table A3: The 20 awarding organisations with the most certificates in all qualifications from 2009/10 to 2013/14

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Pearson Education Ltd	3,647,700	3,694,800	4,658,400	4,957,300	3,996,900
AQA Education	3,918,200	3,938,300	3,701,900	3,778,900	3,418,000
OCR	2,882,200	2,733,200	2,702,300	2,361,900	1,977,300
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,444,200	1,487,000	1,406,100	1,432,600	1,399,600
WJEC-CBAC	945,400	1,002,400	1,065,500	1,131,300	1,106,700
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	400,500	330,100	300,800	309,800	304,800
NCFE	237,000	194,900	313,300	455,500	302,600
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	316,300	282,500	288,400	273,100	267,200
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	40,700	91,200	146,800	187,800	256,500
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	216,100	219,800	215,500	215,600	227,500
Cambridge English Language Assessment	204,400	164,200	159,000	170,900	194,200
Trinity College London	112,300	109,800	124,000	123,200	170,600
Cambridge International Examinations	1,800	10,300	35,500	110,200	165,700
National Open College Network	177,200	217,500	221,900	298,000	138,900
Qualsafe Awards	0	0	1,900	34,300	124,100
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	98,700	96,700	107,500	117,300	91,300
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	77,000	76,800	81,800	88,000	83,000
Sports Leaders UK	94,800	120,400	84,400	84,400	81,400
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	77,400	66,100	72,500	91,600	79,700
First Aid Awards Ltd	0	3,200	7,600	39,800	78,300
Others	1,446,300	1,409,000	1,541,500	1,619,200	1,560,200
Total	16,338,000	16,248,200	17,236,700	17,880,600	16,024,700

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

Table A4: The 20 GCSE qualifications with the most certificates in 2013/14

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Qualification	certificates 2013/14
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Mathematics A	469,200
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Literature	271,300
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Language	198,600
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Science A	188,300
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Additional Science	154,800
WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Literature	124,600
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Art and Design	107,200
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Religious Studies	99,200
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Geography A	89,900
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in French	88,700
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Mathematics B	82,000
WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Language	75,800
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Biology	74,900
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Chemistry	72,100
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Physics	71,200
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English	71,100
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Religious Studies B	62,000
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Physical Education	60,800
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/2 GCSE In Science	59,300
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in History B	58,700

Source: JCQ data

Table A5: The 20 AS qualifications with the most certificates in 2013/14

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Qualification	certificates 2013/14
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics	61,800
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Psychology A	52,600
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Sociology	38,700
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Biology	37,100
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in History	30,700
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Business Studies	29,200
OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Chemistry A	29,200
OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Biology	29,100
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Art and Design	28,800
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics (Pilot)	27,300
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Chemistry	25,500
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Geography	24,300
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in English Literature B	23,800
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in History	23,700
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Physics A	23,100
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in English Language B	22,300
OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics	20,300
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in General Studies A	18,400
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Art and Design	18,300
OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics (MEI)	17,700

Source: JCQ data

Table A6: The 20 A level qualifications with the most certificates in 2013/14

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Qualification	certificates 2013/14
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics	41,500
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Psychology A	32,700
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology	24,800
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Sociology	24,100
OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology	20,500
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in History	20,200
OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry A	20,100
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design	19,200
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies	18,100
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry	17,000
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography	15,400
AQA Advanced GCE in Mathematics (Pilot)	15,400
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Language B	15,100
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in History	15,100
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physics A	14,800
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature B	14,500
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design	13,400
OCR Advanced GCE in Mathematics	11,900
OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature	10,400
OCR Advanced GCE in Mathematics (MEI)	9,900

Source: JCQ data

Table A7: Percentage change in number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level for the seven awarding organisations with the most certificates from 2009/10 to 2013/14

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Awarding organisation	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Percentage change from 2012/13 to 2013/14	Percentage change from 2009/10 to 2013/14
Pearson Education Ltd	1,818,800	1,779,700	2,429,200	2,548,900	2,090,500	-18	15
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,444,200	1,487,000	1,406,100	1,432,500	1,399,600	-2	-3
OCR	1,109,000	1,101,000	1,072,800	821,300	636,000	-23	-43
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	400,500	330,100	300,800	309,800	304,800	-2	-24
NCFE	237,000	194,900	313,300	455,500	302,600	-34	28
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	316,300	282,500	288,400	273,100	267,200	-2	-16
WJEC-CBAC	113,200	156,000	225,400	244,600	265,200	8	134
Others	2,555,600	2,655,500	2,828,500	3,151,200	3,311,100	5	30
Overall	7,994,600	7,986,600	8,864,500	9,236,900	8,577,100	-7	7

Table A8: Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in each sector subject area from 2009/10 to 2013/14

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Sector subject area	Number of certificates				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
01 - Health, public services and care	1,130,400	793,700	799,600	1,025,600	1,183,300
02 - Science and mathematics	142,600	167,200	227,500	280,600	288,200
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	106,200	121,000	119,800	120,300	111,500
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	399,000	424,900	421,500	442,700	401,300
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	230,000	214,700	240,100	243,200	232,500
06 - Information and communication technology	602,100	617,000	652,800	632,200	480,100
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	499,400	693,200	787,900	754,300	688,400
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	437,300	489,300	530,300	548,200	475,000
09 - Arts, media and publishing	840,700	785,700	889,100	897,700	882,500
10 - History, philosophy and theology	41,300	45,600	46,600	41,400	30,200
11 - Social sciences	3,100	4,500	4,200	4,700	6,000
12 - Languages, literature and culture	364,600	390,000	387,600	436,500	433,500
13 - Education and training	118,300	107,400	96,800	106,500	99,700
14 - Preparation for life and work	2,535,400	2,585,100	3,012,000	3,005,400	2,617,400
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	544,100	547,200	648,700	697,500	647,500
Total	7,994,600	7,986,600	8,864,500	9,236,900	8,577,100

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Table A9: Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by qualification type from 2009/10 to 2013/14

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Qualification type	Number of certificates				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Advanced extension award	700	400	400	300	400
Basic skills	829,800	611,600	512,900	101,800	4,600
Diploma	4,700	9,200	10,900	2,800	0~
English for speakers of other languages	332,500	273,900	275,900	287,600	356,200
Entry level	239,300	160,100	114,700	102,500	80,900
Free standing mathematics qualification	23,700	25,500	22,900	23,100	35,800
Functional skills	242,300	566,600	664,700	864,600	1,021,400
Higher level	46,600	30,300	16,800	7,600	5,200
Key skills	885,300	618,400	659,200	545,600	122,800
National vocational qualification	979,000	587,800	128,800	28,700	7,800
Occupational qualification	23,200	17,500	4,600	600	100
Other general qualification	969,100	767,600	525,700	638,500	834,300
Principal learning	7,200	17,100	17,200	5,200	900
Project	26,800	50,500	49,800	43,900	41,500
QCF	777,200	2,836,900	5,283,300	6,235,900	5,885,300
Vocationally-related qualification	2,607,300	1,399,600	575,800	348,200	179,700
Total	7,994,600	7,986,600	8,864,500	9,236,900	8,577,100

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

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