

Statistical Release

Annual Qualifications Market Report England, Wales and Northern Ireland Academic year 2015/16

Contents

Key points.....	1
Introduction.....	2
Key statistics	3
External drivers	4
Awarding organisations	7
Regulated qualifications	8
Certificates awarded for all qualifications.....	13
Background notes	32
Glossary of terms	36
Appendix	38

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Key points

This release provides information on the number and types of qualifications available for award in England, Wales and Northern Ireland over the academic year 2015/16 by recognised awarding organisations. The key findings are:

- Just under 15 million certificates were awarded in 2015/16, 7% fewer than in 2014/15. The fall was driven largely by a fall in the number of Level 1, Level 2 and Level 1/2 qualifications awarded.
- The number of awarding organisations recognised by Ofqual was 156, 7 fewer than a year earlier.
- The number of available qualifications increased by 3% compared to 2014/15 to just over 36,000, of which about 14,550 had an award made.
- Twenty awarding organisations accounted for 90% of all certificates awarded during the academic year. AQA awarded nearly one-quarter (23%) of all certificates closely followed by Pearson.
- More certificates were awarded in the science and mathematics sector subject area than any other in 2015/16 (21% of all certificates awarded).
- For GCSE, AS and A level more certificates were awarded in the science and mathematics sector subject area (38%) than any other area in 2015/16 while for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level, more certificates were awarded in the preparation for life and work sector subject area (28%) than in any other area.

Introduction

Ofqual regulates qualifications, exams and assessments that are taken by students in England. Ofqual's objectives include securing the standards of and promoting public confidence in regulated qualifications.

This report is produced annually and is based primarily on information that Ofqual holds or collects from awarding organisations and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). The data in this release covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We are in the process of revising the content and design of this publication to make it more engaging and informative and more useful to readers in understanding the developments in the area of qualifications and market shares of awarding organisations in both general and vocational qualifications.

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

Key statistics

The number of awarding organisations regulated by Ofqual fell to 156 in 2015/16, from 163 the previous year.

The number of available qualifications in 2015/16 increased by 3% (from 34,968 in 2014/15 to 36,029). Most of these available qualifications were developed to meet the design requirements of the Qualification and Credit Framework¹ and their number has remained stable (from 28,969 in the previous year to 28,963). In the majority of cases, the number of other types of qualifications either remained stable or decreased.

The number of certificates awarded in 2015/16 fell by 7% to just over 14.8 million. There were more than 14,500 qualifications for which at least one certificate was awarded, representing 42% of available qualifications (this is one percentage point lower than the previous year)². 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% of certificates were awarded in less than one-third of the available qualifications. For vocational qualifications and academic qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level, 90% of certificates were awarded in less than one-tenth of the available qualifications.

Ninety per cent of certificates were awarded by 20 awarding organisations. AQA has the largest market share awarding nearly one-quarter of all certificates (23%), closely followed by Pearson (slightly under 23%) continuing the trend of the last year.

The number of certificates awarded in the largest sector subject area (science and mathematics) decreased by 3% to 3.1 million. Preparation for life and work is the second-largest sector subject area, with slightly under 2.2 million certificates awarded. This sector area saw a decrease of 16% in the number of certificates awarded (from 2.6 million to 2.2 million).

The GCSE, AS and A level market shares of the 5 awarding organisations that offer these qualifications remained largely unchanged compared to the previous year, based on the proportion of certificates awarded.

¹ The QCF was a set of regulatory rules for designing credit-based qualifications, which most current vocational qualifications were designed to meet. The rules were withdrawn on 1 October 2015.

² However, 11,142 qualifications which had no certificates were from QiW (Qualification in Wales, the database for qualifications offered in Wales), representing 98% of all QiW qualifications which were available in 2015/16. If all QiW qualifications are excluded, then the percentage of qualifications which had at least one certificate in 2015/16 is 58% (nearly 14,300) of available qualifications.

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 who teach or otherwise deliver the qualifications (schools, colleges and training providers), students, and 'end users' (employers and further and higher education providers). Government reforms of qualifications, performance measures, public funding policies and other requirements will all have a significant impact on many of these relationships.

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 which qualifications to offer, schools and colleges are influenced by accountability measures and funding considerations, as well as student needs and institutional priorities. Decisions often balanced against practical delivery considerations such as availability of teacher 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 they offer.

Students may opt to study qualifications that will best help them progress in work or in higher or further education, according to their interests. Sometimes these relationships are very direct, such as many licence to practise schemes which depend on gaining a regulated qualification.

Awarding organisations may 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 impacting the market in England

GCSE, AS and A level reform

A comprehensive reform programme of GCSE, AS and A levels has been taking place in England. In September 2015, 3 GCSE (graded 9 to 1) and 13 AS and A level subjects were taught for the first time in schools in England, with the first certificates to be awarded in summer 2017. The AS and A level were also decoupled, meaning that the AS results do not count in the reformed qualifications

towards A levels in the way that they have before. Reformed AS qualifications were first taught in 2015 and awarded for the first time from 2016 in 13 subjects³.

Reform of further GCSE, AS and A level subjects has been continuing, with first teaching of additional subjects in September 2016 and 2017⁴. These are the only reformed qualifications covered by this release.

School performance measures

In 2014, the Department for Education announced that international GCSEs in English, English literature and maths would no longer be included in performance tables from 2017. This change is likely to affect the take up of international GCSEs (reported as Level 1/Level 2 certificates in our statistics) from the 2016/17 academic year onwards.

Funding changes for 16- to 19-year-olds

From 2014/15, all students aged 16 to 18 starting, or who have already started, a new study programme of 150 hours or more, and who do not hold a GCSE grade A*-C or equivalent qualification in maths and/or in English language, are required to study these subjects as part of their study programme in each academic year. The Education Funding Agency⁵ published additional funding regulations as a result of this new requirement⁶.

This policy change is likely to be the main cause of increases seen in certificates for maths and English GCSE qualifications.

Public funding changes by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA)⁵

In the last few years, the funding rules for vocational qualifications aimed at students who are over 19 years of age have seen a number of changes that are likely to have had some effect on the number of certificates awarded each year. The funding rules for 2015 to 2016 funding year⁷ include provisions for ‘trailblazer apprenticeships’ (new apprenticeship standards developed by employer groups known as ‘trailblazers’⁸).

³ 2016 reformed AS levels: Art and design, biology, business, chemistry, computing, economics, English language, English language and literature, English literature, history, physics, psychology, sociology.

⁴ For more information on the reform timetable see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-as-and-a-level-reform>.

⁵ The Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency were replaced by the Education and Skills Funding Agency in April 2017. It funds education and training for children, young people and adults in England.

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-education-funding-guidance>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sfa-funding-rules>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/apprenticeship-standards>

Changes to qualifications in Wales

Qualifications Wales (QW) is the qualifications regulator in Wales and was established in 2015. QW have developed its own IT systems to support regulation and funding of qualifications in Wales. As a result, its qualification records are maintained separately and qualifications have a different method of identification (a QW Approval/Designation Number) to the approach used by Ofqual (a Qualification Number). This means the same qualification can have 2 different identifiers in the different jurisdictions. The vast majority of qualifications in Qualification Wales' system are the same as a qualification regulated by Ofqual. We are currently collecting data on behalf of Qualifications Wales⁹ and incorporate these records into our figures in this publication. The overall number of available qualifications has shown a large increase in the 2015/16 academic year as qualifications taken in Wales are now considered distinct from those in England and Northern Ireland.

⁹ Though some regulated Welsh qualifications will not be included in the data with the introduction of QiW.

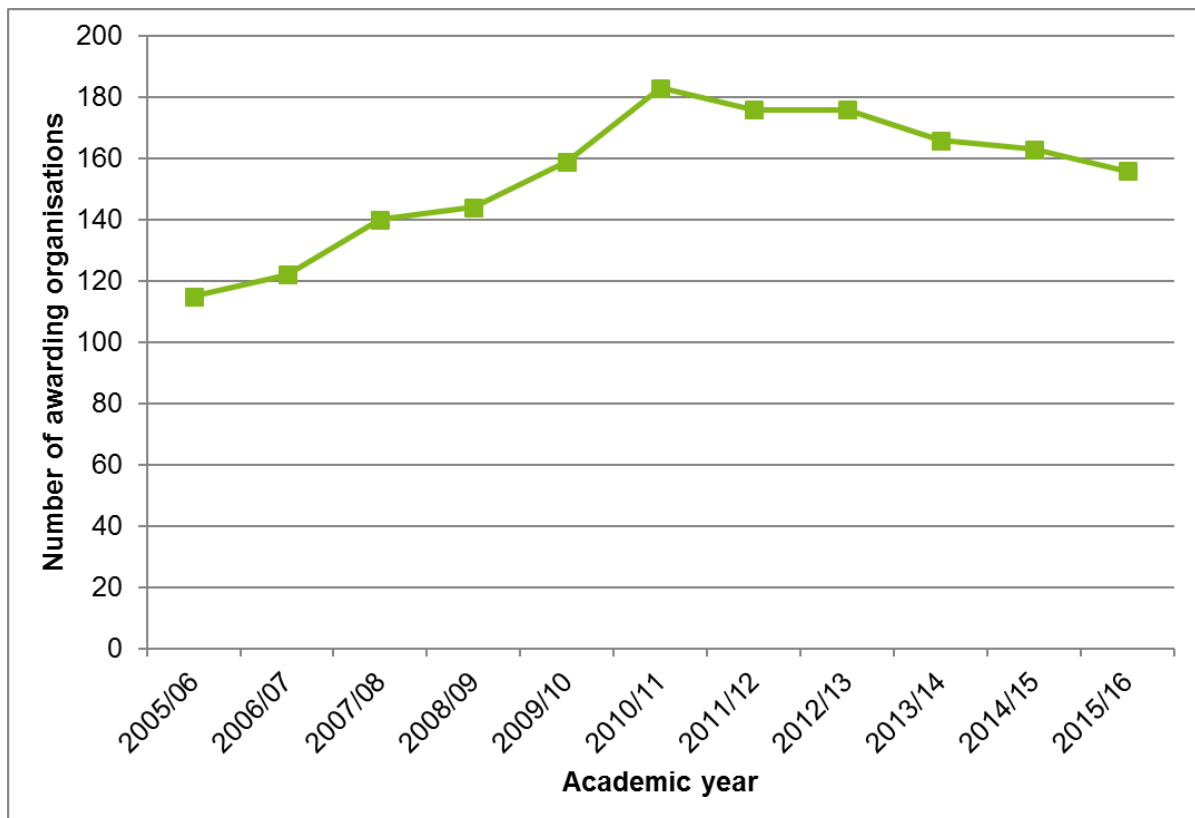
Awarding organisations

Any organisation that wants to offer regulated qualifications in England has to be recognised by Ofqual¹⁰. Since July 2011, any new awarding organisation needs to meet Ofqual's *Criteria for Recognition*¹¹ and, once recognised, all awarding organisations need to continue to meet their Conditions of Recognition, including Ofqual's *General Conditions of Recognition*.¹²

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 2015/16 has decreased by 4% from the previous year (from 163 to 156). This has happened due to a number of smaller awarding organisations merging during the academic year 2015/16; others surrendered recognition.

Figure 1: The number of awarding organisations recognised to deliver regulated qualifications on 30 September each year, 2006 to 2016



Source: Ofqual

¹⁰ Similar arrangements apply in Wales and Northern Ireland with their regulators (Qualification Wales and CCEA Regulation).

¹¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/criteria-for-recognition

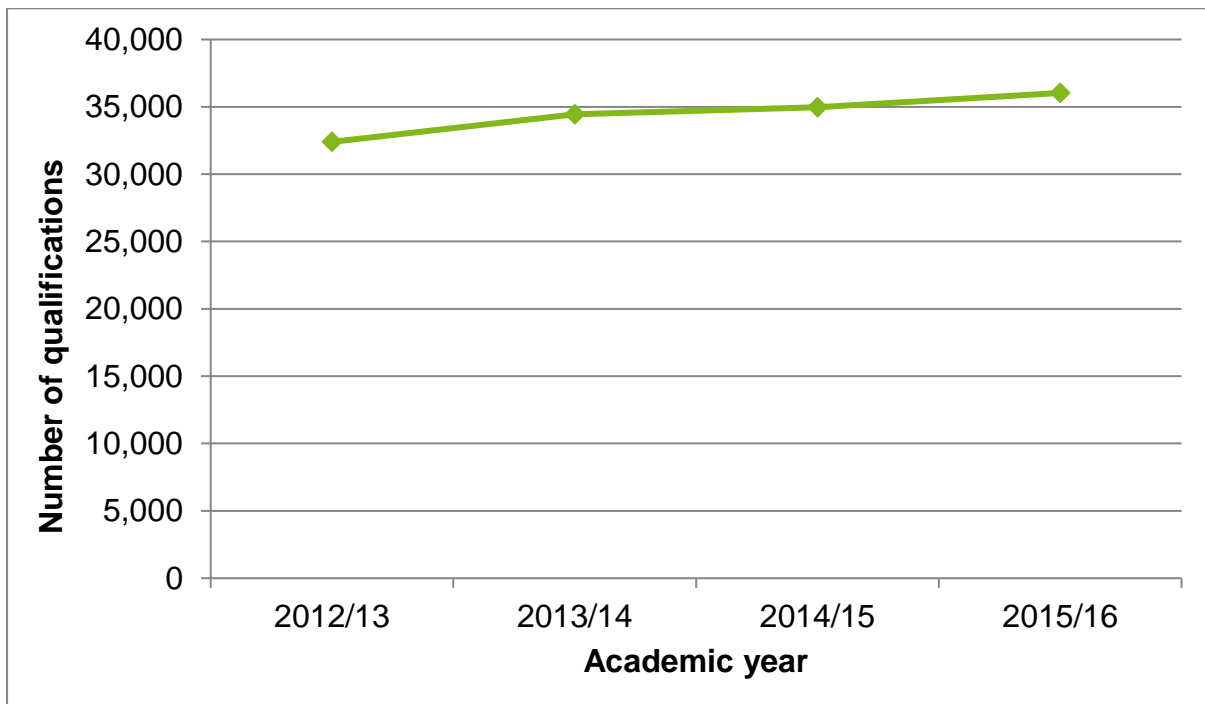
¹² www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition

Regulated qualifications

Figure 2 shows the change in the number of available regulated qualifications over the past 4 academic years, for qualifications available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Information on qualifications (covering title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level) is taken from Ofqual’s Register of Regulated Qualifications¹³ (referred to as the Register in this report), which gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England and Northern Ireland. Data on qualifications offered in Wales is available at Qualification in Wales (QiW) database¹⁴.

The number of available¹⁵ qualifications in 2015/16 increased to 36,029 from 34,968 in 2014/15 (3% increase). Overall, the number of available qualifications has increased by 11% since 2012/13 (from 32,399 to 36,029). This increase is likely to have been due to awarding organisations introducing replacement qualifications in response to the removal of the QCF and General Qualification reform¹⁶. In the short term the register will include both the original and replacement qualifications, this is in addition to changes to qualifications in Wales, mentioned earlier.

Figure 2: Number of available regulated qualifications from 2012/13 to 2015/16



Source: Ofqual’s Regulated Qualification Activity Database and JCQ data

¹³ <https://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>

¹⁴ www.qiw.wales

¹⁵ Qualifications are available until they pass their certificate end date or if they have made an award in the academic year being considered.

¹⁶ The General Qualification reform refers to changes to GCSE, AS and A levels in this report.

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 2015/16, compared with the previous year. Qualification types are used to describe the nature of qualifications and are used in the registers of both Qualification Wales and Ofqual. However, some qualification types are present only in the Qualification Wales register as they cover only qualifications offered in Wales. These Welsh qualification types were incorporated in to the Ofqual systems from July 2016 for the 2016 quarter 2 data collection.

Some of the largest increases in the number of qualifications available to certificate were in vocationally-related qualifications and other general qualifications. The large increases seen in CVET (Continuing Vocational Education and Training) and IVET (Initial Vocational Education and Training) qualifications (both by 63%) were due to these qualifications being recently made available to certificate in Wales.

There were a number of qualification types where there were large decreases including basic skills, national vocational qualifications and higher level. These decreases are mainly due to the withdrawal or replacement of qualifications.

Table 1: The number of regulated qualifications by type for 2014/15 and 2015/16

Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate		
	2014/15	2015/16	Percentage change
CVET	82	134	63%
IVET	76	124	63%
Vocationally-related qualification	1,136	1,753	54%
Occupational qualification	149	194	30%
GCE A level	582	671	15%
GCE AS level	577	664	15%
Other general qualification	1,048	1,201	15%
GCSE	904	1,016	12%
Functional skills	215	221	3%
Advanced extension award	1	1	0%
Essential skills Wales	16	16	0%
Free standing mathematics qualification	14	14	0%
Welsh baccalaureate	8	8	0%
QCF	28,969	28,963	0%
Entry level	340	334	-2%
Project	32	31	-3%
English for speakers of other languages	259	247	-5%
Key skills	178	157	-12%
Principal learning	39	31	-21%
Higher level	158	115	-27%
National vocational qualification	175	127	-27%
Basic skills	10	7	-30%
Diploma	0	0	
Total	34,968	36,029	3%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database and JCQ data

In the appendix, Table A1 shows the number of available qualifications for each qualification type over the past 4 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 2015/16, compared to the previous year.

Certificates were awarded in more than 14,000 qualifications in 2015/16. This corresponds to 42% of available qualifications; one percentage point lower than in the previous year. Qualifications developed to meet the design requirements of the QCF (now withdrawn) accounted for 80% of qualifications with certificates awarded.

Table 2: The number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded for 2014/15 and 2015/16

Qualification type	Number of qualifications with certificates		
	2014/15	2015/16	Percentage change
GCE AS level	263	330	25%
Occupational qualification	96	120	25%
Project	13	16	23%
Vocationally-related qualification	428	512	20%
Other general qualification	428	498	16%
Entry level	124	127	2%
Functional skills	209	210	0%
Advanced extension award	1	1	0%
QCF	11,759	11,716	0%
GCSE (A* to G)	459	455	-1%
GCE A level	263	259	-2%
Free standing mathematics qualification	14	13	-7%
Key skills	83	77	-7%
National vocational qualification	80	58	-28%
English for speakers of other languages	148	105	-29%
Higher level	73	49	-33%
Principal learning	10	5	-50%
Basic skills	11	2	-82%
Diploma	0	0	
IVET	0	0	
CVET	0	3	
Essential skills Wales	0	7	
Welsh baccalaureate	0	4	
Total	14,462	14,567	1%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database and JCQ data

In the appendix, Table A2 shows the number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded over the past 4 years.

Trends in certificates – qualifications with low take-up

Table 3 shows that in 2015/16, relatively few non GCSE, AS, and A level qualifications had large numbers of certificates awarded. CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF), Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English, and BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills were the 3 qualifications that had certificate numbers higher than 100,000. The Cambridge International qualification has been the qualification with the most certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS, and A level for 2 years.

There were over 33,000 qualifications other than GCSE, AS, and A level and 44% of these had certificates awarded.

For GCSE, AS, and A level, over 2,350 qualifications were available on the Register for 2015/16. Forty-four per cent of these had certificates awarded and 30% (709 qualifications) had more than 500 certificates awarded. Reformed qualifications without certificates may also appear on the register as they require 1 or 2 years of tuition.

Table 3: Number of qualifications by number of certificates awarded in 2015/16

Number of certificates	Qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level		GCSE, AS and A level qualifications	
	Number of qualifications	Proportion (%)	Number of qualifications	Proportion (%)
More than 100,000	3	0%	9	0%
50,000 - 99,999	7	0%	14	1%
10,000 - 49,999	89	0%	121	5%
5,000 - 9,999	162	0%	104	4%
1,000 - 4,999	1,008	3%	347	15%
500 - 999	821	2%	114	5%
250 - 499	1,041	3%	120	5%
100 - 249	1,678	5%	67	3%
50 - 99	1,579	5%	47	2%
10 - 49	3,650	11%	73	3%
1 - 9	3,348	10%	29	1%
Zero	20,290	60%	1,308	56%
Total	33,676	100%	2353	100%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database and JCQ data

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% of the certificates awarded for each of GCSE, AS, and A level qualifications and other qualifications.

A high proportion of certificates were awarded in relatively few qualifications. For qualifications other than GCSE, AS, and A level, 1% of available qualifications (237 qualifications) accounted for half of the number of certificates awarded. For GCSE, AS, and A level qualifications, 2% of qualifications (43 qualifications) accounted for half the number of the certificates awarded. See Tables A4, A5 and A6, in the appendix, for the 20 qualifications with the highest number of certificates for GCSE, AS and A level qualifications.

Table 4: Cumulative number of qualifications accounting for percentages of total certificates awarded in 2015/16

Percentage of certificates	Qualifications other than GCSE and A level		GCSE, AS and A level qualifications	
	Number of qualifications	Proportion (%)	Number of qualifications	Proportion (%)
25%	38	~0%	9	~0%
50%	237	1%	43	2%
75%	914	3%	135	6%
90%	2,332	7%	309	13%
100%	13,386	40%	1,045	44%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database and JCQ data

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

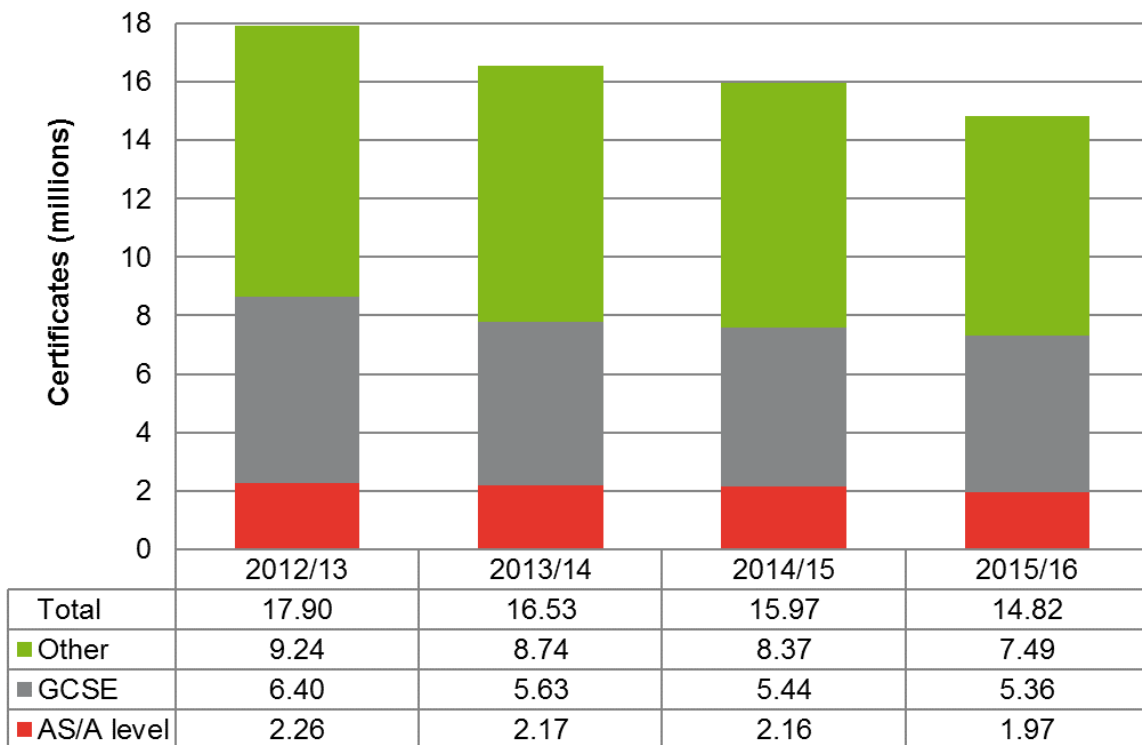
Certificates awarded for all qualifications

Overall picture

Figure 3 shows the total numbers of certificates awarded in the past 4 years. Between 2012/13 and 2015/16, the number of certificates awarded has fallen by 17% (from 17.9 million to 14.8 million). This fall over time is seen in every qualification category for each successive year. The number of certificates awarded fell by 7% in 2015/16 compared to the previous year (from nearly 16.0 million to 14.8 million). Change in take-up of qualifications other than GCSE, AS, and A level is the biggest factor, with numbers of certificates awarded decreasing by just over 10% (from 8.4 million to 7.5 million). This is in part caused by changes to funding and accountability measures. The number of certificates awarded for AS and A level qualifications decreased by 9% (from 2.2 million to 2.0 million). In particular, the introduction of reformed AS specifications in some subjects is likely to have been a significant factor in the decrease in the number of certificates.

The number of GCSE certificates awarded remained relatively stable, decreasing just over 1% in 2015/16, compared to 2014/15.

Figure 3: Number of certificates awarded, broken down into GCSE, AS and A level, and other qualifications, from 2012/13 to 2015/16



Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database and JCQ data

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 2015/16. These organisations awarded 90% of all certificates in the past 4 years, both in each year and across all 4 years as a whole.

The 5 largest awarding organisations by number of certificates awarded were AQA, Pearson, OCR, City and Guilds and WJEC. They have awarded over 70% of certificates in each year for the past 4 years. However, all 5 awarding organisations awarded fewer certificates in 2015/16 than in the previous year. Amongst these organisations, City and Guilds had the largest decrease (17%), followed by Pearson (14%), OCR (11%), WJEC (3%), and AQA (3%).

Table 5: The 20 awarding organisations with the most certificates awarded in all qualifications, 2014/15 and 2015/16

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change
	2014/15	2015/16	
AQA Education	3,529,850	3,441,100	-3%
Pearson Education Ltd	3,873,050	3,342,300	-14%
OCR	1,780,250	1,584,950	-11%
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,394,250	1,152,650	-17%
WJEC-CBAC	1,088,500	1,060,450	-3%
Cambridge International Examinations	281,150	301,550	7%
NCFE	336,800	296,200	-12%
Cambridge English Language Assessment	297,200	245,800	-17%
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	255,050	237,150	-7%
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	279,200	226,600	-19%
Trinity College London	181,300	223,800	23%
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	239,650	223,550	-7%
Highfield Qualifications	272,400	223,450	-18%
Qualsafe Awards	148,050	171,250	16%
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	107,950	156,850	45%
First Aid Awards Ltd	90,400	101,700	12%
NOCN	96,050	90,700	-6%
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	88,400	83,400	-6%
LAMDA	44,250	62,150	40%
AptEd	69,200	61,550	-11%
Others	1,520,950	1,533,200	1%
Total	15,973,950	14,820,400	-7%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database and JCQ data

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

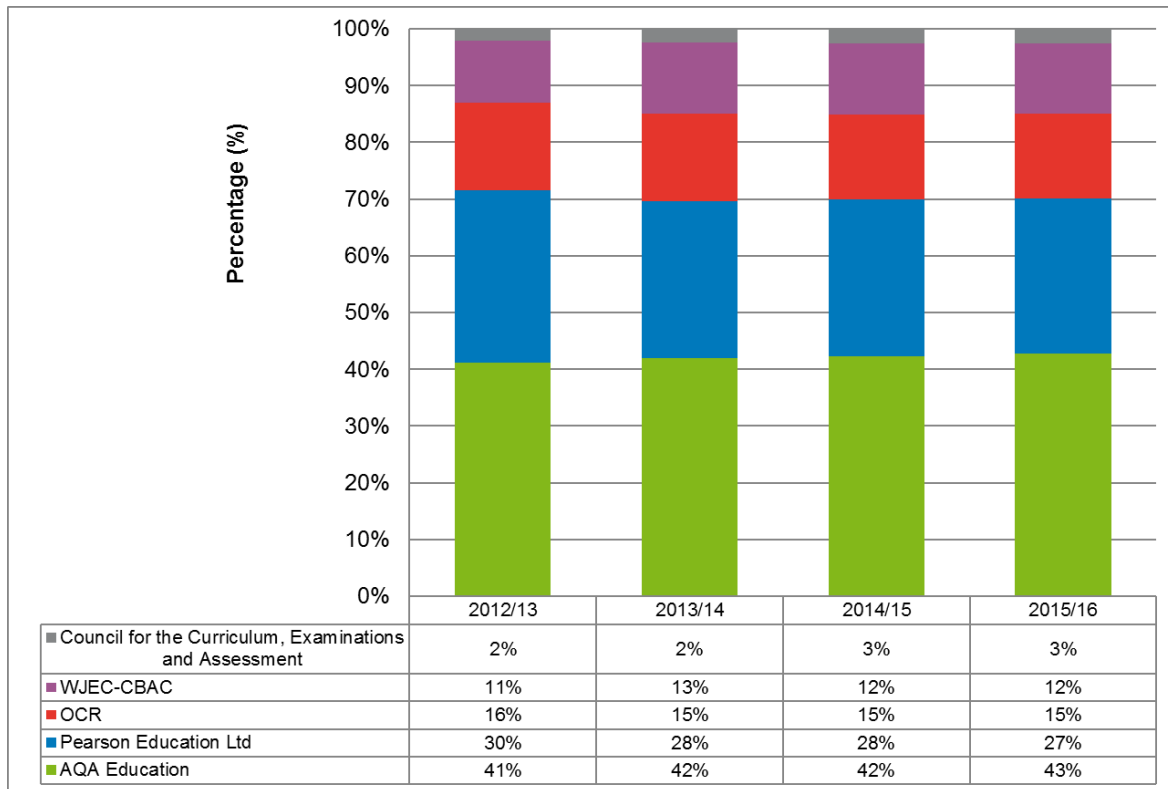
Of the 20 largest awarding organisations by number of certificates awarded, 6 awarding organisations reported an increase in the number of certificates awarded in 2015/16 compared to the previous year. Of these, BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, showed the largest increase (45%). This is mainly due to a 123% increase in the number of certificates awarded in their BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (from 55,150 to 122,950).

Over the past 4 years, Qualsafe Awards and Cambridge International Examinations showed the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates awarded, while NOCN and NCFE showed the largest decreases. In the appendix, Table A3 shows the number of certificates awarded by the 20 awarding organisations with the most certificates in all qualifications in this period.

Certificates awarded in GCSE qualifications

Figure 4 shows that shares of awarding organisations in the GCSE market have been relatively static over the past 4 years, although volumes have decreased.

Figure 4: GCSE certificate data by awarding organisation from 2012/13 to 2015/16



Source: JCQ data

Certificates awarded in GCSE subjects

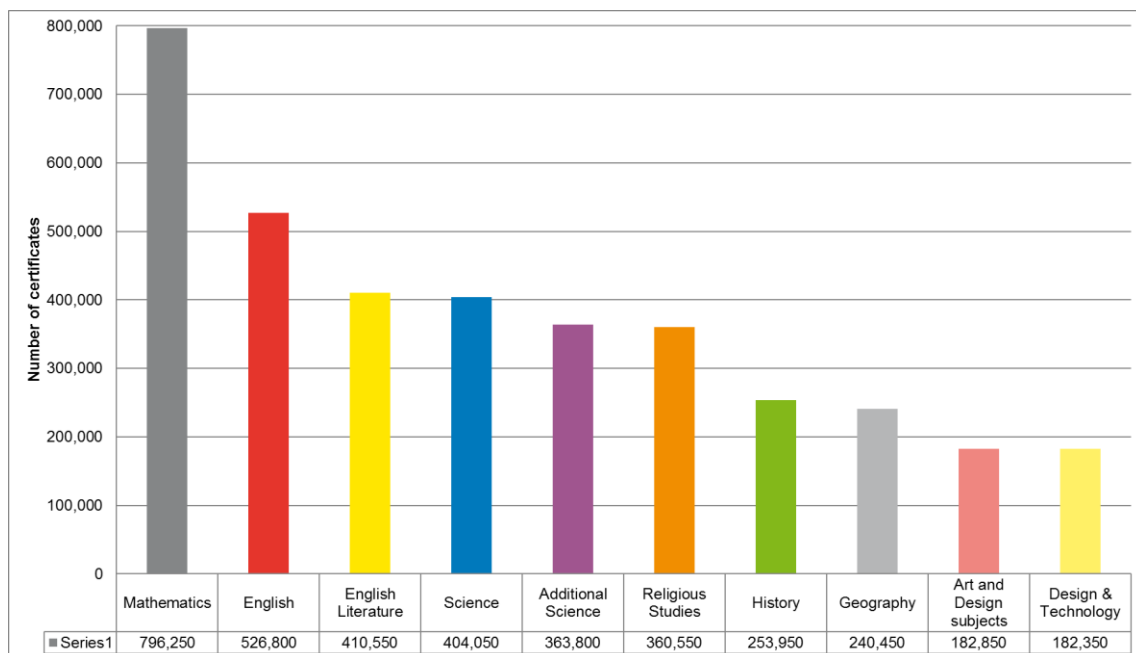
Figure 5 shows the number of certificates awarded across different subjects for GCSE qualifications in 2015/16. The 10 subjects with the highest number of certificates awarded remained the same as in the previous year. The order of the subjects from the highest number of certificates awarded to the lowest also remains the same as in the previous year.

There was a considerable decrease in the number of certificates awarded in English literature (7%, from 439,900 to 410,550) compared to the previous year. This is likely to reflect both the migration of students from GCSEs in English to Level 1/Level 2 certificates and reduced early entry of students taking a GCSE before year 11.

The number of additional science certificates awarded increased by 10% (from 330,350 to 363,800). The increases seen in the number of science and additional science certificates awarded are likely to be the result of science qualifications changing from modular to linear specifications. This change has meant that candidates are now more likely to certificate in these qualifications in year 11 rather than in earlier school years, so candidates who previously would have taken the exams early in the previous academic year have delayed until 2015/16.

The number of certificates awarded in design & technology decreased by 10% (from 201,850 to 182,350).

Figure 5: Number of GCSE certificates awarded for the 10 subjects with the most certificates for 2015/16



Source: JCQ data

Note: In 2015/16, there were 1.6 million certificates awarded in other GCSE subjects.

Distribution of GCSE qualifications across awarding organisations

Table 6 highlights the variability of GCSE subject market share between awarding organisations. Table A4, in the appendix, shows the 20 GCSE qualifications with the most certificates during the 2015/16 academic year.

Table 6: The distribution of certificates awarded by awarding organisation for all GCSE subjects in 2015/16

Subject	Awarding organisation											
	AQA	%	CCEA	%	OCR	%	Pearson	%	WJEC	%	Total	
Additional Science	209,950	58%	0	0%	83,800	23%	60,850	17%	9,200	3%	363,800	
Additional Science (Further)	10,500	60%	0	0%	2,150	13%	4,700	27%	0	0%	17,350	
All other subjects	6,900	18%	250	1%	0	0%	0	0%	30,400	81%	37,550	
Art and Design subjects	106,600	58%	3,750	2%	20,350	11%	40,100	22%	12,050	7%	182,850	
Biology	82,850	58%	3,600	3%	37,750	26%	13,700	10%	5,650	4%	143,600	
Business & Comm. Systems	7,500	66%	650	6%	1,200	11%	1,950	17%	0	0%	11,350	
Business Studies	24,250	26%	3,200	3%	14,250	15%	46,750	49%	6,600	7%	95,000	
Chemistry	80,350	57%	2,850	2%	38,650	27%	13,400	10%	5,600	4%	140,850	
Citizenship Studies	6,800	29%	0	0%	4,600	20%	12,000	51%	0	0%	23,400	
Classical subjects	1,550	10%	0	0%	14,000	90%	0	0%	0	0%	15,500	
Computing	9,200	15%	0	0%	47,450	77%	3,100	5%	2,200	4%	61,950	
Construction	0	0%	600	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	600	
Design & Technology	136,950	75%	2,600	1%	13,450	7%	16,050	9%	13,300	7%	182,350	
Drama	20,500	29%	1,200	2%	7,000	10%	34,750	49%	8,200	11%	71,600	
Economics	3,300	51%	200	3%	2,950	46%	0	0%	0	0%	6,450	
Engineering	6,450	74%	400	5%	800	9%	1,000	12%	0	0%	8,650	
English	289,850	55%	19,450	4%	27,500	5%	42,050	8%	147,950	28%	526,800	
English Literature	230,800	56%	7,950	2%	24,700	6%	35,200	9%	111,900	27%	410,550	
French	75,750	53%	3,900	3%	7,650	5%	42,950	30%	13,750	10%	143,950	
Geography	120,100	50%	5,100	2%	34,950	15%	49,900	21%	30,400	13%	240,450	
German	26,350	52%	750	1%	2,750	5%	15,200	30%	5,150	10%	50,200	
Health & Social Care	4,850	22%	600	3%	6,500	29%	8,200	37%	2,050	9%	22,200	
History	63,850	25%	6,050	2%	88,250	35%	74,150	29%	21,700	9%	253,950	
Home Economics	10,600	34%	3,850	12%	9,200	30%	0	0%	7,300	24%	30,950	
Hospitality	0	0%	350	9%	0	0%	0	0%	3,450	91%	3,800	
Humanities	2,650	59%	0	0%	800	18%	0	0%	1,000	23%	4,500	
ICT	7,000	8%	8,500	10%	7,550	9%	50,900	58%	14,150	16%	88,100	
Irish	0	0%	1,900	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1,900	
Leisure & Tourism	1,550	29%	150	3%	350	7%	1,950	38%	1,200	23%	5,200	
Manufacturing	0	0%	100	41%	150	55%	0	4%	0	0%	300	
Mathematics	136,250	17%	16,150	2%	67,750	9%	523,600	66%	52,500	7%	796,250	
Mathematics (Additional)	0	0%	3,400	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3,400	
Media / Film / TV Studies	29,100	53%	600	1%	7,500	14%	0	0%	18,000	33%	55,150	
Music	14,400	32%	1,550	3%	7,850	17%	19,100	42%	2,500	6%	45,400	
Other Modern Languages	13,100	38%	0	0%	5,650	17%	15,300	45%	0	0%	34,050	
Other Sciences	1,750	26%	150	3%	1,050	16%	2,100	32%	1,550	23%	6,550	
Other Technology	0	0%	850	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	850	
Performing / Expressive Arts	16,650	89%	0	0%	1,050	6%	0	0%	1,100	6%	18,800	
Physical Education	39,750	31%	1,700	1%	9,750	8%	71,150	55%	7,000	5%	129,400	
Physics	79,950	57%	2,650	2%	38,000	27%	13,400	10%	5,500	4%	139,450	
Prep. For Life and Work	0	0%	6,500	99%	0	0%	0	0%	50	1%	6,550	
Religious Studies	112,350	31%	10,100	3%	56,800	16%	120,850	34%	60,450	17%	360,550	
Science	222,750	55%	5,200	1%	87,850	22%	69,450	17%	18,850	5%	404,050	
Science: Double Award (CCEA)	0	0%	7,050	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	7,050	
Social Science subjects	26,150	58%	0	0%	9,650	22%	3,700	8%	5,400	12%	44,850	
Spanish	50,050	54%	2,600	3%	4,700	5%	26,700	29%	8,300	9%	92,350	
Statistics	5,350	14%	0	0%	0	0%	32,650	86%	0	0%	38,000	
Welsh Literature	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3,700	100%	3,700	
Welsh: First Language	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5,350	100%	5,350	
Welsh: Second Language	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	25,000	100%	25,000	
Total	2,294,500	43%	136,400	3%	796,350	15%	1,466,850	27%	668,550	12%	5,362,650	

Source: JCQ data

Certificates awarded in AS and A level qualifications

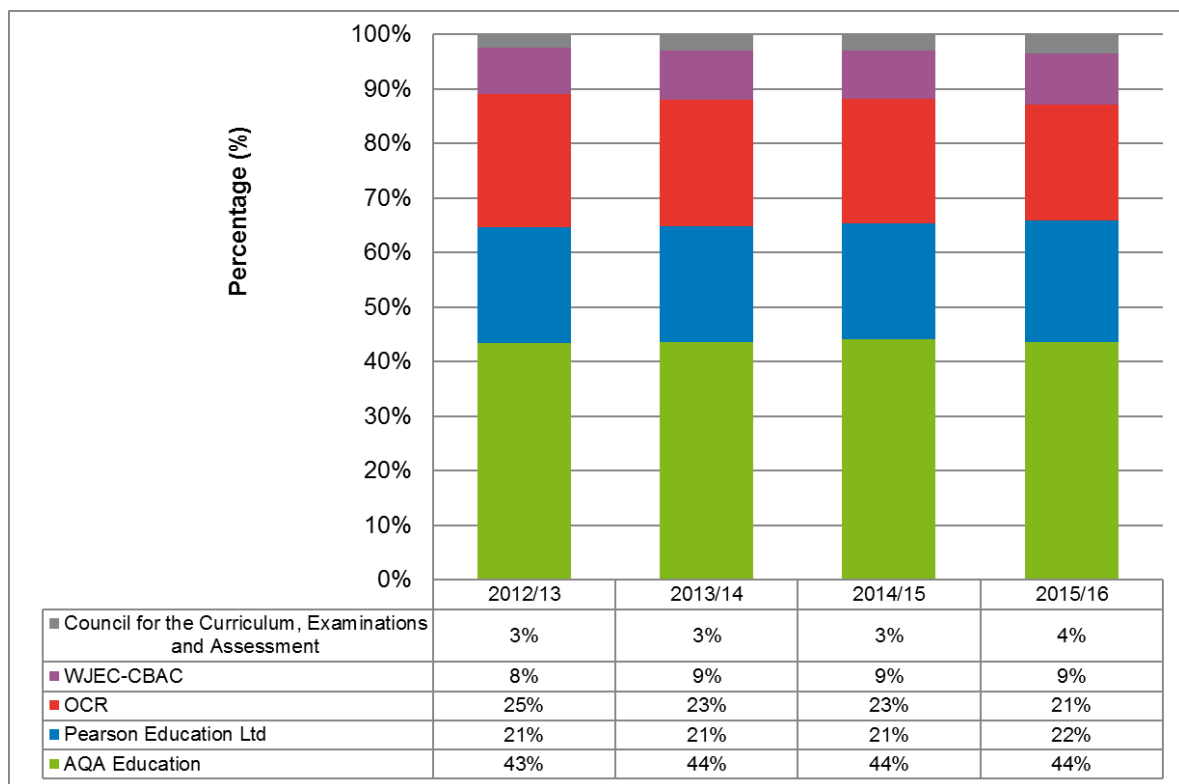
This section shows data and trends in the distribution of certificates awarded for AS and A levels across awarding organisations. It also highlights high-volume AS and A level qualifications for 2015/16.

Certificates awarded in AS qualifications

Figure 6 shows that changes in market share across awarding organisations over the past 4 years have been small.

AQA has the highest market share in 2015/16 at 44% – similar to its GCSE share.

Figure 6: AS certificate data by awarding organisation from 2012/13 to 2015/16



Source: JCQ data

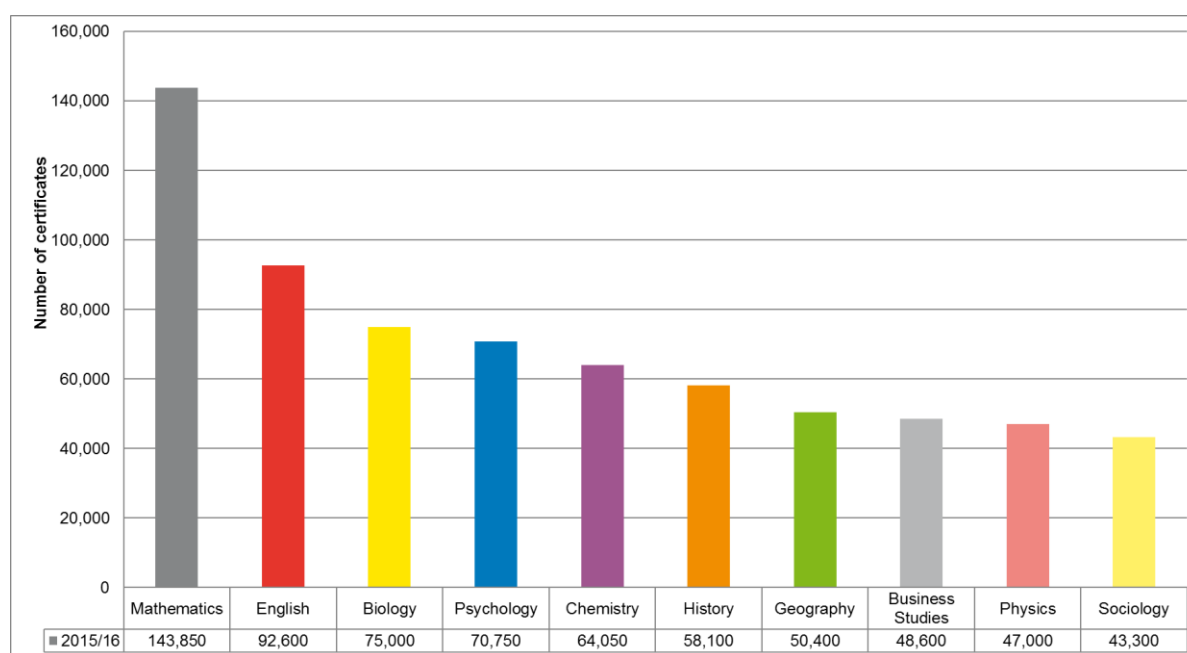
Certificates awarded in AS subjects

Figure 7 shows the number of certificates awarded by subject for AS qualifications in 2015/16. In the appendix, Table A5 shows the 20 AS qualifications with the most certificates awarded during the academic year.

The 10 largest subjects by number of certificates awarded, and their rankings by certificate, has undergone some changes. Art and design subjects are no longer in the top 10, being replaced by Sociology. The rankings of several other subjects has also changed.

For the top 10 AS subjects by number of certificates, all have seen a decrease in the number of certificates. The largest decrease in the number of certificates awarded from 2014/15 to 2015/16 of 25% was in History (from 77,350 to 58,100) and 24% in English (from 122,600 to 92,600).

Figure 7: Number of AS certificates awarded for the 10 subjects with the most certificates in 2015/16¹⁷



Source: JCQ data

Note: In 2015/16, there were 423,900 certificates awarded in other AS subjects.

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

Distribution of AS qualifications across awarding organisations

Table 7 highlights the variability of AS subject market share between awarding organisations.

Table 7: The distribution of certificates awarded by awarding organisation for all AS subjects in 2015/16

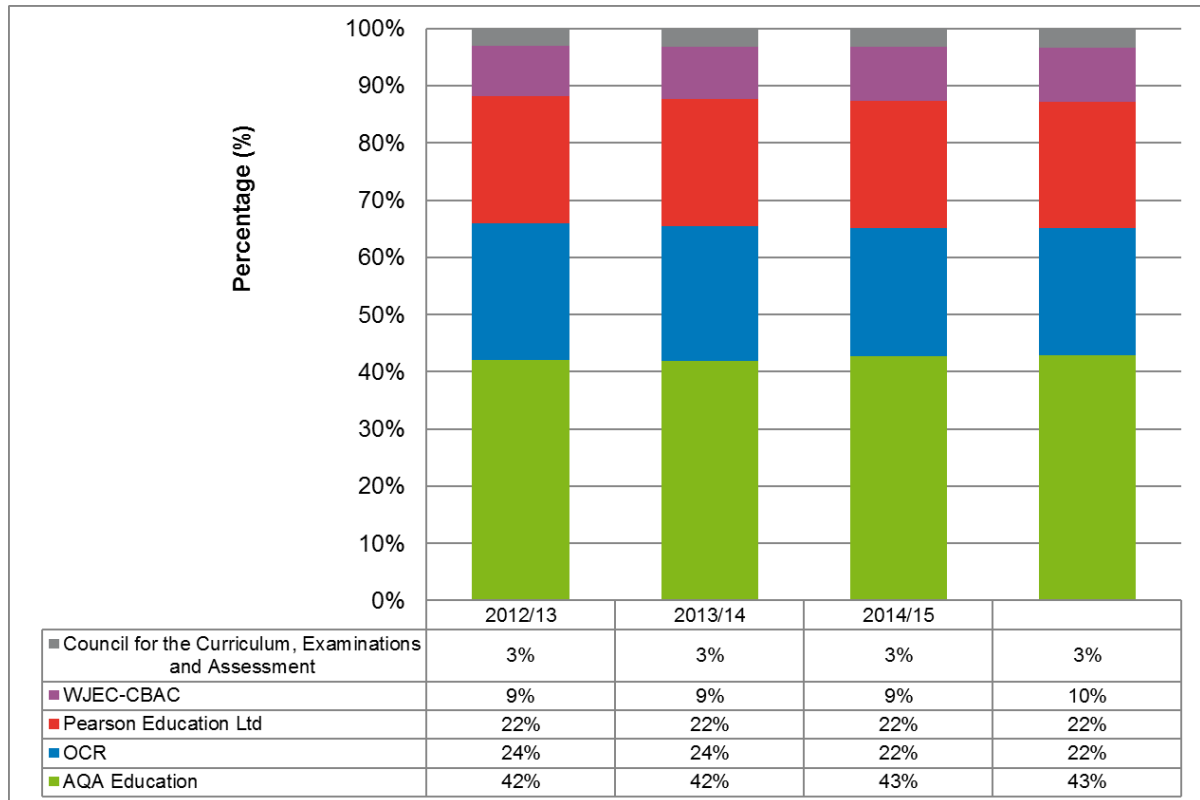
Subject	Awarding organisation										Total
	AQA	%	CCEA	%	OCR	%	Pearson	%	WJEC	%	
All other subjects	13,550	82%	700	4%	1,000	6%	50	0%	1,250	8%	16,550
Art and Design subjects	18,650	47%	850	2%	5,300	13%	8,650	22%	6,150	16%	39,600
Biology	33,500	45%	4,150	6%	23,150	31%	7,900	11%	6,350	8%	75,000
Business Studies	25,000	51%	3,200	7%	2,600	5%	13,700	28%	4,150	9%	48,600
Chemistry	25,350	40%	2,400	4%	27,700	43%	5,700	9%	2,900	5%	64,050
Classical subjects	3,050	38%	0	0%	4,900	62%	0	0%	0	0%	7,950
Communication Studies	2,400	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2,400
Computing	4,700	44%	300	3%	4,500	43%	0	0%	1,050	10%	10,550
Critical Thinking	0	0%	0	0%	2,450	100%	0	0%	0	0%	2,450
Design and Technology	9,700	52%	750	4%	2,000	11%	4,650	25%	1,700	9%	18,800
Drama	4,750	31%	0	0%	0	0%	9,100	60%	1,350	9%	15,200
Economics	13,700	39%	500	1%	5,400	15%	14,000	40%	1,800	5%	35,350
Engineering	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	450	100%	0	0%	450
English	49,900	54%	2,400	3%	14,350	15%	14,900	16%	11,050	12%	92,600
French	7,600	53%	750	5%	950	7%	2,450	17%	2,500	18%	14,300
General Studies	14,200	71%	0	0%	4,100	20%	1,800	9%	0	0%	20,100
Geography	24,850	49%	2,250	4%	4,250	8%	14,450	29%	4,600	9%	50,400
German	3,050	54%	150	2%	500	8%	1,050	19%	1,000	17%	5,700
Health & Social Care	0	0%	1,700	16%	4,400	43%	2,700	26%	1,550	15%	10,350
History	25,450	44%	2,950	5%	11,050	19%	15,550	27%	3,150	5%	58,100
ICT	3,400	19%	3,700	20%	4,250	23%	2,450	13%	4,650	25%	18,400
Irish	0	0%	450	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	450
Law	10,600	63%	0	0%	4,500	27%	0	0%	1,800	11%	16,900
Leisure	0	0%	0	0%	150	35%	300	65%	0	0%	500
Mathematics	30,850	21%	3,700	3%	37,050	26%	68,200	47%	4,050	3%	143,850
Mathematics (Further)	5,450	21%	200	1%	7,650	29%	12,550	48%	250	1%	26,100
Media / Film / TV Studies	9,650	24%	800	2%	9,100	22%	300	1%	21,150	52%	41,000
Music	1,400	15%	500	5%	800	8%	6,000	64%	650	7%	9,350
Other Modern Languages	1,800	19%	0	0%	1,550	17%	5,950	64%	0	0%	9,300
Other sciences	650	14%	100	2%	2,100	46%	0	0%	1,700	38%	4,500
Performing / Expressive Arts	2,300	60%	150	4%	700	19%	650	16%	0	0%	3,850
Physical Education	7,000	42%	350	2%	7,150	43%	1,400	9%	650	4%	16,550
Physics	23,400	50%	2,150	5%	14,050	30%	4,900	10%	2,500	5%	47,000
Political Studies	5,800	26%	1,250	6%	1,000	4%	14,050	62%	400	2%	22,500
Psychology	53,650	76%	0	0%	7,000	10%	6,250	9%	3,850	5%	70,750
Religious Studies	8,200	23%	2,400	7%	13,500	37%	7,350	20%	4,700	13%	36,200
Science	250	10%	0	0%	1,950	75%	0	0%	400	15%	2,600
Sociology	35,450	82%	0	0%	4,250	10%	0	0%	3,600	8%	43,300
Spanish	7,200	57%	750	6%	600	5%	2,300	18%	1,800	14%	12,650
Travel & Tourism	0	0%	0	0%	1,150	47%	400	17%	900	36%	2,500
Welsh	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	750	100%	750
Total	486,400	44%	39,450	4%	237,150	21%	250,100	22%	104,450	9%	1,117,550

Source: JCQ data

Certificates awarded in A level qualifications

Figure 8 shows that changes in market share across awarding organisations in A level qualifications over the past 4 years have been negligible. AQA consistently awarded the largest proportion of certificates over the period, with a market share of 43% in 2015/16.

Figure 8: A level certificate data by awarding organisation from 2012/13 to 2015/16



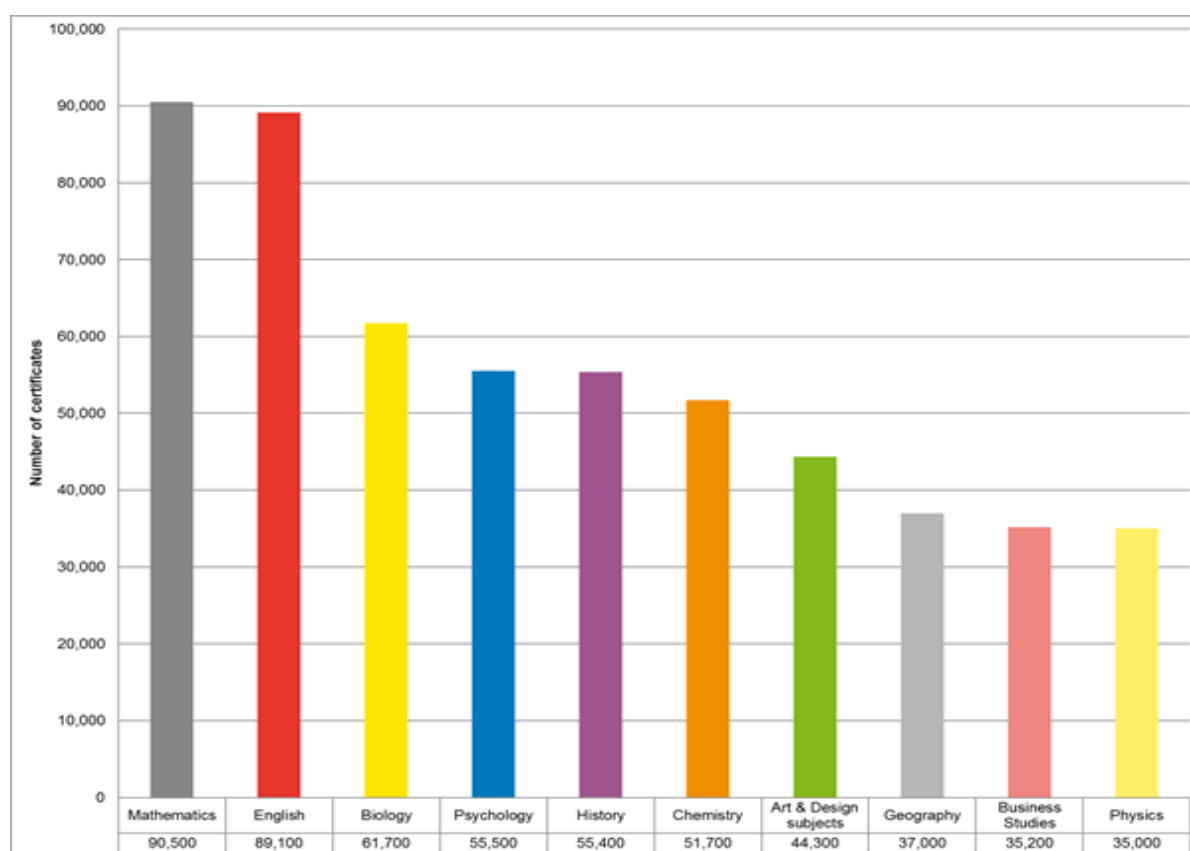
Source: JCQ data

Certificates awarded in A level subjects

Figure 9 shows the number of certificates awarded by subject for A level qualifications in 2015/16. In the appendix, Table A6 shows the 20 A level qualifications with the most certificates awarded during the academic year.

The 10 largest subjects by number of certificates awarded, and their rankings by certificate numbers, have remained largely unchanged from the previous year. The number of certificates awarded in each of these subjects has largely remained stable from 2014/15 to 2015/16 apart from English and Art & Design, where the numbers have decreased by 6% (89,050 to 84,100) and 4% (44,300 to 42,700) respectively.

Figure 9: Number of A level certificates for the 10 subjects with the most certificates awarded in 2015/16¹⁸



Note: In 2015/16, there were 294,900 certificates awarded in other A level subjects. Source: JCQ data

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

Distribution of A level qualifications across awarding organisations

Table 8 highlights the variability of A level subject market share between awarding organisations.

Table 8: The distribution of certificates awarded by awarding organisations for all A level subjects in 2015/16

Subject	Awarding organisation										Total
	AQA	%	CCEA	%	OCR	%	Pearson	%	WJEC	%	
All other subjects	8,500	80%	550	5%	800	7%	0	0%	750	7%	10,550
Art and Design subjects	20,750	48%	750	2%	6,100	14%	11,950	28%	3,600	8%	43,100
Biology	25,000	41%	2,750	4%	21,050	35%	6,750	11%	5,300	9%	60,850
Business Studies	22,950	64%	2,250	6%	3,500	10%	4,900	14%	2,450	7%	36,050
Chemistry	17,000	34%	1,250	2%	25,000	50%	5,200	10%	1,900	4%	50,350
Classical subjects	2,550	39%	0	0%	3,950	61%	0	0%	0	0%	6,500
Communication Studies	1,850	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1,850
Computing	2,600	44%	100	2%	2,250	38%	0	0%	1,050	17%	6,000
Critical Thinking	0	0%	0	0%	100	100%	0	0%	0	0%	100
Design and Technology	6,250	52%	450	4%	1,200	10%	3,050	25%	1,150	10%	12,150
Drama	3,750	31%	0	0%	0	0%	7,450	61%	1,050	9%	12,300
Economics	10,650	37%	350	1%	6,900	24%	10,000	35%	900	3%	28,800
Engineering	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	300	100%	0	0%	300
English	50,750	60%	1,750	2%	11,950	14%	6,600	8%	13,050	16%	84,100
French	5,000	52%	450	5%	700	8%	1,650	17%	1,700	18%	9,500
General Studies	7,000	64%	0	0%	2,600	24%	1,350	12%	0	0%	11,000
Geography	17,350	48%	1,700	5%	3,400	10%	9,900	28%	3,400	9%	35,750
German	1,950	51%	100	2%	300	8%	800	20%	700	19%	3,800
Health & Social Care	0	0%	1,500	19%	3,100	40%	2,000	26%	1,150	15%	7,700
History	16,900	31%	2,200	4%	10,500	19%	21,450	40%	3,050	6%	54,150
ICT	2,250	16%	2,950	21%	3,250	23%	2,000	14%	3,500	25%	13,950
Irish	0	0%	350	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	350
Law	6,600	61%	0	0%	3,050	28%	0	0%	1,200	11%	10,900
Leisure	0	0%	0	0%	100	35%	200	65%	0	0%	350
Mathematics	17,900	18%	2,650	3%	21,600	22%	52,950	54%	3,200	3%	98,300
Mathematics (Further)	2,500	35%	150	2%	4,050	57%	100	1%	400	5%	7,150
Media / Film / TV Studies	5,300	19%	550	2%	6,650	24%	250	1%	15,400	55%	28,150
Music	1,000	15%	350	5%	600	9%	4,450	64%	500	7%	6,950
Other Modern Languages	1,300	15%	0	0%	1,300	14%	6,450	71%	0	0%	9,100
Other sciences	350	11%	50	2%	1,550	48%	0	0%	1,300	39%	3,250
Performing / Expressive Arts	1,600	53%	100	4%	750	25%	550	19%	0	0%	3,000
Physical Education	4,500	40%	150	1%	5,100	45%	1,000	9%	600	5%	11,300
Physics	15,150	44%	1,200	4%	11,750	34%	4,400	13%	1,550	5%	34,050
Political Studies	3,700	24%	900	6%	650	4%	9,750	64%	250	2%	15,250
Psychology	42,450	73%	0	0%	7,350	13%	4,800	8%	3,300	6%	57,850
Religious Studies	5,500	21%	1,950	7%	10,150	38%	5,350	20%	3,650	14%	26,600
Science	1,850	51%	0	0%	1,450	40%	0	0%	350	9%	3,650
Sociology	27,100	81%	0	0%	4,050	12%	0	0%	2,150	6%	33,300
Spanish	4,800	58%	400	5%	400	5%	1,550	19%	1,150	14%	8,350
Travel & Tourism	0	0%	0	0%	750	41%	400	21%	700	38%	1,800
Welsh	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	600	100%	600
Total	364,650	43%	27,900	3%	188,050	22%	187,450	22%	81,000	10%	849,050

Source: JCQ data

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

Over the past 4 years, the total number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level has decreased overall from 9.2 million to 7.5 million. This period has also seen large increases in the number of qualifications designed to meet the (now withdrawn) QCF requirements being certificated, in parallel with big reductions in the qualification types that they typically replaced.

There has been an 11% decrease in the total number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level compared to the previous year (from 8.4 million to 7.5 million). The decrease was driven primarily by a fall in the number of Level 1, Level 2 and Level 1/2 qualifications. This is likely to be due to changes in funding and the accountability framework that reduced the number of vocational qualifications recognised in schools and colleges for performance table purposes.

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

Whereas only 5 awarding organisations offer qualifications for GCSE, AS and A level, the market for other qualifications is spread across over 150 awarding organisations who often specialise in particular sectors or subject areas.

Table 9 shows the change in the number of certificates awarded for the 10 awarding organisations with the most certificates compared to the previous year. Pearson awarded just under one-fifth of all certificates in 2015/16. The largest 10 organisations, by number of certificates awarded, account for 64% of all certificates awarded. In the appendix, Table A7 presents the same data over a 4-year period.

Table 9: Distribution of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2015/16 by the 10 largest awarding organisations (by number of certificates awarded in 2015/16)

Awarding organisation	2014/15	2015/16	Percentage change
Pearson Education Ltd	1,899,850	1,437,600	-24%
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,394,250	1,152,650	-17%
OCR	480,500	363,400	-24%
Cambridge International Examinations	281,150	301,550	7%
NCFE	336,800	296,200	-12%
AQA Education	284,750	295,550	4%
Cambridge English Language Assessment	297,200	245,800	-17%
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	255,050	237,150	-7%
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	279,200	226,600	-19%
Trinity College London	181,300	223,800	23%
Others	2,681,750	2,710,550	1%
Total	8,371,800	7,490,800	-11%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

Trinity College London (TCL) saw an increase (23%) compared to last year which, as previously mentioned, is mainly due to an increase in awards for their TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3) (from 37,350 to 68,050).

The number of certificates awarded by Cambridge International Examinations increased by 7%; this was mainly due to large increases in the number of certificates awarded in Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English (from 215,850 to 233,750).

OCR had the largest decrease in numbers of certificates awarded (24%), largely due to a reduction in the number of certificates awarded in their Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT (from 65,400 to 35,650) and Level 1/2 Cambridge National Award in ICT (from 12,800 to 4,650). These decreases are likely to be due to changes in performance table rules which resulted in these and similar qualifications being regarded as equivalent to a single GCSE rather than multiple GCSEs in performance tables regardless of the size of the qualification.

Certificates by sector subject area

Table 10 shows the change in the number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2015/16 in the 15 sector subject areas, compared to the previous year.

Table 10: Number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in each sector subject area from 2014/15 to 2015/16

Sector subject area	Number of certificates		Percentage change
	2014/15	2015/16	
Health, Public Services and Care	1,188,750	1,147,900	-3%
Science and Mathematics	302,850	224,950	-26%
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	116,750	97,750	-16%
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	400,550	371,050	-7%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	275,700	281,050	2%
Information and Communication Technology	414,750	393,000	-5%
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	621,300	546,400	-12%
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	416,050	375,900	-10%
Arts, Media and Publishing	829,850	817,450	-1%
History, Philosophy and Theology	31,000	25,350	-18%
Social Sciences	9,600	10,900	13%
Languages, Literature and Culture	604,350	531,950	-12%
Education and Training	90,350	85,150	-6%
Preparation for Life and Work	2,504,700	2,111,300	-16%
Business, Administration, Finance and Law	565,250	470,650	-17%
Total	8,371,800	7,490,800	-11%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

The largest number of certificates awarded was in the preparation for life and work sector subject area (over 2.1 million), representing 28% of all certificates awarded. Of the 20 qualifications with the most certificates awarded, 9 of them are from this sector subject area. There were just over 842,300 certificates awarded in functional skills in this sector, representing 40% of all certificates awarded in this sector subject area. Health, public services and care was the second-largest sector subject area followed by arts, media and publishing.

The largest percentage change in the number of certificates awarded was in the Science and Mathematics (a drop of 26%). The decrease was mainly due to decline in number of certificates in 'Other general qualifications' and AS qualifications.

Social sciences and construction, planning and the built environment were the only sectors with an increase in the number of certificates. Of these, construction, planning and the built environment had the largest increase in terms of absolute numbers of certificates awarded (275,700 to 281,050). This was largely due to an increase in the number of certificates awarded in BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (QCF) (from 20,000 to 35,450).

Over the past 4 years, health, public services and care has seen the highest increase in the number of certificates awarded (from 1,025,450 in 2012/13 to 1,147,900 in 2015/16 – a 12% increase). In the appendix, Table A8 shows the number of certificates awarded in each sector subject area during 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 150 awarding organisations providing regulated qualifications, most of them provide qualifications in only a small number of sector subject areas.

Table 11 shows the distribution of certificates awarded in 2015/16 in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level across the largest 5 awarding organisations by sector subject area, and how this compares to the previous year.

In each sector subject area, the 3 largest awarding organisations by number of certificates awarded account for more than 50% of certificates (except in health, public services and care where it is 46%). The 3 largest awarding organisations by numbers of certificates awarded account for more than 80% of the certificates awarded in 6 sector subject areas.

Table 11: The 5 awarding organisations with the most certificates awarded in each sector subject area in 2015/16

Sector subject area	Awarding organisation	Number of certificates	Percentage of certificates in sector area	% change from 2014/15 to 2015/16
01 - Health, public services and care	Pearson Education Ltd	223,250	19%	93%
	Qualsafe Awards	161,000	14%	114%
	NCFE	147,050	13%	84%
	Highfield Qualifications	121,950	11%	78%
	First Aid Awards Ltd	96,100	8%	110%
02 - Science and mathematics	AQA Education	105,350	47%	125%
	Pearson Education Ltd	78,650	35%	45%
	OCR	20,400	9%	77%
	Cambridge International Examinations	11,050	5%	91%
	WJEC-CBAC	7,750	3%	177%
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	City and Guilds of London Institute	60,600	62%	83%
	Pearson Education Ltd	13,300	14%	86%
	Equestrian Qualifications Limited	8,150	8%	92%
	Royal Horticultural Society	3,800	4%	94%
	Lantra Awards	2,650	3%	104%
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	66,200	18%	77%
	Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	61,350	17%	102%
	City and Guilds of London Institute	58,350	16%	93%
	Pearson Education Ltd	56,800	15%	92%
	The Institute of the Motor Industry	43,050	12%	94%
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	City and Guilds of London Institute	117,900	42%	106%
	Cskills Awards	61,100	22%	87%
	British Safety Council	35,450	13%	177%
	Pearson Education Ltd	27,700	10%	72%
	Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	9,350	3%	99%
06 - Information and communication technology	BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	155,100	39%	147%
	Pearson Education Ltd	84,000	21%	79%
	OCR	83,100	21%	61%
	City and Guilds of London Institute	25,600	7%	81%
	The Learning Machine	25,150	6%	135%
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	City and Guilds of London Institute	129,300	24%	81%
	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	124,400	23%	83%
	Pearson Education Ltd	68,600	13%	80%
	BIIAB	55,600	10%	107%
	Highfield Qualifications	48,050	9%	84%
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	Pearson Education Ltd	119,250	32%	82%
	1st4sport Qualifications	51,350	14%	89%
	Sports Leaders UK	46,350	12%	87%
	Active IQ	38,500	10%	92%
	IQL	33,550	9%	129%
09 - Arts, media and publishing	Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	237,150	29%	93%
	Pearson Education Ltd	120,050	15%	81%
	Trinity College London	104,050	13%	102%
	LAMDA	62,150	8%	140%
	Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	58,850	7%	85%
10 - History, philosophy and theology	NOCN	9,200	36%	87%
	Cambridge International Examinations	8,300	33%	110%
	OCR	3,250	13%	75%
	AQA Education	2,400	9%	84%
	Pearson Education Ltd	1,150	5%	24%
11 - Social sciences	Cambridge International Examinations	4,900	45%	119%
	AQA Education	4,350	40%	129%
	WJEC-CBAC	1,000	9%	99%
	OCR	250	2%	112%
	AptEd	200	2%	581%
12 - Languages, literature and culture	Cambridge International Examinations	272,300	51%	108%
	Cambridge English Language Assessment	108,750	20%	74%
	AQA Education	99,600	19%	107%
	OCR	16,050	3%	74%
	Pearson Education Ltd	12,800	2%	22%
13 - Education and training	City and Guilds of London Institute	24,150	28%	91%
	NCFE	17,650	21%	100%
	Pearson Education Ltd	11,950	14%	95%
	OCR	6,800	8%	77%
	Cambridge English Language Assessment	4,400	5%	85%
14 - Preparation for life and work	City and Guilds of London Institute	531,900	25%	76%
	Pearson Education Ltd	485,500	23%	78%
	WJEC-CBAC	184,100	9%	95%
	OCR	159,100	8%	82%
	Cambridge English Language Assessment	132,650	6%	91%
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	Pearson Education Ltd	134,400	29%	72%
	City and Guilds of London Institute	77,700	17%	77%
	Association of Accounting Technicians	42,600	9%	103%
	OCR	33,050	7%	65%
	The London Institute of Banking & Finance	21,950	5%	102%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

Table 12 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 (77). Preparation for life and work, which is the largest sector subject area by certificates awarded, had 48 awarding organisations with certificates awarded.

Table 12: The number of awarding organisations with qualifications and with certificates awarded in each sector subject area in 2015/16

Sector subject area	Certificates	No. of awarding organisations	No. of awarding organisations with certificates	Change in number of awarding organisations with certificates 2014/15 to 2015/16
01 - Health, public services and care	1,147,900	83	67	↑
02 - Science and mathematics	224,950	20	14	↑
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	97,750	41	32	↓
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	371,050	74	50	↓
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	281,050	45	32	↑
06 - Information and communication technology	393,000	43	25	—
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	546,400	73	59	↑
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	375,900	56	39	↑
09 - Arts, media and publishing	817,450	45	38	↑
10 - History, philosophy and theology	25,350	15	12	↑
11 - Social sciences	10,900	16	10	↑
12 - Languages, literature and culture	531,950	27	20	↓
13 - Education and training	85,150	78	64	↓
14 - Preparation for life and work	2,111,300	68	48	↓
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	470,650	102	77	↓

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

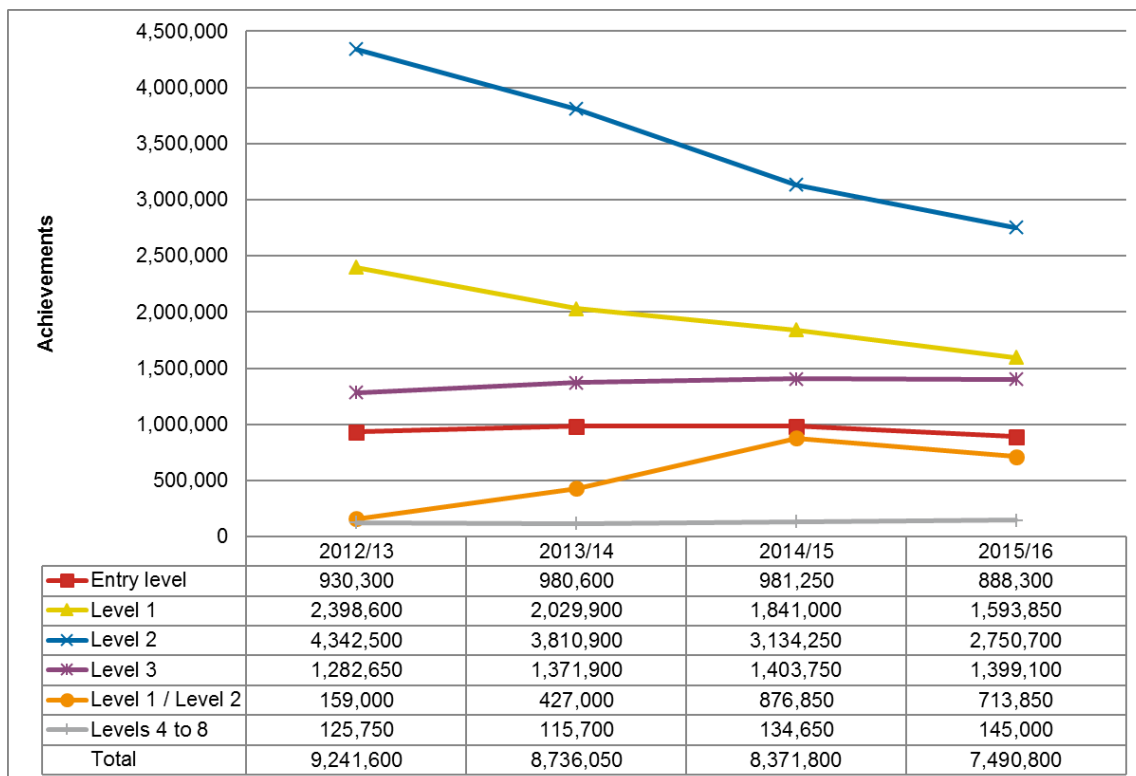
Certificates awarded by qualification level

Qualifications 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.¹⁹

Figure 10 shows the number of certificates awarded at each level over the past 4 years in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level. Level 2 qualification certificates (excluding Level 1/Level 2 qualifications) account for the largest number of all certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2015/16 (37%).

The largest decrease in the number of certificates awarded compared to the previous year was in Level 1/Level 2 qualifications (including qualifications known as Level 1/Level 2 Certificates, international GCSEs or IGCSE^{®20}, which are taken as an alternative to GCSEs), decreasing by 19% due to these qualifications either being removed from performance tables or being regarded as equivalent to a single GCSE rather than multiple GCSEs in performance tables regardless of the size of the qualification.

Figure 10: Number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by level from 2012/13 to 2015/16



Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

¹⁹ Level comparisons can be found at: www.ofqual.gov.uk/help-and-advice/comparing-qualifications.

²⁰ IGCSE[®] is the registered trademark of Cambridge International Examinations.

Certificates awarded by qualification type

Table 13 shows the certificates awarded in 2015/16 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 4 years in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level. Definitions of the most common qualification types are given in the glossary of terms.

Table 13: Number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by qualification type in 2014/15 and 2015/16

Qualification type	Number of certificates		Percentage change
	2014/15	2015/16	
Advanced Extension Award	350	300	-10%
Basic Skills	150	0~	-98%
CVET	0	50	
Diploma	0	0	
English For Speakers of Other Languages	272,300	225,400	-17%
Entry Level	76,250	73,600	-3%
Essential skills Wales	0	400	
Free Standing Mathematics Qualification	37,350	35,900	-4%
Functional Skills	1,034,800	842,300	-19%
Higher Level	9,000	11,850	32%
IVET	0	0	
Key Skills	99,900	70,950	-29%
National Vocational Qualification	4,200	2,600	-38%
Occupational Qualification	28,600	30,850	8%
Other General Qualification	1,279,050	1,053,850	-18%
Principal Learning	1,550	800	-47%
Project	43,850	46,200	5%
QCF	5,381,550	4,983,650	-7%
Vocationally-Related Qualification	102,900	107,250	4%
Welsh Baccalaureate	0	4,850	
Total	8,371,800	7,490,800	-11%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

There has been an 11% decrease in the total number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level compared to the previous year.

The largest increase in the absolute number of certificates awarded was in Welsh Baccalaureate (from 0 to 4,850). This increase is predominantly due to Level 1 and Level 2 certificates.

Functional skills qualifications have replaced basic skills and key skills qualifications leading to a decrease in the number certificates awarded in these latter qualifications, but there has also been a decrease in the number of certificates awarded for functional skills. Principal learning qualifications have seen a large decrease in certificates awarded (47%, from 1,550 to 800) as have national

vocational qualifications (38% from 4,200 to 2,600). This is due to the development and increased uptake of other alternative qualification types.

Other than the QCF 'type', which, as noted above, actually covers a wide range of different types of qualifications, this year other general qualifications have remained ahead of functional skills as the largest qualification type by certificates awarded.

Background notes

The certificate data in this release covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It has been compiled in accordance with our statistical policies.²¹

Data source

Information on qualifications (covering title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level) is taken from [Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications](#), which gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England and Northern Ireland. Data on qualifications offered in Wales is available at [Qualification in Wales \(QiW\) database](#).

Qualification types used to describe the nature of qualifications are used in the registers of both Qualification Wales and Ofqual. However, there are some that are present only in the Qualification Wales register and therefore only contain qualifications offered in Wales. These qualification types were incorporated in to the Ofqual systems from July 2016 for the 2016 quarter 2 data collection.

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

²¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

qualification and country. This data source has been referred to as 'Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database' throughout the report.

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 (JCQ), 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.

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

Limitations of data

Certificate 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 5. If the value is less than 5, 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 50 for ease of use. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in any figures may not necessarily add up to 100. The numbers of qualifications have been left as exact figures.

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:

- *Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England: 2015 to 2016*,²² 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 *A level and other 16 to 18 results: 2015 to 2016 (revised)*²³ 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*,²⁴ published by the Department for Education and Education and Skills Funding Agency, 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

²² www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2015-to-2016

²³ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-16-to-18-results-2015-to-2016-revised

²⁴ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-july-2017

collected by Ofqual and through the National Vocational Qualifications Database.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on our publications. Should you have any comments on this statistical release and how to improve it to meet your needs please contact us as statistics@ofqual.gov.uk.

Glossary of terms

A levels – Also known as General Certificates of Education (GCE), the A level is an academic qualification offered by educational bodies in the UK to students completing secondary or pre-university education. At present, a combination of legacy and reformed A levels are available to students. A levels are generally (but not exclusively) sat by 18-year-olds in schools and colleges but are open to anyone who wants to gain a qualification. The first reformed A levels will be awarded in 2017. Click [here](#) for more information on the reform timetable see.

Accreditation – a process by which Ofqual (or one of the other regulators) 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 was 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 described as available until the certificate end date or if an award has been certified during the reporting period.

Awarding organisation – an organisation recognised by Ofqual or another regulator 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).

Certificate 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 level of demand 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 and IGCSE®.

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 2012/13 to 2015/16
Table A2	The number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded from 2012/13 to 2015/16
Table A3	The number of certificates awarded from 2012/13 to 2015/16 by the 20 awarding organisations with the most certificates in all qualifications in 2015/16
Table A4	The 20 GCSE qualifications with the most certificates in 2015/16
Table A5	The 20 AS qualifications with the most certificates in 2015/16
Table A6	The 20 A level qualifications with the most certificates in 2015/16
Table A7	The number of certificates awarded from 2012/13 to 2015/16 by the 10 awarding organisations with the most certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2015/16
Table A8	Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in each sector subject area from 2012/13 to 2015/16
Table A9	Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by qualification type from 2012/13 to 2015/16

Table A1: The number of regulated qualifications of each type from 2012/13 to 2015/16

Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Advanced extension award	1	1	1	1
Basic skills	80	24	10	7
CVET	36	48	82	134
Diploma	196	196	0	0
English for speakers of other languages	216	221	259	247
Entry level	412	391	340	334
Essential skills Wales	0	0	16	16
Free standing mathematics qualification	14	14	14	14
Functional skills	232	239	215	221
GCE A level	515	511	582	671
GCE AS level	502	502	577	664
GCSE	998	960	904	1,016
Higher level	441	382	158	115
IVET	30	65	76	124
Key skills	434	229	178	157
National vocational qualification	1,174	660	175	127
Occupational qualification	161	171	149	194
Other general qualification	1,172	1,200	1,048	1,201
Principal learning	207	164	39	31
Project	30	30	32	31
QCF	23,610	26,963	28,969	28,963
Vocationally-related qualification	1,938	1,463	1,136	1,753
Welsh baccalaureate	0	0	8	8
Total	32,399	34,434	34,968	36,029

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database and JCQ data

Table A2: The number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded from 2012/13 to 2015/16

Qualification type	Number of qualifications with certificates			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Advanced extension award	0	1	1	1
Basic skills	56	26	11	2
CVET	0	0	0	3
Diploma	79	14	0	0
English for speakers of other languages	146	148	148	105
Entry level	224	133	124	127
Essential skills Wales	0	0	0	7
Free standing mathematics qualification	7	14	14	13
Functional skills	186	204	209	210
GCE A level	266	263	263	259
GCE AS level	263	263	263	330
GCSE (A* to G)	428	413	459	455
Higher level	173	107	73	49
IVET	0	0	0	0
Key skills	202	117	83	77
National vocational qualification	628	302	80	58
Occupational qualification	82	83	96	120
Other general qualification	525	415	428	498
Principal learning	70	29	10	5
Project	9	13	13	16
QCF	8,803	10,328	11,759	11,716
Vocationally-related qualification	778	543	428	512
Welsh baccalaureate	0	0	0	4
Total	12,925	13,416	14,462	14,567

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database and JCQ data

Table A3: The number of certificates awarded from 2012/13 to 2015/16 by the 20 awarding organisations with the most certificates in all qualifications in 2015/16

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
AQA Education	3,792,200	3,546,050	3,529,850	3,441,100
Pearson Education Ltd	4,975,350	4,301,400	3,873,050	3,342,300
OCR	2,362,500	2,003,750	1,780,250	1,584,950
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,500,050	1,463,350	1,394,250	1,152,650
WJEC-CBAC	1,134,050	1,145,000	1,088,500	1,060,450
Cambridge International Examinations	91,450	165,750	281,150	301,550
NCFE	547,150	382,200	336,800	296,200
Cambridge English Language Assessment	170,900	194,150	297,200	245,800
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	273,100	267,250	255,050	237,150
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	309,750	304,850	279,200	226,600
Trinity College London	123,200	170,600	181,300	223,800
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	223,450	241,650	239,650	223,550
Highfield Qualifications	187,750	256,550	272,400	223,450
Qualsafe Awards	34,350	124,100	148,050	171,250
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	88,000	83,000	107,950	156,850
First Aid Awards Ltd	39,750	78,350	90,400	101,700
NOCN	298,050	138,900	96,050	90,700
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	117,250	91,350	88,400	83,400
LAMDA	54,450	65,300	44,250	62,150
AptEd	90,550	84,650	69,200	61,550
Others	1,488,100	1,429,100	1,520,950	1,533,200
Total	17,901,300	16,537,300	15,973,950	14,820,400

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database and JCQ data

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

Table A4: The 20 GCSE qualifications with the most certificates in 2015/16

Qualification	Certificates 2015/16
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Mathematics A	515,900
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Language	251,750
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Literature	230,800
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Science A	220,150
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Additional Science	208,000
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Mathematics B	117,200
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Art and Design	105,600
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Religious Studies	104,950
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Geography A	104,850
WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Language	97,550
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Biology	82,850
WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Literature	82,300
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Chemistry	80,350
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Physics	79,950
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in French	75,600
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Religious Studies B	73,700
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/2 GCSE In Science	69,450
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Physical Education	67,850
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/2 GCSE In Additional Science	60,850
OCR Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Mathematics B	60,800

Source: JCQ data

Table A5: The 20 AS qualifications with the most certificates in 2015/16

Qualification	Certificates 2015/16
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics	67,700
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Psychology	44,200
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Sociology	30,200
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics	26,950
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Biology	25,300
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Geography	24,850
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in History	21,500
OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics	20,550
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Chemistry	18,950
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Physics	18,100
OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Chemistry A	16,900
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Art and Design	16,500
OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics (MEI)	16,450
OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Biology A	16,450
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Business	14,600
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Geography	14,450
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in English Language	14,150
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Government and Politic	14,050
OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Religious Studies	13,500
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Further Mathematics	12,550

Source: JCQ data

Table A6: The 20 A level qualifications with the most certificates in 2015/16

Qualification	Certificates 2015/16
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics	44,900
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Psychology A	37,950
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Sociology	27,100
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology	24,600
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in History	21,450
OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology	20,550
OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry A	20,100
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design	19,950
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies	19,000
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography	17,350
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry	17,000
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in History	16,900
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics	15,500
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature B	15,200
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Language B	15,000
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physics A	14,900
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design	11,650
OCR Advanced GCE in Mathematics	11,650
OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature	11,300
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Economics	10,650

Source: JCQ data

Table A7: The number of certificates awarded from 2012/13 to 2015/16 by the 10 awarding organisations with the most certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2015/16

Awarding organisation	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Pearson Education Ltd	2,548,550	2,274,450	1,899,850	1,437,600
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,500,050	1,463,350	1,394,250	1,152,650
OCR	821,300	636,000	480,500	363,400
Cambridge International Examinations	91,450	165,750	281,150	301,550
NCFE	547,150	382,200	336,800	296,200
AQA Education	186,100	248,000	284,750	295,550
Cambridge English Language Assessment	170,900	194,150	297,200	245,800
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	273,100	267,250	255,050	237,150
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	309,750	304,850	279,200	226,600
Trinity College London	123,200	170,600	181,300	223,800
Others	2,670,100	2,629,450	2,681,750	2,710,550
Total	9,241,600	8,736,050	8,371,800	7,490,800

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Table A8: Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in each sector subject area from 2012/13 to 2015/16

Sector subject area	Number of certificates			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
01 - Health, public services and care	1,025,450	1,183,200	1,188,750	1,147,900
02 - Science and mathematics	280,000	325,650	302,850	224,950
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	120,300	111,500	116,750	97,750
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	442,700	401,950	400,550	371,050
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	243,100	232,500	275,700	281,050
06 - Information and communication technology	632,200	513,750	414,750	393,000
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	752,600	688,250	621,300	546,400
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	548,000	475,550	416,050	375,900
09 - Arts, media and publishing	897,550	882,650	829,850	817,450
10 - History, philosophy and theology	41,400	33,300	31,000	25,350
11 - Social sciences	4,700	6,400	9,600	10,900
12 - Languages, literature and culture	448,150	475,300	604,350	531,950
13 - Education and training	106,500	99,750	90,350	85,150
14 - Preparation for life and work	3,001,500	2,658,650	2,504,700	2,111,300
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	697,450	647,700	565,250	470,650
Total	9,241,600	8,736,050	8,371,800	7,490,800

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 2012/13 to 2015/16

Qualification type	Number of certificates			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Advanced Extension Award	0	400	350	300
Basic Skills	101,750	4,600	150	0
CVET	0	0	0	50
Diploma	2,750	50	0	0
English For Speakers of Other Languages	287,650	356,250	272,300	225,400
Entry Level	103,200	89,900	76,250	73,600
Essential skills Wales	0	0	0	400
Free Standing Mathematics Qualification	23,150	35,800	37,350	35,900
Functional Skills	864,600	1,075,750	1,034,800	842,300
Higher Level	7,600	5,250	9,000	11,850
IVET	0	0	0	0
Key Skills	545,600	122,800	99,900	70,950
National Vocational Qualification	30,250	8,900	4,200	2,600
Occupational Qualification	15,550	24,400	28,600	30,850
Other General Qualification	654,400	922,150	1,279,050	1,053,850
Principal Learning	5,150	2,050	1,550	800
Project	43,950	52,850	43,850	46,200
QCF	6,167,050	5,813,800	5,381,550	4,983,650
Vocationally-Related Qualification	388,950	221,100	102,900	107,250
Welsh Baccalaureate	0	0	0	4,850
Total	9,241,600	8,736,050	8,371,800	7,490,800

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

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