

# Annual Qualifications Market Report

## 2017 to 2018 academic year

**Annual**

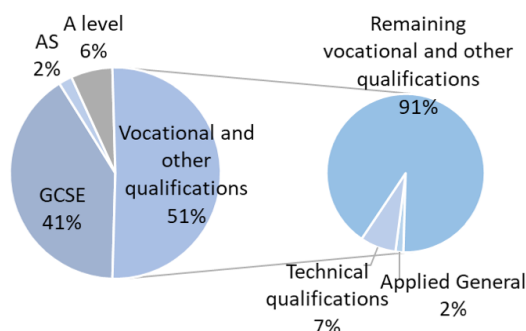
**Published: 14 February 2019**

**Coverage: England**

**Official statistics**

This release provides information on the number and types of qualifications available for award in England over the academic year 2017/18 and the number of certificates awarded by recognised awarding organisations. Headline statistics are presented on this page, followed by further detail.

### 11.5 million certificates in 2017/18

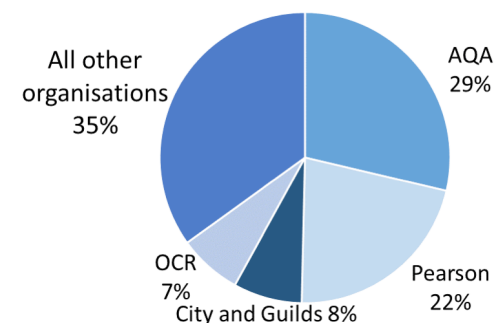


### Most popular sector subject area

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



### Market share of awarding organisations



### Available regulated qualifications

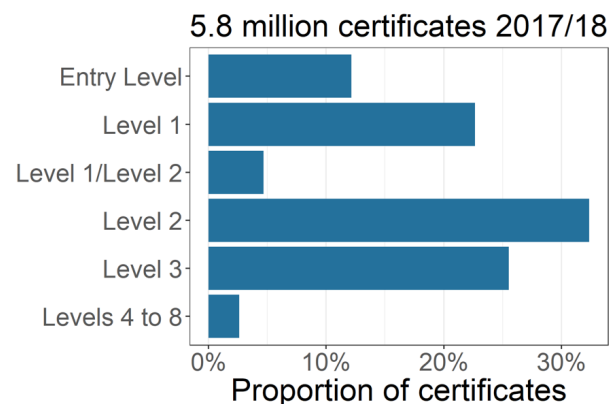
**20.8K**

Available qualifications in 2017/18.  
8% decrease on the previous year (22.5K)

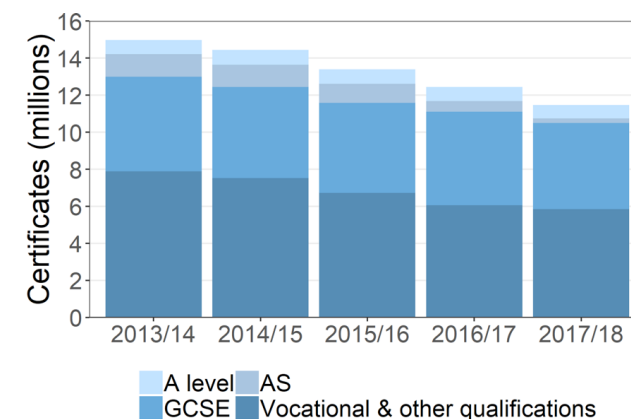
**12.7K**

Available qualifications with certificates in 2017/18.  
2% decrease on the previous year (12.9K)

### Vocational & other qualifications by level



### Overall certificates continue to decline



<b>Awarding organisations and regulated qualifications</b>	<b>3</b>
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<b>Certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>In focus: Technical qualifications</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>In focus: Applied general qualifications</b>	<b>20</b>

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**Published:** 14 February 2019

Comments and feedback are welcome

## Annual Qualifications Market Report

This report presents data on the number and types of qualifications available for award in England over the academic year 2017/18 by recognised awarding organisations; organisations which are recognised by Ofqual to develop, deliver and award qualifications can be found on Ofqual's [Register of Regulated Qualifications](#), referred to as the Register in this report.

For the purpose of this report, the 2017/18 academic year is considered the start of October 2017 to the end of September 2018. It provides an overview of the qualifications market and offers a single reference point about participants in the market.

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

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

Note that where this report refers to 'vocational and other' qualifications, this means all qualifications other than GCSEs, AS or A levels.

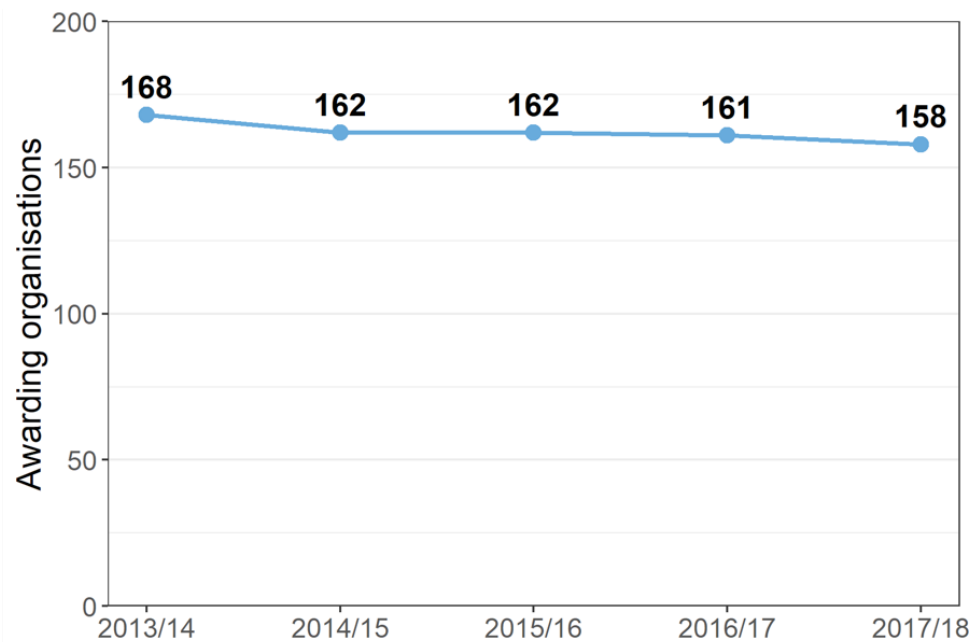
Figures for number of certificates are rounded to the nearest 5, with values 1 to 4 denoted "0~". Figures for the number of qualifications are not rounded. Further information on this release is available in the [background information](#) as well as [data tables](#) accompanying this report.

## Awarding organisations

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

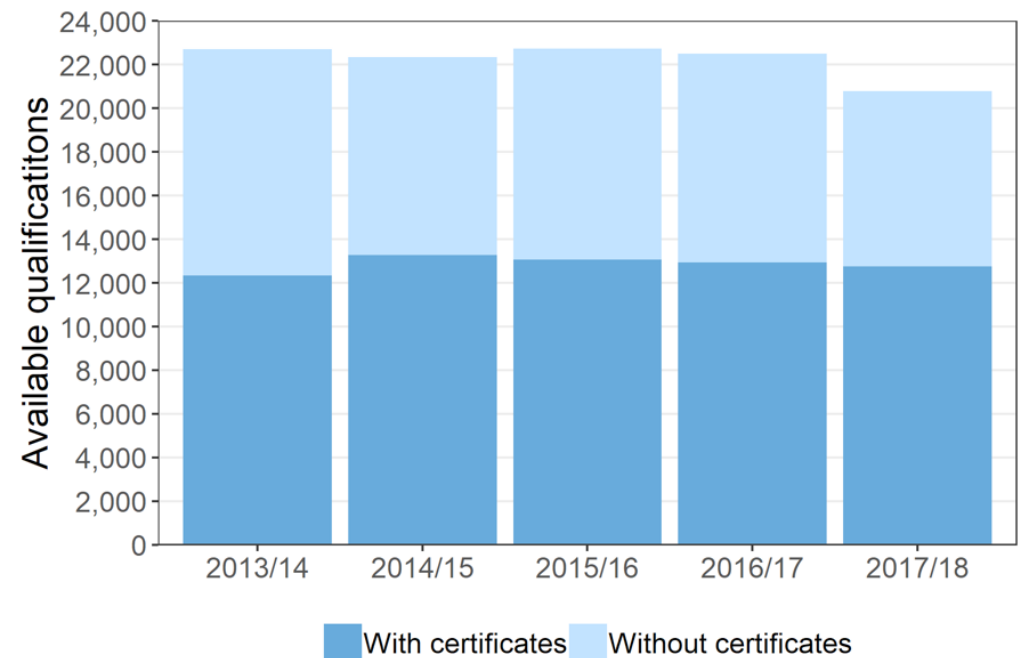
Information on qualifications (covering title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level) is taken from the Register.

**The number of awarding organisations remains steady**



There are 3 fewer awarding organisations in 2017/18, compared to 2016/17.

**The number of available qualifications declines**



There is an 8% decrease in the number of qualifications available to certificate in 2017/18, compared to the previous year. Some available qualifications have no certificates because they are new and may require a 1 or 2 year course of study before students can certificate.

# Qualification type

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

The large percentage increase in GCSE (9 to 1) is explained by [reforms to GCSEs](#). The reformed GCSE (9 to 1) qualifications are counted separately from the legacy GCSE (A\* to G) qualifications. The largest increase in the number of qualifications in 2017/18 was seen in Vocationally-Related Qualifications. This increase can partially be attributed to [Ofqual's decision to revise the list of available qualification types](#) during the 2017/18 academic year.

The largest decrease in the number of qualifications available to certificate was seen in QCF due to this revision and the removal of QCF design rules on 31 December 2017.

## Vocationally-Related qualifications see the largest increase in the number of available qualifications this year

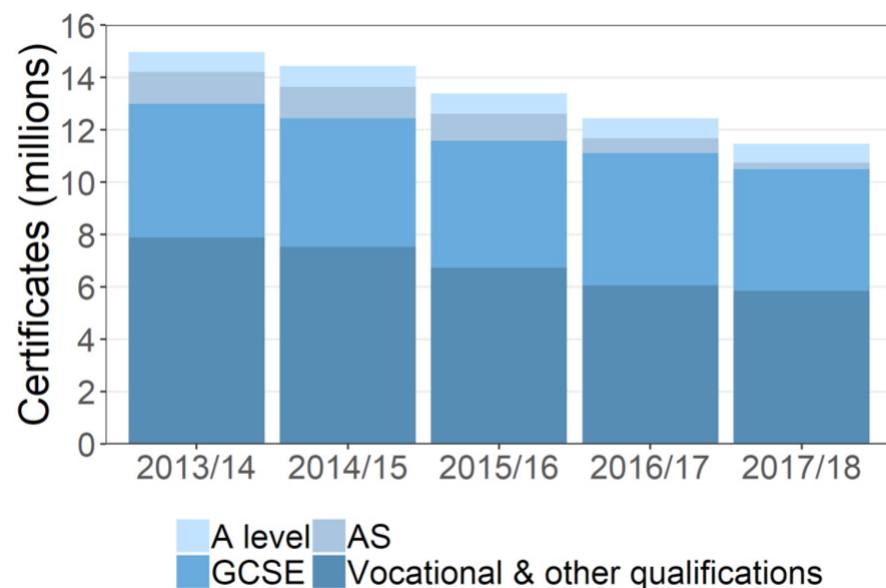
Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate		Number of qualifications with certificates		Percentage change in number of qualifications with certificates in 2017/18 from 2016/17				
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
End-Point Assessment	1	39	0	5					
GCSE (9 to 1)	95	96	12	96					
Other Vocational Qualification	565	713	370	487					
Vocationally-Related Qualification	6,741	7,259	4,446	4,978					
Occupational Qualification	4,282	4,621	2,914	3,159					
Project	14	14	12	13					
Other Life Skills Qualification	1,429	1,542	1,108	1,173					
Advanced Extension Award	1	1	1	1					
Basic Skills	0	0	0	0					
Functional Skills (QCF)	0	0	0	0					
English For Speakers of Other Languages	316	309	208	207					
Performing Arts Graded Examination	389	395	351	348					
Other General Qualification	575	570	432	421					
Entry Level	75	68	62	56					
Functional Skills	227	181	203	179					
Higher Level	24	23	7	6					
GCE A Level	316	258	271	228					
GCE AS Level	339	287	294	247					
Free Standing Mathematics Qualification	13	9	9	6					
GCSE (A* to G)	345	212	335	180					
QCF	6,656	4,153	1,904	955					
Principal Learning	11	6	3	1					
Key Skills	46	3	1	0					
National Vocational Qualification	40	31	4	0					
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>20,790</b>	<b>12,947</b>	<b>12,746</b>					

Notes: The percentage change for GCSE (9 to 1) and End-Point Assessment was greater than the range shown on the chart and have therefore been restricted to 100% to aid better interpretation of the rest of the chart.

# Certificates awarded for all qualifications

The total number of certificates awarded fell by just over 8% compared to the previous year, continuing the trend seen over several years (see notes).

## Fall in the number of overall certificates



AS qualifications see the largest percentage decrease in the number of certificates (down by 59% compared to 2017/18). This could partly be due to the decoupling of AS from A levels as part of [government policy reforms](#).

The number of certificates for A levels, GCSEs and vocational and other qualifications has declined slightly.

Qualification	2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		Percentage change 2016/17 & 2017/18
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
A level	776,860	5%	791,000	5%	774,845	6%	764,715	6%	732,720	6%	-4%
AS	1,214,790	8%	1,196,390	8%	1,020,705	8%	582,115	5%	236,175	2%	-59%
GCSE	5,102,145	34%	4,923,105	34%	4,862,795	36%	5,039,850	40%	4,664,250	41%	-7%
Vocational and other qualifications	7,889,960	53%	7,527,905	52%	6,730,975	50%	6,060,815	49%	5,838,425	51%	-4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,983,755</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>14,438,405</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,389,325</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12,447,495</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,471,565</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-8%</b>

Notes: For more information on entries in GCSEs, AS and A levels please refer to the report on [Entries and late entries for GCSE, AS and A level: 2017 to 2018 academic year](#).

# Qualification uptake

There are significant differences between qualifications in terms of the numbers of certificates awarded. A GCSE in an EBacc subject may have several hundred thousand certificates, while a niche vocational qualification may attract in the order of a hundred candidates in a given year.

## Percentage of certificates awarded against available qualifications 2017/18

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

Percentage of certificates	GCSE, AS and A level qualifications		Vocational and other qualifications	
	Number of qualifications available	Proportion (%)	Number of qualifications available	Proportion (%)
25%	4	<1%	45	<1%
50%	13	2%	265	1%
75%	52	6%	956	5%
90%	133	16%	2,342	12%
100%	754	88%	12,121	60%

The top few qualifications by number of certificates awarded account for a significant proportion of certificates awarded in 2017/18.

For GCSEs, AS and A levels, a quarter of all certificates awarded were awarded against just 4 qualifications, which represents less than 1% of the available qualifications.

In vocational and other qualifications, a quarter of all certificates were awarded against 45 qualifications, which was less than 1% of the available qualifications. Almost 40% of vocational and other qualifications available to certificate had no certificates awarded.

Notes: The number of vocational and other qualifications given here includes 126 qualifications which were either no longer available to certificate in 2017/18, or were not offered in England (they were offered in either Wales or Northern Ireland), but had certificates awarded against them. There were 3 such qualifications for GCSE, AS and A level.

## Awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates

NCFE had the largest increase in certificates compared with the previous year, largely due to increases in the number of certificates for Level 2 and Level 1 qualifications. The increase in the number of certificates for The Learning Machine was driven by increases in the number of certificates in the Information and Communication Technology sector subject area. The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of all certificates in 2017/18 awarded just under 88% of all certificates. The Learning Machine, British Safety Council, BIIAB and the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing are new to the top 20 this year. The top 5 awarding organisations by volume accounted for 69% of all certificates. The organisations are displayed below in order of volume of certificates in 2017/18.

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

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change in certificates awarded				
	2016/17	2017/18	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
AQA Education	3,402,495	3,289,355					
Pearson Education Ltd	2,867,925	2,487,875					
City and Guilds of London Institute	925,495	878,640					
OCR	1,218,840	805,960					
NCFE	316,995	402,400					
WJEC-CBAC	424,905	376,950					
Highfield Qualifications	242,825	302,315					
Trinity College London	207,110	224,415					
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	216,100	213,120					
Qualsafe Awards	181,485	201,965					
NOCN	95,870	134,890					
First Aid Awards Ltd	104,495	105,205					
The Learning Machine	29,535	103,105					
Ascentis	70,915	96,950					
Cambridge Assessment English	159,235	87,215					
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	71,230	82,415					
British Safety Council	52,510	64,465					
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	68,430	64,105					
BIIAB	63,620	63,250					
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	53,365	56,755					
Other organisations	1,674,115	1,430,210					
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,447,495</b>	<b>11,471,565</b>					

All organisations that offered AS qualifications (AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC) saw decreases in the number of certificates for the qualifications.

OCR and Pearson saw the largest decrease in number of certificates. This is largely due to decreases in the number of certificates for GCSEs as well as AS qualifications.

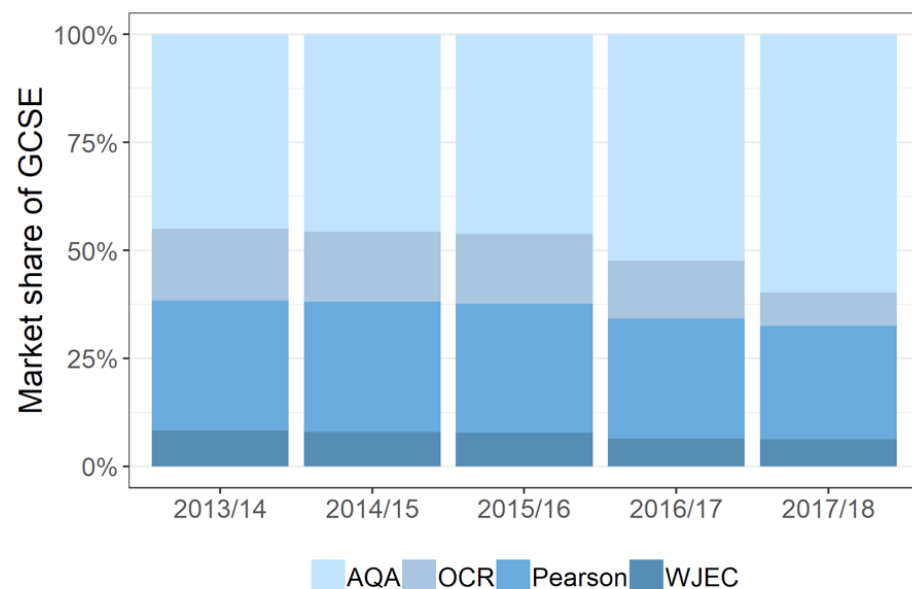
The decrease in the number of certificates for Cambridge Assessment English is driven by decreases in the number of certificates for the Preparation for Life and Work and Languages, Literature and Culture sector subject areas.

Notes: the percentage change for The Learning Machine was greater than the range on the chart and has therefore been restricted to 100% to aid better interpretation of the rest of the chart. Data for all awarding organisations is available in the accompanying data tables (Table 3).

# Market share: GCSE

There are four main awarding organisations in the England GCSE market: AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC.

## GCSE – AQA has increased its market share this year



The total number of certificates for GCSE has slightly decreased (by 7%) between 2016/17 and 2017/18. This decrease is mainly driven by the new combined science qualification replacing the legacy science and additional science qualifications in 2017/18 (see notes).

AQA has increased its market share of GCSE. This is mainly due to the increase in the number of certificates in combined science, biology, chemistry, religious studies, physics, geography, food preparation and nutrition and English language, with AQA having the main market share in these qualifications.

WJEC has had a relatively stable market share, whereas Pearson's and OCR's market share has decreased. A breakdown of GCSE market share by subject is given on the following page of this report.

Awarding Organisation	Percentage share				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
AQA	45%	46%	46%	52%	60%
OCR	17%	16%	16%	13%	8%
Pearson	30%	30%	30%	28%	26%
WJEC	8%	8%	8%	6%	6%

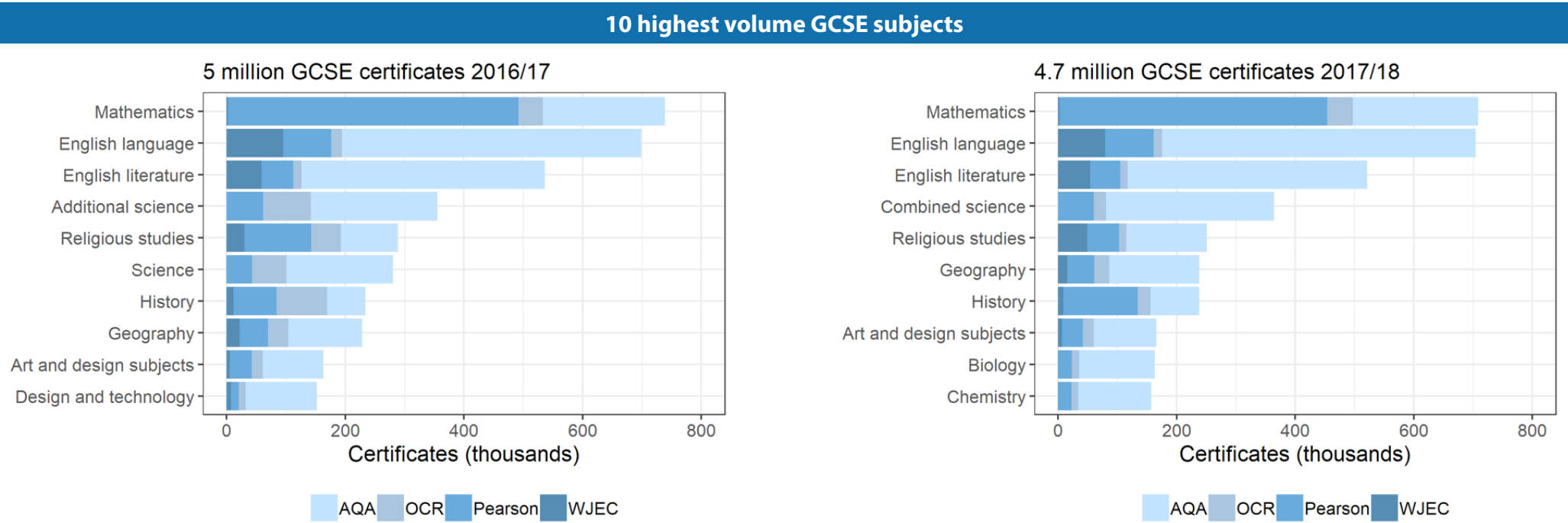
Notes: Students taking the combined science qualification will receive an award worth [2 GCSEs](#). However, in this report each award is counted as a single certificate.



# Certificates awarded in GCSE subjects in 2017/18

GCSEs are typically taken at the end of year 11 by students aged 16. There has been a decrease in the overall number of certificates in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17 due to the introduction of the new GCSE combined science replacing the legacy GCSE science and GCSE additional science this year. Mathematics continued to have the highest volume of certificates this year, despite the numbers of certificates having reduced slightly since 2016/17.

The top 10 highest volume subjects account for 75% of all GCSE certificates, 2 percentage points more than 2016/17. AQA has the largest market share in 8 of the 10 highest volume subjects. The market share of GCSE qualifications in particular has changed since reform, with schools re-evaluating the specifications for which their students are entered in reformed subjects. There has been an increase in the number of certificates for biology and chemistry (up 23% and 19% respectively from 2016/17) which are included in the top 10 highest volume GCSE subjects in 2017/18. This is likely due to the fact that in 2017/18 the only way a candidate can receive 3 science GCSEs is through separate sciences due to the removal of science, additional science and further additional science.



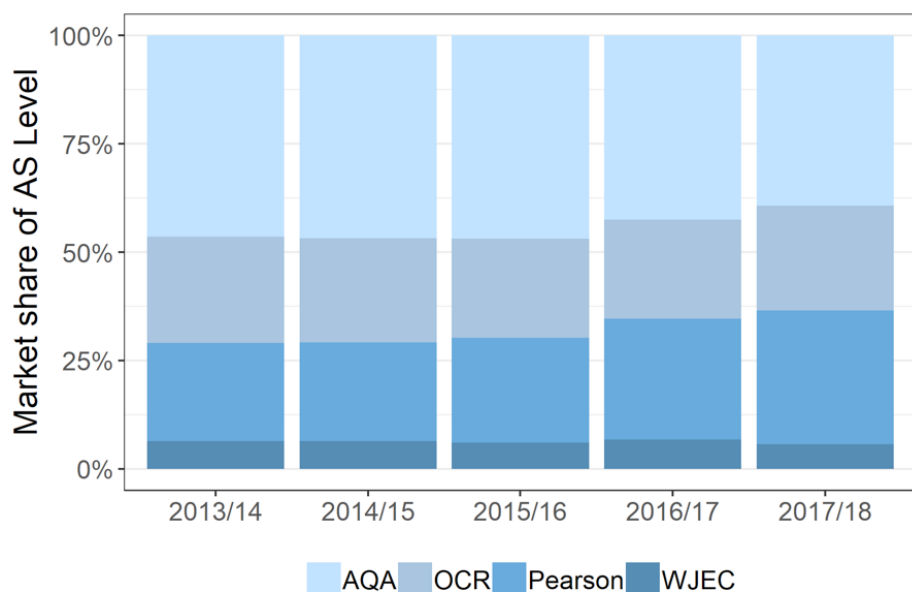
Notes: The number of certificates awarded against English language in 2016/17 contains around 70K certificates from legacy GCSE English and GCSE English language. The market share of awarding organisations in all GCSE subjects is given in the data tables accompanying this release (Table 7).

## Market share: AS and A level

The AS market is changing due to the phased AS and A level reforms, with different subjects being reformed in different years. The total number of AS certificates in 2017/18 declined by 59%. Within this shrinking market, there are changes in market shares of awarding organisations, including a fall for AQA and increases for Pearson and OCR, probably in part representing the phasing of different subjects in reform. Pearson's market share has increased because it has the market share in mathematics, which is in Phase 3 of reform.

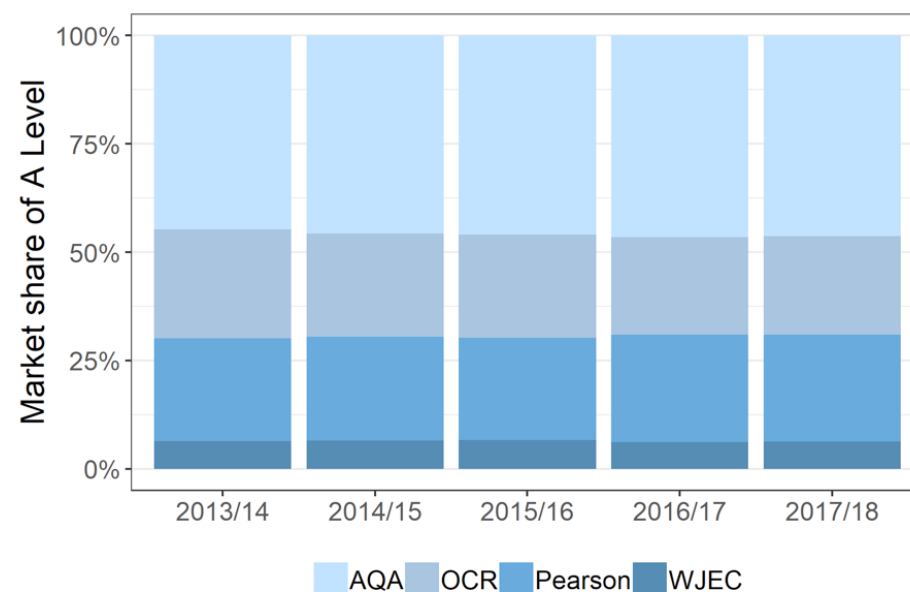
The A level market has been comparatively stable, with only a slight decline in the number of certificates in recent years (falling 4% between 2016/17 and 2017/18) and only slight changes in awarding organisations' market share as a whole and in individual subjects.

**AS level – some changes in market shares**



Awarding Organisation	Percentage share				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
AQA	46%	47%	47%	42%	39%
OCR	25%	24%	23%	23%	24%
Pearson	23%	23%	24%	28%	31%
WJEC	6%	6%	6%	7%	6%

**A level – market shares largely stable**



Awarding Organisation	Percentage share				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
AQA	45%	46%	46%	47%	46%
OCR	25%	24%	24%	22%	23%
Pearson	24%	24%	24%	25%	25%
WJEC	6%	7%	7%	6%	6%

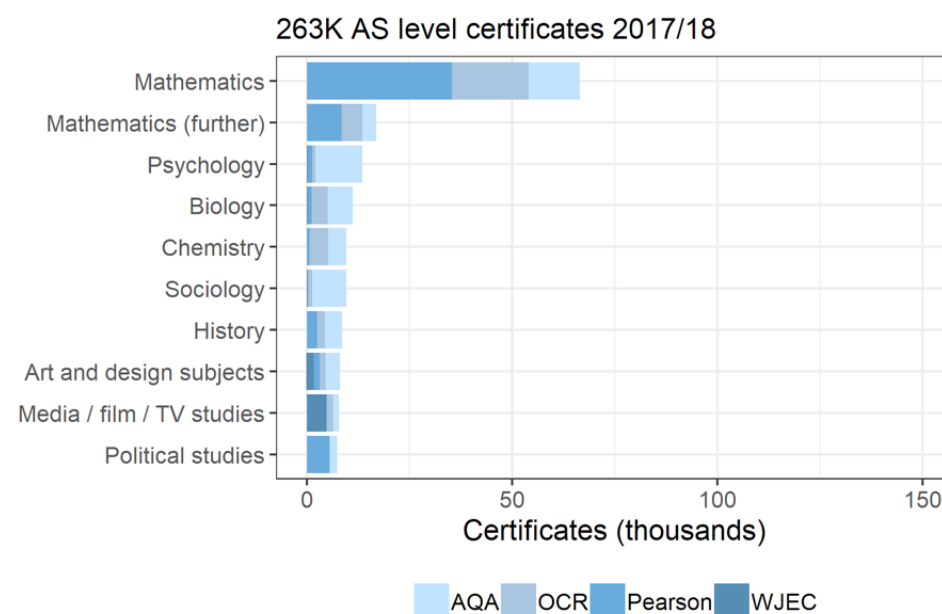
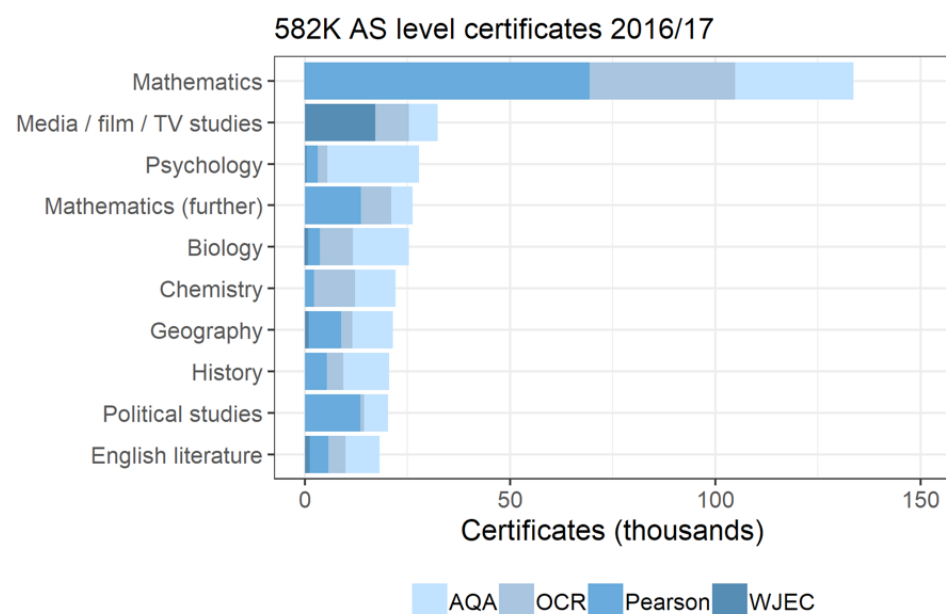
## Certificates awarded in AS subjects in 2017/18

AS qualifications are typically taken at the end of year 12 by students aged 17. The programme of qualification reform and changes to funding and enrolment patterns mean that very little has remained the same for AS this year compared to last year.

The overall volume of AS certificates has declined in almost all the subjects.

The top 10 highest volume subjects account for around 68% of all AS certificates, 8 percentage points more than 2016/17. Subject areas in the top 10 with reformed specifications have all seen a drop in certificates. This is particularly noticeable for AS mathematics and media / film/ TV studies where certificates for the decoupled AS were first awarded in 2017/18.

### 10 highest volume AS subjects



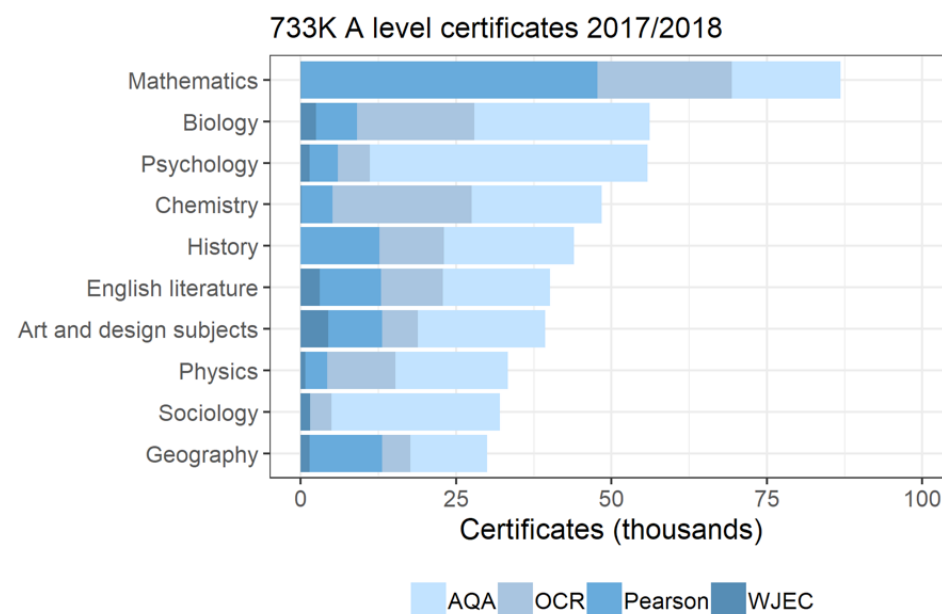
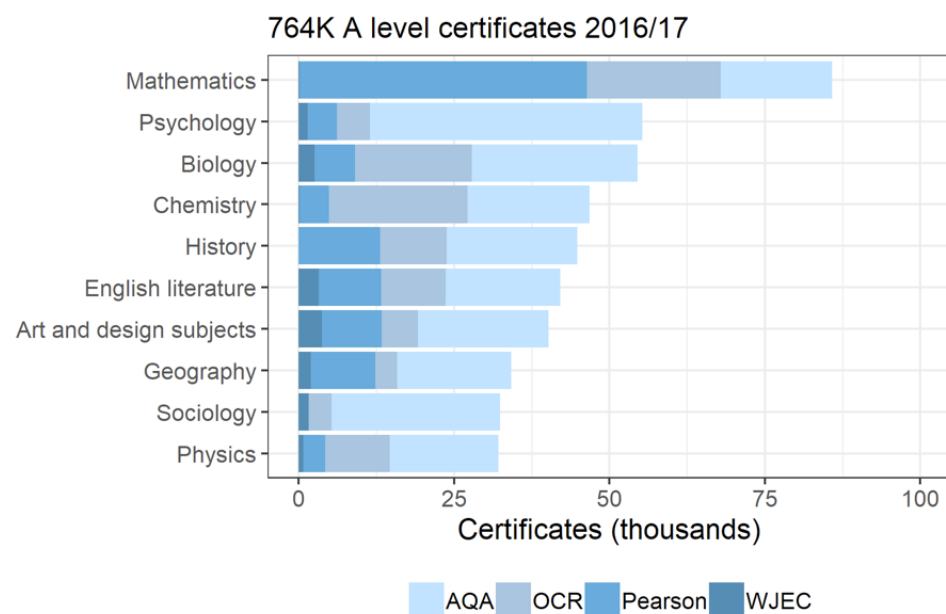
Notes: The market share of awarding organisations in all AS level subjects is given in the data tables accompanying this release (Table 8).

## Certificates awarded in A level subjects in 2017/18

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

The top 10 highest volume subjects account for 64% of all A level certificates, 3 percentage points more than 2016/17. The total number of A level certificates has been relatively stable. Additionally, each of the top 10 subjects has a similar number of certificates in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17.

### 10 highest volume A level subjects



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

# Certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications

The number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications fell by 4% between 2016/17 and 2017/18. The figure below shows the trends in the total number of certificates awarded for vocational and other qualifications for the 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of certificates in 2017/18. These organisations awarded 76% of all certificates in 2017/18. The organisations are displayed in order of the number of certificates in this year.

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change in certificates awarded				
	2016/17	2017/18	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
Pearson Education Ltd	1,116,205	1,014,780					
City and Guilds of London Institute	925,495	878,640					
NCFE	316,995	402,400					
Highfield Qualifications	242,825	302,315					
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AQA Education	161,890	69,915					
British Safety Council	52,510	64,465					
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	68,430	64,105					
BIIAB	63,620	63,250					
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	53,365	56,755					
LAMDA	63,935	56,300					
Other organisations	1,625,400	1,395,705					
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,060,815</b>	<b>5,838,425</b>					

The decline in the number of certificates awarded by AQA can be explained by the removal of Level 1/ Level 2 qualifications from school performance tables in 2017 and the removal of level 2 Further Mathematics from school performance tables in 2016. Cambridge Assessment English has also seen a notable drop in the number of certificates due to the withdrawal of Skills for Life qualifications.

Notes: The percentage change for The Learning Machine was greater than the range on the chart and has therefore been restricted to 100% to aid better interpretation of the rest of the chart. Data for all awarding organisations is available in the [Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly](#) published by Ofqual.

## Vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area

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

Sector subject area	Number of certificates		Percentage share in 2017/18	Percentage change in number of certificates 2016/17 to 2017/18					Number of awarding organisations with certificates		Change in the number of awarding organisations 2016/17 to 2017/18
	2016/17	2017/18		-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%	2016/17	2017/18	
Preparation for Life and Work	1,513,995	1,472,150	25%						45	47	↑
Health, Public Services and Care	1,095,215	1,135,300	19%						65	61	↓
Arts, Media and Publishing	744,050	735,305	13%						34	34	↔
Business, Administration and Law	423,085	429,625	7%						73	73	↔
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	445,365	407,385	7%						57	55	↓
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	328,730	344,620	6%						37	37	↔
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	299,905	343,415	6%						34	33	↓
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	314,970	297,845	5%						48	46	↓
Information and Communication Technology	344,270	273,750	5%						26	27	↑
Languages, Literature and Culture	187,505	117,045	2%						16	17	↑
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	91,295	87,800	2%						29	29	↔
Education and Training	80,020	86,060	2%						62	61	↓
Science and Mathematics	156,095	79,575	1%						16	16	↔
History, Philosophy and Theology	24,360	16,930	0.3%						10	10	↔
Social Sciences	11,955	11,625	0.2%						11	9	↓
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,060,815</b>	<b>5,838,425</b>	<b>100%</b>								

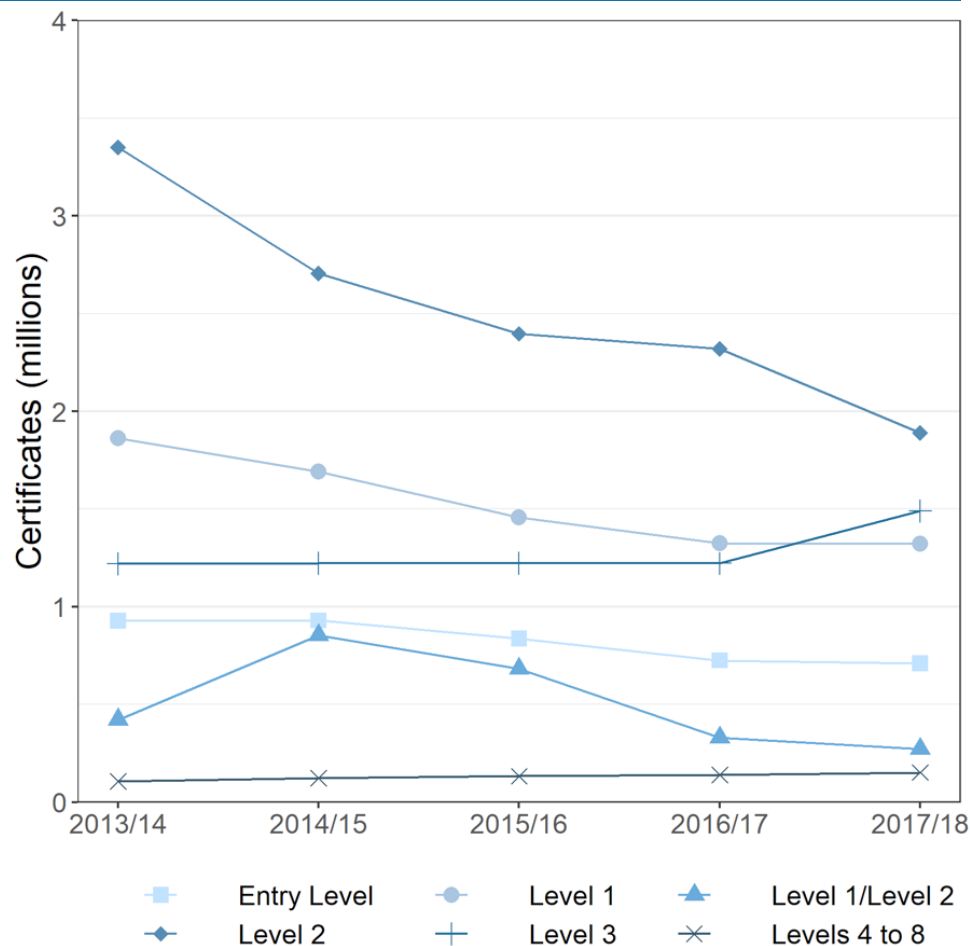
Consistent with the overall picture of a reduction in the volume of certificates, most sector subject areas have seen a slight decline. Languages, literature and culture, science and mathematics and information and communication technology have the most substantial declines due to the qualifications in these areas (Level 1/Level 2 and Level 2 certificates) no longer contributing to school performance tables due to changes in government requirements.

The largest increase in the number of certificates was seen in the health, public services and care sector. The largest increases in this sector were in several Level 3 'First Aid at Work' qualifications.

## Vocational and other qualifications by level

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

### Level 1 and Level 2 certificate numbers continue to decline



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

The increase in Level 3 certificates in 2017/18 is attributed to an increase in the number of certificates in several Level 3 'First Aid at Work' qualifications. The decline in Level 1/Level 2 certificates in the last three years is due to a small number of high volume qualifications no longer contributing to school performance tables.

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

## Vocational and other qualifications by qualification type

The qualification type with the biggest increases in certificates are Vocationally-Related Qualifications. This increase can partially be attributed to [Ofqual's decision to revise the list of available qualification types](#) during the 2017/18 academic year. The largest decrease in the number of qualifications available to certificate was seen in QCF due to this revision and the removal of QCF design rules. The reduction in the number of certificates in Other General Qualification and Entry Level can all be attributed to this revision.

### Large increase in the number of certificates in Vocationally-Related Qualifications

Qualification Type	Number of certificates		Percentage change in certificates awarded				
	2016/17	2017/18	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
End-Point Assessment	0	40					
Essential Skills (Northern Ireland)	115	300					
Other Vocational Qualification	200,990	382,535					
Vocationally-Related Qualification	2,018,655	2,417,950					
English For Speakers of Other Languages	327,870	372,040					
Other Life Skills Qualification	256,160	283,670					
Occupational Qualification	688,590	748,325					
Project	48,360	49,050					
Basic Skills	0~	0~					
Functional Skills (QCF)	0	0~					
Performing Arts Graded Examination	468,055	463,090					
Functional Skills	754,475	701,585					
Other General Qualification	349,450	278,825					
Higher Level	255	180					
Advanced Extension Award	275	175					
Entry Level	36,855	19,130					
Free Standing Mathematics Qualification	9,260	2,895					
QCF	898,055	118,555					
Principal Learning	445	15					
Key Skills	2,620	60					
National Vocational Qualification	320	0~					
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,060,815</b>	<b>5,838,425</b>					

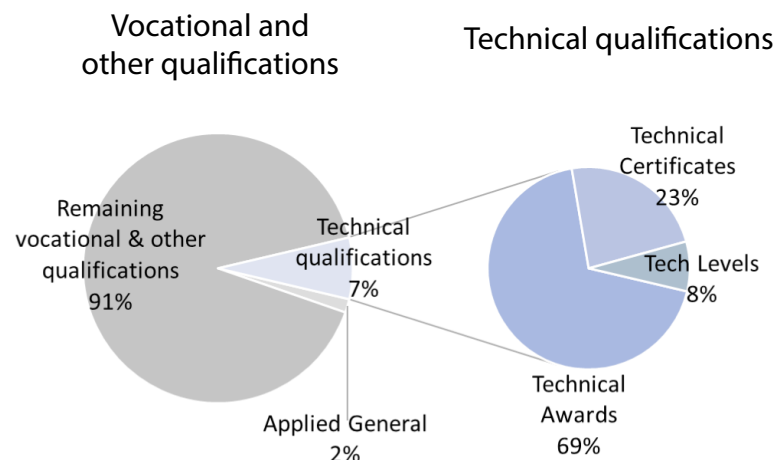
Notes: The percentage change for Essential Skills (Northern Ireland) and End-Point Assessment was greater than the range on the chart and have therefore been restricted to 100% to aid better interpretation of the rest of the chart.



## IN FOCUS: Technical Qualifications

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

**7% of the 5.8 million Vocational and other qualifications certificates were awarded in Technical Qualifications**

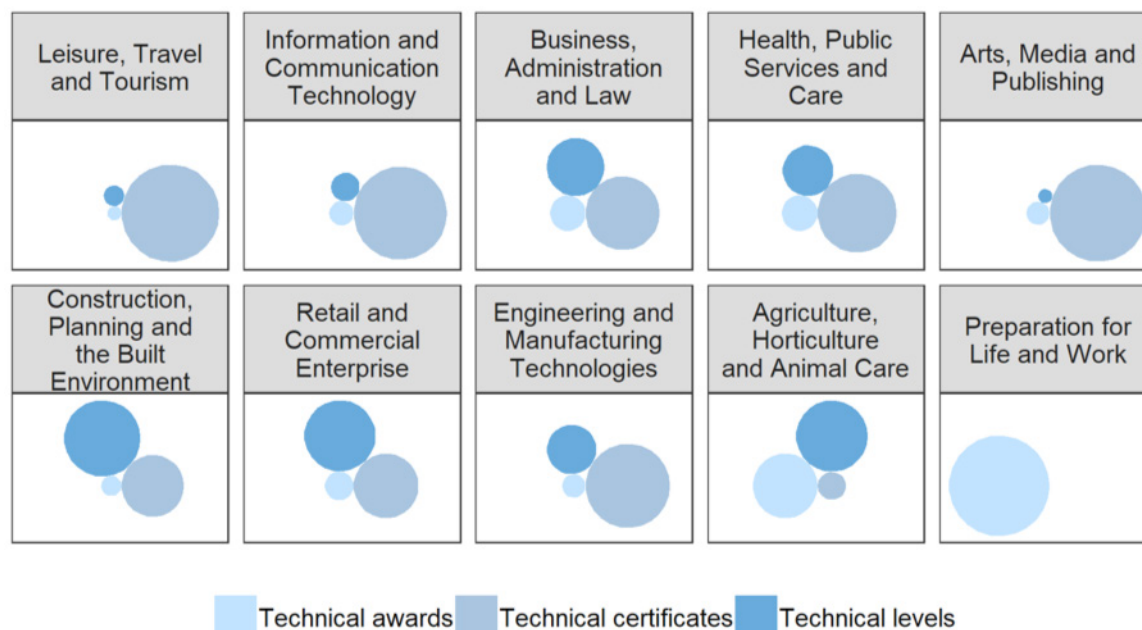


The 428K technical qualification certificates awarded in 2017/18 comprise:

- **Technical Awards:** these are designed for study at key stage 4 (14-16 year olds) and require the same or more guided learning hours as a GCSE. These are Level 1, Level 2 or Level 1/ Level 2 qualifications. There were just under 294K certificates in Technical Awards in 2017/18.
- **Technical Certificates:** these are designed for study at key stage 5 (16 to 19 year olds) and are intended for students who wish to specialise in a specific industry or prepare for a particular job. They are Level 2 qualifications. There were just over 100K certifications in Technical Certificates in 2017/18.
- **Tech Levels,** like Technical Certificates, are designed for study at key stage 5. These are Level 3 qualifications. There were just under 34K certificates in Tech Levels in 2017/18.

## Technical Qualifications and sector subject area

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



### Number of certificates in Technical Qualifications in 2017/18

Sector subject area	Certificates 2017/18			Total certificates		Percentage change in number of certificates 2016/17 to 2017/18				
	Technical awards	Technical certificates	Technical levels	2016/17	2017/18	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	62,515	2,795	1,350	63,315	66,660					
Information and Communication Technology	53,165	5,005	3,645	196,495	61,820					
Business, Administration and Law	32,290	19,840	7,515	45,720	59,645					
Health, Public Services and Care	36,640	15,085	7,505	53,875	59,235					
Arts, Media and Publishing	49,100	1,035	2,760	71,875	52,895					
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	17,595	26,540	1,890	55,530	46,025					
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	14,995	18,175	2,950	34,455	36,120					
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	16,025	5,520	1,230	53,515	22,770					
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	965	6,250	5,145	21,440	12,360					
Preparation for Life and Work	10,630	0	0	3,670	10,630					
<b>Total</b>	<b>293,920</b>	<b>100,250</b>	<b>33,990</b>	<b>599,895</b>	<b>428,160</b>					

Notes: The percentage change for Preparation for Life and Work was greater than the range on the chart and has therefore been restricted to 100% to aid better interpretation of the rest of the chart.

## Technical qualifications by awarding organisation

Awarding Organisation	Certificates 2017/18			Total Certificates		Percentage change in number of certificates 2016/17 to 2017/18				
	Technical awards	Technical certificates	Technical levels	2016/17	2017/18	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
Pearson Education Ltd	176,475	20,775	4,255	235,535	201,505					
OCR	44,330	4,950	4,585	41,955	53,865					
City and Guilds of London Institute	495	46,090	6,695	86,605	53,280					
NCFE	24,160	0	6,000	19,465	30,165					
The Learning Machine	23,625	0	0	6,430	23,625					
Association of Accounting Technicians	0	11,300	7,515	8,650	18,810					
VTCT	1,490	9,610	1,510	13,945	12,610					
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	10,630	0	0	3,670	10,630					
WJEC-CBAC	8,565	0	0	3,445	8,565					
NOCN	0	5,100	1,250	0	6,350					
Rock School Ltd	3,115	0~	1,800	3,065	4,920					
Cskills Awards, part of the NOCN Group	0	750	230	9,650	980					
The Institute of the Motor Industry	520	300	25	10,885	845					
Active IQ	0	580	55	5,950	635					
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	370	165	65	1,525	600					
BPEC Certification Ltd	0	385	0	570	385					
Skills and Education Group Awards	55	240	0	260	295					
1st4sport Qualifications	95	5	0	0	100					
Central Qualifications	0	10	0	125	10					
AQA Education	0	0	0	0	0					
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	0	0	0	146,400	0					
Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment	0	0	0	0	0					
Chartered Institute of Legal Executives	0	0	0	0	0					
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	0	0	0	0	0					
Education & Media Services Ltd trading as ITEC	0	0	0	225	0					
IMI Awards Ltd	0	0	0	0	0					
YMCA Awards	0	0	0	1,535	0					
<b>Total</b>	<b>293,920</b>	<b>100,250</b>	<b>33,990</b>	<b>599,895</b>	<b>428,160</b>					

Overall there was a decline of 29% in the number of certificates awarded in technical qualifications in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17. A large proportion of this drop was due to the fall in the number of certificates awarded by BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, due to its Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills no longer being awarded.

Pearson is the single largest provider of technical awards due to its Level 1/Level 2 BTEC qualifications.

City and Guilds dominate the Technical certificate market and the Association of Accounting Technicians is the largest provider of Technical levels.

Notes: The percentage changes for The Learning Machine, Association of Accounting Technicians, The London Institute of Banking & Finance and WJEC-CBAC was greater than the range on the chart and have therefore been restricted to 100% to aid better interpretation of the rest of the chart.

# IN FOCUS: Certificates awarded in Applied General Qualifications

Applied General Qualifications are designated as such according to Department for Education criteria and can count towards school [performance tables](#). They are for students who want to continue their education through applied learning. They offer a progression route to employment or Higher education. They are all Level 3 qualifications aimed at post-16 learners. Applied Generals have a smaller volume of certificates compared to Technical Qualifications at 2% of the Vocational and other qualification certificates.

There were 57% fewer Applied General certificates in 2017/18 than in the previous year, driven by [substantial changes](#) in the list of applied general qualifications that are eligible for reporting in performance tables. From 2017/18, all applied general qualifications must meet the full requirements to be reported in performance tables. As a result, the list of eligible applied general qualifications changed significantly from 2016/17 to 2017/18; [over 90% of Applied General qualifications eligible in 2016/17 were no longer eligible in 2017/18](#).

## Applied Generals represent 2% of Vocational and other qualifications

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change in certificates awarded				
	2016/17	2017/18	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
AQA Education	65	4,100					
The Learning Machine	10	80					
WJEC-CBAC	605	5,715					
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	7,015	7,680					
1st4sport Qualifications	0	0					
OCR	13,585	11,490					
VTCT	160	60					
Pearson Education Ltd	180,225	65,910					
NCFE	50	10					
Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment	15	0~					
University of the Arts London	20,715	0					
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,445</b>	<b>95,045</b>					

The decrease in the number of certificates for Pearson and University of the Arts London can be attributed to changes in performance table eligibility in 2017/18. The increase in the number of certificates for WJEC and AQA can be attributed to changes in performance table eligibility in 2017/18.

The largest provider of Applied Generals is Pearson, whose qualifications represent 64% of all Applied General certificates. The London Institute of Banking & Finance has the second highest volume of certificates (around 15%).

Notes: The percentage changes for AQA Education, The Learning Machine and WJEC-CBAC were greater than the range on the chart and have therefore been restricted to 100% to aid better interpretation of the rest of the chart.

## Applied General Qualifications by sector subject area

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

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

Sector subject area	Number of certificates		Percentage share in 2017/18	Percentage change in number of certificates 2016/17 to 2017/18					Number of awarding organisations with certificates		Change in the number of awarding organisations 2016/17 to 2017/18
	2016/17	2017/18		-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%	2016/17	2017/18	
Social Sciences	410	5,250	5.5%						1	1	—
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	675	1,625	1.7%						2	2	—
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	75	80	0.1%						2	1	↓
Business, Administration and Law	54,385	30,335	31.9%						4	5	↑
Science and Mathematics	23,595	12,645	13.3%						2	4	↑
Health, Public Services and Care	32,210	17,175	18.1%						2	2	—
Information and Communication Technology	24,005	10,150	10.7%						2	2	—
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	505	165	0.2%						2	1	↓
Arts, Media and Publishing	45,435	10,090	10.6%						5	3	↓
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	40,930	7,535	7.9%						3	3	—
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	150	0	0.0%						1	0	↓
Preparation for Life and Work	65	0	0.0%						1	0	↓
<b>Total</b>	<b>222,445</b>	<b>95,045</b>	<b>100%</b>								

There is a decline in the number of certificates in Applied General Qualifications across major sector subject areas in 2017/18. Only Social Sciences, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and Construction, Planning and the Built Environments experienced an increase in the number of certificates.

Notes: The percentage changes for Social Sciences and Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies were greater than the range on the chart and have therefore been restricted to 100% to aid better interpretation of the rest of the chart



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