



Level 2 and 3 attainment in England: Attainment by age 19 in 2018

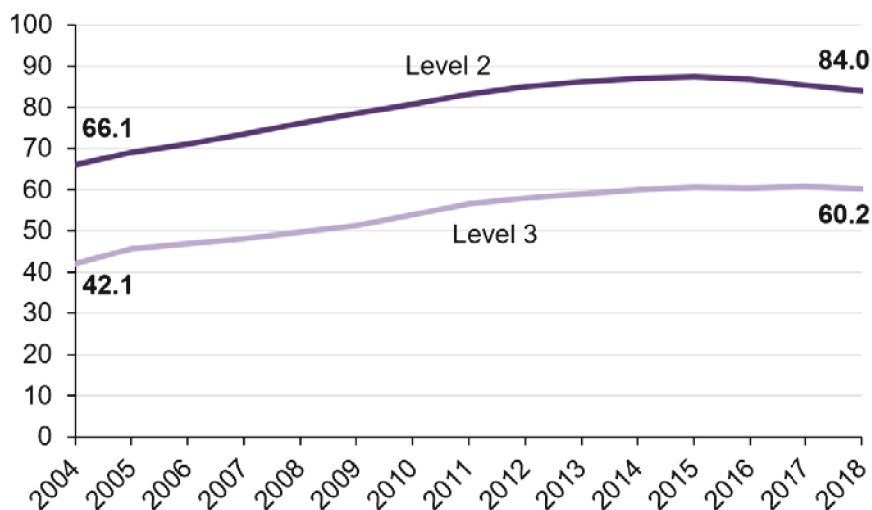


4 April 2019

Attainment of Level 2 and Level 3 by age 19 fell in 2018. The decrease in Level 2 attainment was the third consecutive annual fall.

Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 and Level 3, 2004-2018

Based on pupils in English schools at academic age 14



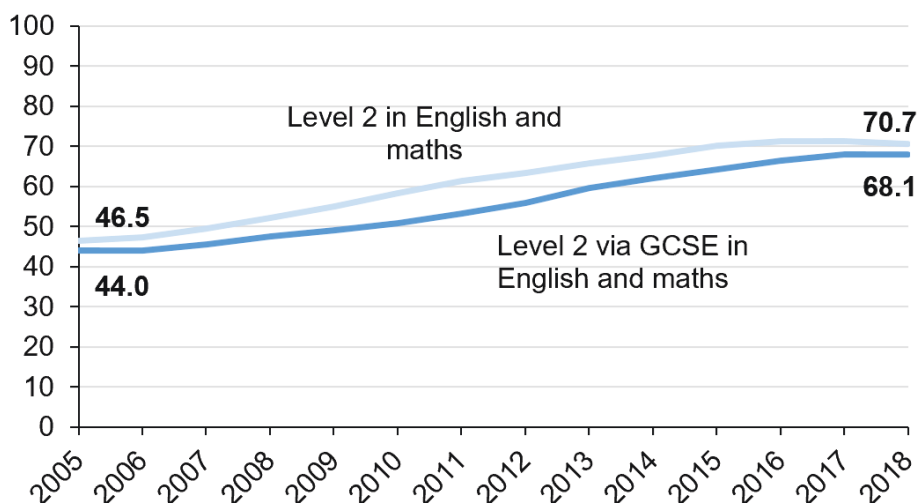
Nationally, 60.2% of 19 year olds were qualified to Level 3 (2 or more A levels, or an equivalent Level 3 qualification), a decline of 0.5 percentage points (ppts) since 2017.

84.0% of 19 year olds were qualified to Level 2 (5 GCSE A*-C/9-4 or other Level 2 qualifications) in 2018, which is a decrease of 1.4 ppts compared to 2017¹. This is the third consecutive annual fall following increases each year between 2004 and 2015.

For state-funded learners, there was a decline in 2018 of 19 year olds achieving Level 2 in English and Maths, but Level 2 in English and Maths via GCSEs only remained stable.

Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 in English & Maths, 2005-2018

Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15



70.7% of 19 year olds that were state-funded learners were qualified to Level 2 in English and Maths in 2018, a fall of 0.7 ppts compared to 2017.

Attainment of Level 2 in English and maths via GCSE only by age 19 was 68.1% in 2018, unchanged from last year.

The progression rate between 16 and 19 - the proportion of young people who did not achieve a Level 2 qualification in English and maths at age 16 but achieved both by age 19 – rose from 25.9% in 2017 to 27.2% in 2018.

¹ The fall is likely to be attributable, at least in part, to a reduction in the types of vocational qualifications counted as level 2 in the school performance tables from 2013/14 onwards.

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In this publication

The following tables are published alongside this document:

- 1-5: National Tables including those in state-funded maintained schools, independent schools and PRUs at academic age 14
- 6-15: National Tables for those in the state sector at academic age 15 which include breakdowns by pupils' characteristics
- 16-24: Local authority tables for those in the state sector at academic age 15 which include breakdowns by pupils' characteristics

The local authority data is also available to view through an interactive dashboard available at: <https://department-for-education.shinyapps.io/attainment-age-19/>

Underlying data is also published for all tables; the main attainment measures are also disaggregated to the level of local authority district and by pupil groups relating to socio-economic background (FSM and disadvantage) for 19 year olds in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

The accompanying Technical Document provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

Revisions to previously published figures

As part of each statistics release, previously published figures can also be revised. In some instances, for example, it can transpire that some learners might have been double counted in the first instance or qualifications for some learners were reported later than expected. These issues in relation to previously published figures are then addressed through revisions to the time-series tables for the latest year's release. Therefore, when making time-series comparisons, only figures from the latest release should be used.

Feedback

We would welcome feedback on any aspect of this publication at Post16.STATISTICS@education.gov.uk.

About this publication

These National Statistics provide the latest information at both national and local authority level on the attainment of 19 year olds from 2004 to 2018 for all learners, and from 2005 to 2018 for state-funded learners. The figures are based on the Department for Education's matched administrative dataset consisting of data from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR), key stage 4 and 5 awarding body results and the School Census.

Young people "aged 19 in 2018" refers to learners who were aged 19 as at 31st August 2018.

This publication is split into two cohorts: a national cohort which covers all schools, and a state-funded cohort.

National cohort

The overall national cohort includes young people attending state funded maintained schools, alternative providers, independent schools, and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs). The most recent data covering 19 year olds as at the end of the 2017/18 academic year (i.e. 31 August 2018) captures all learners who were academic age 14 at the start of 2013/14 i.e. were aged 14 as at 31 August 2013.

State-funded cohort

The state funded cohort includes young people attending state-funded maintained schools, alternative providers, and PRUs. A small number of pupils attending non-maintained special schools are also included in this cohort. The most recent data covering 19 year olds as at the end of the 2017/18 academic year (i.e. 31 August 2018) captures learners who were academic age 15 at the start of 2014/15 i.e. were aged 15 as at 31 August 2014. For the state-funded cohort, characteristics data is based on learners' profiles at academic age 15.

Charts

For ease of reference, charts are coloured purple when based on the national cohort, and coloured blue when based on the state-funded cohort.

Levels of attainment

This release is based on various qualifications which make up Level 2 and Level 3 attainment.

Level 2 is acquired through various routes including academic, National Information System Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ) and Work Based Learning (WBL), and includes GCSE grades 4-9 (or A*-C), CSE grade 1 and intermediate apprenticeships, as well as Level 2 awards, certificates and diplomas.

Level 2 in English and maths attainment to Level 2 in English and maths.

Level 3 is acquired through various routes including academic, NISVQ and WBL and includes NVQ passes at Level 3, International Baccalaureates and Advanced Apprenticeships, as well as AS levels and A/A2 levels.

Tech levels are rigorous level 3 technical qualifications on a par with A Levels and recognised by employers. They are for learners aged 16 and over that want to specialise in a specific industry or prepare for a particular job.

Technical certificate qualifications are rigorous intermediate (level 2) technical qualifications recognised by employers. They are for students aged 16 and over that wish to specialise in a specific industry or prepare for a particular job. A more comprehensive list of qualification types is included in the technical document under the 'Qualification Types' header.

Time series comparison

Analysis over time is permissible, however caution should be taken due to the following educational reforms;

At **Level 2** reforms have resulted in a reduction in the types of vocational qualifications counted as level 2 in the school performance tables from 2013/14 onwards.

At **Level 3** AS levels and A levels were 'decoupled' as part of reforms which started in the 2015/16 academic year. This has resulted in AS results no longer counting towards an A-level (and AS levels becoming standalone qualifications), leading to a reduction in AS level entries and in the number of people achieving Level 3 through AS levels at age 17.

1. National attainment to Level 2 and Level 3 at age 19

Level 3 (SFR Table 1)

In 2018, 60.2% of 19 year olds were qualified to Level 3, a decrease of 0.5 ppts compared with the previous year. Prior to then, the proportion of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3 increased each year from 2005 to 2015, however the figure fluctuated between 2015 and 2017.

Table 1: Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3 by age of attainment, 2004 – 2018

Based on pupils in English schools at academic age 14

Age and year of cohort	Attainment of Level 3 at age			
	16	17	18	19
19 in 2004 (16 in 2001, 17 in 2002, 18 in 2003)	0.1	11.8	36.4	42.1
...
19 in 2010 (16 in 2007, 17 in 2008, 18 in 2009)	0.1	17.0	44.8	53.8
19 in 2011 (16 in 2008, 17 in 2009, 18 in 2010)	0.1	17.4	47.4	56.5
19 in 2012 (16 in 2009, 17 in 2010, 18 in 2011)	0.1	18.2	48.9	58.0
19 in 2013 (16 in 2010, 17 in 2011, 18 in 2012)	0.1	23.1	50.5	59.1
19 in 2014 (16 in 2011, 17 in 2012, 18 in 2013)	0.1	23.4	51.4	60.0
19 in 2015 (16 in 2012, 17 in 2013, 18 in 2014)	0.1	23.2	51.8	60.5
19 in 2016 (16 in 2013, 17 in 2014, 18 in 2015)	0.1	22.8	51.7	60.3
19 in 2017 (16 in 2014, 17 in 2015, 18 in 2016)	0.1	22.2	51.9	60.7
19 in 2018 (16 in 2015, 17 in 2016, 18 in 2017)	0.1	14.7	51.6	60.2

Source: DfE, Matched Administrative Data

Table 1 shows that attainment of Level 3 by age 17 has fallen by 7.5 ppts over the last two cohorts. This coincides with the “decoupling” of AS levels from A levels as part of reforms which started in the 2015/16 academic year. This has resulted in AS results no longer counting towards an A-level (and AS levels becoming standalone qualifications), leading to a reduction in AS level entries² and in turn a fall in the number of 17 year olds achieving Level 3 through AS levels³.

Level 3 by qualification type

Figure 1 splits attainment at age 19 by qualification type⁴ and shows that the overall increase in the percentage of young people qualified to Level 3 from 2005 to 2016 was mainly driven by an increase in the attainment of vocational qualifications. However, between 2015 and 2017 attainment of Level 3 vocational qualifications remained unchanged, with 2018 seeing a 0.2 ppt fall in those achieving Level 3 by a vocational qualification. The decline of Level 3 attainment at 19 between 2017 and 2018 of 0.5 ppts is mainly attributable to a fall of 0.4 ppts in Level 3 attainment at 19 through AS Levels. However, this has been offset in part by an increase of 0.2 ppts in Level 3 attainment at 19 through A levels. (Table 3)

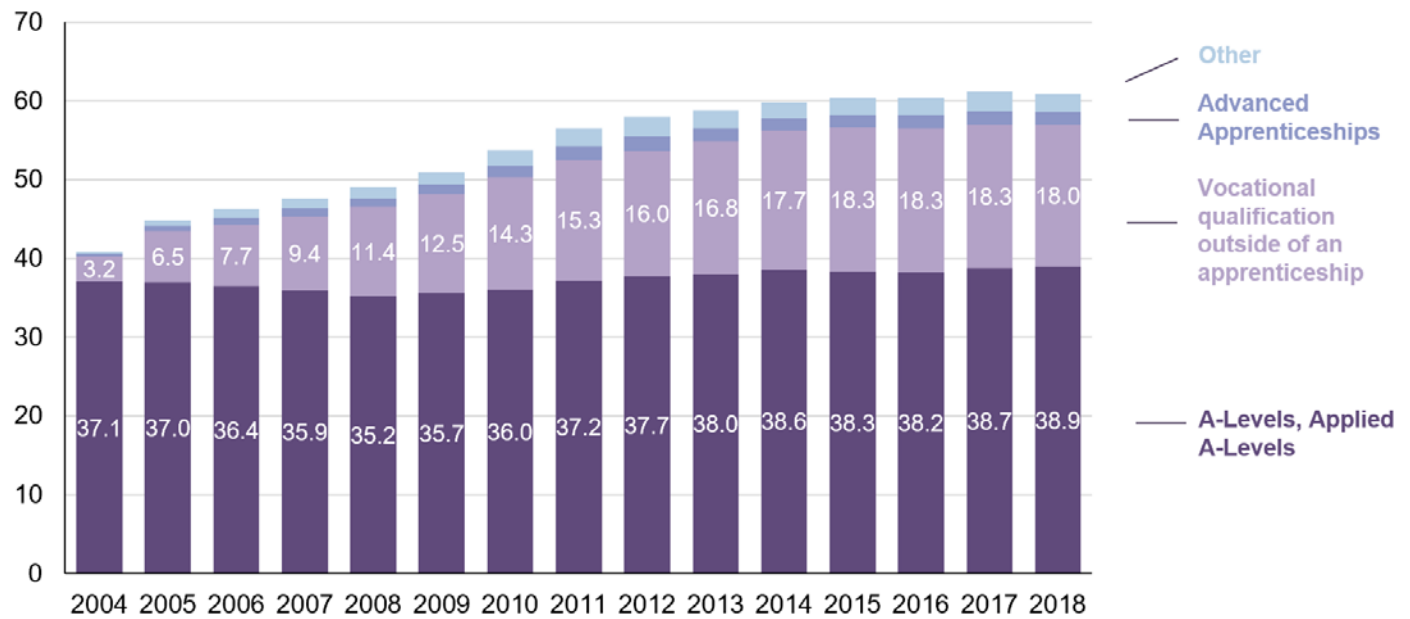
² See [Revised A level and other 16-18 results in England, 2017/18](#)

³ In these statistics AS levels count for 25% of Level 3 and can be aggregated, so that four AS levels are counted as achievement of full Level 3. See Technical Document for more details.

⁴ These are based on qualifications held at 19 prioritised in the following order: A levels, International Baccalaureates, AS levels, Advanced Apprenticeships and Vocational Qualifications outside of apprenticeships.

Figure 1: Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3 by qualification type, 2004 - 2018

Based on pupils in English schools at academic age 14



Level 2 (SFR Table 1)

The proportion of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 decreased from 85.4% in 2017 to 84.0% in 2018. This is the third consecutive annual fall in a series that had otherwise been rising each year since 2004. (**Table 1**).

Table 2: Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 by age of achievement, 2004 to 2018

Based on pupils in English schools at academic age 14

Age and year of cohort	Attainment of Level 2 by age			
	16	17	18	19
19 in 2004 (16 in 2001, 17 in 2002, 18 in 2003)	49.5	55.7	61.9	66.1
...
19 in 2010 (16 in 2007, 17 in 2008, 18 in 2009)	58.9	68.2	76.8	80.8
19 in 2011 (16 in 2008, 17 in 2009, 18 in 2010)	61.0	70.6	79.5	83.3
19 in 2012 (16 in 2009, 17 in 2010, 18 in 2011)	64.0	73.7	82.0	85.1
19 in 2013 (16 in 2010, 17 in 2011, 18 in 2012)	67.2	76.0	83.4	86.1
19 in 2014 (16 in 2011, 17 in 2012, 18 in 2013)	69.3	77.3	84.3	87.0
19 in 2015 (16 in 2012, 17 in 2013, 18 in 2014)	69.5	77.5	84.8	87.5
19 in 2016 (16 in 2013, 17 in 2014, 18 in 2015)	67.6	76.2	84.0	86.9
19 in 2017 (16 in 2014, 17 in 2015, 18 in 2016)	65.0	73.9	82.2	85.4
19 in 2018 (16 in 2015, 17 in 2016, 18 in 2017)	63.5	72.2	80.7	84.0

DfE, Matched Administrative Data

The decrease in Level 2 attainment at age 19 between 2017 and 2018 of 1.4 ppts was driven by an identical fall in Level 2 attainment for this cohorts at age 16. In turn, this fall is likely to be attributable, at least in part, to a reduction in the types of vocational qualifications counted as level 2 in the school performance tables from 2013/14 onwards⁵.

⁵ [Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England, 2013-2014](#)

2. Attainment of those in the state sector

(Tables 6-15)

The rest of this publication reports on attainment for young people who were in the state sector at academic age 15, meaning that pupils attending independent schools and PRUs at academic age 15 are excluded. As well as overall attainment for this group, we report on attainment by characteristics, as recorded in the school census at academic age 15.

There are differences in the methodology between the measures of attainment for young people who were in the state sector and those relating to all young people, which mean that they should not be directly compared – see coverage section in the Technical Document for further details.

Level 3 attainment by age 19 (Tables 6, 9, 15a)

Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15

The proportion of state funded learners who achieved Level 3 by age 19 was 57.2% in 2018, a fall of 0.4 pts from 2017.

Between 2017 and 2018, the gap between males and females attaining Level 3 widened to 10.4 pts, with females having higher attainment at Level 3. This is the widest gap since 2009 and follows a trend of the gap widening from 2013 onwards.

64.5% of non-disadvantaged pupils⁶ achieved level 3 by age 19 compared to 37.8% of disadvantaged pupils. The gap of 26.7 pts represents a widening of 0.1 pts compared with the previous year.

Of those not eligible for FSM, 60.7% had achieved Level 3 by age 19 compared to 35.0% of those who were eligible. The gap of 25.7 pts represents a widening of 0.4 pts compared with the previous year. The FSM gap is above 25.0 pts for the second consecutive year.

Attainment of Level 3 by age 19 for those with SEN was 26.6% in 2018, compared to 63.1% for those without SEN. The attainment gap of 36.5 pts has narrowed by 0.1 ppt compared to 2017.

In 2018, 70.5% of those living in the 25% least deprived areas according to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI⁷) achieved Level 3 by age 19 compared to 46.6% of those living in the 25% most deprived areas. The gap of 23.9 pts represents a narrowing of 0.2 pts compared with 2017 and continues the trend of the gap reducing from a peak of 35.7 pts in 2005.

⁶ This is the first release in this series to include a disadvantaged indicator. It captures young people who were eligible for and claimed free school meals in any year during the six years prior to being academic age 15, or were looked after by their local authority at any time during the 12 months prior to being academic age 15. The indicator also includes those that have ceased to be looked after through adoption, a guardianship order, a child arrangement order, or a residence order.

⁷ See Technical Document for more information about Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)

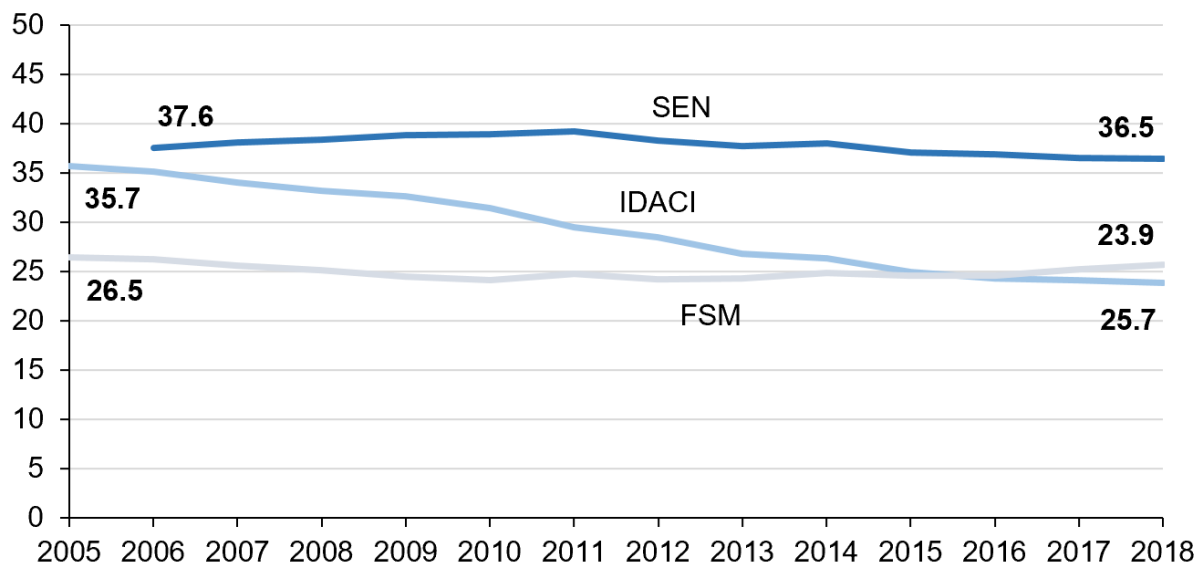
Table 3: Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3 by pupil characteristics, 2005 to 2018

Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15

Characteristics (as recorded at academic age 15)	2005	...	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Male	37.9	...	45.5	48.8	51.1	52.0	52.7	52.9	52.3	52.7	52.1
Female	47.3	...	56.3	58.6	59.4	60.7	61.5	62.3	62.2	62.7	62.5
Attainment gap	9.5	...	10.8	9.8	8.3	8.8	8.9	9.3	9.9	10.0	10.4
Non-disadvantaged	-	...	57.7	60.4	61.9	62.9	63.6	64.3	64.2	64.9	64.5
Disadvantaged	-	...	29.3	31.9	33.9	35.5	36.4	37.7	38.1	38.0	37.8
Attainment gap	-	...	28.3	28.5	28.0	27.4	27.2	26.6	26.1	26.8	26.7
Not eligible for FSM	46.4	...	53.9	56.7	58.3	59.5	60.5	61.0	60.8	61.2	60.7
Eligible for FSM	19.9	...	29.7	32.0	34.1	35.3	35.7	36.4	36.3	36.0	35.0
Attainment gap	26.5	...	24.2	24.7	24.2	24.3	24.8	24.6	24.6	25.3	25.7
No identified SEN	-	...	58.4	62.1	64.3	65.7	66.2	65.8	64.9	64.8	63.1
All SEN pupils	-	...	19.4	22.9	26.0	27.9	28.2	28.7	28.0	28.2	26.6
Attainment gap	-	...	39.0	39.2	38.3	37.7	38.0	37.1	36.9	36.6	36.5
25% least deprived	60.9	...	66.9	68.9	70.2	70.5	71.3	71.1	70.5	71.0	70.5
25% most deprived	25.2	...	35.5	39.5	41.7	43.7	45.0	46.2	46.2	46.9	46.6
Attainment gap	35.7	...	31.5	29.5	28.5	26.8	26.3	24.9	24.3	24.1	23.9

Figure 3: Level 3 (percentage point) attainment gaps at age 19 for special education needs (SEN)/non SEN, the least and most deprived (IDACI) areas and free school meal entitlement (FSM)/non FSM, 2005 to 2018

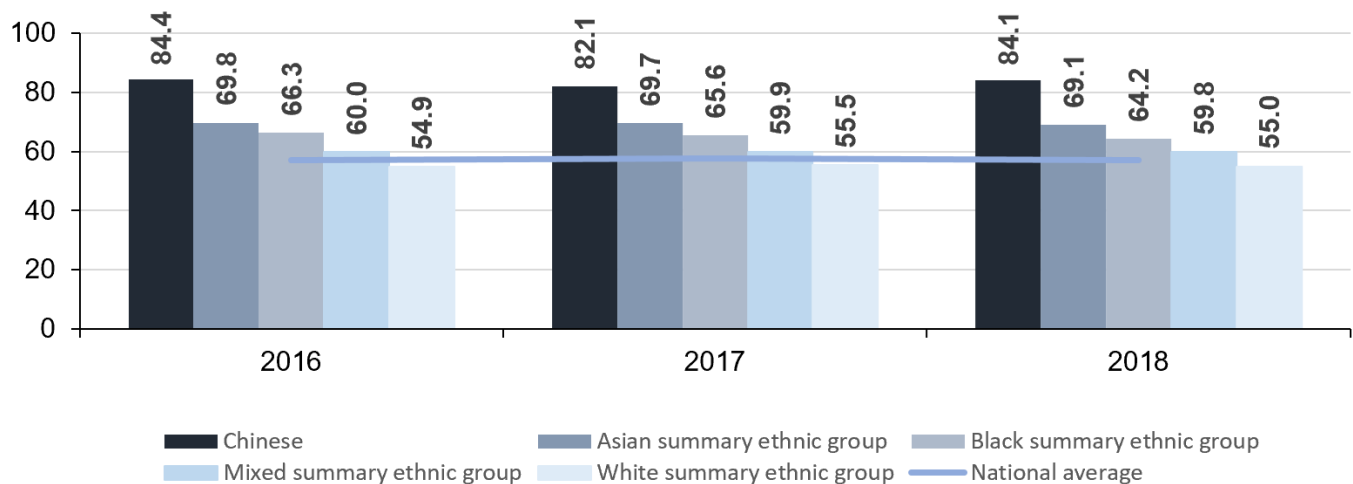
Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15



Chinese students have the highest Level 3 attainment, with 84.1% achieving Level 3 by the age of 19 in 2018 (**Figure 4**). This is 26.9 ppts higher than the national average which was 57.2% in 2018. The Asian, black and mixed ethnicity summary groups are all above the national average in attainment of Level 3, with 69.1%, 64.2%, and 59.8% respectively. The white summary group has the lowest Level 3 attainment at age 19 of the ethnicity summary groups at 55.0%. This group has seen a fall in attainment in 2018 compared to 2017 of 0.5 ppts. The Chinese group are the only ethnicity summary group to have had a rise in attainment of Level 3 compared to last year (+1.9 ppts).

Figure 4: Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3 by ethnicity summary group, 2016 to 2018

Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15



Source: DfE, Matched Administrative Data

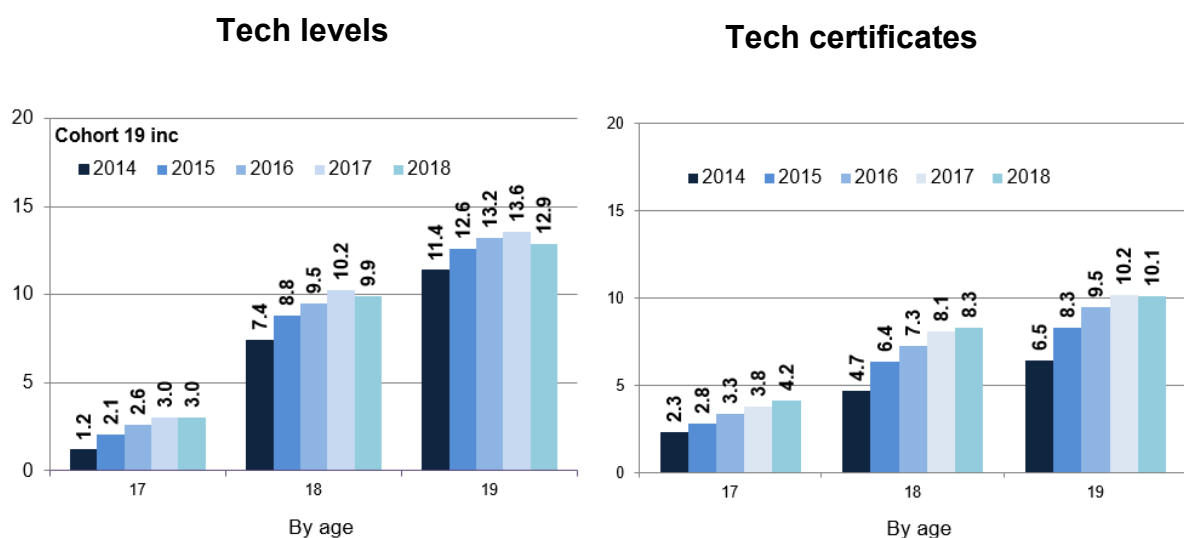
Tech levels and tech certificates

Tech levels are Level 3 qualifications for post-16 students wishing to specialise in a specific occupation or occupational group. Tech certificates are similar Level 2 qualifications which cover jobs and careers where employers recruit at this level or where a level 2 qualification is needed before the student can progress to Level 3⁸.

In 2018, 12.9% of young people had achieved a tech level by the age of 19, which is 0.7 ppts lower than in 2017; 10.1% had achieved a tech certificate by the age of 19, compared to 10.2% in 2017. Between 2014 and 2017, there were overall increases in the proportion of young people attaining tech level and tech certificate qualifications by the age of 19. A larger proportion of young people had achieved tech levels than tech certificates by the age of 19 in 2018.

Figure 5: Percentage of 19 year olds achieving tech level and tech certificate qualifications by age of attainment, 2014 to 2018

Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15



⁸ The lists of qualifications approved under the tech level and applied general categories, for teaching from September 2014 and reporting in the 2018 performance tables, are available [here](#).

English and maths at Level 2 (GCSE⁹ and other Level 2 qualifications)

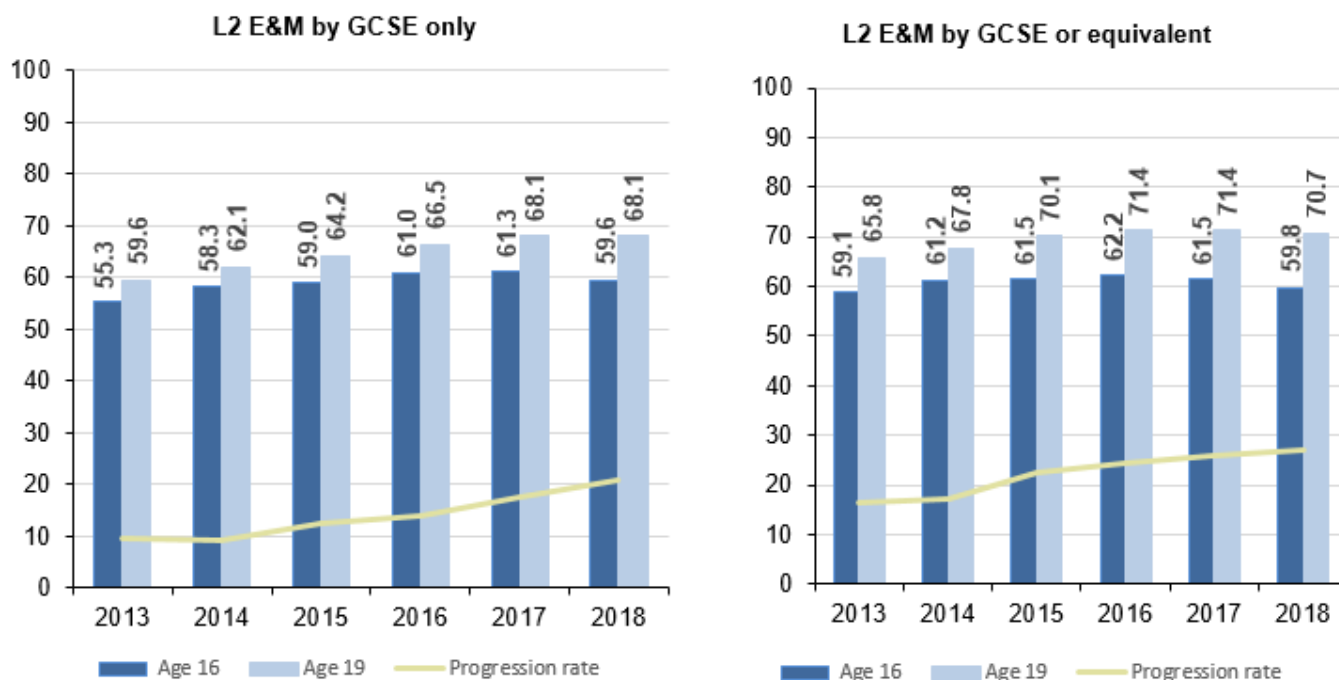
English and maths (Table 13)

In 2018, 70.7% of 19 year olds had achieved Level 2 in English and maths (through gaining GCSEs in those subjects at grades A*-C/9-4¹⁰ or equivalent qualifications in those subjects), a 0.7 ppt decrease from 2017 (**Figure 6**). The proportion of those achieving Level 2 in English and maths at age 19 by GCSE alone remained stable compared to 2017 at 68.1%. The progression rate - that is the proportion of young people who did not achieve Level 2 in English and maths at age 16 but had achieved this by age 19 - increased from 25.9% in 2017 to 27.2% in 2018.

Looking at the progression rate in Level 2 English and maths (i.e. those young people who had not achieved Level 2 in English and maths at 16 but had at 19) by GCSE qualifications alone, there was a bigger increase, from 17.6% in 2017 to 20.9% in 2018. The shift towards attainment of GCSE English and maths as opposed to other Level 2 qualifications relates to changes in English and maths funding policy. In 2014/15 changes in policy for young people in full time study between ages 16 and 19 who had not yet achieved Level 2 English and/or maths resulted in those young people having to study an English and/or maths qualification as part of their study programme. From 2015/16, it became a further condition that those who had achieved grade D/3 or lower in English and/or maths were expected to retake the subject(s).

Figure 6: Percentage of 19 years old with Level 2 in English and maths by age of attainment, and progression in Level 2 English and maths between ages 16 and 19, 2013 to 2018

Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15



* Progression rate line on the charts shows the proportion of young people not attaining level 2 in English and maths at 16 who go on to do so by age 19

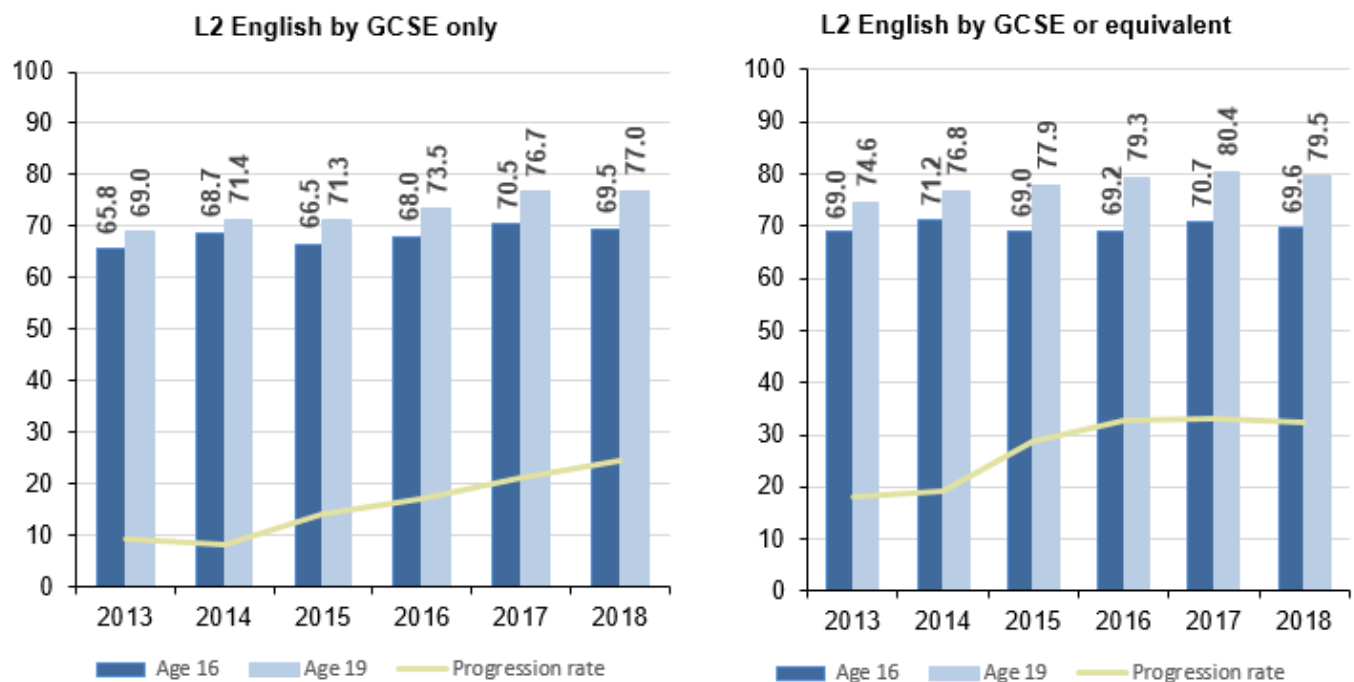
¹⁰ In the 2016/17 academic year the Government introduced reformed GCSEs with a revised numeric grading scale.

English (Table 13)

In 2018, 79.5% of young people had achieved Level 2 in English (through gaining a GCSE in English at grades A*-C/9-4 or an equivalent qualification in English) by age 19, down 0.9 ppts from 2017. The progression rate of those reaching Level 2 English (i.e. those young people who had not achieved Level 2 in English at 16 but had at 19) by GCSE only increased from 21.2% in 2017 to 24.7% in 2018. However, the progression rate for Level 2 English by GCSE or equivalent qualifications fell from 33.0% in 2017 to 32.4% in 2018 (**Figure 7**).

Figure 7: Percentage of 19 year olds with Level 2 English by age of attainment, and progression in Level 2 English between ages 16 and 19, 2013 to 2018

Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15



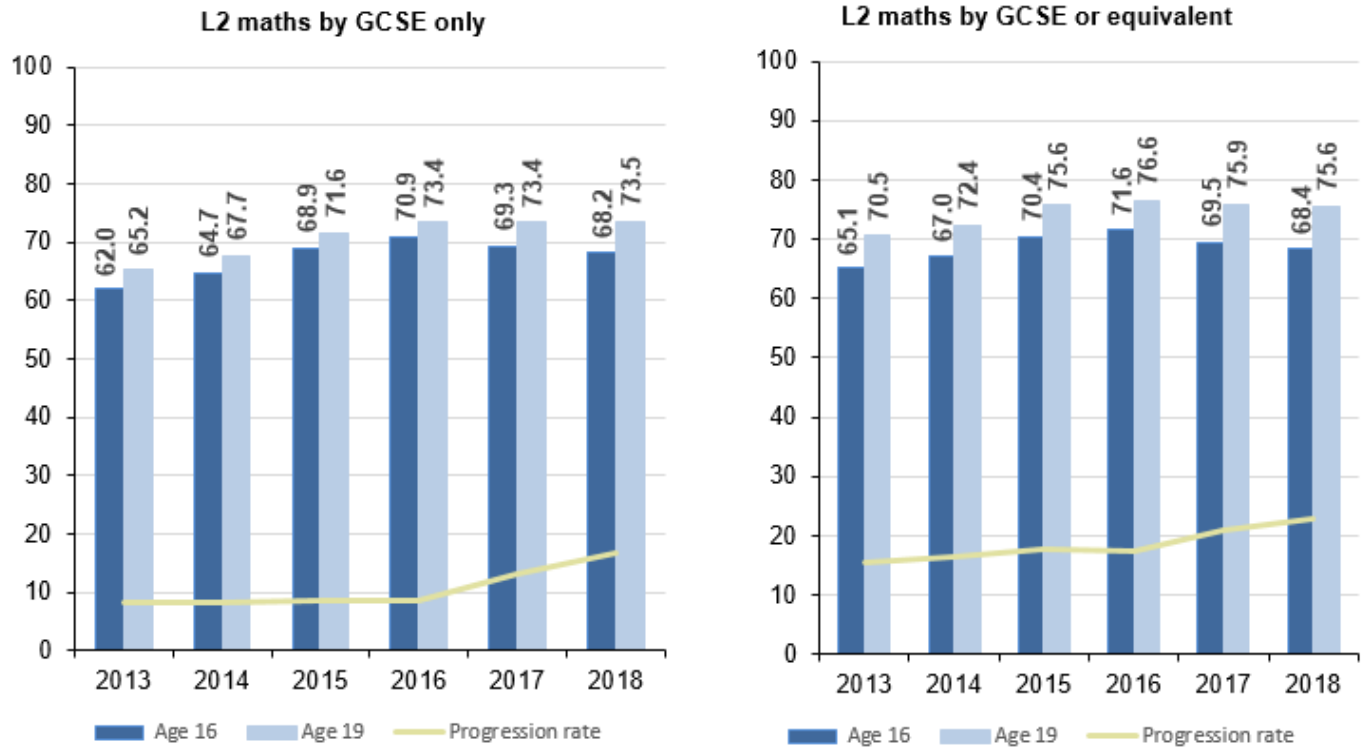
*Progression rate line on the charts shows the proportion of young people not attaining level 2 in English at 16 who go on to do so by age 19

Maths (Table 13)

In 2018, 75.6% of young people achieved a Level 2 in maths (through gaining a GCSE in maths at grades A*-C/9-4 or an equivalent qualification in maths) by age 19, a fall of 0.2 ppts compared to 2017. The proportion gaining Level 2 maths via GCSE alone by age 19 was 73.5% in 2018, a fall of 0.1 ppts from 2017 (**Figure 8**). There was a 2.1 ppt increase in the progression rate for Level 2 maths (i.e. those young people who had not achieved Level 2 in maths at 16 but had at 19) by GCSE or equivalent qualifications and a 3.4 ppt increase in the progression rate for Level 2 maths by GCSE alone.

Figure 8: Percentage of 19 year olds with Level 2 maths by age of attainment, and progression in Level 2 maths between ages 16 and 19, 2013 to 2018

Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15



*Progression rate line on the charts shows the proportion of young people not attaining level 2 in maths at 16 who go on to do so by age 19

English and maths attainment at Level 2 by pupil characteristics (Tables 13a to 13g and underlying data)

Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15

The **gender gap** is more pronounced in English than maths at age 19

- In English, 84.5% of females attained Level 2 by age 19 compared to 74.7% of males. The resulting attainment gap of 9.9 pts has closed by 0.1 pts compared to 2017.
- In maths, the difference between genders remains relatively small with 76.4% of females achieving Level 2 in the subject, compared to 74.9% of males. This leaves a gap of 1.6 pts in maths in 2018, a slight decrease of 0.1 pts compared to 2017. 73.7% of females and 67.8% of males had achieved Level 2 in both English and maths by age 19 in 2018, with the attainment gap remaining the same at 5.8 pts between 2017 and 2018.

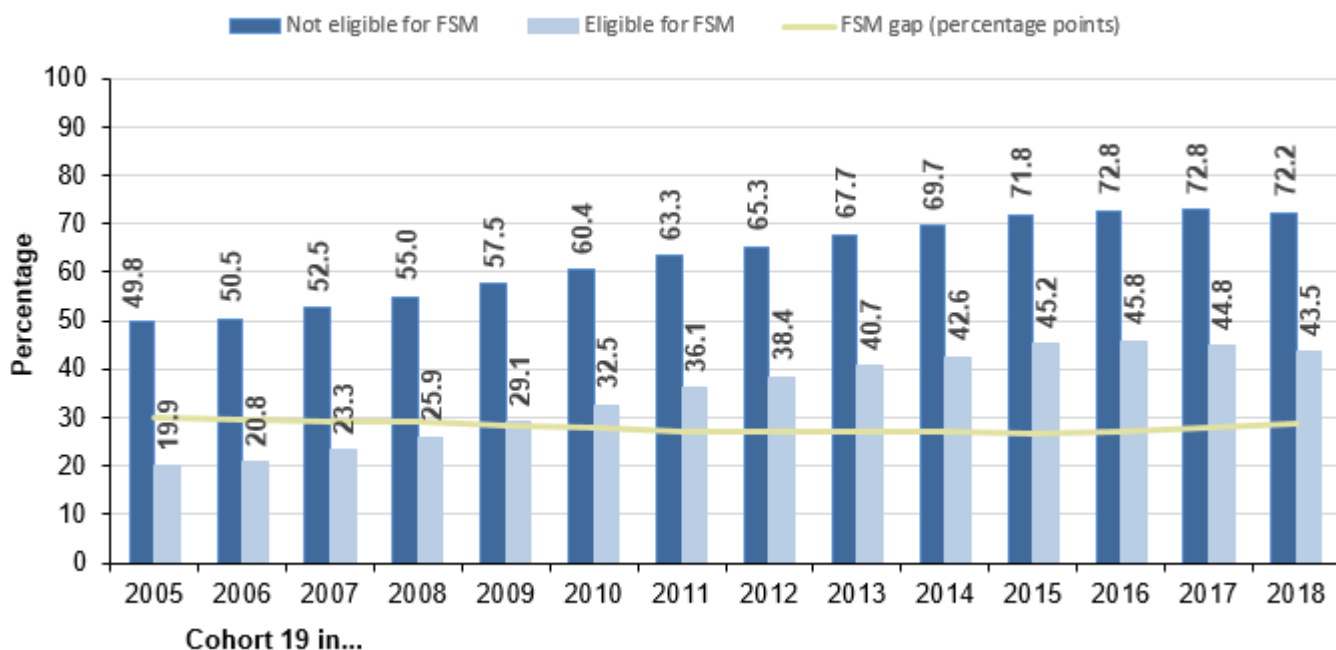
The gap between **young people with SEN**¹¹ and their non-SEN peers fell by 0.1 pts

- In 2018, 33.8% of young people who were identified to have SEN (special educational needs) at age 15 attained Level 2 in English and maths by age 19, compared to 77.9% of non-SEN learners. The gap of 44.1 pts represents a narrowing of 0.1 pts compared with last year.

Attainment of Level 2 English and maths fell for both the **FSM group and the non-FSM group**, with the gap between the two cohorts increasing

- In English, 82.6% of those not eligible for FSM attained Level 2 by age 19 compared to 60.1% of those eligible for FSM. The resulting attainment gap of 22.5 pts has widened by 1.1 pts compared to 2017.
 - In maths, 79.1% of those not eligible for FSM attained Level 2 by age 19, compared to 53.9% of those eligible for FSM. The resulting attainment gap of 25.2 pts has widened by 0.6 pts compared to 2017.
-
-
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Figure 9: Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 in English and maths by FSM eligibility, 2005 to 2018
Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15



Level 2 attainment by age 19 (Tables 6-8)

Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15

(summary continues on to next page)

The proportion of young people in the state sector attaining **Level 2 by age 19 decreased**

- Level 2 attainment by age 19 fell by 1.4 ppts from 83.6% in 2017 to 82.2% in 2018 – the third consecutive annual decrease.

The Level 2 attainment gap widened according to **gender, disadvantage status, FSM status, SEN status and IDACI status**

- In 2018, 78.7% of males achieved Level 2 by age 19 compared to 85.8% of females. The gender gap of 7.2 ppts represents a widening of 0.8 ppts compared with 2017.
- 66.8% of disadvantaged pupils (as at age 15) achieved Level 2 by age 19 in 2018, compared to 88.0% of non-disadvantaged pupils. The gap of 21.2 ppts represents a widening of 1.5 ppts compared with 2017.
- 63.3% of pupils eligible for free school meals (as at age 15) achieved Level 2 by age 19 in 2018, compared to 85.2% of those not eligible for FSM. The gap of 21.9 ppts represents a widening of 1.8 ppts compared with 2017.
- 54.5% of those with a SEN (as at age 15) achieved Level 2 by the age of 19, compared to 87.6% of those who did not have a SEN. The gap of 33.0% in 2018 represents a widening of 3.8 ppts compared with the previous year

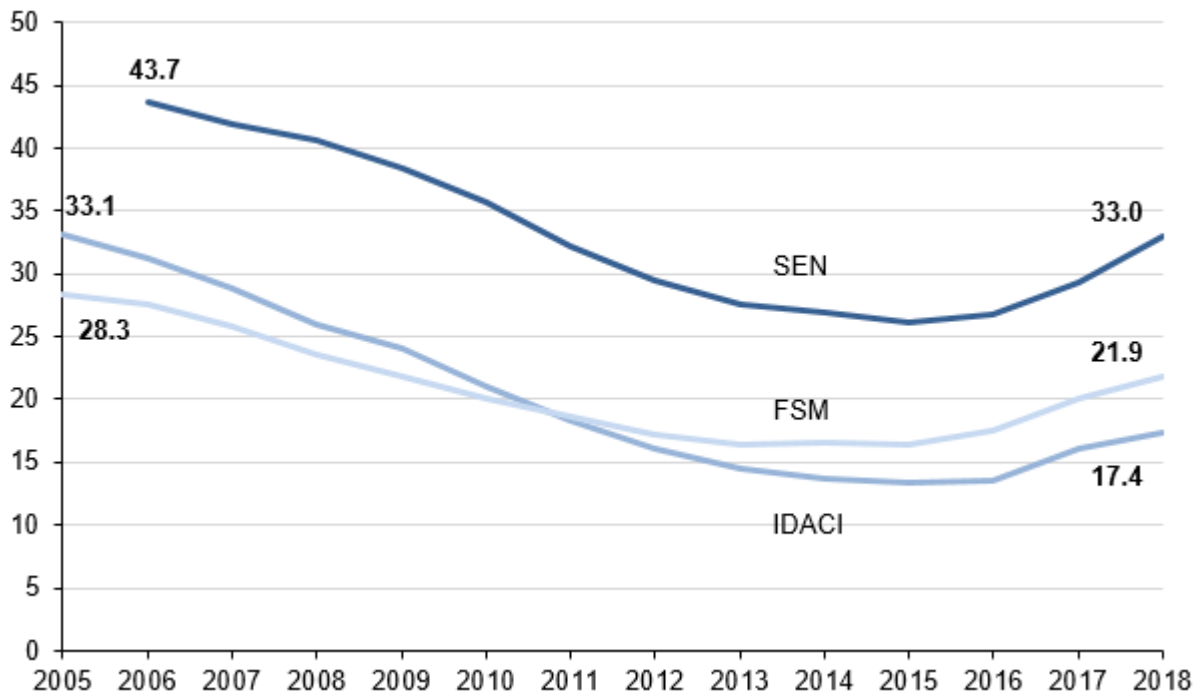
- 73.4% of those who lived in the 25% most deprived areas according to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) achieved Level 2 by the age of 19, compared to 90.8% of those who lived in the 25% least deprived areas. The gap of 17.4 ppts in 2018 represents a widening of 1.3 ppts compared with the previous year.

The Chinese summary group had the highest proportion of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2. **Attainment decreased across all ethnic summary groups apart from for the Chinese group.**

- 93.8% of young Chinese people had attained Level 2 by age 19 in 2018 compared to 86.3% of the Asian summary group, 84.3% of the black summary group, 82.2% of the mixed summary group and 81.5% of the white summary group. Attainment of Level 2 by age 19 in 2018 has fallen across all summary ethnicity groups, apart from for the Chinese group which saw a 0.5 ppt increase.

Source: DfE, Matched Administrative Data

Figure 10: Level 2 (percentage point) attainment gaps at age 19 by special education needs (SEN)/non SEN, the least and most deprived (IDACI) areas and free school meal (FSM)/non FSM entitlement, 2005 to 2018
Based on pupils in state-funded schools in England at academic age 15



Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on [the Statistics: 16 to 19 attainment](#) section of GOV.UK.

National tables

- 1 Percentage of young people qualified to Level 2 or higher, and Level 3, by age and cohort.
- 2 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 or higher, by qualification type and cohort.
- 3 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3, by qualification type and cohort.
- 4 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 or higher, by institution type and cohort.
- 5 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3, by institution type and cohort.

State sector tables

- 6 Attainment of Level 2, Level 2 with English and maths, and Level 3, by age and cohort.
- 7 Percentage of young people qualified to Level 2 or higher by age 19, by characteristics and cohort.
- 8 Percentage of young people qualified to Level 2 or higher with English and maths by age 19, by characteristics and cohort.
- 9 Percentage of young people qualified to Level 3 by age 19, by characteristics and cohort.
- 10 Percentage of young people qualified to Level 2 or higher, and Level 2 or higher with English and maths, by characteristics and age, for the 19 in 2018 cohort.
- 11 Percentage of young people qualified to Level 3, by characteristics and age, for the 19 in 2018 cohort.
- 12a Percentage of young people qualified to Level 2 or higher by age 19, by ethnicity and free school meals (FSM) eligibility, for the 19 in 2018 cohort.
- 12b Percentage of young people qualified to Level 2 or higher with English and maths by age 19, by ethnicity and FSM eligibility, for the 19 in 2018 cohort.
- 12c Percentage of young people qualified to Level 3 by age 19, by ethnicity and FSM eligibility, for the 19 in 2018 cohort.
- 13 Attainment at ages 16 and 19 in English and maths at Level 2, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications
- 13a Attainment at age 16 and 19 in English and maths at Level 2, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications, by gender, for the 19 in 2018 cohort
- 13b Attainment at age 16 and 19 in English and maths at Level 2, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications, by eligibility for free school meals (FSM) at 15, for the 19 in 2018 cohort
- 13c Attainment at age 16 and 19 in English and maths at Level 2, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications, by special educational needs (SEN) status at 15, for the 19 in 2018 cohort
- 13d Attainment at age 16 and 19 in English and maths at Level 2, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications, by IDACI (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index), for the 19 in 2018 cohort
- 13e Attainment at age 16 and 19 in English at Level 2, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications, by ethnicity, for the 19 in 2018 cohort
- 13f Attainment at age 16 and 19 in maths at Level 2, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications, by ethnicity, for the 19 in 2018 cohort
- 13g Attainment at age 16 and 19 in English and maths at Level 2, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications, by ethnicity, for the 19 in 2018 cohort
- 14a Progression in English and maths at Level 2 between 16 and 19, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications, 19 in 2018 cohort
- 14b Progression in English and maths between 16 and 19, GCSE and below, 19 in 2018 cohort
- 14c Attainment at age 16 and 19 in English and maths at Level 2, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications, by main level 2 qualification type attained, 19 in 2018 cohort

- 14d Attainment at age 16 and 19 in English and maths at Level 2, GCSE and other level 2 qualifications, by main Level 3 qualification type attained, 19 in 2018 cohort
- 15a Percentage attaining Level 3 at 19 by qualification type and FSM eligibility.
- 15b Percentage attaining Level 3 at 19 by qualification type and IDACI quartile (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index).

Local Authority tables, state sector at 15

- 16 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 or higher, by FSM eligibility and local authority.
- 17 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 or higher with English and maths, by FSM eligibility and local authority.
- 18 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3, by FSM eligibility and local authority.
- 19 Population by FSM eligibility and local authority.
- 20 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 or higher, by SEN status and local authority.
- 21 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 2 or higher with English and maths, by SEN status and local authority.
- 22 Percentage of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3, by SEN status and local authority.
- 23 Population by SEN status and local authority.
- 24 Percentage attaining GCSE or other Level 2 qualifications in English and maths at age 19, for those who had not achieved this level by age 16, by local authority

When reviewing the tables listed on the previous page, please note:

we preserve confidentiality	The Code of Practice for Statistics stipulates that the confidentiality of individuals must be protected.
we suppress some figures	Percentages based on small cohorts are suppressed and regional totals are rounded in some tables. Underlying data are similarly suppressed.
adopt symbols to help identify this	Symbols are used in the tables as follows: - not available . no known cases c publication of that figure would be disclosive

3. Further information is available

Previous Level 2 and 3 Attainment by Age 19 publication	Level 2 and 3 attainment by young people aged 19 in 2017
Key Stage 4 results	Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England: 2016 to 2017
A level and other 16 to 18 results	A level and other 16 to 18 results: 2017 to 2018 (revised)
Destination Measures of key stage 4 and key stage 5 pupils	Destinations of KS4 and KS5 pupils: 2017
Examination results in Wales, 2017/18	An annual report collated by the Welsh Government from examination bodies on the results of external examinations taken by pupils aged 15 or 17, which includes GCSEs and A Levels by subject.
Attainment, school leaver destinations and healthy living: education statistics summary	Results of the initial and follow-up surveys of leaver destinations (S3-S6), post-appeal attainment, school meals and physical education provision (Scotland, June 2017)
Qualifications and destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers 2016/17	This contains information on the qualifications and destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers. The tables relate to the destination (e.g. higher education/further education/employment) and the highest level of qualification obtained for grammar and non-grammar school leavers by gender of pupil.

4. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority designated these statistics as National Statistics [August 2015](#) in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed. Information on improvements made to these statistics to continue their compliance with the Code of Practice are provided in the accompanying Technical document.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

5. Technical information

A technical document accompanies this publication. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

Note to users

Attainment of Level 2 equates to achievement of 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C/9-4 or a Level 2 vocational qualification of equivalent size. Attainment at Level 3 equates to achievement of 2 or more A-levels or an equivalent sized vocational qualification. The attainment statistics in this publication are used to monitor trends in attainment over time, both nationally and at a local authority level, and changes in attainment within different groups. However, the measures of “full” Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications are now somewhat dated, and do not reflect recent changes to policies governing the vocational qualifications that count in the School and College Performance Tables. The performance tables have undergone several methodological changes in recent years (see the [Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England 2017 to 2018, Quality and Methodology](#) for the most recent information). Lists of Level 3 and Level 2 qualifications that count in the post-16 performance tables [are available online](#). These changes have not been reflected in this publication, as it is used to show cumulative levels of attainment by age 19, and these changes have yet to impact fully on attainment by age 19.

6. Get in touch

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Department
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Reference: Level 2 and 3 attainment in England: Attainment by age 19 in 2018



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