

Annual Qualifications Market Report: 2018 to 2019 academic year

Annual

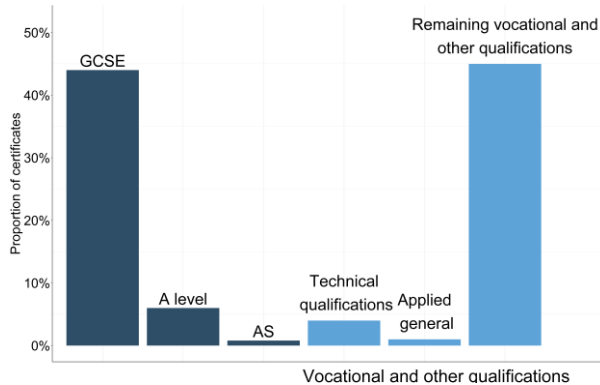
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Coverage: England

Official Statistics

This release provides information on the number and types of qualifications available for award in England over the academic year 2018/19 and the number of certificates awarded by recognised awarding organisations. Headline statistics are presented on this page, followed by further detail.

11.7 million certificates in 2018/19

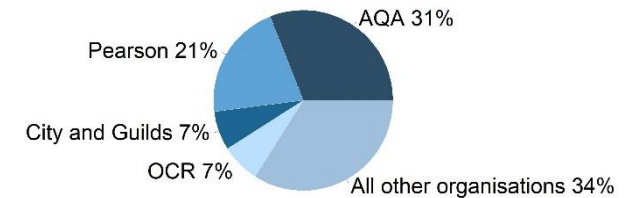


Most popular sector subject area



Preparation for life and work is the largest subject area within “vocational and other” qualifications category, with just under 1.4 million certificates awarded.

Market share of awarding organisations



Available regulated qualifications

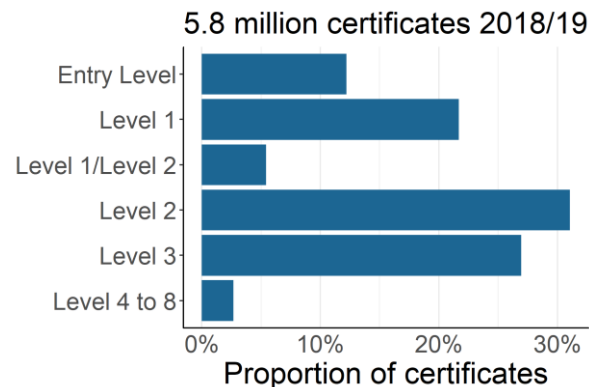
19.4K

Available qualifications in 2018/19. 7% decrease on the previous year (20.9K).

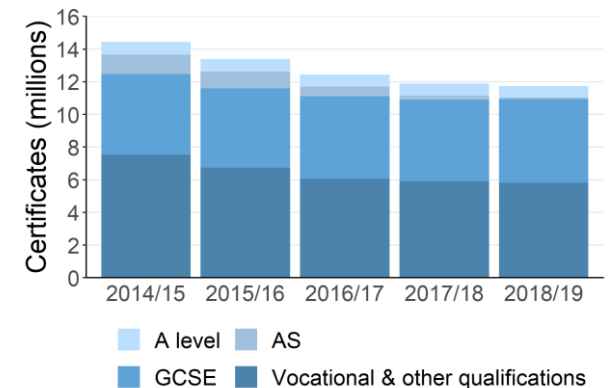
12.3K

Available qualifications with certificates in 2018/19. 4% decrease on the previous year (12.8K).

Vocational & other qualifications by level



Overall certificates continue to decline



At a glance

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Comments and feedback are welcome.

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Annual Qualifications Market Report

This report presents data on the number and types of qualifications available for award in England over the academic year 2018/19 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 2018/19 academic year is considered from the start of October 2018 to the end of September 2019. 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 GCSE, AS level and A level qualifications 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 GCSE, AS and A level.

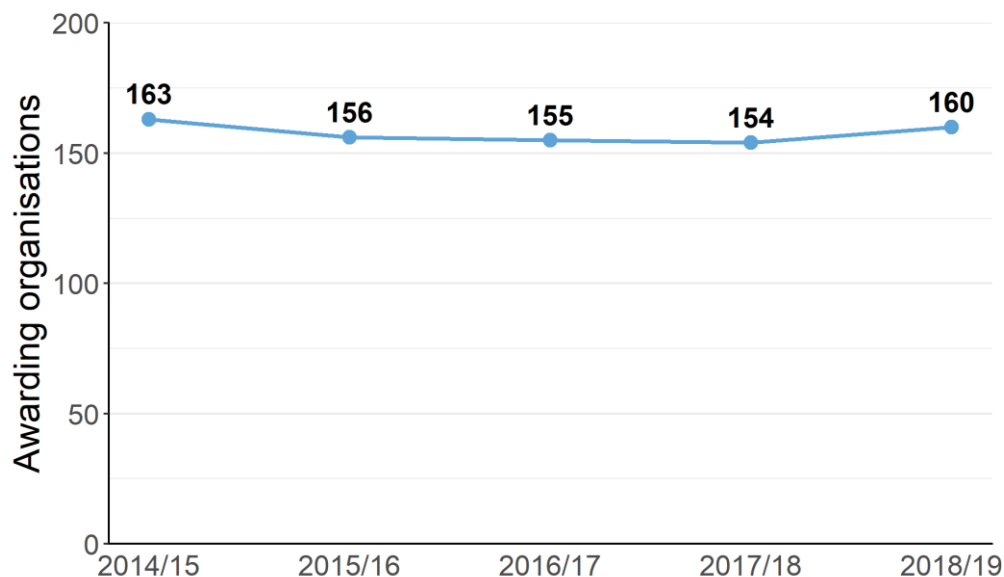
Figures for number of certificates are rounded to the nearest 5, with values 1 to 4 denoted "0~". Figures for the number of qualifications are not rounded. Further information on this release is available in the [background information as well as data tables](#) accompanying this report.

Awarding organisations and regulated qualifications

Any organisation that wants to offer regulated qualifications in England has to be recognised by Ofqual. 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](#).

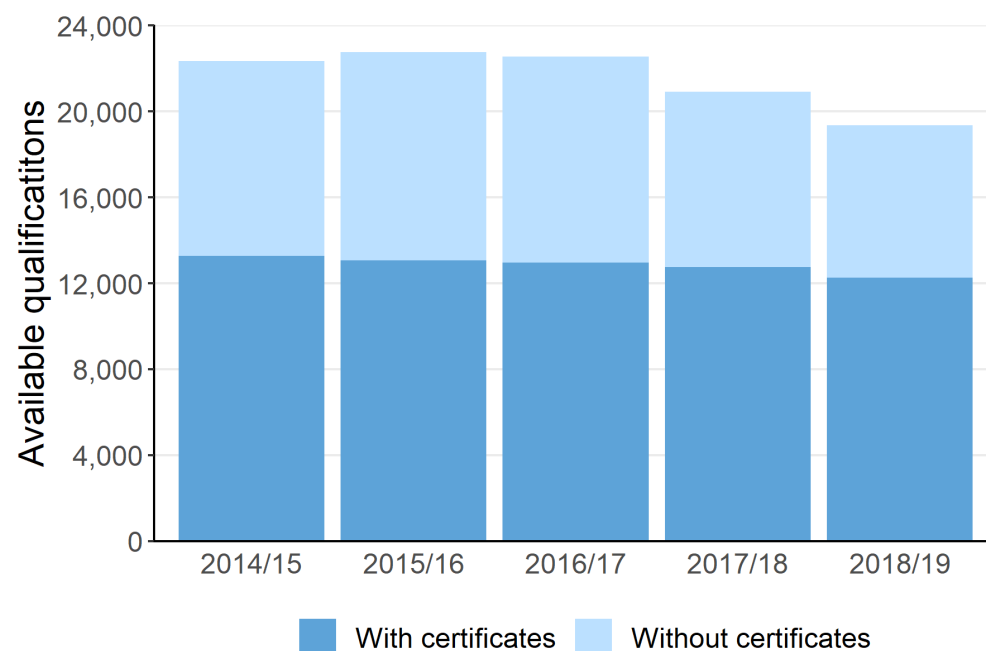
Information on qualifications including title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level is taken from the [Register](#).

The number of awarding organisations



There were 160 Ofqual recognised awarding organisations during 2018/19.

The number of available qualifications



There were 19K qualifications available to certificate in 2018/19. This is a 7% decrease compared to the previous year. No certificates will have been issued for some qualifications because they are new and/or 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 largest percentage increase in the number of qualifications with certificates was seen in GCSE (9 to 1) qualifications (up by 44% this year). This was accompanied by a large percentage decrease in the number of GCSE (A* to G) qualifications (down by 93%). Both trends are due to [reforms to GCSEs](#).

The largest increase in the number of qualifications with certificates in 2018/19 was seen in Vocationally-Related Qualifications (up by 142). 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 with certificates was seen in QCF (down by 554). This is explained by the revision to qualification types and the removal of QCF design rules on 31 December 2017.

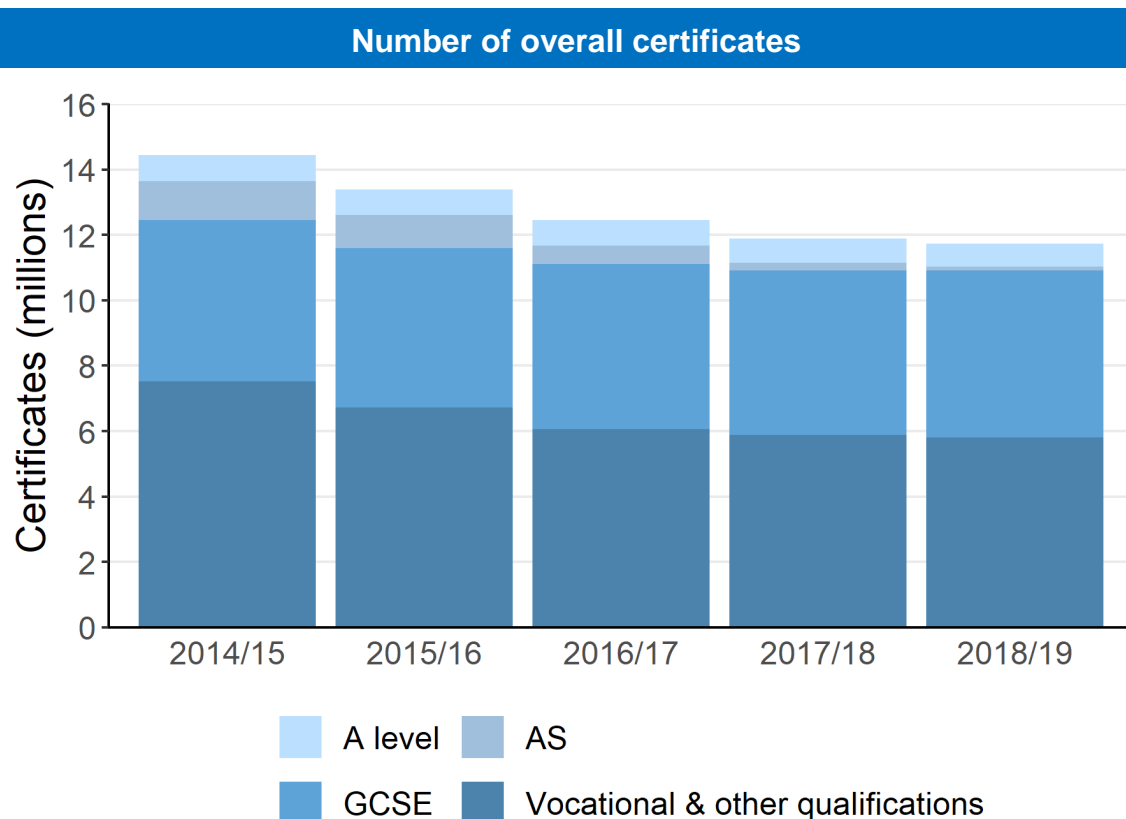
Vocationally-Related qualifications see the largest increase in the number of available qualifications this year

Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate		Number of qualifications with certificates		Percentage change in number of qualifications with certificates in 2018/19 from 2017/18				
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
GCE A Level	291	220	228	201					
GCE AS Level	287	221	247	189					
GCSE (9 to 1)	138	138	96	138					
GCSE (A* to G)	212	94	180	12					
Vocationally-Related Qualification	7,665	8,009	5,117	5,255					
Occupational Qualification	4,786	5,014	3,223	3,272					
Other Life Skills Qualification	1,626	1,705	1,205	1,263					
Other Vocational Qualification	747	819	510	512					
Other General Qualification	594	568	430	436					
Performing Arts Graded Examination	396	464	348	371					
English For Speakers of Other Languages	310	328	208	229					
QCF	3,532	1,458	729	172					
Functional Skills	181	181	179	166					
Entry Level	40	26	32	16					
Project	15	14	13	13					
End-Point Assessment	39	90	5	6					
Advanced Extension Award	1	1	1	1					
Key Skills	3	0	0	0					
Other Qualifications	57	19	10	0					
Total	20,920	19,369	12,761	12,252					

Notes: *Other Qualifications* category includes qualification types which were retired as a result of [the revised list of available qualification types](#) and had fewer than 5 certificates issued in 2018/19.

Certificates awarded for all qualifications

The total number of certificates awarded for all qualifications (A levels, AS levels, GCSEs and vocational and other qualifications) in 2018/19 was over 11.7 million, a decline of 1% compared to the previous year.



The number of overall certificates for A level qualifications has decreased by 2% compared to 2017/18. This is in line with a downward trend in [the number of entries for A level qualifications](#) taken in 2018/19.

AS qualifications see the largest percentage decrease in the number of certificates (down by 59% compared to 2018/19). This is mainly due to the decoupling of AS from A levels as part of the [government policy reforms](#).

The overall number of certificates for GCSE qualifications has increased slightly (by just over 1%). This is in line with a 1% increase in [the number of entries for GCSEs in 2018/19](#). There has been a slight drop in the number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications (down by 1%) compared to 2017/18.

Certificates awarded by qualification type

Qualification type	2017/18		2018/19		Percentage change in number of certificates awarded				
	N	%	N	%	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
GCSE (9 to 1)	4,614,210	39%	5,104,570	43%					
GCE A Level	736,090	6%	718,680	6%					
GCE AS Level	237,775	2%	98,450	<1%					
GCSE (A* to G)	421,395	4%	5,230	<1%					
Vocationally-Related Qualification	2,422,715	20%	2,397,050	20%					
Occupational Qualification	751,505	6%	699,125	6%					
Functional Skills	705,610	6%	614,290	5%					
Performing Arts Graded Examination	463,090	4%	490,710	4%					
Other Vocational Qualification	389,040	3%	481,740	4%					
English For Speakers of Other Languages	372,760	3%	404,590	3%					
Other General Qualification	320,495	3%	371,640	3%					
Other Life Skills Qualification	287,280	2%	292,500	2%					
Project	49,050	<1%	50,900	<1%					
QCF	104,960	<1%	9,965	<1%					
Key Skills	1,550	<1%	1,605	<1%					
Entry Level	12,430	<1%	475	<1%					
Essential Skills (Northern Ireland)	300	<1%	215	<1%					
Advanced Extension Award	175	<1%	145	<1%					
End-Point Assessment	40	<1%	90	<1%					
Other Qualifications	2,500	<1%	0~	<1%					
Total	11,892,970	100%	11,741,975	100%					

There has been an increase in GCSE (9 to 1) certificates (up by 11%), which can be explained by [reforms to GCSEs](#). The large percentage decrease in GCSE (A* to G) certificates (down by 99%) is also attributed to the reforms as mentioned earlier. [Reforms to AS and A levels](#) are responsible for the decline in the number of AS certificates in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18 (down by 59%).

The largest increase in the number of certificates in 2018/19 among vocational and other qualifications was seen in Other Vocational Qualifications (up by 93K). The revision of qualification types by Ofqual is likely to be the main driver for the change.

The largest decrease in the number of certificates among vocational and other qualifications has been in QCF (down by 95K), Functional Skills (down by 91K) and Occupational Qualifications (down by 52K). Some of these downward trends are likely due to [Ofqual's decision to revise the list of available qualification types](#) and the removal of QCF design rules.

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

Awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates

The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of all certificates in 2018/19 awarded over 88% of all certificates. The organisations are displayed below in order of volume of certificates in 2018/19. IQL, VTCT and Gateway Qualifications Limited are new to the top 20 in this year.

Training Qualifications UK Ltd has had the largest increase (up by 28K) in certificates compared with the previous year, largely due to increases in the number of certificates for Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications in the Health, Public Services and Care sector subject area. IQL has had the largest percentage increase (up by 49%) in certificate numbers due to increases in the number of certificates for qualifications in the same sector subject area.

Number of certificates per awarding organisation

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change in number of certificates awarded				
	2017/18	2018/19	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
AQA Education	3,619,650	3,616,955					
Pearson Education Ltd	2,551,100	2,488,155					
City and Guilds of London Institute	878,300	849,025					
OCR	828,550	766,340					
NCFE	402,400	419,050					
WJEC-CBAC	377,315	390,860					
Highfield Qualifications	302,315	297,845					
Trinity College London	224,415	236,060					
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	213,120	217,955					
Qualsafe Awards	201,965	216,185					
NOCN	146,790	136,745					
First Aid Awards Ltd	105,205	120,045					
Ascentis	96,950	112,280					
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	82,415	110,315					
Cambridge Assessment English	87,215	96,890					
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	64,105	69,440					
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	56,755	63,730					
IQL	40,735	60,670					
VTCT	55,205	56,830					
Gateway Qualifications Limited	45,640	53,585					
Other organisations	1,512,825	1,363,020					
Total	11,892,970	11,741,975					

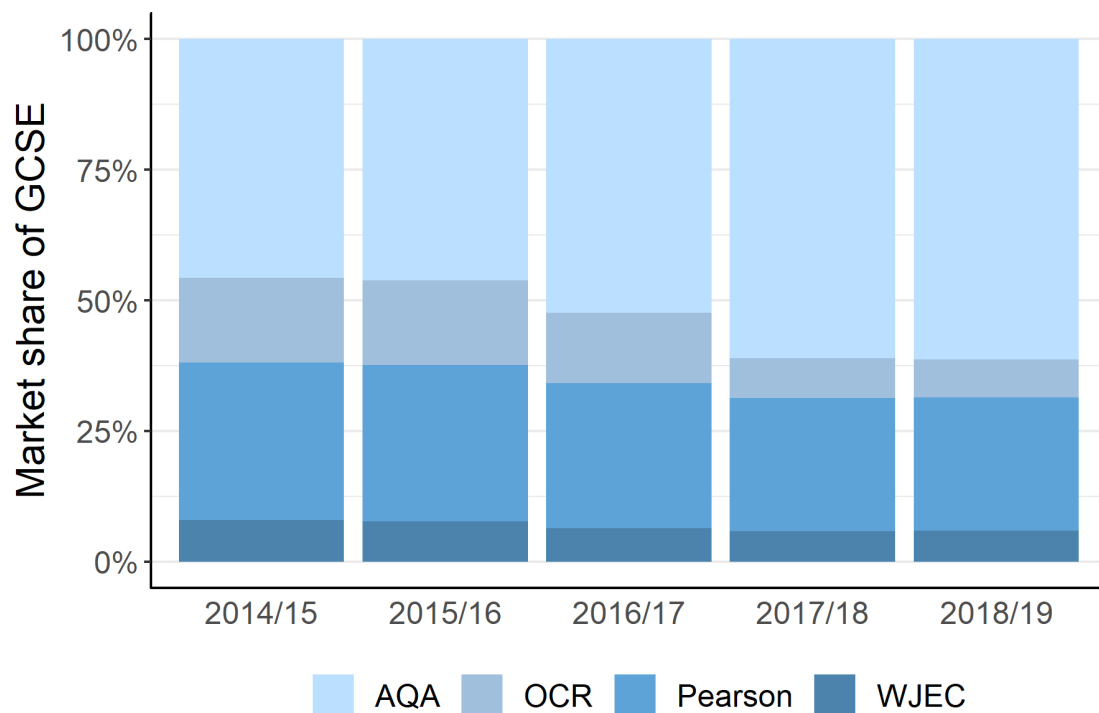
Pearson, OCR and City and Guilds were affected the most by the continuing trend in the reduction of certificate numbers. The decrease in number of certificates for these awarding organisations was largely driven by decreases in the number of certificates for AS and A level qualifications, as well as Functional Skills, Occupational Qualifications and Other Life Skills qualifications.

Note: Data for all awarding organisations is available in the accompanying data tables (Table 4).

Market share: GCSE

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

Awarding organisation market share



Awarding Organisation	Percentage share				
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
AQA	46%	46%	52%	61%	61%
OCR	16%	16%	13%	8%	7%
Pearson	30%	30%	28%	25%	26%
WJEC	8%	8%	6%	6%	6%

The GCSE market has been relatively stable in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18. A breakdown of GCSE market share by subject is given on the following page of this report.

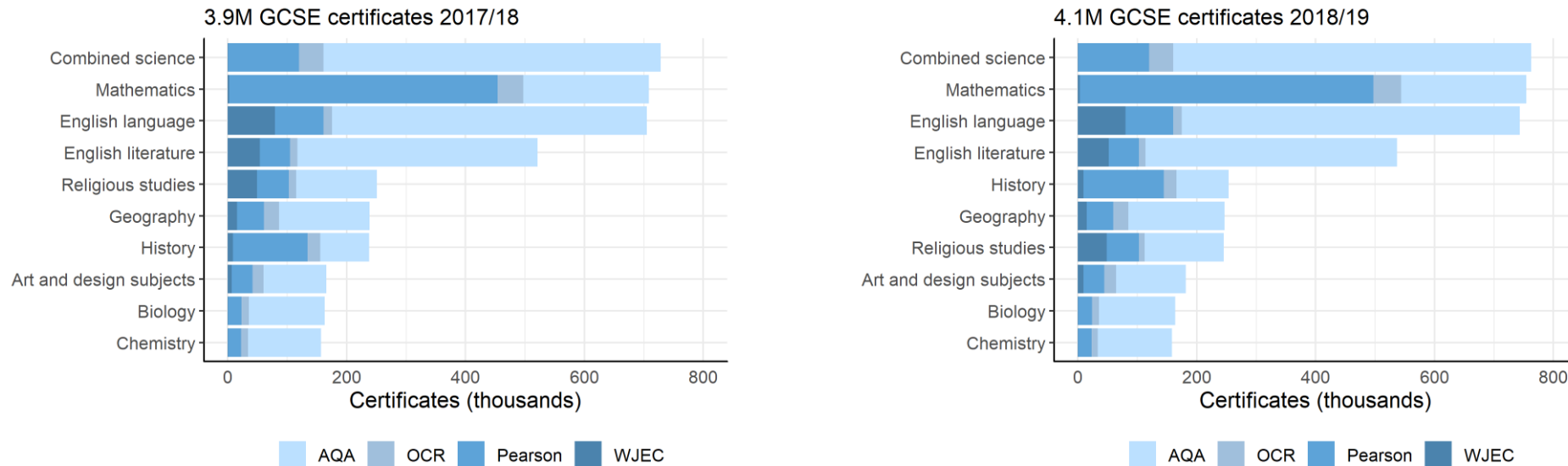
Certificates awarded in GCSE subjects in 2018/19

The total number of certificates for GCSE has increased by just over 1% between 2017/18 and 2018/19. This increase was mostly driven by a rise in certificates in the [English Baccalaureate \(EBacc\) subjects](#), particularly mathematics, English language and combined science. This can probably be attributed to an increasing focus of centres (schools, colleges and training providers) on the delivery of EBacc subjects, encouraged by [Progress 8](#) and [Attainment 8](#) measures, as well as the government's separate measure of students entering EBacc subjects.

The top 10 highest volume subjects account for 79% of all GCSE certificates, 2 percentage points more than 2017/18. AQA has the largest market share in 8 of the 10 highest volume subjects. Pearson has the largest share in the remaining two subjects; mathematics and history.

The market share of the top 10 highest volume GCSE subjects has been fairly stable in 2018/19. Only religious studies has seen a drop in the number of certificates issued (down by 2% compared to 2017/18). The biggest increases in the number of certificates were for mathematics and English language (up by 46K and 38K respectively). Art and design subjects and history saw the largest proportional increase in the number of certificates (up by 10% and 7% respectively from 2017/18) amongst the top 10 highest volume GCSE subjects in 2018/19.

10 highest volume GCSE subjects



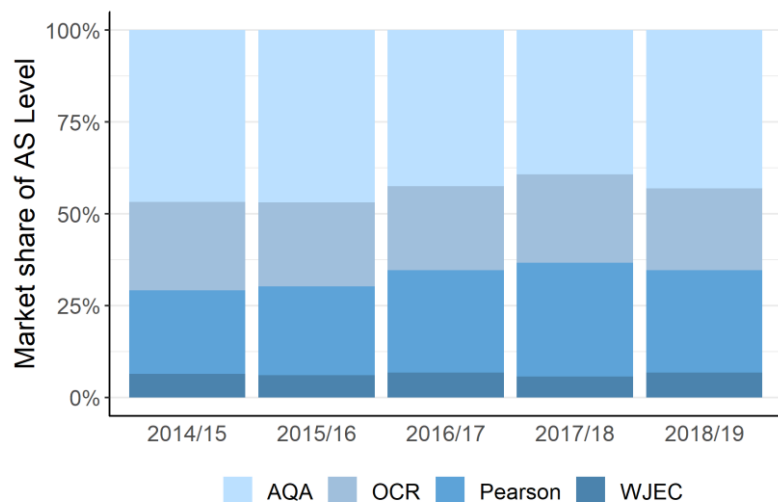
- Notes: 1. The market share of awarding organisations in all GCSE subjects is given in the data tables accompanying this release (Table 8).
 2. Combined science entries have been doubled throughout the report and data tables to reflect the fact that it counts as two GCSEs.

Market share: AS and A level

The A level market has been comparatively stable with only slight changes in awarding organisations' market share as a whole and in individual subjects. Pearson has increased its market share in A level qualifications the most (up by 2%), mainly due to the increase in its market share in mathematics subjects.

The AS market is changing due to the overall decline in entries (rates of decline among different subjects vary) which reflects the [phased AS and A level reforms](#). OCR and Pearson have seen a decrease (down by 2% and 3% respectively in 2018/19) in their share of the AS level market. AQA and WJEC have seen an increase (up by 4% and 1% respectively), probably in part due to the phasing of reform in different subjects. Pearson's market share has decreased the most in 2018/19. It has seen the largest drop in the number of certificates in mathematics compared to the rest of the subjects.

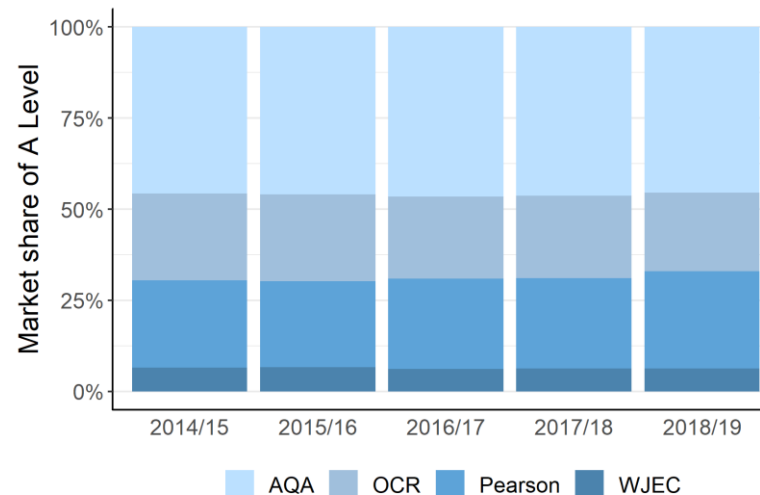
AS level – some fluctuation in market shares



Percentage share

Awarding Organisation	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
AQA	47%	47%	42%	39%	43%
OCR	24%	23%	23%	24%	22%
Pearson	23%	24%	28%	31%	28%
WJEC	6%	6%	7%	6%	7%

A level – market shares largely stable



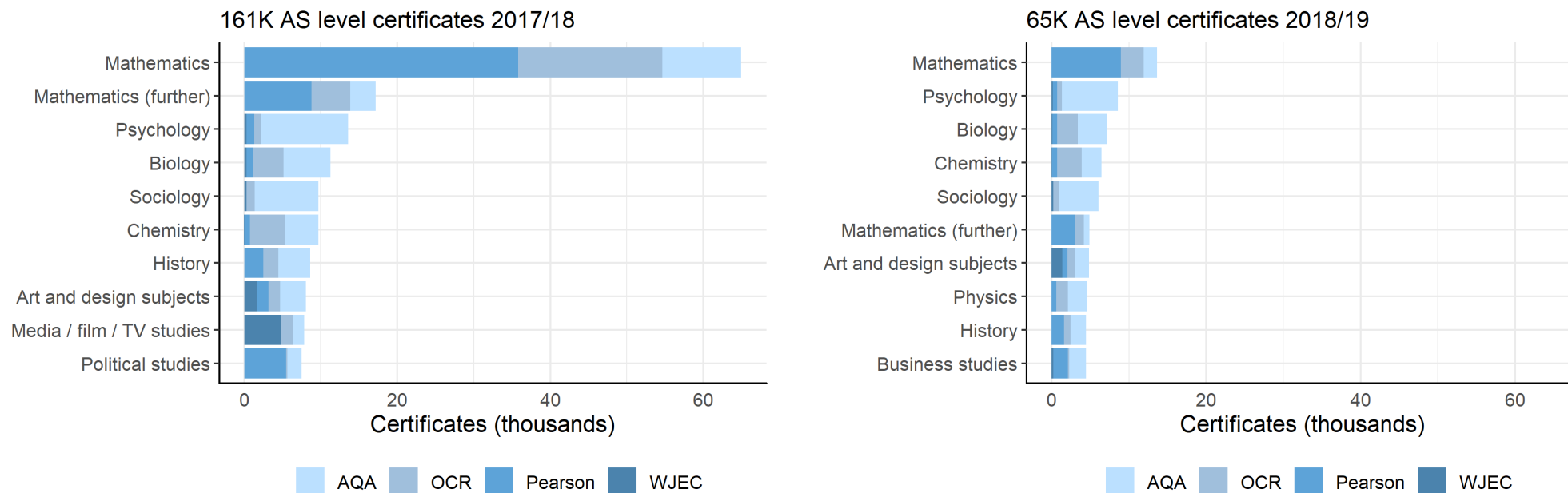
Percentage share

Awarding Organisation	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
AQA	46%	46%	47%	46%	45%
OCR	24%	24%	22%	23%	22%
Pearson	24%	24%	25%	25%	27%
WJEC	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%

Certificates awarded in AS subjects in 2018/19

The total number of AS certificates in 2018/19 declined from 238K to 98K (down by 59%), continuing the trend seen from 2016 due to the qualification reforms. There has been a decrease in the number of certificates across all top 10 highest volume AS subjects in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18. This is particularly noticeable for AS mathematics (down by 80%), further mathematics (down by 72%) and political studies (down by 75%), with first certificates in the reformed A level of these subjects issued in 2018/19. The proportion of AS certificates that the top 10 highest volume subjects account for has also dropped, accounting for around 66% of all AS certificates, 2 percentage points less than in 2017/18.

10 highest volume AS subjects



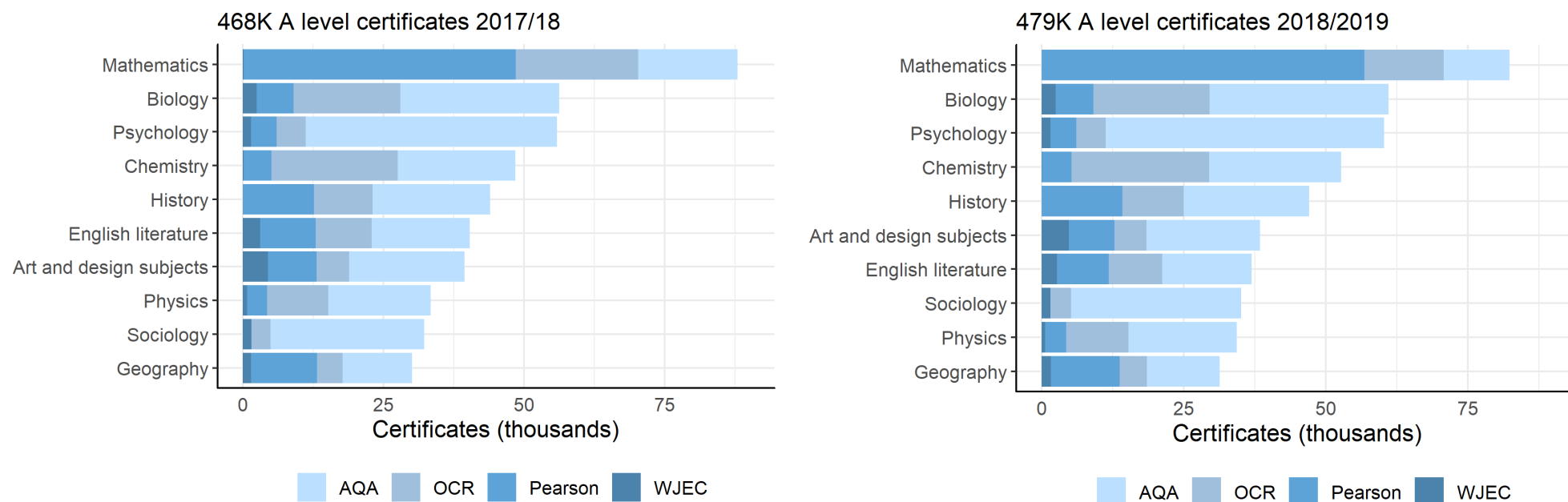
Note: The market share of awarding organisations in all AS level subjects is given in the data tables accompanying this release (Table 9).

Certificates awarded in A level subjects in 2018/19

A level qualifications are typically taken at the end of year 13 by students aged 18. The total number of A level certificates has been relatively stable, with only a slight decline in the number of certificates in recent years from 736K in 2017/18 to 719K in 2018/19 (a drop of 2%). This is in line with the changes in [the overall number of entries for A level](#) subjects. Large percentage decreases were seen in subjects with small numbers of certificates and those which were only available for [final re-sits this year including general studies, science and ICT](#).

The top 10 highest volume subjects account for 67% of all A level certificates, 3 percentage points more than in 2017/18. Among the top 10 highest volume subjects mathematics and English literature subjects have seen the largest reduction in the number of certificates in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18 (down by just below 6K and 3K respectively). Biology, Psychology and Chemistry have seen the largest increase in the number of certificates (up by 5K, 4K and 4K respectively) in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18).

10 highest volume A level subjects



Note: The market share of awarding organisations in all A level subjects is given in the data tables accompanying this release (Table 10).

Certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications

The number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications fell by 1% between 2017/18 and 2018/19. 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 2018/19. These organisations awarded 77% of all certificates in 2018/19. The majority of these awarding organisations have seen an increase in the number of certificates issued in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18.

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change in number of certificates awarded				
	2017/18	2018/19	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
Pearson Education Ltd	1,014,780	965,420					
City and Guilds of London Institute	878,300	849,025					
NCFE	402,400	419,050					
Highfield Qualifications	302,315	297,845					
Trinity College London	224,415	236,060					
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Qualsafe Awards	201,965	216,185					
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First Aid Awards Ltd	105,205	120,045					
AQA Education	110,065	112,445					
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Training Qualifications UK Ltd	82,415	110,315					
Cambridge Assessment English	87,215	96,890					
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	64,105	69,440					
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	56,755	63,730					
IQL	40,735	60,670					
VTCT	55,205	56,830					
Gateway Qualifications Limited	45,640	53,585					
BIIAB	63,250	52,865					
Other organisations	1,471,370	1,344,225					
Total	5,883,500	5,815,045					

Pearson as well as City and Guilds have seen the largest decline in the number of certificates (down by 49K and 29K respectively), due to the reduction in the number of certificates in Functional Skills, Occupational and Other Life Skills qualifications. However, a decrease in the number of certificates awarded by smaller awarding organisations (down by 246K in 2018/19) had a much stronger effect on the decline of overall numbers of certificates of vocational and other qualifications.

Note: 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 levels 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	Percentage change in number of certificates awarded				Number of awarding organisations with certificates		Change in number of awarding organisations	
	2017/18	2018/19		-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%	2017/18		2018/19
Preparation for Life and Work	1,465,035	1,389,085	24%						47	47	—
Health, Public Services and Care	1,135,275	1,168,960	20%						59	60	▲
Arts, Media and Publishing	736,070	770,235	13%						34	38	▲
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	342,895	422,080	7%						32	34	▲
Business, Administration and Law	430,805	417,755	7%						75	76	▲
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	407,350	367,555	6%						54	52	▼
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	344,620	343,075	6%						37	37	—
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	299,775	300,700	5%						47	49	▲
Information and Communication Technology	273,760	193,660	3%						27	26	▼
Languages, Literature and Culture	125,790	123,080	2%						16	16	—
Science and Mathematics	116,595	111,560	2%						16	14	▼
Education and Training	86,050	90,765	2%						61	62	▲
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	87,800	87,380	2%						29	29	—
Social Sciences	13,190	15,830	<1%						9	9	—
History, Philosophy and Theology	18,490	13,325	<1%						10	8	▼
Total	5,883,500	5,815,045	100%								

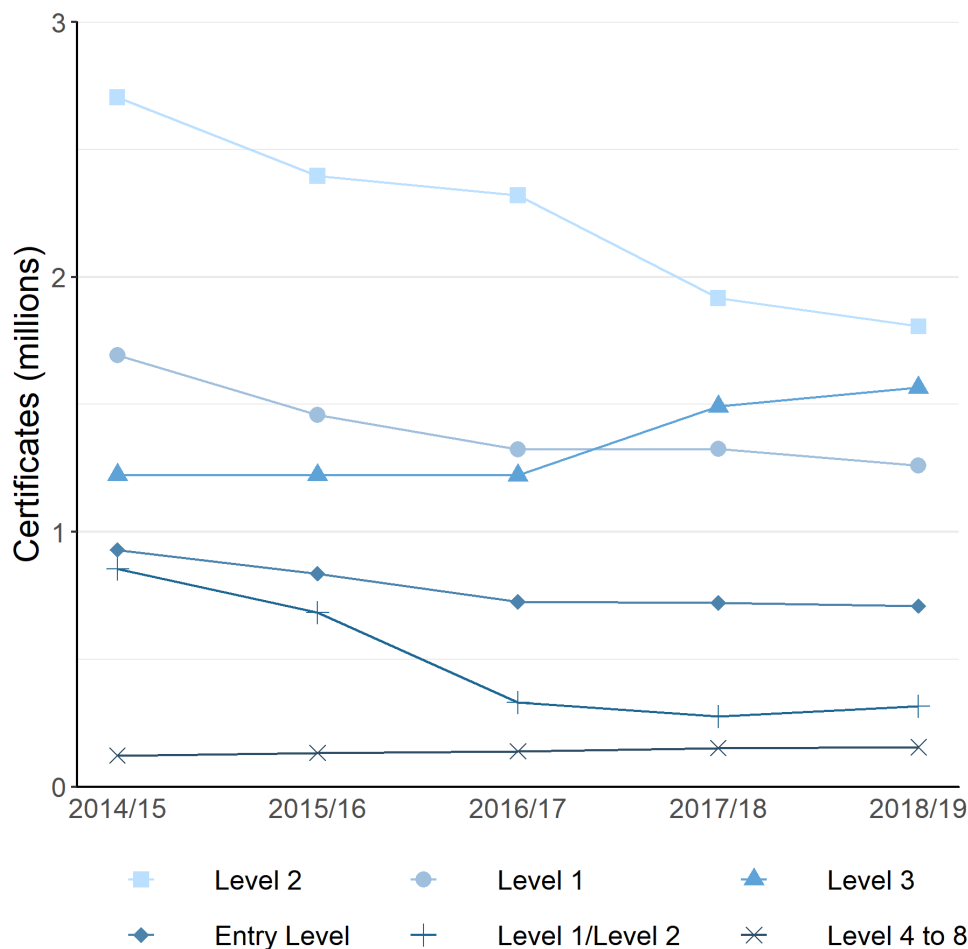
Consistent with the overall reduction in the volume of certificates, most sector subject areas have seen a slight decline. Information and communication technology (down by 80K) and preparation for life and work (down by 76K) have had the most substantial declines in numbers of certificates awarded. The reductions were the most prominent in Vocationally-Related and Functional Skills qualifications respectively. This can partly be explained by the removal of some qualifications from school and college [performance tables](#) in 2019.

The largest increase in the number of certificates was seen in construction, planning and the built environment (up by 79K). The largest increase in this sector was in Level 3 Award in the Requirements for Electrical Installations BS 7671:2018 qualification.

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, while Level 3 certificate numbers increase



The five year decline in Level 1 certificates (down by 64K in 2018/19) and Level 2 certificates (down by 111K in 2018/19) reflects changes in the qualifications offered in schools. The range of the qualifications which can contribute to performance tables or towards the EBacc measure have changed in response to [the Wolf Report](#).

The increase in the number of Level 3 certificates (up by 74K) in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18 is mainly attributed to an increase in the number of certificates in several Level 3 'Requirements for Electrical Installations BS 7671:2018' and 'Emergency First Aid at Work' qualifications.

The numbers of certificates for Entry level qualifications continue to decline. There has been a 12K reduction in the number of certificates in 2017/18 compared to 2017/18.

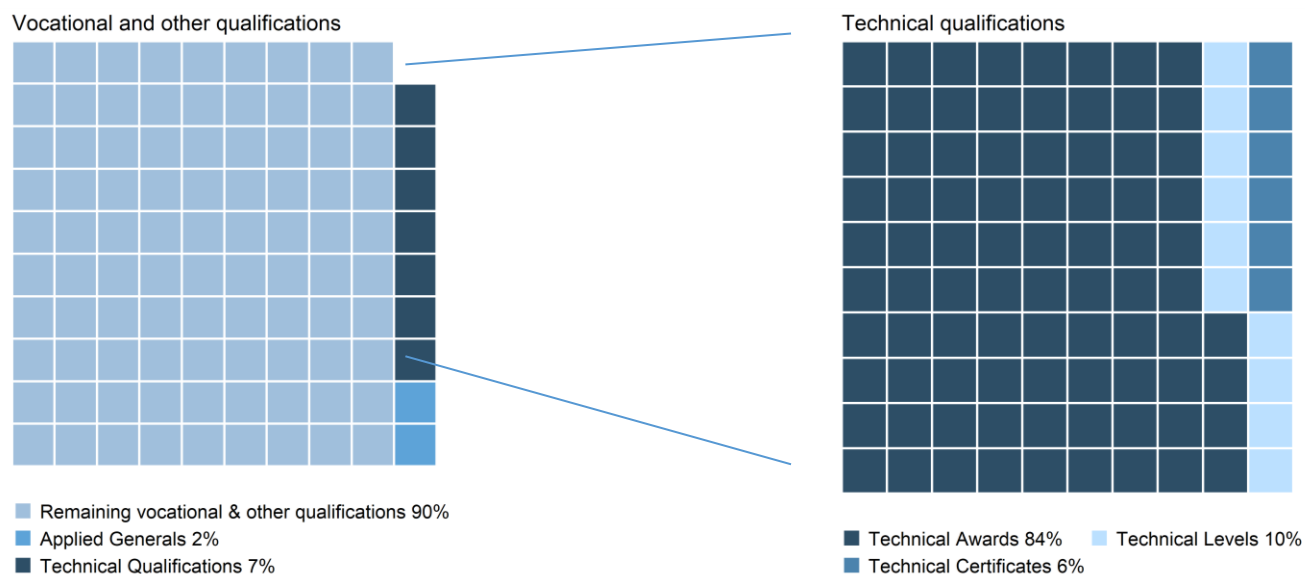
The increase in Level 1/Level 2 certificates (up by 41K) in 2018/19 is likely due to an introduction of several new qualifications in 2017/18 as well as 2018/19.

The number of certificates in Levels 4 to 8 have remained relatively stable over the last five years. The number of certificates has increased by 4K in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18.

IN FOCUS: Technical and Applied General qualifications

Technical and Applied General qualifications are designated as such according to Department for Education criteria and can count towards school and college [performance tables](#). The purpose of Technical Qualifications is to equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills not usually associated with general qualifications. Applied General qualifications are for students who want to continue their education through applied learning and offer a progression route to employment or higher education. The volume of Technical and Applied General Qualifications certificates is at 7% and 2% of the Vocational and other qualification certificates respectively.

Market share of Technical and Applied General qualifications

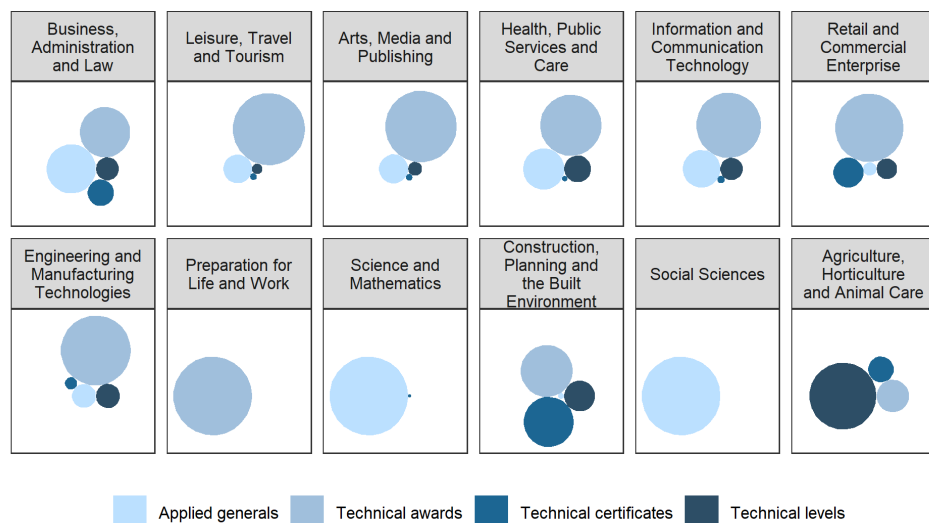


The 555K Technical and Applied General qualifications certificates awarded in 2018/19 comprise:

- 130K certificates of Applied General qualifications. They are all Level 3 qualifications aimed at post-16 learners.
- 425K Technical Qualifications certificates which can be further broken down into:
 - 358K certificates of 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.
 - 26K certificates of Technical Certificates: these are designed for study at key stage 5 (16 to 19 year old) and are intended for students who wish to specialise in a specific industry or prepare for a particular job. They are Level 2 qualifications.
 - 42K certificates of Technical Levels (commonly known as Tech Levels), which are also designed for study at key stage 5. These are Level 3 qualifications.

Technical and Applied General qualifications by sector subject area

Different sector subject areas have a different mix 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 and Social Sciences comprises entirely of Applied General qualifications.



There was an increase in the number of certificates in Technical and Applied General Qualifications across the majority of sector subject areas in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18. Only Information and Communication Technology (down by 21%), Retail and Commercial Enterprise (down by 13%) as well as Construction, planning and the Built Environment (down by 67%) and Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care (down by 24%) saw a decrease in the number of certificates. This is mainly due to a change in eligibility in [performance table](#) qualifications in 2018/19.

There was a significant reduction in the number of certificates in Technical Certificate qualifications across all sector subject areas (down by 75K) in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18.

Number of certificates in Technical and Applied General qualifications by sector subject area

Sector subject area	Certificates 2018/19				Total certificates		Percentage change in number of certificates 2017/18 to 2018/19				
	Applied generals	Technical awards	Technical certificates	Technical levels	2017/18	2018/19	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
Business, Administration and Law	38,355	40,105	11,100	8,405	89,975	97,965					
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	12,130	77,520	665	1,615	74,195	91,935					
Arts, Media and Publishing	12,210	73,815	615	2,765	62,985	89,400					
Health, Public Services and Care	23,735	52,385	420	10,070	76,405	86,605					
Information and Communication Technology	12,995	39,080	500	4,625	71,970	57,205					
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	910	23,885	4,585	2,160	36,285	31,540					
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	2,700	23,065	690	2,740	24,400	29,195					
Preparation for Life and Work	0	19,690	0	0	10,630	19,690					
Science and Mathematics	17,055	0	25	0	12,645	17,080					
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	85	6,540	6,090	2,315	46,110	15,030					
Social Sciences	9,750	0	0	0	5,250	9,750					
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	0	1,610	1,000	6,830	12,360	9,440					
Total	129,930	357,695	25,690	41,520	523,210	554,835					

Technical and Applied General qualifications by awarding organisation

Awarding organisation	Certificates 2018/19				Total certificates		Percentage share in 2018/19	Percentage change in number of certificates 2017/18 to 2018/19				
	Applied generals	Technical awards	Technical certificates	Technical levels	2017/18	2018/19		-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
Pearson Education Ltd	90,510	199,555	2,360	6,720	267,415	299,145	54%					
OCR	14,305	76,045	775	6,100	65,355	97,225	18%					
NCFE	25	32,480	0	8,585	30,170	41,095	7%					
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	8,440	19,690	0	0	18,310	28,130	5%					
WJEC-CBAC	11,120	15,735	0	0	14,280	26,860	5%					
Association of Accounting Technicians	0	0	10,510	8,245	18,810	18,755	3%					
City and Guilds of London Institute	0	1,010	4,440	6,880	53,130	12,335	2%					
AQA Education	5,195	850	0	965	4,100	7,010	1%					
NOCN	0	0	5,405	1,510	7,330	6,920	1%					
The Learning Machine	85	5,895	0	0	23,705	5,980	1%					
RSL Awards Ltd	0	3,750	10	1,150	4,920	4,910	<1%					
VTCT	80	1,520	1,610	1,090	12,670	4,300	<1%					
The Institute of the Motor Industry	0	495	265	20	845	785	<1%					
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	0	415	110	55	600	580	<1%					
Active IQ	0	0	125	185	635	315	<1%					
1st4sport Qualifications	10	175	70	0	100	255	<1%					
University of the Arts London	160	0	0	0	0	160	<1%					
Skills and Education Group Awards	0	80	0	0	295	80	<1%					
BPEC Certification Ltd	0	0	0	0	385	0	0%					
Central Qualifications	0	0	0	0	10	0	0%					
Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment	0	0	0	0	0~	0	0%					
Chartered Institute of Legal Executives	0	0	0	0	150	0	0%					
Total	129,930	357,695	25,690	41,520	523,210	554,835	100%					

Overall there was an increase of 6% in the number of certificates awarded in Technical and Applied General qualifications in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18. The largest proportion of this increase was due to the rise in the number of certificates awarded by the top 5 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of certificates in 2018/19, namely Pearson, OCR, NCFE, the London Institute of Banking and Finance as well as WJEC.

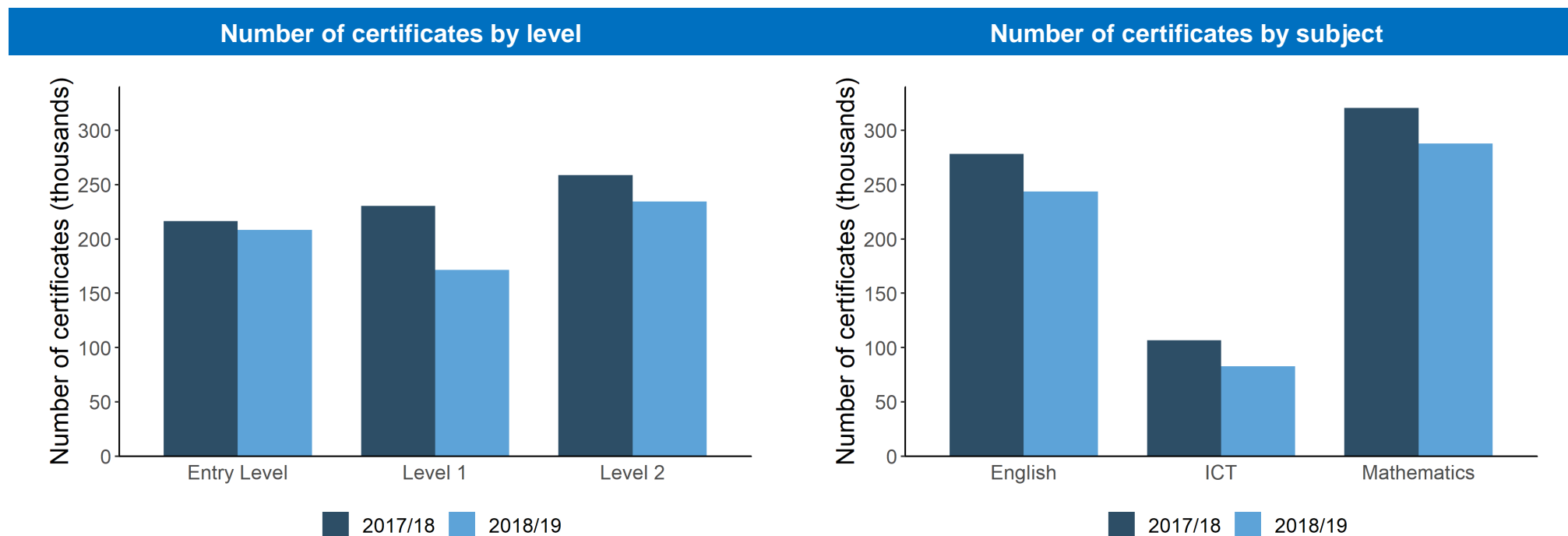
Pearson was the single largest provider of Applied General and Technical Awards due to its Level 3 Applied General and Level 1/Level 2 Technical BTEC qualifications. The Association of Accounting Technicians dominated the Technical Certificate market and was also the largest provider of Technical Levels.

City and Guilds and The Learning Machine saw the largest drop in the number of Technical and Applied General certificates issued in 2018/19, by 41K and 18K respectively. This is due to a change in eligibility in [performance table](#) qualifications in 2018/19.

Note: the percentage change for 1st4sport Qualifications 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.

Functional Skills qualifications

Functional Skills are the fundamental and applied skills that help people to get the most from everyday life, education and work. Functional Skills qualifications are available in English, mathematics and ICT at the following levels: Entry level, Level 1 and Level 2.



The overall number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications dropped by 91K in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18, continuing the downward trend seen over several years (see note). There was a decline in the number of certificates across all levels and all subjects in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18. The largest decrease in the number of certificates was in Level 1 qualifications, down by 59K (more detail on qualification levels is available on p.15). The number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in English decreased the most (down by 35K) compared to the remaining subjects.

Note: Data on Functional Skills certificate numbers over the last five years is available in the accompanying data tables (Tables 16,17)

Functional Skills qualifications by awarding organisation

Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by awarding organisation

Awarding Organisation	2017/18		2018/19		Percentage change in number of certificates awarded				
	N	%	N	%	-100%	-50%	0%	50%	100%
Pearson Education Ltd	271,435	38%	246,705	40%					
City and Guilds of London Institute	276,485	39%	235,065	38%					
NCFE	47,520	7%	44,665	7%					
OCR	43,765	6%	31,240	5%					
AQA Education	16,865	2%	16,515	3%					
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	19,405	3%	12,900	2%					
NOCN	8,560	1%	9,860	2%					
Highfield Qualifications	5,985	<1%	6,225	1%					
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	5,760	<1%	3,985	<1%					
Gateway Qualifications Limited	1,650	<1%	2,535	<1%					
Industry Qualifications	4,195	<1%	2,205	<1%					
Open Awards	1,185	<1%	1,855	<1%					
Ascentis	2,330	<1%	360	<1%					
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	110	<1%	100	<1%					
1st4sport Qualifications	100	<1%	65	<1%					
AIM Qualifications	260	<1%	5	<1%					
Total	705,610	100%	614,290	100%					

The majority of awarding organisations awarded fewer certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18. City and Guilds, Pearson and OCR saw the largest decrease in the number of certificates awarded for Functional Skill qualifications (down by 25K, 41K and 13K respectively). Ascentis and AIM Qualifications have seen the largest proportional decrease in certificate numbers.



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