Level 3 value added (L3VA) briefing

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| This briefing provides guidance for viewing level 3 value added (L3VA) data. |

**Age group:** All

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# Level 3 value added data (L3VA)

1. The L3VA data are produced by the Department for Education (DfE) for 2012 results, using similar methodology to the Learner Achievement Tracker (LAT). L3VA data are for graded level 3 qualifications. The unamended data are available from 1 November and the amended data from February. Summaries of L3VA data are included in the sixth form PANDA and the 2012 Performance Tables. This guidance is for accessing the L3VA data directly. These data are available sooner than the sixth form PANDA and Performance Tables, and provide more detail.

**Access**

1. For schools and colleges, access to their own L3VA data is through the Provider Gateway or through the Performance Tables checking website. This provides them with student-level data as well as aggregate summaries. However, the student-level data are not anonymised, so information is provided differently to inspectors. Schools and colleges in a consortium have access to an additional set of anonymised data for all members of the consortium.
2. For inspectors, there are two different types of data available:

summaries for a qualification

student-level subject details within each qualification.

1. Both types of information are available within the same pdf file on the Provider Gateway, in a different location from the LAT.
2. The pdf file begins with summary charts and tables for all qualification types and for subjects within each qualification type, similar in format to those shown in the sixth form PANDA. These are followed by anonymous student-level data for each subject within each qualification, which include scatter graphs showing each student’s average GCSE grade against their level 3 grade. The pdf file for each school or college uses one page per subject, so can be very lengthy.
3. The summary charts and tables are also available to Her Majesty’s Inspectors (HMI) on the sixth form PANDA site and to inspection service providers. A single large Excel file contains these data for every school sixth form. It includes fuller data than are shown in the sixth form PANDA, such as graphs and figures where there are fewer than five entries.

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# Website and password

1. Access to the Provider Gateway is on <https://gateway.lsc.gov.uk/UMA/Logon.aspx?ReturnUrl=2fprovidergateway2fsecured2fdefault.aspx>.
2. Her Majesty’s Inspectors may obtain a password from the learning and skills data team on learningandskillsdata@ofsted.gov.uk
3. Additional inspectors who are leading an inspection of a secondary school with a sixth form should contact their inspection service provider for both types of data.

**Grades represented by re-based scores**

1. The L3VA data include fails, which were not previously included in the LAT. To obtain equal spaces between the points scores for each grade and for failure, L3VA uses re-based points scores. When interpreting graphs and tables, inspectors need to take account of the grades these re-based points scores represent.
2. Inspectors may find it useful to have a reference set of all of the re-based points scores and the grades they represent. For HMI, a table of the re-based scores for all qualifications in a format that prints out on two pages is downloadable from the link on the right side of the sixth form PANDA site home page. This table is also given at the end of the user guide to level 3 value added, which can be downloaded from the DfE L3VA webpage: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/b00204762/institutions/level3va>.

**Finding the UPIN for a provider**

1. There is a lookup table that gives the UPIN for each 2011/2012 provider. HMI can find this on the sixth form PANDA site, on the right of the home page. Additional inspectors should contact their inspection service provider.

**Accessing the summary data**

1. It is useful to look at the summary data first, to identify strengths and weaknesses before following up only some specific subjects in the student-level scatter graphs.
2. The Excel file of summary L3VA for all providers is available to HMI on the right side of the sixth form PANDA home page and to inspection service providers. This file contains data for all schools with sixth forms.

**Selecting a provider**

1. Click on ‘Qual Summary’.
2. On the qualification summary page, select the provider’s name from the drop-down box. They are in alphabetical order of school name, and include the local authority to help select the correct one when two schools have the same name. Note that some schools in the list have names starting with ‘The’.
3. The school’s UPIN will then be shown above the graph of the value added (VA) score for each qualification type.
4. If you want to search for a new provider, return to this ‘Qual summary’ page. You can navigate easily using the tabs at the bottom of the page.

**Accessing the summary data for each qualification**

1. Click on the tab ‘Subject Summary’ at the bottom of the page. You will still be viewing information for the same provider.
2. Use the drop-down box to choose the qualification type.

**Information on the other tabs**

1. Use the other tabs at the bottom of the page to see the table of re-based points scores for each grade and list of qualifications and subjects included in Level 3 VA.

**Printing out**

1. You can print out any pages. They will show the name and UPIN of the school. The graph and table for a qualification will fit on one landscape A4 page if there are a few subjects, otherwise the table will continue onto a second page.

**Accessing the student-level subject data**

1. The student-level subject data are on the Provider Gateway.

# Logging in

1. If you are not directed straight to the log in page, click on ‘login’ in the menu on the left.
2. Enter your user name and password (they are case sensitive).
3. Once you have been given a user name and password, if you later forget your password or want to change it, just click on ‘Forgotten password’ and you will immediately receive an automatically generated email giving you the chance to set a new password.

# Accessing the Document Exchange

1. Click on ‘Provider Gateway’ in the menu on the left.
2. Then click on ‘Document Exchange’.
3. This takes you to a page where you can search for a provider.

# Selecting a provider

1. To view the data for a provider you will need its UPIN (unique provider identification number) which differs from its URN. The search function for this through the provider’s name is being amended to include school names. Once this search function is available for schools, follow the steps below. Otherwise, look up the school’s UPIN in the list available on the sixth form PANDA site or through inspection service providers, then key it into the ‘UPIN’ cell and click the ‘search’ button.
* Click inside the ‘Provider Name’ cell.
* Key in the full name or part of it and click the ‘search’ button (beware if it is a common name like Queen Elizabeth’s as many providers will be listed and apostrophes cannot be included). A list of providers matching your search will appear.

Click on the UPIN alongside the correct provider’s name. You will now be logged into that provider’s data. At the top left of the screen the provider will be listed. You will be on a page within the document exchange headed ‘Document List’.

**Finding the L3VA data**

1. In the list on the left, click on ‘Document List’, which will expand a list of documents.
2. In the list on the left, click on the ‘Level3VA’ folder, which will expand to show a sub-folder ‘L3VA-Open’.
3. In the list on the left, click on the sub-folder ‘L3VA-Open’. This takes you to a page within the document exchange headed ‘L3VA-Open’.
4. On this page, click on the underlined pdf document in the column headed ‘Document Name’. Its name will be the provider’s UPIN followed by ‘1112 L3VA-Open’ and a version number.
5. You have the option to save this pdf or open it.
6. The contents page in the file lists each of the summaries by qualification type, then each of the subjects taken at A level, then AS level, followed by other qualifications.
7. The scatter graph showing each student’s average GCSE score plotted against their Level 3 re-based score is on the right of the page. It gives a clear indication of the prior attainment of students who do well or who underachieve. From the national curve, you can see which students contributed positive value added and which contributed negative value added. You can also see the extent to which ceiling effects may have inhibited how much value the highest attainers have added. Male and female students are shown in different colours, but may not be distinguishable if printed in black. There is also a new scatter graph of expected against actual attainment.

# Logging out

1. If you wait too long between actions, you will be logged out automatically and prompted to log in again. To log out, click on ‘logout’ at the bottom of the list on the left of the screen.

**Guidance**

1. Guidance on Level 3 VA is available on the DfE L3VA web page below. It includes a user guide and transition matrices from GCSE to Level 3 for each subject. There are also technical guides, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and a ready reckoner that enables providers to calculate VA scores, for example for groups of students. The FAQs include information on the data available to schools and academies that opened during the last year. Newly opened schools are not provided with student-level data for data protection reasons, but will be able to access aggregated value added data, which will also be published in Performance Tables.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/b00204762/institutions/level3va>.