

Statistical Release

Annual Qualifications Market Report England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2014/15 Academic Year

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Key points

This release provides information on the number and types of qualifications available for study in England, Wales and Northern Ireland over the academic year 2014/15 by recognised awarding organisations. The key findings are:

- Just under 16 million certificates were awarded in 2014/15 – around 3% fewer than in 2013/14. The fall was driven primarily by changes in school entry patterns and accountability frameworks.
- The number of awarding organisations recognised by Ofqual fell to 163 – three fewer than a year earlier.
- The number of available qualifications decreased by 2% compared to 2013/14 to just over 24,500, of which about 14,400 had an award made.
- Twenty awarding organisations accounted for 90% of all certificates awarded during the academic year. Pearson Education Ltd awarded nearly one-quarter (23%) of all certificates.
- More certificates were awarded in the science and mathematics sector subject area than any other in 2014/15 (20% of all certificates awarded).
- For GCSE, AS and A level more certificates were awarded in the science and mathematics sector subject area (37%) than any other area in 2014/15 while for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level, more certificates were awarded in the preparation for life and work sector subject area (30%) than in any other area.

Introduction

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

This report is produced annually and in a similar format year on year, so that readers can see developments and trends. It is based primarily on information that Ofqual holds or collects from awarding organisations and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). The data in this release covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We will consider over the next year how we can develop and improve this report in future years. In particular, we want to change the way we report on qualification types in the light of the removal of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) rules. We think there are, in any case, more useful ways of classifying qualifications for reporting purposes. We would welcome views on these issues.

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

Key statistics

The number of awarding organisations regulated by Ofqual fell to 163 in 2014/15, from 166 the previous year.

The number of available qualifications in 2014/15 decreased by 2% (from 24,965 in 2013/14 to 24,520). Most available qualifications have been developed to meet the design requirements of the QCF¹ and their number increased by 7% (from 19,474 in the previous year to 20,771). In the majority of cases, the number of other types of qualifications decreased.

The number of certificates awarded in 2014/15 fell by 3% to just under 16 million. There were more than 14,000 qualifications with at least one certificate awarded, representing 59% of available qualifications (which is six percentage points higher than the previous year).

Overall market shares are well established and the number of certificates awarded is concentrated in a small number of qualifications. For GCSE, AS and A level, 90% of certificates were awarded in just one-third of the available qualifications. For vocational qualifications and academic qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level, 90% of certificates were awarded in around one-fifth of the available qualifications.

Ninety per cent of certificates were awarded by 20 awarding organisations. Pearson Education Ltd. (Pearson) have the largest market share and awarded nearly one-quarter of all certificates (23%); last year the figure was 25%.

The number of certificates awarded in the largest sector subject area (science and mathematics) increased by 1% to 3.1 million. Preparation for life and work is the second-largest sector subject area, with over 2.7 million certificates awarded. This sector area saw an increase of 7% in the number of certificates awarded (from under 2.6 million to over 2.7 million).

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

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

External drivers

Interests of users of qualifications

The development and take-up of qualifications is influenced by a range of factors. There is a complex and dynamic relationship between those providing qualifications (awarding organisations), purchasers (schools, colleges and training providers), students, and 'end users' (employers and further and higher education providers). Government reforms of qualifications, performance measures, public funding policies and other requirements will all have a significant impact on many of these relationships.

All users of qualifications respond to incentives, many of which come into play as a result of government policy changes:

- Awarding organisations respond to market demand for their qualifications and to incentives to develop and deliver new qualifications to meet government policy requirements, to withdraw qualifications that are no longer in line with Government policy, and to meet changing skills requirements.
- In deciding what to offer, schools and colleges are increasingly influenced by accountability measures and funding considerations, as well as student needs and institutional priorities, with decisions often balanced against practical delivery considerations such as availability of staff and student numbers. They may be informed by support groups and networks that help them to navigate the system, which can lead to changes to the qualifications on offer.
- Students generally want to study qualifications that will best help them progress in work or in higher or further education. Sometimes these relationships are very direct, for example, many licence to practise schemes depend on gaining a regulated qualification.
- Awarding organisations respond to feedback from employers and from schools, colleges and universities about whether their qualifications assess the knowledge, skills and understanding that they value, to the required standard.

Change that will impact on the market in England

GCSE, AS and A level reform

A comprehensive reform programme of GCSE, AS and A levels has been taking place in England. In September 2015, three GCSE (graded 9 to 1) and 13 AS and A level subjects were taught for the first time in schools in England. The AS and A levels were also decoupled, meaning that the AS results (to first be issued in summer 2016 for these thirteen subjects) will no longer count towards A levels in the way that they have before.

Throughout the early part of 2015, the exam boards held marketing and ‘prepare to teach’ events about these reformed qualifications, which could have affected schools’ and colleges’ selection of specifications. This might also have had an impact on entry patterns for the relevant GCSE, AS and A level qualifications. Any changes in specification selection and entry will be seen in future issues of this report after reformed qualifications have started to be awarded (i.e. from summer 2016 onwards for AS and summer 2017 onwards for A level and GCSE).

Reform of further GCSE, AS and A level subjects is continuing, with first teaching of additional subjects starting in September 2016 and 2017.

School performance measures

In 2014, the Department for Education announced that international GCSEs in English, English literature and mathematics would no longer be included in performance tables from 2017. Although they were approved for funding for use in UK state schools from September 2015, the Department for Education made the decision to exclude them from the performance tables. This change is likely to affect the take up of international GCSEs (reported as Level 1/Level 2 certificates in our statistics) from the 2016/17 academic year onwards.

Funding changes for 16 to 19 year-olds

From 2014/15, all students aged 16 to 18 starting, or who have already started, a new study programme of 150 hours or more, and who do not hold a GCSE grade A*-C or equivalent qualification in maths and/or in English, are required to study these subjects as part of their study programme in each academic year. The Education Funding Agency published additional funding regulations as a result of this new requirement².

This is likely to have affected the entries and certification volumes for GCSE English and maths qualifications.

Public funding changes by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA)³

The SFA is responsible for public funding of qualifications for students over the age of 19 in England. In the last few years, the funding rules for vocational qualifications aimed at students who are over 19 years of age have seen a number of changes that are likely to have had some effect on the number of certificates awarded each year. The SFA introduced new business rules⁴ in September 2013 to target funding at qualifications that most closely align with the Government’s skills policy. A particular aspect of these rules was the withdrawal of funding for qualifications with low enrolment. The funding rule changes for 2014/15 included a requirement that qualifications designed for adult learners have at least 15 credits and have clear

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-education-funding-guidance>

³ The Skills Funding Agency funds skills training for further education in England. It supports over 1,000 colleges, private training organisations and employers with more than £4 billion of funding each year.

⁴ Skills Funding Statement 2013–2016: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sfa-funding-rules>

outcomes for progression to employment or the next level of learning. New funding rules⁵ have been introduced during 2015/16. However, it is too early to find any visible impact of the new rules on the statistics reported in this bulletin.

School performance tables⁶

There has been a considerable change in the way that qualifications are used in schools following the Wolf Report⁷. In 2013, any qualification on the section 96⁸ funding list could count towards the school and college performance tables at key stage 4 and key stage 5. Since 2014, only a small number of non-GCSEs or A levels have been included in performance tables. This is likely to have led to changes in schools' and colleges' curriculum and qualifications choices, away from qualifications that are not included in performance tables.

Moreover, qualifications in these tables were previously weighted; larger qualifications gained a higher rating and could be worth more than one qualification in the performance table. This is no longer the case and all qualifications now count as one qualification, making larger qualifications less attractive. Examples of declines in numbers of certifications for some qualifications as a result of these changes can be seen in these statistics.

⁵https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414800/Funding_Rules_v2_summary_of_changes_March_2015.pdf

⁶ The key government benchmark for the attainment of Key Stage 4 pupils (aged 15 to 16) is the percentage of pupils gaining the equivalent of at least five A* to C GCSE passes, including English and mathematics. In the tables, vocational qualifications such as BTECs and NVQs are given equivalency scores to GCSEs.

⁷ Review of Vocational Education – The Wolf Report (March 2011) considered how the Department for Education can improve vocational education for 14 to 19 year olds:
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180504/DFE-00031-2011.pdf

⁸ Where section 96 approval has been awarded to a qualification, it enables that qualification to be taught in funded institutions, such as maintained schools, academies and post-16 institutions, and for public funds to be used for these courses and qualifications.

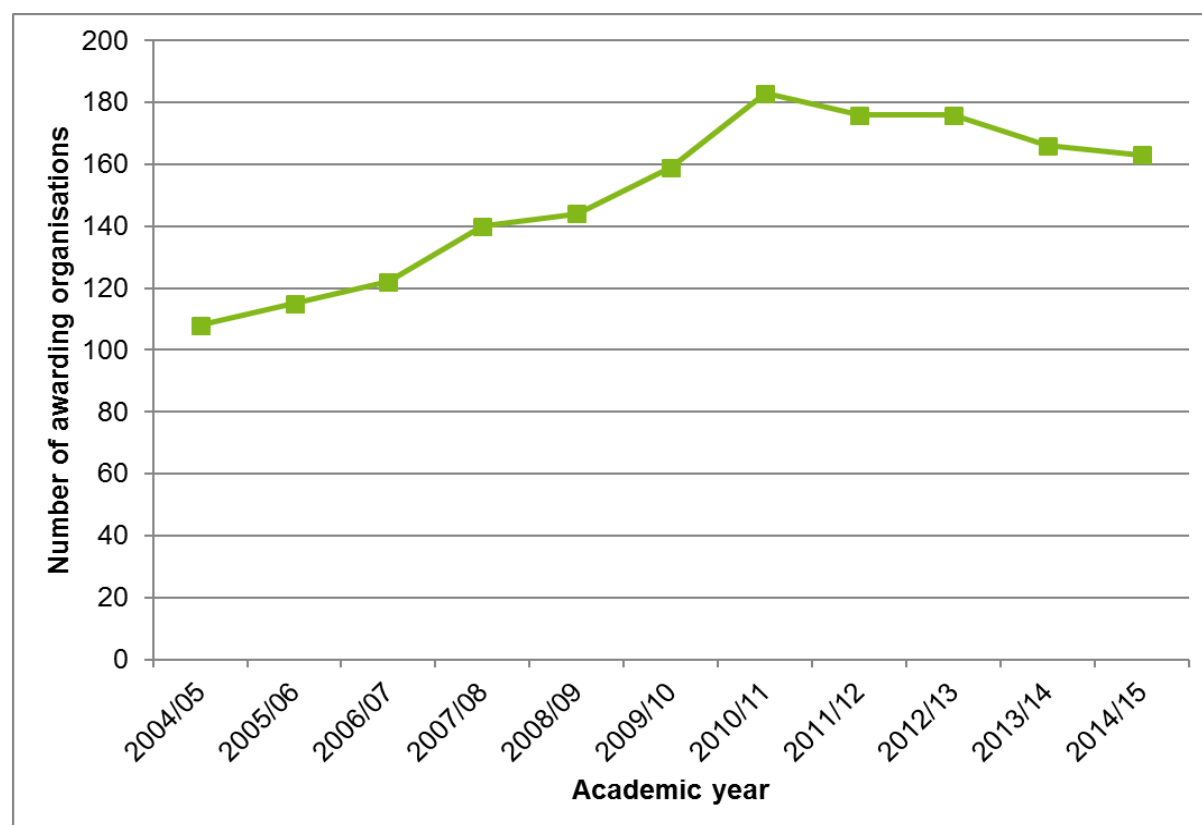
Awarding organisations

Any organisation that wants to offer regulated qualifications in England has to be recognised by Ofqual⁹. Since July 2011, any new awarding organisation needs to meet Ofqual's *Criteria for Recognition*¹⁰ and, once recognised, all awarding organisations need to continue to meet their Conditions of Recognition, including Ofqual's *General Conditions of Recognition*.¹¹

Number of recognised awarding organisations

Figure 1 shows changes in the number of recognised awarding organisations over the past 11 years. The number of recognised awarding organisations in 2014/15 has decreased by 2% from the previous year (from 166 to 163). This has happened as organisations were re-structuring, merging with other recognised organisations or ceasing to offer qualifications.

Figure 1: The number of awarding organisations recognised to deliver regulated qualifications on 30 September each year, 2005 to 2015



Source: Ofqual

⁹ Similar arrangements apply in Wales and Northern Ireland with their regulators (Qualification Wales and CCEA Accreditation).

¹⁰ www.gov.uk/government/publications/criteria-for-recognition

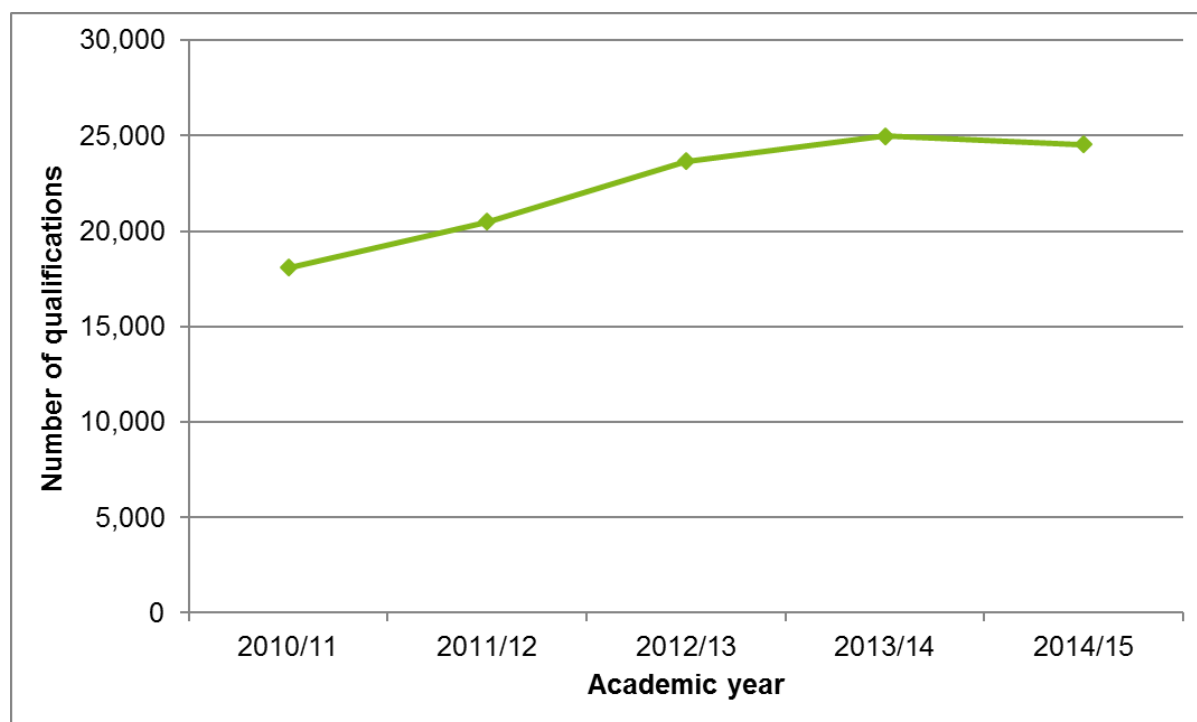
¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition>

Regulated qualifications

Figure 2 shows the change in the number of available regulated qualifications over the past five years.

The number of available¹² qualifications in 2014/15 decreased slightly to 24,520 from 24,965 available qualifications in 2013/14 (2% decrease). Overall, the number of available qualifications has increased by 36% since 2010/11 (from 18,095 to 24,520). This increase is likely to have been due to the re-development of existing qualifications as a result of QCF policy and GQ reform, rather than the introduction of new qualifications. Available qualifications are recorded on the Register of Regulated Qualifications¹³ (referred to as the Register).

Figure 2: Number of available regulated qualifications from 2010/11 to 2014/15



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

¹² Qualifications are available until they pass their certification end date or if they have made an award in the academic year being considered.

¹³ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

Trends in the number of qualifications by qualification type

Table 1 shows the change in the number of available qualifications for each qualification type in 2014/15 compared with the previous year.

The largest increases were in AS and A level qualifications (22% and 20% respectively) due to the development of new, reformed qualifications. Increases were also seen in the numbers of qualifications developed to meet the design requirements of the QCF (7%, to 20,771).

There were a number of areas where there were large decreases: diploma, occupational qualifications, principal learning, national vocational qualifications, basic skills, higher level, vocationally-related qualifications, key skills and entry level qualifications. These decreases are mainly due to the withdrawal or replacement of qualifications.

Table 1: The number of regulated qualifications of each type for 2013/14 and 2014/15

Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate		
	2013/14	2014/15	Percentage change
GCE AS	277	338	22%
GCE A level	282	339	20%
QCF	19,474	20,771	7%
Project	17	18	6%
English for speakers of other languages	198	202	2%
Advanced extension award	1	1	0%
Free standing mathematics qualification	14	14	0%
General certificate of secondary education	555	544	-2%
Functional skills	240	215	-10%
Other general qualification	817	703	-14%
Entry level	280	217	-23%
Key skills	192	125	-35%
Vocationally-related qualification	1,129	680	-40%
Higher level	363	146	-60%
Basic skills	33	12	-64%
National vocational qualification	672	156	-77%
Principal learning	157	32	-80%
Occupational qualification	68	7	-90%
Diploma	196	0	-100%
Total	24,965	24,520	-2%

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

Table A1 in the appendix shows the number of available qualifications for each qualification type over the past five years.

Available qualifications with certificates

Table 2 shows the change in the number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded in 2014/15 compared to the previous year.

Certificates were awarded in more than 14,000 qualifications in 2014/15. This corresponds to 59% of available qualifications; six percentage points higher than in the previous year. Qualifications developed to meet the design requirements of the QCF accounted for 84% of qualifications with certificates awarded.

Table 2: The number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded for 2013/14 and 2014/15

Qualification type	Number of qualifications with certificates		
	2013/14	2014/15	Percentage change
Principal learning	5	6	20%
QCF	10,604	12,097	14%
GCE A level	249	261	5%
Other general qualification	379	396	4%
Functional skills	204	209	2%
GCE AS	261	262	0~%
General certificate of secondary education	408	410	0~%
Advanced extension award	1	1	0%
English for speakers of other languages	148	148	0%
Free standing mathematics qualification	14	14	0%
Project	10	10	0%
Entry level	119	111	-7%
Key skills	117	83	-29%
Higher level	108	74	-31%
Vocationally-related qualification	355	208	-41%
Basic skills	26	11	-58%
National vocational qualification	293	72	-75%
Occupational qualification	16	1	-94%
Diploma	6	0	-100%
Total	13,323	14,374	8%

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

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

Trends in certificates – qualifications with low take-up

Table 3 shows that in 2014/15, relatively few non GCSE, AS, and A level qualifications had large numbers of certificates awarded. CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF), Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English, and OCR Level1/Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT were the three qualifications that had certification numbers higher than 100,000. The CIEH qualification has consistently been the qualification with the most certificates awarded in recent years.

There were over 23,000 qualifications other than GCSE, AS, and A level. Fifty-eight per cent of these had certificates awarded. Only 10% (2,220 qualifications) had more than 500 certificates awarded.

For GCSE, AS, and A level, over 1,200 qualifications were available on the Register for 2014/15. Seventy-seven per cent of these had certificates awarded and 55% (667 qualifications) had more than 500 certificates awarded. Of the 276 qualifications with no certificates, 144 (52%) were reformed qualifications which were first available for teaching in September 2015 and therefore had not yet had any awards.

Table 3: Number of qualifications by number of certificates awarded in 2014/15

Number of certificates	Qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level		GCSE, AS and A level qualifications	
	Number of qualifications	Proportion (%)	Number of qualifications	Proportion (%)
More than 100,000	3	0~%	8	1%
50,000 - 99,999	12	0~%	18	1%
10,000 - 49,999	104	0~%	133	11%
5,000 - 9,999	180	1%	111	9%
1,000 - 4,999	1,060	5%	289	24%
500 - 999	861	4%	108	9%
250 - 499	1,135	5%	74	6%
100 - 249	1,820	8%	62	5%
50 - 99	1,585	7%	32	3%
10 - 49	3,626	16%	66	5%
1 - 9	3,055	13%	32	3%
Zero	9,870	42%	276	23%
Total	23,311	100%	1,209	100%

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

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

Table 4 shows the number of qualifications accounting for 25, 50, 75, 90, and 100% of the certificates awarded for each of GCSE, AS, and A level qualifications and other qualifications.

A high proportion of certificates were awarded in relatively few qualifications. For qualifications other than GCSE, AS, and A level, 2% of qualifications (233 qualifications) accounted for half of the number of certificates awarded. For GCSE, AS, and A level qualifications, 5% of qualifications (45 qualifications) accounted for half the number of the certificates awarded.

Table 4: Cumulative number of qualifications accounting for percentages of total certificates awarded in 2014/15

Percentage of certificates	Qualifications other than GCSE and A level		GCSE, AS and A level qualifications	
	Number of qualifications	Proportion (%)	Number of qualifications	Proportion (%)
25%	39	0%	9	1%
50%	233	2%	45	5%
75%	916	7%	134	14%
90%	2,383	18%	290	31%
100%	13,441	100%	933	100%

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

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

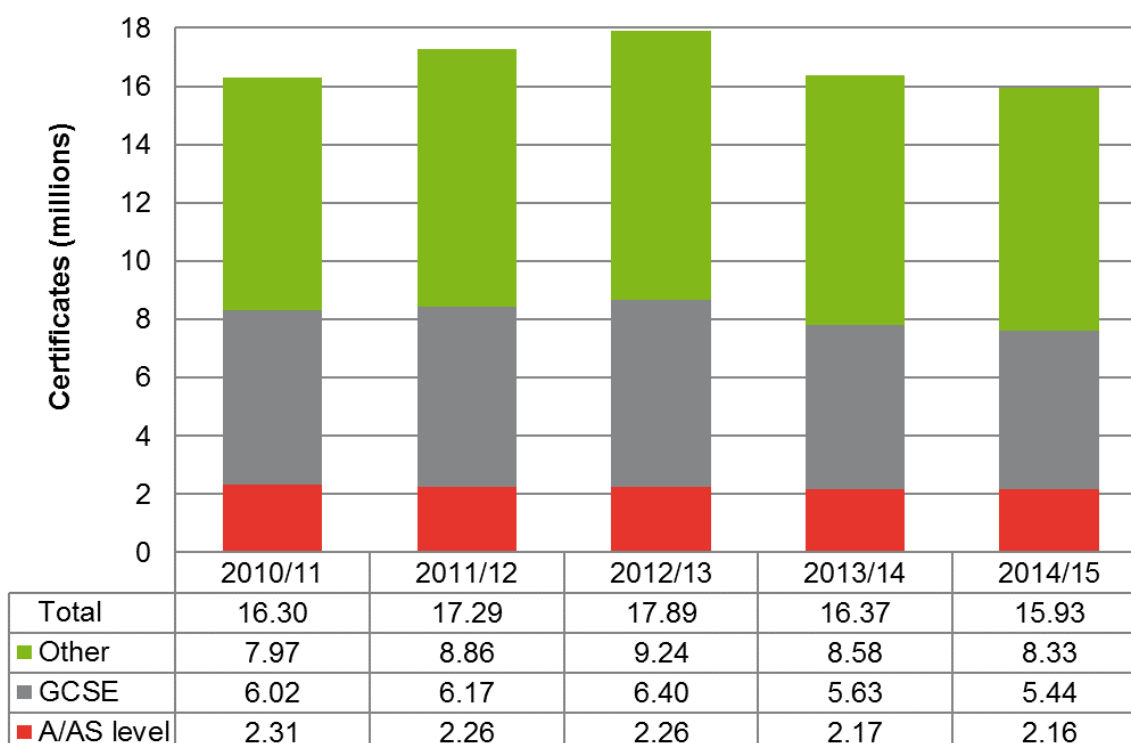
Certificates awarded for all qualifications

Overall picture

Figure 3 shows the total numbers of certificates awarded in the past five years. Between 2010/11 and 2014/15, the number of certificates awarded has fallen by 2% (from 16.3 million to 15.9 million).

The number of certificates awarded fell by just under 3% in 2014/15 compared to the previous year (from 16.4 to 15.9 million). Change in GCSE take-up is the biggest factor, with numbers of certificates awarded decreasing by just over 3% (from 5.6 million to 5.4 million). Numbers of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS, and A level decreased by just under 3% (from 8.6 million to 8.3 million), in part caused by changes to funding and accountability measures. Numbers of certificates awarded in AS and A level qualifications remained relatively stable with a decrease of less than 1% in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14. A number of factors are likely to have influenced these figures. In particular, as set out above, at GCSE, changes made to school performance tables and the structure of the qualification are likely to have been significant factors in the decrease in the number of certifications.

Figure 3: Number of certificates awarded, broken down into GCSE, AS and A level, and other qualifications, from 2010/11 to 2014/15



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

Note: 'Other' refers to qualifications other than GCSE, AS, and A level.

Awarding organisation share of certificates awarded

Table 5 shows the trends in the total number of certificates awarded for all qualifications for the 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of certificates in 2014/15. These organisations awarded over 90% of all certificates in the past five years, both in each year and across all five years as a whole.

The five largest awarding organisations by number of certificates awarded were Pearson, AQA Education (AQA), Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR), City & Guilds of London Institute (City and Guilds) and WJEC-CBAC (WJEC). They have awarded around 75% of certificates in each year for the past five years. However, all five organisations awarded fewer certificates in 2014/15 than in the previous year. Amongst these organisations, Pearson had the largest decrease (10%), followed by WJEC (7%), City and Guilds (5%), OCR (4%), and AQA by less than 1%.

The number of certificates awarded by Pearson, AQA, OCR, and City & Guilds has decreased over the past five years by less than 1%, 11%, 30%, and 10% respectively. The number of certificates awarded by WJEC has increased by 8% over the last five years.

Table 5: The 20 awarding organisations with the most certificates awarded in all qualifications, 2013/14 and 2014/15

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		Percentage change
	2013/14	2014/15	
Pearson Education Ltd	4,117,000	3,696,000	-10%
AQA Education	3,546,100	3,529,900	0~%
OCR	2,003,700	1,915,600	-4%
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,398,400	1,331,300	-5%
WJEC-CBAC	1,168,800	1,088,500	-7%
Cambridge English Language Assessment	194,200	297,200	53%
Cambridge International Examinations	165,700	281,100	70%
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	304,800	279,200	-8%
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	256,500	272,400	6%
NCFE	302,600	270,900	-10%
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	267,200	255,100	-5%
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	241,600	239,700	-1%
Trinity College London	170,600	181,100	6%
Qualsafe Awards	124,100	148,100	19%
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	83,000	107,900	30%
NOCN	138,900	96,100	-31%
First Aid Awards Ltd	78,300	90,400	15%
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	91,300	88,400	-3%
Cskills Awards	72,900	70,300	-4%
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	59,100	69,200	17%
Others	1,589,200	1,624,300	2%
Total	16,374,300	15,932,700	-3%

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

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

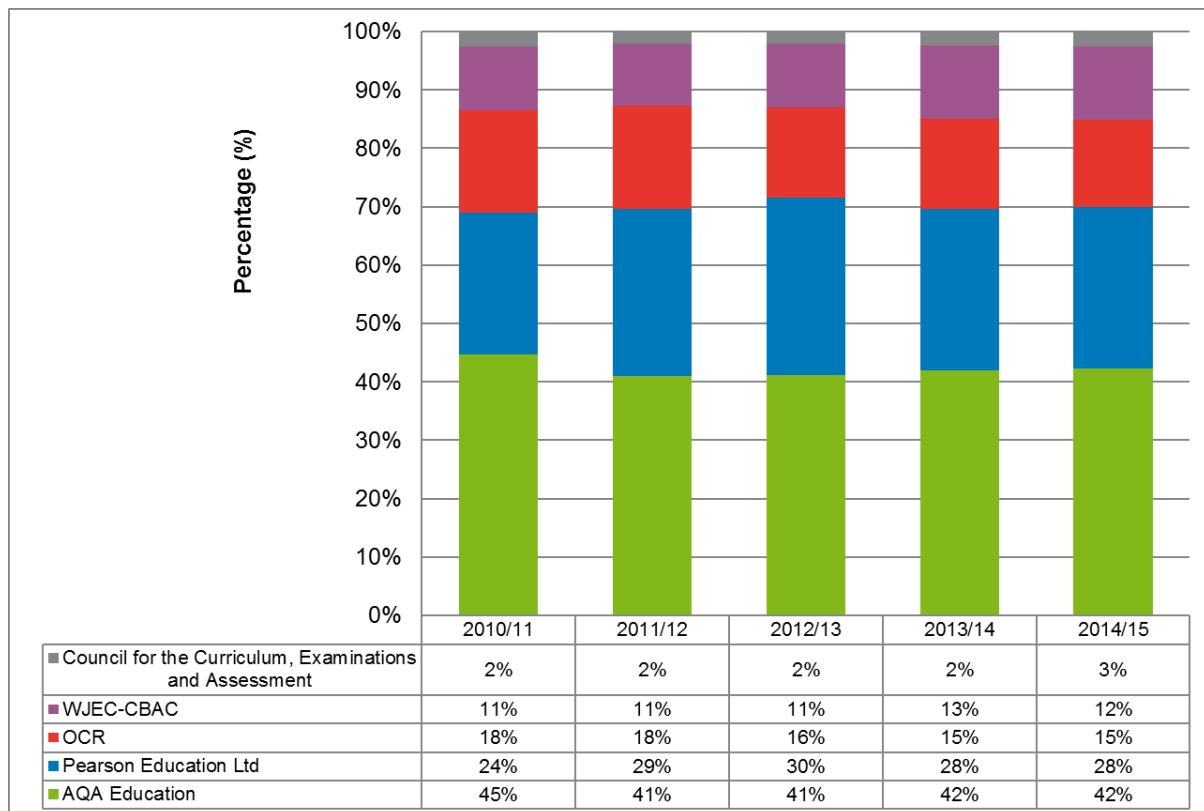
Eight of the 20 largest awarding organisations by number of certificates awarded reported an increase in the number of certificates awarded in 2014/15 compared to the previous year. Of these, Cambridge International Examinations showed the biggest increase (70%). This is mainly due to a 66% increase in the number of certificates awarded in their Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English (from 129,900 to 215,900) and a 313% increase in the number of certificates awarded in their Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Literature (English) (from 5,300 to 21,900).

Over the past five years, Cambridge International Examinations and First Aid Awards Ltd. showed the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates awarded, while NOCN and OCR showed the largest decreases. Table A3 in the appendix shows the number of certificates awarded in this period.

Certificates awarded in GCSE qualifications

Figure 4 shows that shares of awarding organisations in the GCSE market have been relatively static over the past five years, although volumes have decreased. This is as expected – whilst qualifications are stable we would not expect to see large changes in GCSE, AS or A level market share. However, this might change in future years as reformed qualifications are introduced. The largest three organisations account for over 85% of all certificates awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Figure 4: GCSE certificate data by awarding organisation from 2010/11 to 2014/15



Source: JCQ data

Certificates awarded in GCSE subjects

Figure 5 shows the number of certificates awarded across different subjects for GCSE qualifications in 2014/15. The ten subjects with the highest number of certificates awarded remained the same as in the previous year. The order of the subjects from the highest number of certificates awarded to the lowest remains the same as in the previous year apart from science and religious studies switching places. This is due to both a slight increase in the number of science certificates awarded (5%, from 370,900 to 390,900) and a slight decrease in the number of religious studies certificates awarded (4%, from 394,200 to 379,600).

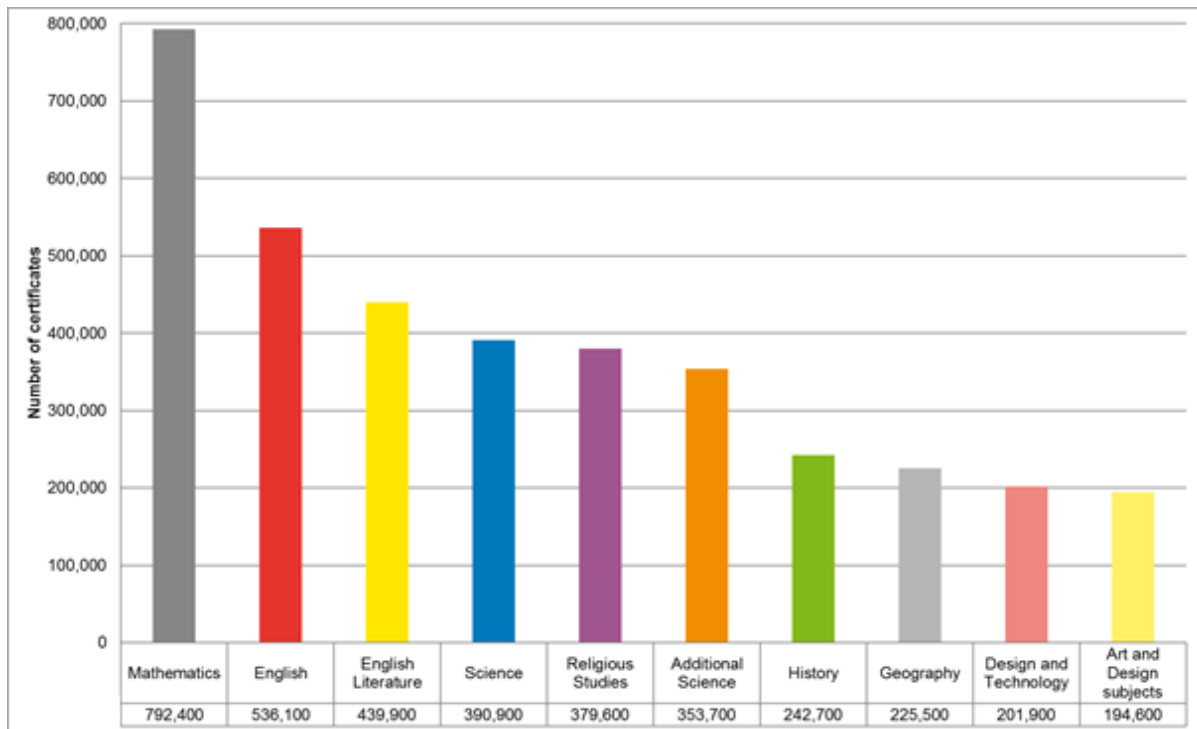
There was a considerable decrease in the number of certificates awarded in English¹⁴ (19%, from 658,100 to 536,100) compared to the previous year. This is likely to reflect both the migration of students from GCSEs in English to Level 1/Level 2 certificates and reduced entry in the November 2014 series compared to November 2013. The latter was the result of the November 2013 series being the last modular series and a Government policy change stating that only a student's first entry to a GCSE examination would count in their school's performance tables. This policy change resulted in fewer students being entered in both the November and summer series.

The number of additional science certificates awarded increased by 10% (from 321,000 to 353,700). The increases seen in the number of science and additional science certificates awarded are likely to be the result of science qualifications changing from modular to linear specifications. This change has meant that candidates are now more likely to certificate in these qualifications in year 11 rather than in earlier school years.

The number of certificates awarded in mathematics decreased by 7% (from 854,400 to 792,400). As with English, this is likely to be due to reduced entry in non-summer series in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14. In the 2014/15 academic year the January and March series were removed and the November series was available only to students who were resitting qualifications.

¹⁴ English includes qualifications in English and English language.

Figure 5: Number of GCSE certificates awarded for the ten subjects with the most certificates for 2014/15¹⁵



Source: JCQ data

Note: In 2014/15, there were 1.7 million certificates awarded in other GCSE subjects.

¹⁵ As above.

Distribution of GCSE qualifications across awarding organisations

Table 6 highlights the variability of GCSE subject market share between awarding organisations. Table A4 in the appendix shows the 20 GCSE qualifications with the most certificates during the 2014/15 academic year.

Table 6: The distribution of certificates awarded by awarding organisation for all GCSE subjects in 2014/15

Subject	Awarding organisation										Total
	AQA	%	CCEA	%	OCR	%	Pearson	%	WJEC	%	
Additional Science	203,600	58%	0	0%	84,400	24%	57,200	16%	8,600	2%	353,700
Art and Design subjects	113,200	58%	3,900	2%	22,200	11%	43,500	22%	11,800	6%	194,600
Biology	77,400	56%	3,600	3%	40,700	29%	12,100	9%	5,100	4%	138,900
Business & Comm. Systems	10,500	71%	600	4%	1,700	11%	1,900	13%	0	0%	14,700
Business Studies	24,300	25%	3,200	3%	15,300	16%	47,700	49%	6,200	6%	96,700
Chemistry	74,000	56%	2,800	2%	39,700	30%	11,700	9%	5,000	4%	133,300
Citizenship Studies	8,800	27%	0	0%	6,400	20%	17,300	53%	0	0%	32,400
Classical subjects	1,300	8%	0	0%	15,000	92%	0	0%	0	0%	16,300
Computing	5,800	17%	0	0%	27,000	78%	600	2%	1,400	4%	34,700
Construction	0	0%	500	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	500
Design & Technology	151,500	75%	2,800	1%	16,500	8%	17,900	9%	13,100	7%	201,900
Drama	21,900	29%	1,100	1%	6,300	8%	38,600	51%	7,500	10%	75,400
Economics	3,300	52%	200	3%	2,800	45%	0	0%	0	0%	6,300
Engineering	5,600	69%	400	4%	1,000	12%	1,200	14%	0	0%	8,100
English	292,200	55%	19,600	4%	30,000	6%	42,400	8%	151,900	28%	536,100
English Literature	251,100	57%	7,900	2%	27,700	6%	37,400	9%	115,800	26%	439,900
French	82,700	53%	4,100	3%	9,700	6%	46,300	29%	14,800	9%	157,600
Geography	110,600	49%	5,400	2%	34,000	15%	46,400	21%	29,200	13%	225,500
German	29,000	54%	500	1%	3,500	7%	15,900	29%	5,200	10%	54,100
Health & Social Care	4,000	19%	600	3%	7,300	34%	7,700	36%	1,900	9%	21,500
History	59,400	24%	6,500	3%	85,200	35%	69,600	29%	22,100	9%	242,700
Home Economics	11,700	35%	4,200	12%	10,700	32%	0	0%	7,300	21%	33,900
Hospitality	0	0%	400	9%	0	0%	0	0%	4,000	91%	4,400
Humanities	4,800	65%	0	0%	1,200	16%	0	0%	1,400	19%	7,300
ICT	11,200	10%	9,100	8%	11,100	10%	70,600	60%	15,100	13%	117,100
Irish	0	0%	2,000	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2,000
Leisure & Tourism	2,000	30%	100	2%	500	7%	2,700	41%	1,400	21%	6,700
Manufacturing	0	0%	200	53%	100	45%	0	2%	0	0%	300
Mathematics	122,700	15%	19,800	2%	65,000	8%	527,600	67%	57,200	7%	792,400
Mathematics (Additional)	0	0%	3,500	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3,500
Media / Film / TV Studies	33,100	53%	500	1%	8,000	13%	0	0%	20,800	33%	62,300
Music	15,300	32%	1,600	3%	8,300	17%	19,800	42%	2,600	5%	47,600
Other Modern Languages	13,100	39%	0	0%	5,600	16%	15,300	45%	0	0%	34,000
Other Sciences	2,800	33%	200	2%	1,900	22%	2,400	27%	1,400	16%	8,600
Other Technology	0	0%	1,000	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1,000
Performing / Expressive Arts	18,800	90%	0	0%	1,100	5%	0	0%	1,100	5%	21,000
Physical Education	38,400	30%	1,700	1%	10,100	8%	70,400	55%	6,600	5%	127,300
Physics	74,200	56%	2,700	2%	39,800	30%	11,600	9%	5,000	4%	133,300
Prep. For Life and Work	0	0%	7,400	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	7,400
Religious Studies	116,300	31%	8,700	2%	65,100	17%	126,400	33%	63,100	17%	379,600
Science	216,800	55%	4,900	1%	90,600	23%	63,700	16%	14,900	4%	390,900
Social Science subjects	26,000	56%	0	0%	10,700	23%	3,600	8%	5,800	13%	46,100
Spanish	48,600	54%	2,700	3%	5,100	6%	25,900	29%	8,300	9%	90,600
Statistics	8,600	16%	0	0%	0	0%	47,000	84%	0	0%	55,600
Welsh Literature	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3,600	100%	3,600
Welsh: First Language	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5,500	100%	5,500
Welsh: Second Language	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	24,100	100%	24,100
All other subjects	9,400	23%	300	1%	0	0%	0	0%	30,600	76%	40,400
Total	2,304,100	42%	141,700	3%	811,200	15%	1,502,400	28%	679,400	12%	5,438,800

Source: JCQ data

Certificates awarded in AS and A level qualifications

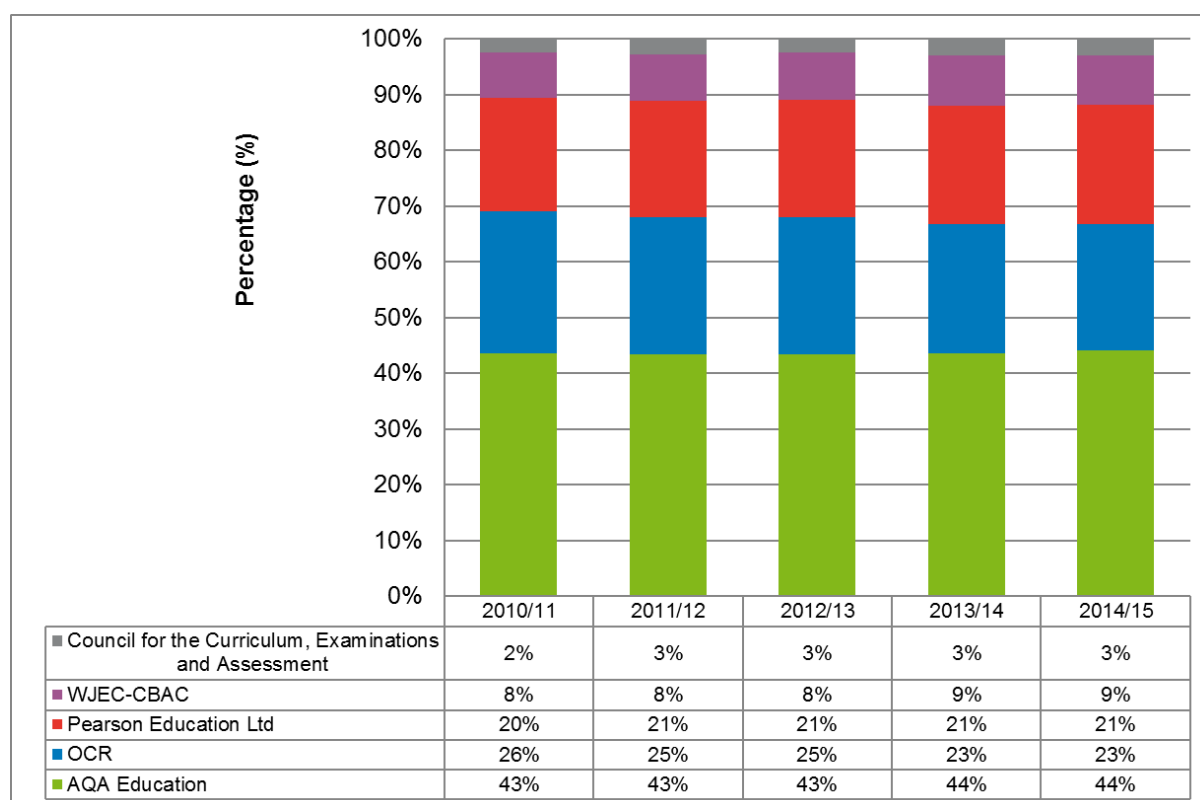
All A levels taken in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the 2014/15 academic year were made up of advanced subsidiary (AS) units and A2 units¹⁶. This section shows data and trends in the distribution of certificates awarded for AS and A levels across awarding organisations. It also highlights high-volume AS and A level qualifications for 2014/15.

Certificates awarded in AS qualifications

Figure 6 shows that, as with GCSEs and as expected, changes in market share across awarding organisations over the past five years have been small.

AQA has the highest market share in 2014/15 at 44% – similar to its GCSE share. The three largest organisations account for almost 90% of all certificates awarded for AS qualifications.

Figure 6: AS certificate data by awarding organisation from 2010/11 to 2014/15



Source: JCQ data

¹⁶ Under the A level reforms in England, AS qualifications will be stand-alone qualifications and will no longer contribute to A levels. This change is being introduced gradually by subject from the 2015/16 academic year.

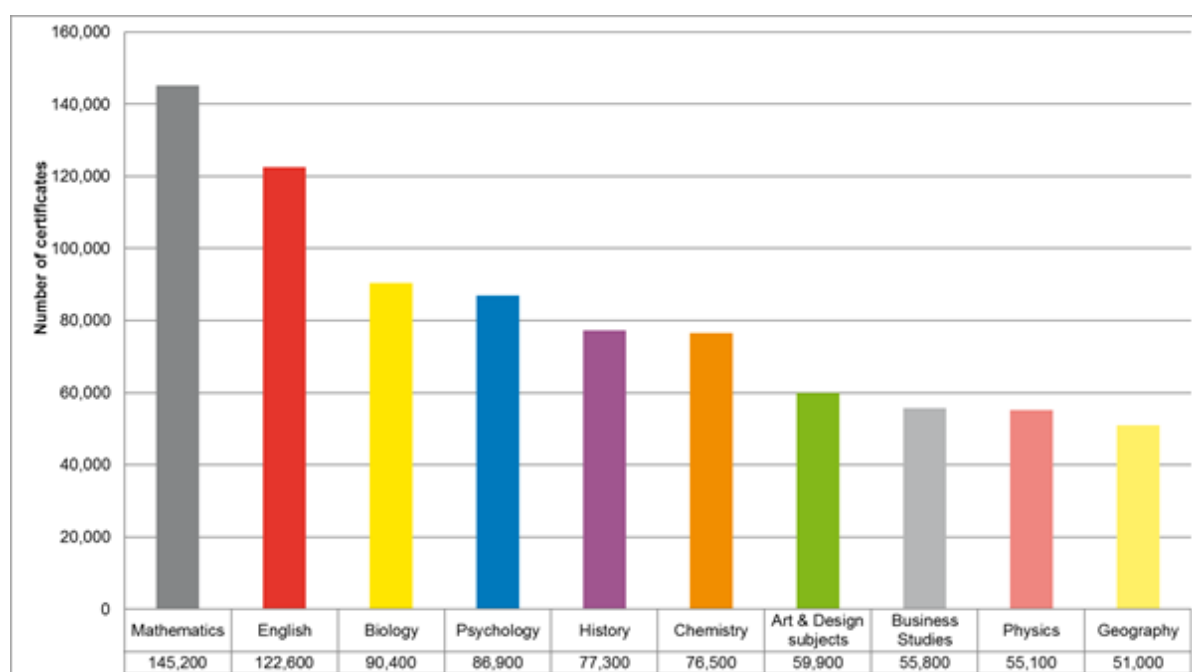
Certificates awarded in AS subjects

Figure 7 shows the number of certificates awarded by subject for AS qualifications in 2014/15. Table A5 in the appendix shows the 20 AS qualifications with the most certificates awarded during the academic year.

The ten largest subjects by number of certificates awarded, and their rankings by certificate, have remained largely unchanged since the previous year.

The number of certificates awarded in each of these subjects has largely remained stable from 2013/14 to 2014/15. The largest changes were decreases of 5% in English (from 129,100 to 122,600) and art and design subjects (from 63,400 to 59,900).

Figure 7: Number of AS certificates awarded for the ten subjects with the most certificates in 2014/15¹⁷



Source: JCQ data

Note: In 2014/15, there were 476,200 certificates awarded in other AS subjects.

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

Distribution of AS qualifications across awarding organisations

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

Table 7: The distribution of certificates awarded by awarding organisation for all AS subjects in 2014/15

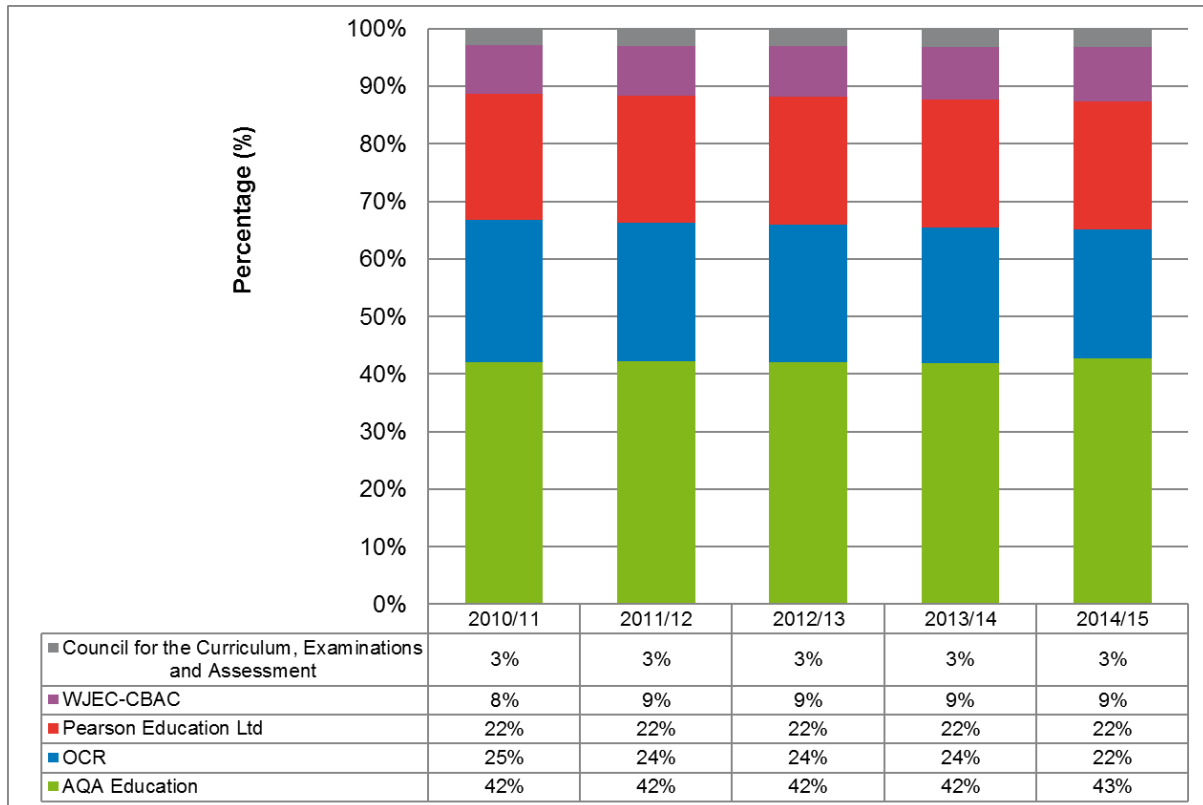
Subject	Awarding organisation										Total
	AQA	%	CCEA	%	OCR	%	Pearson	%	WJEC	%	
Art and Design subjects	29,100	48%	900	1%	8,600	14%	16,700	28%	5,000	8%	60,400
Biology	37,900	42%	4,000	4%	30,700	34%	10,400	11%	7,500	8%	90,400
Business Studies	36,100	65%	2,800	5%	5,600	10%	7,700	14%	3,600	6%	55,800
Chemistry	25,900	34%	2,000	3%	38,100	50%	7,900	10%	2,600	3%	76,500
Classical subjects	3,400	39%	0	0%	5,300	61%	0	0%	0	0%	8,700
Communication Studies	2,900	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2,900
Computing	5,000	45%	100	1%	4,100	38%	0	0%	1,700	16%	11,000
Critical Thinking	300	7%	0	0%	3,900	93%	0	0%	0	0%	4,300
Design and Technology	10,500	53%	700	3%	2,000	10%	5,200	26%	1,600	8%	20,000
Drama	5,100	31%	0	0%	0	0%	10,200	61%	1,400	8%	16,800
Economics	16,400	39%	600	1%	9,800	23%	13,800	33%	1,100	3%	41,600
Engineering	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	500	100%	0	0%	500
English	76,900	63%	2,500	2%	15,500	13%	9,200	7%	18,600	15%	122,600
French	8,300	52%	800	5%	1,200	7%	2,900	18%	2,700	17%	15,900
General Studies	19,600	69%	0	0%	5,400	19%	3,300	12%	0	0%	28,300
Geography	24,700	48%	2,500	5%	4,300	8%	14,800	29%	4,700	9%	51,000
German	3,200	50%	100	2%	600	9%	1,200	19%	1,300	20%	6,400
Health & Social Care	0	0%	1,600	14%	4,800	42%	3,400	30%	1,500	14%	11,300
History	24,200	31%	3,000	4%	15,000	19%	31,300	41%	3,800	5%	77,300
ICT	4,000	18%	3,700	16%	5,600	25%	3,700	16%	5,500	25%	22,400
Irish	0	0%	400	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	400
Law	10,000	59%	0	0%	5,100	30%	0	0%	1,800	11%	16,900
Leisure	0	0%	0	0%	200	37%	400	63%	0	0%	600
Mathematics	31,900	22%	3,800	3%	38,200	26%	67,700	47%	3,600	2%	145,200
Mathematics (Further)	5,600	22%	200	1%	7,700	30%	12,000	47%	200	1%	25,700
Media / Film / TV Studies	8,100	19%	700	2%	10,100	24%	400	1%	23,100	55%	42,400
Music	1,600	15%	500	5%	1,000	9%	7,100	65%	700	7%	10,800
Other Modern Languages	1,600	16%	0	0%	1,700	17%	6,600	67%	0	0%	9,900
Other sciences	800	16%	100	1%	2,400	46%	0	0%	1,900	37%	5,200
Performing / Expressive Arts	2,700	57%	100	3%	1,100	23%	800	17%	0	0%	4,700
Physical Education	7,500	42%	100	1%	8,100	45%	1,500	8%	700	4%	18,000
Physics	24,400	44%	2,200	4%	19,500	35%	7,000	13%	2,000	4%	55,100
Political Studies	5,200	25%	1,200	6%	900	4%	13,200	64%	300	1%	20,700
Psychology	62,700	72%	0	0%	11,700	13%	7,600	9%	5,000	6%	86,900
Religious Studies	8,300	22%	2,500	7%	14,600	38%	7,600	20%	4,900	13%	37,800
Science	2,900	48%	0	0%	2,600	43%	0	0%	500	8%	6,000
Sociology	41,100	81%	0	0%	6,300	12%	0	0%	3,100	6%	50,400
Spanish	7,500	57%	600	5%	700	6%	2,400	18%	1,900	15%	13,200
Travel & Tourism	0	0%	0	0%	1,300	43%	600	21%	1,100	36%	3,000
Welsh	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	800	100%	800
All other subjects	15,700	82%	700	4%	1,200	7%	0~	0~%	1,300	7%	19,000
Total	571,300	44%	38,300	3%	294,800	23%	276,900	21%	115,600	9%	1,296,900

Source: JCQ data

Certificates awarded in A level qualifications

As expected, Figure 8 shows that changes in market share across awarding organisations in A level qualifications over the past five years have been negligible. AQA consistently awarded the largest proportion of certificates over the period, with a market share of 43% in 2014/15.

Figure 8: A level certificate data by awarding organisation from 2010/11 to 2014/15



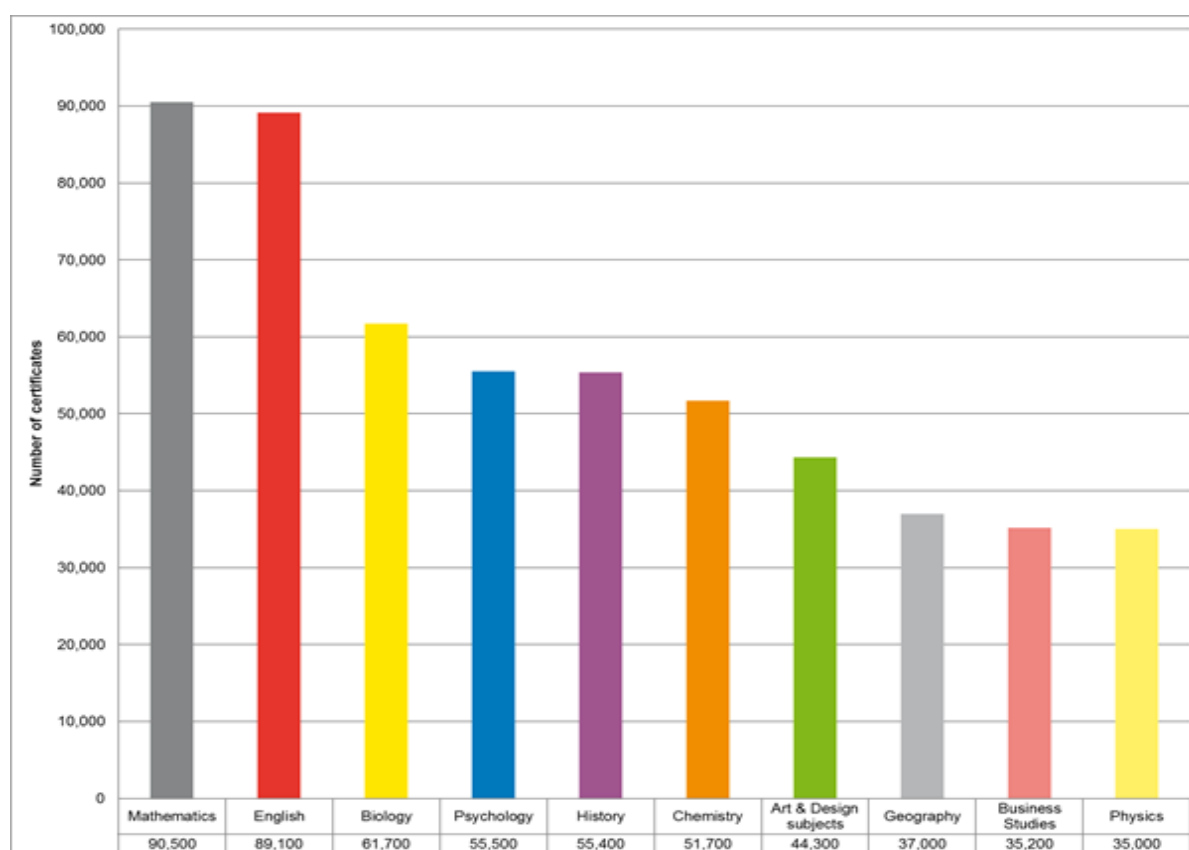
Source: JCQ data

Certificates awarded in A level subjects

Figure 9 shows the number of certificates awarded by subject for A level qualifications in 2014/15. Table A6 in the appendix shows the 20 A level qualifications with the most certificates awarded during the academic year.

The ten largest subjects by number of certificates awarded, and their rankings by certificate numbers, have remained largely unchanged from the previous year. However, in reverse to 2013/14, the number of certificates awarded in 2014/15 in history was higher than in chemistry and the number awarded in geography was higher than in physics. The number of certificates awarded in each of these subjects has largely remained stable from 2013/14 to 2014/15 apart from geography and history, where the numbers have increased by 13% (32,700 to 37,000) and 7% (51,600 to 55,400) respectively. These subjects are what the Russell Group of universities refers to as ‘facilitating subjects’¹⁸, subjects that are most commonly required or preferred by universities for entrance to degree courses and this may be the reason for the increase in uptake of these subjects at A level.

Figure 9: Number of A level certificates for the ten subjects with the most certificates awarded in 2014/15¹⁹



Note: In 2014/15, there were 310,700 certificates awarded in other A level subjects. Source: JCQ data

¹⁸ First published in 2011 in their ‘Informed Choices’ publication.

¹⁹ English refers to English literature, English language and English language and literature.

Distribution of A level qualifications across awarding organisations

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

Table 8: The distribution of certificates awarded by awarding organisations for all A level subjects in 2014/15

Subject	Awarding organisation										Total
	AQA	%	CCEA	%	OCR	%	Pearson	%	WJEC	%	
Art and Design subjects	21,000	47%	900	2%	6,500	15%	13,000	29%	3,300	8%	44,700
Biology	25,500	41%	2,600	4%	21,200	34%	7,000	11%	5,300	9%	61,700
Business Studies	22,500	64%	2,100	6%	3,600	10%	4,700	13%	2,400	7%	35,200
Chemistry	17,000	33%	1,100	2%	26,000	50%	5,600	11%	1,900	4%	51,700
Classical subjects	2,600	40%	0	0%	3,900	60%	0	0%	0	0%	6,600
Communication Studies	1,800	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1,800
Computing	2,500	49%	0~	1%	1,600	31%	0	0%	1,000	20%	5,200
Critical Thinking	0	0%	0	0%	200	100%	0	0%	0	0%	200
Design and Technology	6,700	52%	500	4%	1,200	10%	3,300	26%	1,300	10%	12,900
Drama	4,100	31%	0	0%	0	0%	7,900	60%	1,100	9%	13,200
Economics	10,100	37%	300	1%	6,700	24%	9,400	34%	900	3%	27,500
Engineering	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	300	100%	0	0%	300
English	54,000	61%	1,800	2%	12,300	14%	7,100	8%	13,800	16%	89,100
French	5,200	51%	500	5%	800	8%	1,900	18%	1,800	18%	10,200
General Studies	9,200	54%	0	0%	4,600	27%	3,100	18%	0	0%	16,900
Geography	17,700	48%	1,800	5%	3,600	10%	10,300	28%	3,500	9%	37,000
German	1,900	47%	100	2%	400	10%	800	21%	800	20%	4,000
Health & Social Care	0	0%	1,400	18%	3,100	39%	2,400	30%	1,100	14%	8,100
History	16,900	30%	2,200	4%	11,500	21%	21,800	39%	3,100	6%	55,400
ICT	2,400	16%	3,000	20%	3,700	25%	2,400	16%	3,600	24%	15,200
Irish	0	0%	300	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	300
Law	6,200	60%	0	0%	3,100	30%	0	0%	1,100	10%	10,300
Leisure	0	0%	0	0%	200	39%	200	61%	0	0%	400
Mathematics	18,200	20%	2,500	3%	21,900	24%	44,800	50%	3,100	3%	90,500
Mathematics (Further)	2,500	17%	100	1%	4,100	27%	7,800	52%	400	2%	14,800
Media / Film / TV Studies	5,600	20%	600	2%	6,800	24%	300	1%	15,200	53%	28,500
Music	1,100	14%	400	6%	700	9%	4,800	63%	600	7%	7,700
Other Modern Languages	1,300	14%	0	0%	1,300	14%	6,800	73%	0	0%	9,400
Other sciences	400	10%	0~	1%	1,600	46%	0	0%	1,400	42%	3,400
Performing / Expressive Arts	1,900	54%	100	2%	900	25%	600	19%	0	0%	3,500
Physical Education	4,800	40%	100	1%	5,400	45%	1,200	10%	500	4%	12,000
Physics	15,700	45%	1,300	4%	11,800	34%	4,500	13%	1,600	5%	35,000
Political Studies	3,700	25%	900	6%	700	4%	9,400	63%	200	1%	14,900
Psychology	40,000	72%	0	0%	7,400	13%	4,700	9%	3,400	6%	55,500
Religious Studies	5,300	21%	2,300	9%	9,500	37%	5,100	20%	3,200	13%	25,500
Science	1,600	47%	0	0%	1,500	43%	0	0%	400	11%	3,500
Sociology	26,100	82%	0	0%	3,800	12%	0	0%	2,000	6%	31,900
Spanish	4,800	56%	400	5%	500	6%	1,600	19%	1,200	14%	8,600
Travel & Tourism	0	0%	0	0%	800	47%	400	21%	600	32%	1,800
Welsh	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	700	100%	700
All other subjects	9,200	81%	500	5%	900	8%	0	0%	700	6%	11,300
Total	369,700	43%	28,000	3%	193,800	22%	193,500	22%	81,100	9%	866,100

Source: JCQ data

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

Over the past five years, the total number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level has increased overall from 8 million to 8.3 million. This period has also seen big increases in the number of qualifications designed to meet the QCF requirements, in parallel with big reductions in the qualification types that they typically replaced.

However, there has been a 3% decrease in the total number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level compared to the previous year (from 8.6 million to 8.3 million). This is likely to be due to changes in funding and the accountability framework that reduced the number of vocational qualifications recognised in schools for performance table purposes.

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

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

Table 9 shows the change in the number of certificates awarded for the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates compared to the previous year. Pearson awarded nearly one-fifth of all certificates in 2014/15. The largest ten organisations, by number of certificates awarded, account for 65% of all certificates awarded. Table A7 in the appendix presents the same data but over a five-year period.

Table 9: Distribution of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2014/15 by the ten largest awarding organisations (by number of certificates awarded in 2014/15)

Awarding organisation	2013/14	2014/15	Percentage change
Pearson Education Ltd	2,090,500	1,723,100	-18%
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,398,400	1,331,300	-5%
OCR	636,000	615,900	-3%
Cambridge English Language Assessment	194,200	297,200	53%
AQA Education	248,000	284,800	15%
Cambridge International Examinations	165,700	281,100	70%
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	304,800	279,200	-8%
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	256,500	272,400	6%
NCFE	302,600	270,900	-10%
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	267,200	255,100	-5%
Others	2,711,900	2,719,800	0~%
Total	8,575,900	8,330,900	-3%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

Cambridge International Examinations saw a large increase (70%) compared to last year which, as previously mentioned, is mainly due to an increase in awards for their Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English (from 129,900 to 215,900) and Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Literature (English) (from 5,300 to 21,900).

Cambridge English Language Assessment also saw a large increase over the last year (53%), predominantly due to the introduction of new qualifications to the market.

The number of certificates awarded by AQA increased by 15%; this was mainly due to large increases in the number of certificates awarded in Level 1/Level 2 certificates in English literature (from 400 to 37,900) and English language (from 3,000 to 24,100).

Pearson had the largest decrease in numbers of certificates awarded (18%), most of which was in BTEC Level 2 qualifications. The qualification with the largest decrease was BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Sport (QCF) (from 59,500 to 2,800).

Certificates by sector subject area

Table 10 shows the change in the number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2014/15 compared to the previous year in the 15 sector subject areas.

Table 10: Number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in each sector subject area from 2013/14 to 2014/15

Sector subject area	Number of certificates		Percentage change
	2013/14	2014/15	
Health, Public Services and Care	1,183,000	1,189,300	1%
Science and Mathematics	288,200	274,100	-5%
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	111,400	116,800	5%
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	401,300	401,100	0%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	232,500	275,700	19%
Information and Communication Technology	480,100	483,800	1%
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	688,200	621,800	-10%
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	475,000	424,400	-11%
Arts, Media and Publishing	882,500	834,800	-5%
History, Philosophy and Theology	30,200	28,800	-5%
Social Sciences	6,000	8,900	48%
Languages, Literature and Culture	433,400	546,300	26%
Education and Training	99,700	90,200	-10%
Preparation for Life and Work	2,617,000	2,462,100	-6%
Business, Administration, Finance and Law	697,500	572,800	-18%
Total	8,575,900	8,330,900	-3%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

The largest number of certificates awarded was in the preparation for life and work sector subject area (over 2.4 million), representing 30% of all certificates awarded. Of the 20 qualifications with the most certificates awarded, seven of them are from this sector subject area. There were just under 1 million certificates awarded in functional skills in this sector, representing 40% of all certificates awarded in this sector subject area.

Health, public services and care was the second-largest sector subject area followed by arts, media and publishing. Social sciences, language, literature and culture, and construction, planning and the built environment were the fastest growing sectors. Of these, language, literature and culture had the largest increase in terms of absolute numbers of certificates awarded (433,400 to 546,300). This was largely due to an increase in the number of certificates awarded in Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English (from 129,900 to 215,900).

Over the past five years, health, public services and care has seen the highest increase in the number of certificates awarded (50%, from 793,700 to 1,189,300). Table A8 in the appendix shows the number of certificates awarded in each sector subject area during this period.

Distribution of certificates awarded across awarding organisations by sector subject area for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level

Although there are over 160 awarding organisations providing regulated qualifications, most of them provide qualifications in only a small number of sector subject areas.

Table 11 shows the distribution of certificates awarded in 2014/15 in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level across the largest five awarding organisations by sector subject area, and how this compares to the previous year.

In each sector subject area, the three largest awarding organisations by number of certificates awarded account for more than 50% of certificates (except in health, public services and care where it is 45%). The three largest awarding organisations by numbers of certificates awarded account for more than 80% of the certificates awarded in 7 sector subject areas.

Table 11: The five awarding organisations with the most certificates awarded in each sector subject area in 2014/15

Sector subject area	Awarding organisation	Number of certificates	Percentage of certificates in sector area	% change from 2013/14 to 2014/15
01 - Health, public services and care	Pearson Education Ltd	239,700	20%	-17%
	Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	155,700	13%	-3%
	Qualsafe Awards	140,800	12%	17%
	NCFE	123,900	10%	-2%
	City and Guilds of London Institute	89,400	8%	-6%
02 - Science and mathematics	Pearson Education Ltd	126,100	46%	-25%
	AQA Education	84,500	31%	21%
	OCR	46,300	17%	39%
	Cambridge International Examinations	12,200	4%	5%
	WJEC-CBAC	4,400	2%	11%
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	City and Guilds of London Institute	73,000	62%	7%
	Pearson Education Ltd	15,400	13%	-5%
	Equestrian Qualifications Limited	8,800	8%	-10%
	Royal Horticultural Society	4,100	3%	35%
	Open College Network Northern Ireland	2,600	2%	2600%
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	86,000	21%	-8%
	City and Guilds of London Institute	62,600	16%	-3%
	Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	60,200	15%	-10%
	Pearson Education Ltd	61,500	15%	-7%
	IMI Awards Ltd	45,900	11%	3%
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	City and Guilds of London Institute	111,000	40%	13%
	Cskills Awards	70,200	25%	-4%
	Pearson Education Ltd	38,700	14%	8%
	British Safety Council	20,000	7%	1125%
	Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	9,400	3%	42%
06 - Information and communication technology	OCR	215,200	44%	-4%
	BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	105,400	22%	32%
	Pearson Education Ltd	95,800	20%	-3%
	City and Guilds of London Institute	31,600	7%	-14%
	The Learning Machine	18,700	4%	31%
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	City and Guilds of London Institute	160,000	26%	-16%
	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	150,100	24%	-11%
	Pearson Education Ltd	85,700	14%	-25%
	Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	57,100	9%	3%
	BIIAB	52,100	8%	0%
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	Pearson Education Ltd	145,000	34%	-15%
	1st4sport Qualifications	57,500	14%	3%
	Sports Leaders UK	53,500	13%	-34%
	Active IQ	41,900	10%	30%
	Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	26,000	6%	-21%
09 - Arts, media and publishing	Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	255,100	31%	-5%
	Pearson Education Ltd	148,700	18%	-21%
	Trinity College London	102,300	12%	5%
	Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	69,200	8%	17%
	LAMDA	44,200	5%	-32%
10 - History, philosophy and theology	NOCN	10,500	36%	-41%
	Cambridge International Examinations	7,500	26%	53%
	OCR	6,900	24%	129%
	AQA Education	2,800	10%	3%
	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	500	2%	-61%
11 - Social sciences	Cambridge International Examinations	4,100	47%	25%
	AQA Education	3,400	38%	40%
	WJEC-CBAC	1,000	11%	1000%
	OCR	200	2%	14%
	Signature	100	1%	-29%
12 - Languages, literature and culture	Cambridge International Examinations	251,900	46%	79%
	Cambridge English Language Assessment	146,500	27%	-8%
	AQA Education	93,500	17%	110%
	OCR	21,800	4%	-26%
	WJEC-CBAC	12,100	2%	-19%
13 - Education and training	City and Guilds of London Institute	26,500	29%	-13%
	Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	12,700	14%	-7%
	Pearson Education Ltd	12,600	14%	-28%
	OCR	8,900	10%	-16%
	Cambridge English Language Assessment	5,200	6%	4%
14 - Preparation for life and work	City and Guilds of London Institute	695,600	28%	-1%
	Pearson Education Ltd	568,200	23%	-15%
	OCR	203,200	8%	-12%
	WJEC-CBAC	193,800	8%	-21%
	Cambridge English Language Assessment	145,600	6%	397%
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	Pearson Education Ltd	185,500	32%	-28%
	City and Guilds of London Institute	62,700	11%	-12%
	OCR	59,900	10%	-11%
	Association of Accounting Technicians	42,700	7%	3%
	Institute of Leadership & Management	41,400	7%	9%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

Table 12 shows the number of awarding organisations for each sector subject area and the number of certificates awarded compared to the previous year.

Business, administration, finance and law had the largest number of awarding organisations with certificates awarded (79). Preparation for life and work, which is the largest sector subject area by certificates awarded, had 54 awarding organisations with certificates awarded.

Table 12: The number of awarding organisations with qualifications and with certificates awarded in each sector subject area in 2014/15

Sector subject area	Certificates	No. of awarding organisations	No. of awarding organisations with certificates	Change in number of awarding organisations with certificates 2013/14 to 2014/15
01 - Health, public services and care	1,189,300	74	66	↑
02 - Science and mathematics	274,100	18	11	—
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	116,800	38	33	↑
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	401,100	63	51	↑
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	275,700	36	29	↑
06 - Information and communication technology	483,800	36	25	↑
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	621,800	65	55	↓
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	424,400	47	38	↑
09 - Arts, media and publishing	834,800	43	37	↑
10 - History, philosophy and theology	28,800	12	10	↑
11 - Social sciences	8,900	12	8	↑
12 - Languages, literature and culture	546,300	22	22	↑
13 - Education and training	90,200	72	65	↑
14 - Preparation for life and work	2,462,100	62	54	↑
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	572,800	89	79	↑

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

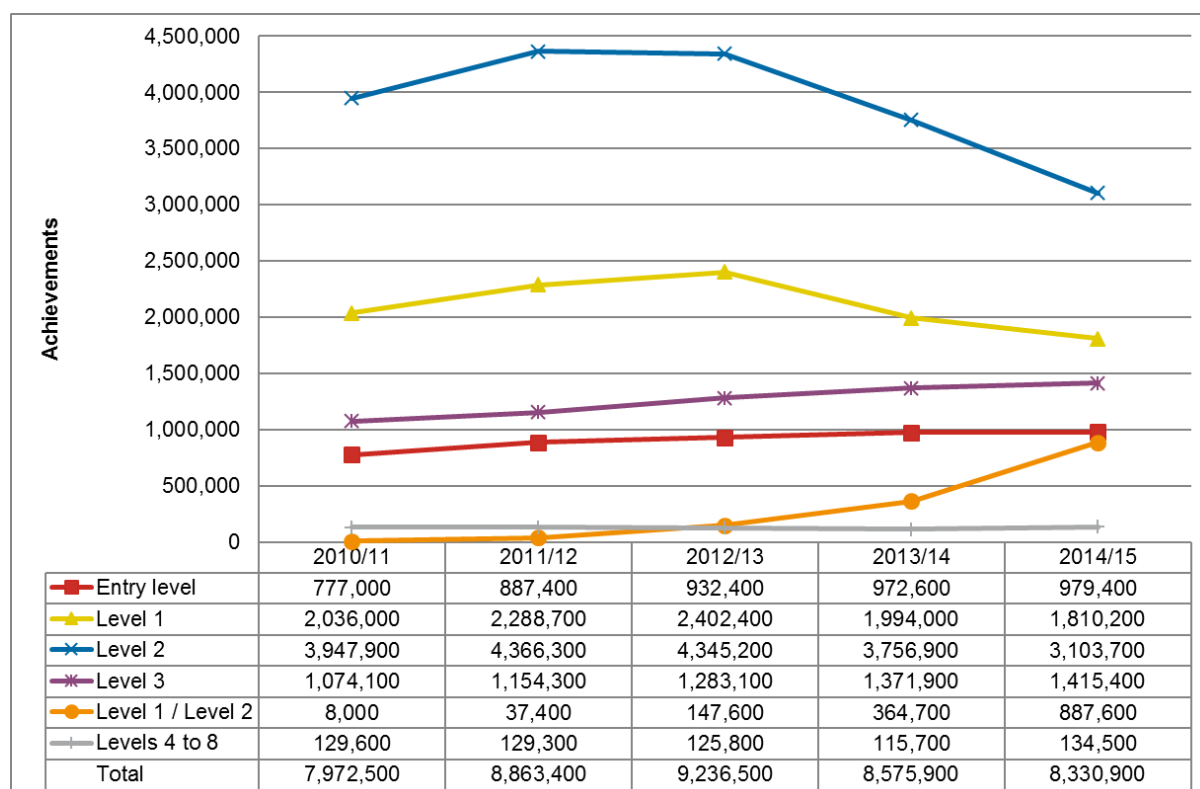
Certificates awarded by qualification level

Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are grouped into levels, from Entry level (1 to 3) to Level 8. Qualifications at the same level are at a broadly similar level of demand, but the size and content of the qualifications varies.²⁰

Figure 10 shows the number of certificates awarded at each level over the past five years in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level. Level 2 qualification certificates (excluding Level 1/Level 2 qualifications) account for the largest number of all certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2014/15 (37%).

The largest increase in the number of certificates awarded compared to the previous year was in Level 1/Level 2 qualifications (including qualifications known as Level 1/Level 2 Certificates, international GCSEs or IGCSE^{®21}, which are taken as an alternative to GCSEs), increasing by over 140%.

Figure 10: Number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by level from 2010/11 to 2014/15



Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

²⁰ Level comparisons can be found at: www.ofqual.gov.uk/help-and-advice/comparing-qualifications.

²¹ IGCSE[®] is the registered trademark of Cambridge International Examinations.

Certificates awarded by qualification type

Table 13 shows the certificates awarded in 2014/15 for all qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by type compared to the previous year. Table A9 in the appendix shows the number of certificates awarded over the past five years in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level. Definitions of qualification types are given in the glossary of terms.

Table 13: Number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by qualification type in 2013/14 and 2014/15

Qualification type	Number of certificates		Percentage change
	2013/14	2014/15	
Advanced extension award	400	400	0%
Basic skills	4,600	100	-98%
Diploma	0	0	0%
English for speakers of other languages	356,200	272,300	-24%
Entry level	80,800	73,000	-10%
Free standing mathematics qualification	35,800	51,000	42%
Functional skills	1,021,400	992,100	-3%
Higher level	5,200	9,000	73%
Key skills	122,800	99,900	-19%
National vocational qualification	7,800	2,700	-65%
Occupational qualification	100	0	-100%
Other general qualification	834,300	1,265,600	52%
Principal learning	900	2,100	133%
Project	41,500	42,200	2%
QCF	5,884,300	5,473,300	-7%
Vocationally-related qualification	179,700	47,100	-74%
Total	8,575,900	8,330,900	-3%

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

There has been a 3% decrease in the total number of certificates awarded in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level compared to the previous year. The largest increase in the absolute number of certificates awarded was in other general qualifications (52%, 834,300 to 1,265,600). This is mainly due to previously mentioned large increases in the number of Level 1/Level 2 certificates awarded.

Functional skills qualifications have replaced basic skills and key skills qualifications leading to a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in these qualifications. Vocationally-related qualifications have seen a large decrease in certificates awarded (74%, from 179,900 to 47,100) as have national vocational qualifications (65% from 7,800 to 2,700). This is due to the development and increased uptake of other alternative qualification types.

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

Background notes

The certificate data in this release covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It has been compiled in accordance with our statistical policies.²²

Data source

Information on qualifications is taken from Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications, which contains details of recognised awarding organisations and regulated qualifications in England (Ofqual), Wales (Qualifications Wales) and Northern Ireland (CCEA Accreditation).

The Register is used by awarding organisations to submit certain qualifications for accreditation and to maintain details of those qualifications. The data submitted by the awarding organisations includes information on qualifications, covering title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level. Ofqual uses the Register for regulatory activity, and it is regarded as administrative data. Ofqual cannot amend this information; it is the responsibility of the awarding organisations. Where Ofqual sees anomalies in the data it requires awarding organisations to correct their information. Available qualifications are taken from the Register and awarding bodies are asked to send the associated data on certificates awarded.

Each quarter, all recognised awarding organisations submit data to Ofqual about the number of certificates they have awarded for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, regardless of the age of the student and the type of school or college. Certificates are counted in the quarter when the qualification was awarded. This release shows the number of awards broken down by awarding organisation, sector subject area, type of qualification, level of qualification and country. This data source has been referred to as 'Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database' throughout the report.

The number of qualifications and certificates awarded in all specifications for GCSEs, AS and A levels taken in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is sent to Ofqual annually by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), which represents the GCSE, AS and A level awarding organisations. GCSE certificates cover full course, short course, applied double and applied single awards. A level includes A level applied double award and A level applied single award. Similarly, AS includes AS applied double award and AS applied single award. The data has been cleaned to exclude candidates who achieved grade U or were absent. This data source will be referred to as 'JCQ data' throughout the report.

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

²² www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

Limitations of data

Certification data for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level is collected at the earliest point available, which is the first day of the next reporting period. This reduces the time between the activity and reporting on the activity.

Ofqual cannot guarantee that the number of certificates sent are correct, although it expects awarding organisations to send correct data. Summary data is sent to awarding organisations for checking and confirmation. The figures reported in this release reflect the certificates awarded by awarding organisations at the time of data collection.

Ofqual carries out quality assurance procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data and challenges or questions it where necessary. Publication may be deferred if the statistics are not considered fit for purpose.

Geographical coverage

The certificate data in this release covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Revisions

Once published, data on the number of certificates awarded for any qualification is not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases may be revised to insert late data or to correct an error. Qualifications may also be re-categorised to a different type, level, sector subject area or awarding organisation. In some cases, data may be amended to reflect the new categorisation.

Completeness of the data

All awarding organisations with regulated available qualifications in the year being reported have been included. Figures for past years include data about awarding organisations that are no longer recognised.

Confidentiality

To ensure confidentiality of the raw data published online, the number of certificates awarded for qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level has been rounded to the nearest five. If the value is less than five, it is represented as 0~ and 0 represents no certificates awarded.

Rounding

Figures in the commentary and tables for the number of certificates awarded are rounded to the nearest 100 for ease of use. As a result of rounded figures, the

percentages shown in any figures may not necessarily add up to 100. The numbers of qualifications have been left as exact figures.

Users of these statistics

These statistics are of particular interest to recognised awarding organisations who use these statistics for product development and business development strategies, and to gain insight into market share. Other users include the Department for Education and the Examination Officers' Association.

Related statistics and publications

This statistical release presents annual data. There will be some overlap between the figures in this release and those in Ofqual's *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly* publication.

A number of other statistical releases and publications relate to this one, including:

- *Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England 2014/15*,²³ published by the Department for Education, which covers students' certificates awarded in GCSEs and equivalent regulated qualifications in schools in England at the end of Key Stage 4. The *Statistical First Release: A Level and Other Results, 2014/15*²⁴ covers certificates awarded for students aged 16 to 18 at schools and colleges in England in all Level 3 qualifications. These releases can be used to add context to the trends seen in Level 2 and Level 3 A level, AS and GCSE equivalent qualifications.
- The quarterly *Statistical First Release*,²⁵ published by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, reports on apprenticeship volumes that cover statistics on adult (19+) government-funded participation, certificate and success rates for further education, and apprenticeships participation and certificates awarded for all ages (16+) in England. It also shows figures on certificates awarded for vocational qualifications in the UK, as collected by Ofqual and through the National Vocational Qualifications Database.

Useful information

A glossary of terms is available in the next section to help you interpret this release.

You can find Ofqual's publication schedule for the next releases online.²⁶

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2014-to-2015>

²⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-level-3-results-2014-to-2015-revised>

²⁵ <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

²⁶ www.gov.uk/government/statistics

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England and Northern Ireland (as well as Wales until 17 March 2016).²⁷

²⁷ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

Glossary of terms

A levels – also known as General Certificates of Education, were available in the 2014/15 academic year as advanced level qualifications (A levels) and advanced subsidiary (AS). They are one of the main qualifications that young people use to gain entry to university.

Accreditation – a process by which Ofqual (or one of the other regulators) reviews and confirms that proposed qualifications meet specific criteria before they can be offered. Ofqual no longer requires all regulated qualifications to have been accredited.

Accredited qualification – this is an old term that was sometimes used to mean ‘regulated qualification’ (see below). Ofqual now allows awarding organisations to submit most qualifications for regulation without having to be accredited, so it is strictly incorrect to refer to regulated qualifications as accredited.

Active qualification – a qualification where certificates have been awarded.

Available qualification – a qualification eligible for an award or a qualification that has made an award even if it is no longer eligible (no longer available for students to enrol on). For the purpose of this release, a qualification is described as available until the certification end date or if an award has been certified during the reporting period.

Awarding organisation – an organisation recognised by Ofqual or another regulator to develop, deliver and award qualifications.

Certificate/certification – a formal acknowledgement of a student’s achievement. This will be any award that is not graded as U, absent or X (fail).

Certification end date – the last date on which a student may be issued with a certificate of achievement for the qualification.

GCSEs – General Certificates of Secondary Education are the main school-leaving qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They are available in a range of subjects and can be studied alongside other qualifications. They are generally sat by 15 to 18 year olds in schools and colleges but are open to anyone who wants to gain a qualification.

Level – qualifications are assigned a level from Entry level, then Level 1 through to Level 8 (equivalent level of demand to a doctorate), indicating the broad level of demand of the qualification.

National vocational qualifications (NVQs) – work-related, competence-based qualifications that cover a broad range of industry sectors and occupations, and are delivered in a workplace setting.

Other general qualifications – qualifications that assess a particular subject area, such as music or art, other than GCSEs, AS and A levels. These qualifications are not directly work related but may support career development. They are often graded. The category also includes Level 1/Level 2 Certificates and IGCSE®.

Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) – a set of regulatory rules for vocational qualifications that Ofqual has withdrawn from October 2015.

Quarter – refers to calendar quarters. Quarter 1 (Q1) refers to January – March, quarter 2 (Q2) to April – June, quarter 3 (Q3) to July – September, and quarter 4 (Q4) to October – December.

Recognition – the formal process that Ofqual operates whereby applicant awarding organisations that wish to offer regulated qualifications can demonstrate that they meet the recognition criteria. The scope of recognition is the qualifications or types of qualification that the awarding organisation is recognised to offer, which may be quite narrow or very broad depending on the type of organisation and the qualifications it wishes to offer. Recognition is a robust gateway into the regulated marketplace. Only applicants who meet the criteria in full will be recognised. Recognised organisations have to meet Ofqual’s Conditions of Recognition on an ongoing basis.

Register – the Register of Regulated Qualifications contains details of recognised awarding organisations and the regulated qualifications they offer.

Regulated qualifications – a qualification that is offered by a recognised awarding organisation within the scope of its recognition. Regulated qualifications must be added to the Register of qualifications and have to meet Ofqual’s requirements. Some qualifications are subject to an accreditation requirement and have to be checked by the regulator before they can be offered as regulated qualifications.

Vocationally related qualifications – work-related, competence-based qualifications designed to give students the skills and knowledge they need to do a job. They are related to employment but, unlike NVQs, do not necessarily require a work placement.

Appendix

Table A1	The number of regulated qualifications of each type from 2010/11 to 2014/15
Table A2	The number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded from 2010/11 to 2014/15
Table A3	The number of certificates awarded from 2010/11 to 2014/15 by the 20 awarding organisations with the most certificates in all qualifications in 2014/15
Table A4	The 20 GCSE qualifications with the most certificates in 2014/15
Table A5	The 20 AS qualifications with the most certificates in 2014/15
Table A6	The 20 A level qualifications with the most certificates in 2014/15
Table A7	The number of certificates awarded from 2010/11 to 2014/15 by the 10 awarding organisations with the most certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2014/15
Table A8	Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in each sector subject area from 2010/11 to 2014/15
Table A9	Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by qualification type from 2010/11 to 2014/15

Table A1: The number of regulated qualifications of each type from 2010/11 to 2014/15

Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Advanced extension award	1	1	1	1	1
Basic skills	88	89	80	33	12
Diploma	196	196	196	196	0
English for speakers of other languages	186	187	193	198	202
Entry level	367	338	301	280	217
Free standing mathematics qualification	22	20	14	14	14
Functional skills	208	203	232	240	215
GCE A level	276	280	284	282	339
GCE AS	269	273	276	277	338
General certificate of secondary education	775	635	593	555	544
Higher level	554	491	419	363	146
Key skills	377	377	368	192	125
National vocational qualification	1,606	1,422	1,133	672	156
Occupational qualification	94	87	85	68	7
Other general qualification	762	798	824	817	703
Principal learning	206	216	201	157	32
Project	18	18	18	17	18
QCF	9,695	12,764	16,770	19,474	20,771
Vocationally-related qualification	2,395	2,105	1,654	1,129	680
Total	18,095	20,500	23,642	24,965	24,520

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

Table A2: The number of regulated qualifications of each type for which certificates were awarded from 2010/11 to 2014/15

Qualification type	Number of qualifications with certificates				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Advanced extension award	1	1	1	1	1
Basic skills	70	66	56	26	11
Diploma	75	109	79	6	0
English for speakers of other languages	146	140	146	148	148
Entry level	272	239	218	119	111
Free standing mathematics qualification	19	11	7	14	14
Functional skills	149	154	183	204	209
GCE A level	258	257	254	249	261
GCE AS	263	262	260	261	262
General certificate of secondary education	436	426	436	408	410
Higher level	298	221	172	108	74
Key skills	234	217	202	117	83
National vocational qualification	1,137	923	596	293	72
Occupational qualification	68	61	34	16	1
Other general qualification	611	520	512	379	396
Principal learning	80	96	70	5	6
Project	15	15	9	10	10
QCF	4,535	6,846	8,989	10,604	12,097
Vocationally-related qualification	1,602	1,000	586	355	208
Total	10,269	11,564	12,810	13,323	14,374

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

Table A3: The number of certificates awarded from 2010/11 to 2014/15 by the 20 awarding organisations with the most certificates in all qualifications in 2014/15

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Pearson Education Ltd	3,716,800	4,678,600	4,975,300	4,117,000	3,696,000
AQA Education	3,951,500	3,731,500	3,792,800	3,546,100	3,529,900
OCR	2,743,700	2,711,600	2,362,500	2,003,700	1,915,600
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,487,000	1,406,100	1,432,500	1,398,400	1,331,300
WJEC-CBAC	1,006,200	1,068,700	1,134,000	1,168,800	1,088,500
Cambridge English Language Assessment	164,200	159,000	170,900	194,200	297,200
Cambridge International Examinations	10,300	24,600	79,800	165,700	281,100
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	330,100	300,800	309,800	304,800	279,200
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	91,200	146,800	187,800	256,500	272,400
NCFE	194,900	313,300	455,500	302,600	270,900
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	282,500	288,400	273,100	267,200	255,100
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	220,000	215,900	223,400	241,600	239,700
Trinity College London	109,800	124,000	123,200	170,600	181,100
Qualsafe Awards	0	1,900	34,300	124,100	148,100
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	76,800	81,800	88,000	83,000	107,900
NOCN	217,500	221,900	298,000	138,900	96,100
First Aid Awards Ltd	3,200	7,600	39,800	78,300	90,400
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	96,700	107,500	117,300	91,300	88,400
Cskills Awards	110,700	104,800	95,900	72,900	70,300
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	54,300	61,600	56,400	59,100	69,200
Others	1,431,200	1,532,000	1,643,100	1,589,200	1,624,300
Total	16,298,600	17,288,200	17,893,300	16,374,300	15,932,700

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

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Pearson EDI.

Table A4: The 20 GCSE qualifications with the most certificates in 2014/15

Qualification	Certificates 2014/15
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Mathematics A	514,800
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Literature	251,100
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Language	234,300
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Science A	213,900
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Additional Science	181,600
WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Language	128,700
WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English Literature	115,800
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Art and Design	111,800
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Religious Studies	103,800
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Mathematics B	99,900
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Geography A	96,300
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in French	82,500
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Biology	77,400
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Physics	74,200
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Chemistry	74,000
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Religious Studies B	70,800
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	69,400
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Physical Education	65,500
Pearson Edexcel Level 1/2 GCSE In Science	63,700
AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in English	57,900

Source: JCQ data

Table A5: The 20 AS qualifications with the most certificates in 2014/15

Qualification	Certificates 2014/15
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics	67,200
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Psychology A	55,600
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Sociology	41,100
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Biology	37,200
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in History	31,300
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Business Studies	30,500
OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Chemistry A	29,900
OCR Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Biology	29,700
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Art and Design	28,300
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics (Pilot)	27,400
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Chemistry	25,900
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Geography	24,700
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in History	24,200
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Physics A	23,900
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in English Literature B	23,000
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in English Language B	21,900
OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics	20,600
OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Mathematics (MEI)	17,600
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Art and Design	16,400
AQA Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Economics	16,400

Source: JCQ data

Table A6: The 20 A level qualifications with the most certificates in 2014/15

Qualification	Certificates 2014/15
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics	44,800
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Psychology A	35,600
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Sociology	26,100
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology	25,000
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in History	21,800
OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology	20,600
OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry A	20,500
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design	20,300
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business Studies	18,600
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography	17,700
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry	17,000
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in History	16,900
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature B	16,200
AQA Advanced GCE in Mathematics (Pilot)	16,000
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Language B	15,700
AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physics A	15,400
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design	12,700
OCR Advanced GCE in Mathematics	11,700
OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature	11,400
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography	10,300

Source: JCQ data

Table A7: The number of certificates awarded from 2010/11 to 2014/15 by the 10 awarding organisations with the most certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in 2014/15

Awarding organisation	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Pearson Education Ltd	1,779,300	2,428,800	2,548,600	2,090,500	1,723,100
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,487,000	1,406,100	1,432,500	1,398,400	1,331,300
OCR	1,101,000	1,072,800	821,300	636,000	615,900
Cambridge English Language Assessment	164,200	159,000	170,900	194,200	297,200
AQA Education	266,500	233,500	186,700	248,000	284,800
Cambridge International Examinations	10,300	24,600	79,800	165,700	281,100
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	330,100	300,800	309,800	304,800	279,200
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	91,200	146,800	187,800	256,500	272,400
NCFE	194,900	313,300	455,500	302,600	270,900
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	282,500	288,400	273,100	267,200	255,100
Others	2,265,500	2,489,300	2,770,600	2,711,900	2,719,800
Total	7,972,500	8,863,400	9,236,500	8,575,900	8,330,900

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Table A8: Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level in each sector subject area from 2010/11 to 2014/15

Sector subject area	Number of certificates				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
01 - Health, public services and care	793,700	799,600	1,025,600	1,183,000	1,189,300
02 - Science and mathematics	166,800	227,100	280,300	288,200	274,100
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	121,000	119,800	120,300	111,400	116,800
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	422,500	421,500	442,700	401,300	401,100
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	214,700	240,100	243,200	232,500	275,700
06 - Information and communication technology	610,900	652,800	632,200	480,100	483,800
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	693,200	787,900	754,300	688,200	621,800
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	489,300	530,300	548,200	475,000	424,400
09 - Arts, media and publishing	785,700	889,100	897,700	882,500	834,800
10 - History, philosophy and theology	45,600	46,600	41,400	30,200	28,800
11 - Social sciences	4,500	4,200	4,700	6,000	8,900
12 - Languages, literature and culture	390,000	387,600	436,500	433,400	546,300
13 - Education and training	107,400	96,800	106,500	99,700	90,200
14 - Preparation for life and work	2,585,100	3,012,000	3,005,400	2,617,000	2,462,100
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	541,900	648,000	697,400	697,500	572,800
Total	7,972,500	8,863,400	9,236,500	8,575,900	8,330,900

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

Table A9: Number of certificates in qualifications other than GCSE, AS and A level by qualification type from 2010/11 to 2014/15

Qualification type	Number of certificates				
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Advanced extension award	0	0	0	400	400
Basic skills	611,600	512,900	101,800	4,600	100
Diploma	9,200	10,900	2,800	0~	0
English for speakers of other languages	273,900	275,900	287,600	356,200	272,300
Entry level	160,100	114,700	102,500	80,800	73,000
Free standing mathematics qualification	25,500	22,900	23,100	35,800	51,000
Functional skills	566,600	664,700	864,600	1,021,400	992,100
Higher level	30,300	16,800	7,600	5,200	9,000
Key skills	618,400	659,200	545,600	122,800	99,900
National vocational qualification	587,800	128,800	28,700	7,800	2,700
Occupational qualification	17,500	4,600	600	100	0~
Other general qualification	767,600	525,700	638,500	834,300	1,265,600
Principal learning	17,100	17,200	5,200	900	2,100
Project	50,500	49,800	43,900	41,500	42,200
QCF	2,836,900	5,283,300	6,235,800	5,884,300	5,473,300
Vocationally-related qualification	1,399,600	575,800	348,200	179,700	47,100
Total	7,972,500	8,863,400	9,236,500	8,575,900	8,330,900

Source: Ofqual's Regulated Qualification Activity Database

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