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▼ Menu

[Home](#) ▸ [Education, training and skills](#) ▸ [School curriculum](#) ▸ [Exam regulation and administration](#)  
▸ [Annual qualifications market report: academic year 2022 to 2023](#)



Official Statistics

# Annual qualifications market report: 2022 to 2023 academic year

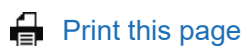
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**Applies to England**

Contents

1. [Key headlines](#)

2. [Awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications](#)
3. [Regulated qualifications](#)
4. [Certificates awarded for regulated qualifications](#)
5. [General qualifications](#)
6. [Vocational and other qualifications](#)
7. [In focus: technical qualifications and applied generals](#)
8. [In focus: Functional Skills qualifications](#)
9. [In focus: International market](#)



## 1. Key headlines



The main headlines in the regulated qualifications market in England for the 2022 to 2023 academic year were:

- There were 10,700 active qualifications (available qualifications with certificates) in the academic year 2022 to 2023, a 5.6% decrease from the 2021 to 2022 academic year.
- A total of 11.3 million certificates were issued for general, vocational and other qualifications in England, up 2.7% from the 2021 to 2022 academic year.
- There were 6.2 million GCSE, AS and A level certificates awarded in the 2022 to 2023 academic year, up by 2.3% from the previous year.
- There were 5.1 million certificates awarded for vocational and other qualifications in the 2022 to 2023 academic year, up by 3.1% from the 2021 to 2022 academic year.
- The awarding organisations with the largest overall market shares (by number of certificates issued) were AQA (34.4%), Pearson (20.1%), OCR (6.6%) and City & Guilds (4.9%).

This release covers regulated qualifications across general qualifications (GCSEs, AS and A levels), and vocational and other qualifications. Please note where this release refers to 'vocational and other' qualifications, this means all qualifications other than general qualifications, apprenticeship end-point assessments (EPAs) and T Level Technical Qualifications (TQs). Further information on the qualifications covered in this release can be found in the accompanying [background notes](#).

Alternative arrangements for many assessments were in place in the 2020 to 2021 academic year in response to continuing disruption due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The 2021 to 2022 academic year saw the return of exams and other formal assessments, with some adaptations. In the 2022 to 2023 academic year, most exams and assessments returned to pre-pandemic arrangements. The figures reported for the 2022 to 2023 academic year, especially in comparison to the 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022 academic years, may have been influenced accordingly. Further details on these arrangements are available in the [background notes](#) accompanying this release.

Changes in cohort sizes can also affect the overall numbers of certifications within an academic year. Notably, there was a 10.4% increase in the 16-year-old population over the past 5 years, from 613,000 in 2019 to 676,800 in 2023 [according to ONS population estimates](#).

## 2. Awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications

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

### Number of recognised awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications over time



	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023
<b>Number of awarding organisations</b>	160	164	178	229	251

There were 251 Ofqual-recognised awarding organisations during the 2022 to 2023 academic year. This number includes 79 awarding organisations which only delivered EPAs for apprenticeship standards during the 2022 to 2023 academic year and 29 awarding organisations that had no active qualifications (available qualifications with certificates). Please note that elsewhere in the report, statistics on qualifications and certifications do not include apprenticeship EPAs. We report on volumes and outcomes of regulated apprenticeship EPAs [in a separate statistical publication](#).

## 3. Regulated qualifications

Information on qualifications including title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level is taken from Ofqual's [Register of Regulated Qualifications](#).

### 3.1 Number of available qualifications



Numbers of qualification per type	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023
<b>Qualifications with</b>	12,269	11,644	11,742	11,385	10,742

**certificates**

<b>Qualifications without certificates</b>	6,385	6,732	6,409	6,315	6,419
<b>Total</b>	18,654	18,376	18,151	17,700	17,161

There were 17,200 active qualifications (qualifications available for certification in the 2022 to 2023 academic year). This is a 3.0% decrease from the 2021 to 2022 academic year, continuing the downward trend seen in previous years. No certificates will have been issued for some qualifications because they are new and/or require a 1- or 2-year course of study before students can certificate.

Of these available qualifications, 10,700 had certificates issued in the 2022 to 2023 academic year, a 5.6% decrease compared to the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

**3.2 Available qualifications by type**

Qualification types are used to describe the nature of regulated qualifications. Information on qualification type is contained within Ofqual's [Register of Regulated Qualifications](#).

**Number of available qualifications by type**

<b>Qualification type</b>	<b>Number of qualifications available to certificate in 2021 to 2022</b>	<b>Number of qualifications available to certificate in 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Number of qualifications with certificates in 2021 to 2022</b>	<b>Number of qualifications with certificates in 2022 to 2023</b>
<b>A level</b>	137	137	137	137
<b>GCSE (9 to 1)</b>	140	137	140	137
<b>AS</b>	96	96	96	95
<b>Vocationally-Related Qualification</b>	8,122	8,003	5,096	4,650
<b>Occupational Qualification</b>	4,869	4,517	2,868	2,622
<b>Other Life Skills Qualification</b>	1,826	1,722	1,312	1,234

<b>Other Vocational Qualification</b>	885	909	581	611
<b>Performing Arts Graded Examination</b>	625	661	460	523
<b>Other General Qualification</b>	489	461	328	363
<b>English for Speakers of Other Languages</b>	367	367	242	246
<b>Functional Skills</b>	98	96	98	96
<b>Essential Digital Skills</b>	16	16	16	16
<b>Project</b>	12	12	9	11
<b>Advanced Extension Award</b>	1	1	1	1
<b>Digital Functional Skills Qualification</b>	0	10	0	0
<b>Retired Qualifications</b>	17	16	1	0
<b>Total</b>	17,700	17,161	11,385	10,742

### Percentage change in the number of qualifications with certifications by qualification type between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023 academic year



Qualification type	Percentage change in the number of qualifications with certifications between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023
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<b>A level</b>	0.0%
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<b>GCSE (9 to 1)</b>	-2.1%
<b>AS</b>	-1.0%
<b>Vocationally-Related Qualification</b>	-8.8%
<b>Occupational Qualification</b>	-8.6%
<b>Other Life Skills Qualification</b>	-5.9%
<b>Other Vocational Qualification</b>	5.2%
<b>Performing Arts Graded Examination</b>	13.7%
<b>Other General Qualification</b>	10.7%
<b>English for Speakers of Other Languages</b>	1.7%
<b>Functional Skills</b>	-2.0%
<b>Essential Digital Skills</b>	0.0%
<b>Project</b>	22.2%
<b>Advanced Extension Award</b>	0.0%
<b>Digital Functional Skills Qualification</b>	0.0%
<b>Retired Qualifications</b>	-100.0%
<b>Total</b>	-5.6%

Performing Arts Graded Examination saw the largest overall increase in the number of available qualifications with certificates, up by 65 qualifications since 2021 to 2022, equivalent to a percentage increase of 13.7. The largest percentage increase was seen in Project qualifications, up by 22.2%, increasing from 9 to 11 qualifications since the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

In terms of raw numbers, Vocationally-Related and Occupational qualifications saw the largest decrease in the number of qualifications with certificates (down by 446 and 246 qualifications, respectively). Other than the decrease in retired qualifications, the largest percentage decrease in the number of qualifications with certificates was seen in Vocationally-Related Qualifications,

down 8.8% from the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

The 100.0% decrease in retired qualifications marks the completion of migration of old qualification types to revised ones, as detailed in the [2020 to 2021 academic year Annual Qualifications Market Report background notes](#).

## 4. Certificates awarded for regulated qualifications

Please note where this release refers to ‘vocational and other’ qualifications, this means all qualifications other than general qualifications (GCSEs, AS and A levels), EPAs and T Levels TQs.

### 4.1 Overall number of certificates awarded



Qualification type	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023
<b>A level</b>	720,225	717,020	763,930	773,300	774,360
<b>AS</b>	98,745	68,380	55,150	55,445	50,875
<b>GCSE (9 to 1)</b>	5,119,345	5,313,175	5,321,595	5,272,685	5,419,460
<b>Vocational &amp; other qualifications</b>	5,820,355	4,249,090	4,661,105	4,934,810	5,086,810
<b>Total</b>	11,758,670	10,347,665	10,801,780	11,036,245	11,331,505

The total number of certificates awarded for all qualifications (A level, AS, GCSE and vocational and other qualifications) in the 2022 to 2023 academic year was 11.3 million, up 2.7% compared to the previous year.

The overall number of certificates for A level qualifications in 2022 to 2023 has remained stable, increasing by 1,060 certificates from the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

AS qualifications saw a decrease in the number of certificates (down by 8.2% compared to the 2021 to 2022 academic year). The decrease in AS certificates may reflect a continuation of the downward trend seen in AS entries in previous years ([AS entries](#) were down by 4.9% between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023), following the decoupling of AS and A levels after [qualification reforms](#).

The overall number of certificates for GCSE qualifications has increased by 2.8%, which may in part be attributed to an increase in [GCSE entries that was anticipated before summer 2023](#). This is at least partially driven by changes in the 16-year-old cohort that increased by 10.4% in 2023 compared with the past 5 years, according to [ONS population estimates](#).

There was an increase in the overall number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications (up by 3.1%) in the 2022 to 2023 academic year compared to 2021 to 2022, although figures remain lower than before the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 4.2 Certificates by qualification type

### Number of certificates by qualification type

Qualification type	Number of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Share of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023	Share of certificates in 2022 to 2023
<b>GCSE (9 to 1)</b>	5,272,685	47.8%	5,419,460	47.8%
<b>A level</b>	773,300	7.0%	774,360	6.8%
<b>AS</b>	55,445	0.5%	50,875	0.4%
<b>Vocationally-Related Qualification</b>	2,010,315	18.2%	1,973,140	17.4%
<b>Occupational Qualification</b>	591,185	5.4%	637,915	5.6%
<b>Other Vocational Qualification</b>	535,405	4.9%	557,795	4.9%
<b>Performing Arts Graded Examination</b>	451,755	4.1%	470,140	4.1%
<b>Other General Qualification</b>	395,670	3.6%	412,420	3.6%
<b>English for Speakers of Other Languages</b>	349,680	3.2%	406,805	3.6%
<b>Functional Skills</b>	324,230	2.9%	351,895	3.1%



<b>Other Life Skills Qualification</b>	210,135	1.9%	210,130	1.9%
<b>Project</b>	52,475	0.5%	51,255	0.5%
<b>Essential Digital Skills</b>	13,510	0.1%	15,140	0.1%
<b>Advanced Extension Award</b>	355	<0.1%	145	<0.1%
<b>Retired Qualifications</b>	100	<0.1%	30	<0.1%
<b>Total</b>	11,036,245	100.0%	11,331,505	100.0%

### Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded by qualification type between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023



Qualification type	Percentage change
<b>GCSE (9 to 1)</b>	2.8%
<b>A level</b>	0.1%
<b>AS</b>	-8.2%
<b>Vocationally-Related Qualification</b>	-1.8%
<b>Occupational Qualification</b>	7.9%
<b>Other Vocational Qualification</b>	4.2%
<b>Performing Arts Graded Examination</b>	4.1%
<b>Other General Qualification</b>	4.2%
<b>English for Speakers of Other Languages</b>	16.3%
<b>Functional Skills</b>	8.5%
<b>Other Life Skills Qualification</b>	0.0%
<b>Project</b>	-2.3%
<b>Essential Digital Skills</b>	12.1%

<b>Advanced Extension Award</b>	-58.8%
<b>Retired Qualifications</b>	-67.7%
<b>Total</b>	2.7%

Among vocational and other qualifications in 2022 to 2023, the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates was seen in English for Speakers of Other Languages qualifications (up by 16.3%, equivalent to an increase of 57,100 certificates).

The largest percentage decrease in the number of certificates among vocational and other qualifications (other than for retired qualifications) was seen in Advanced Extension Award qualifications, down by 58.8%, equivalent to 210 certificates).

Please note, even though there were no active (available to learners) retired qualifications at the time of reporting, some certificates would have been issued during the 2022 to 2023 academic year to learners who started their qualifications earlier.

### 4.3 Certificates by awarding organisation

#### Number of certificates by awarding organisation

<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2021 to 2022</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023</b>
<b>AQA Education</b>	3,795,670	3,897,800
<b>Pearson Education Ltd</b>	2,263,505	2,276,755
<b>OCR</b>	743,550	743,745
<b>City and Guilds of London Institute</b>	556,600	557,710
<b>WJEC</b>	449,895	468,905
<b>NCFE</b>	332,180	347,230
<b>Highfield Qualifications</b>	301,680	318,650
<b>Qualsafe Awards</b>	238,490	229,250
<b>Trinity College London</b>	190,435	216,435
<b>First Aid Awards Ltd</b>	179,855	191,620

<b>Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music</b>	171,460	179,060
<b>Training Qualifications UK Ltd</b>	105,180	114,750
<b>Ascentis</b>	94,690	103,805
<b>NOCN</b>	85,905	86,955
<b>Gateway Qualifications Limited</b>	67,210	74,635
<b>LAMDA</b>	65,335	72,750
<b>RLSS UK Qualifications</b>	60,440	70,230
<b>Cambridge English</b>	53,130	69,870
<b>BIIAB</b>	47,015	67,530
<b>Qualifications Network</b>	65,365	66,605
<b>Other awarding organisations</b>	1,168,645	1,177,215
<b>Total</b>	11,036,245	11,331,505

### Percentage change in the number of certificates by awarding organisation between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023



<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Percentage change between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023</b>
<b>AQA Education</b>	2.7%
<b>Pearson Education Ltd</b>	0.6%
<b>OCR</b>	0.0%
<b>City and Guilds of London Institute</b>	0.2%
<b>WJEC</b>	4.2%
<b>NCFE</b>	4.5%
<b>Highfield Qualifications</b>	5.6%
<b>Qualsafe Awards</b>	-3.9%

<b>Trinity College London</b>	13.7%
<b>First Aid Awards Ltd</b>	6.5%
<b>Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music</b>	4.4%
<b>Training Qualifications UK Ltd</b>	9.1%
<b>Ascentis</b>	9.6%
<b>NOCN</b>	1.2%
<b>Gateway Qualifications Limited</b>	11.0%
<b>LAMDA</b>	11.3%
<b>RLSS UK Qualifications</b>	16.2%
<b>Cambridge English</b>	31.5%
<b>BIIAB</b>	43.6%
<b>Qualifications Network</b>	1.9%
<b>Other awarding organisations</b>	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	2.7%

The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of certificates in the 2022 to 2023 academic year awarded 89.6% of all certificates. BIIAB is new to this group for the 2022 to 2023 academic year, whilst VTCT left. BIIAB had the largest percentage increase in certificates (up by 43.6%, an increase of 20,500 certificates) since the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

AQA Education had the largest increase in the raw number of certificates issued (up by 102,100) compared with the previous year.

## 5. General qualifications

### 5.1 Market share per awarding organisation: GCSE

The GCSE market continued to be stable in the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The total number of certificates for GCSEs increased by 2.8% between the 2021 to 2022 academic year and the 2022 to 2023 academic year.



Awarding organisation	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023
<b>AQA</b>	61.4%	61.8%	62.1%	62.6%	62.6%
<b>OCR</b>	7.2%	6.9%	6.8%	6.7%	6.7%
<b>Pearson</b>	25.5%	25.4%	25.2%	24.8%	24.5%
<b>WJEC</b>	5.9%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.1%

## 5.2 GCSE certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in 2022 to 2023



### GCSE certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in 2022 to 2023

Subject	AQA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Combined science	696,780	32,150	121,280	0	850,215
Mathematics	205,245	61,825	508,945	15,430	791,440
English language	589,650	8,895	74,765	81,340	754,655
English literature	474,870	7,655	47,670	52,800	582,995
History	94,595	19,485	159,100	10,145	283,325
Geography	185,105	25,675	48,005	14,935	273,720
Religious studies	136,185	6,265	42,990	51,360	236,800
Art and design subjects	119,905	20,900	29,630	13,130	183,570
Biology	143,185	10,330	23,055	0	176,570
Chemistry	137,760	9,920	22,565	0	170,250

## GCSE certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2021 to 2022

Subject	AQA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Combined science	672,400	33,280	124,965	0	830,640
Mathematics	194,330	58,275	496,825	9,295	758,725
English language	576,660	8,510	69,680	76,095	730,945
English literature	455,995	7,095	51,225	52,375	566,690
Geography	182,580	25,450	48,020	15,680	271,730
History	89,880	18,250	150,245	10,045	268,425
Religious studies	133,300	6,695	46,375	50,165	236,540
Art and design subjects	123,860	21,620	32,790	12,950	191,220
Biology	138,690	10,505	23,090	0	172,285
Chemistry	132,855	10,015	22,595	0	165,465

The 10 highest volume subjects (with the highest number of certificates awarded this year) account for 79.4% of all GCSE certificates, 0.1 percentage points less than in 2021 to 2022.

AQA has the largest market share in 8 of the 10 highest volume subjects. Pearson has the largest share in the remaining 2 subjects: mathematics and history.

Among the 10 highest volume subjects, only art and design subjects saw a drop in the number of certificates issued (down by 7,700 from the 2021 to 2022 academic year). The largest increases in the number of certificates were for mathematics and English language (up by 32,700 and 23,700 respectively), potentially due to the increased 16-year-old cohort size. Among the 10 highest volume subjects, history saw the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates (up by 5.6% from the 2021 to 2022 academic year).

The market share of awarding organisations in all GCSE subjects in the 2022 to 2023 academic year is given in the [data tables accompanying this release \(Table 8\)](#). Please note, combined science certificates have been double counted throughout the report and data tables to reflect the fact that they count as 2 GCSEs.

### 5.3 Market share per awarding organisation: AS

The total number of certificates for AS qualifications has decreased by 8.2% between the 2021 to

2022 academic year and the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

AQA saw a decrease (down by 1.5%) in its share of the AS market. All other awarding organisations saw increases to their market share, with Pearson seeing the largest percentage increase in its market share (up by 1.1% in the 2022 to 2023 academic year).



Awarding organisation	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023
<b>AQA</b>	43.0%	43.5%	43.9%	40.2%	38.7%
<b>OCR</b>	22.4%	22.8%	22.4%	23.4%	23.5%
<b>Pearson</b>	27.9%	27.1%	25.6%	27.5%	28.6%
<b>WJEC</b>	6.8%	6.6%	8.1%	8.9%	9.2%

#### 5.4 AS certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2022 to 2023



AS certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2022 to 2023

Subject	AQA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
<b>Mathematics</b>	805	1,240	4,185	0	6,230
<b>Psychology</b>	3,885	235	425	170	4,720
<b>Mathematics (further)</b>	695	780	2,825	0	4,295
<b>Biology</b>	2,255	1,415	380	125	4,175
<b>Sociology</b>	3,080	490	0	230	3,800
<b>Chemistry</b>	1,300	1,770	470	120	3,665
<b>Physics</b>	1,410	920	325	15	2,675
<b>Business studies</b>	1,160	45	1,240	100	2,550

<b>History</b>	795	360	985	0	2,135
<b>Art and design subjects</b>	0	845	0	1,210	2,060

### AS certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2021 to 2022

<b>Subject</b>	<b>AQA</b>	<b>OCR</b>	<b>Pearson</b>	<b>WJEC</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	1,025	1,425	4,655	0	7,105
<b>Psychology</b>	4,530	395	500	215	5,640
<b>Biology</b>	2,690	1,585	560	115	4,950
<b>Sociology</b>	3,610	570	0	160	4,340
<b>Chemistry</b>	1,660	1,945	460	115	4,180
<b>Mathematics (further)</b>	545	700	2,275	0	3,520
<b>Business studies</b>	1,350	60	1,240	145	2,795
<b>Physics</b>	1,405	960	355	Fewer than 5	2,720
<b>History</b>	930	385	1,080	0	2,400
<b>Economics</b>	795	235	1,110	100	2,240

Pearson and AQA each have the largest market share in 4 of the 10 highest volume subjects. AQA has the largest market share in psychology, sociology, biology and physics. Pearson has the largest market share in mathematics, further mathematics, business studies and history. OCR has the largest share in chemistry and WJEC has the largest share in art and design subjects.

The 10 highest volume subjects account for 71.4% of all AS certificates, 0.6 percentage points less than in the 2021 to 2022 academic year. The 10 highest volume AS subjects changed slightly between the 2021 to 2022 academic year and the 2022 to 2023 academic year, with economics leaving the 10 most certified subjects and art and design subjects entering.

There has been a decrease in the number of certificates for most of the highest volume AS subjects since the 2021 to 2022 academic year. Only further mathematics saw an increase in the number of certificates, with an increase of 780 certificates between the 2021 to 2022 academic year and the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The largest decrease in the number of certificates was seen for psychology, with 920 fewer certificates than in the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

The market share of awarding organisations in all AS subjects in the 2022 to 2023 academic year is given in the [data tables accompanying this release \(Table 9\)](#).



## 5.5 Market share by awarding organisation: A level

The A level market continued to be stable in the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The total number of certificates for A levels increased by 0.1% since the 2021 to 2022 academic year.



Awarding organisation	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023
<b>AQA</b>	45.4%	45.7%	45.9%	46.4%	46.4%
<b>OCR</b>	21.6%	21.0%	20.9%	20.7%	20.5%
<b>Pearson</b>	26.7%	26.7%	27.0%	26.5%	26.7%
<b>WJEC</b>	6.3%	6.5%	6.2%	6.4%	6.4%

## 5.6 A level certificates issued by awarding organisation in the academic year 2022 to 2023



**A level certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2022 to 2023**

Subject	AQA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
<b>Mathematics</b>	12,420	13,095	61,090	0	86,605
<b>Psychology</b>	61,785	5,610	4,985	1,990	74,370
<b>Biology</b>	36,080	20,420	6,360	2,055	64,910
<b>Chemistry</b>	24,805	24,395	4,985	100	54,285
<b>Sociology</b>	38,525	3,820	0	1,725	44,070
<b>History</b>	20,420	10,135	12,980	0	43,530
<b>Art and design subjects</b>	20,655	5,595	7,015	6,750	40,015

<b>Business studies</b>	16,405	1,035	18,920	3,365	39,730
<b>Economics</b>	14,195	2,790	19,495	785	37,260
<b>Geography</b>	13,960	5,185	13,315	1,540	34,000

### A level certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2021 to 2022

<b>Subject</b>	<b>AQA</b>	<b>OCR</b>	<b>Pearson</b>	<b>WJEC</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	13,095	13,955	60,990	0	88,040
<b>Psychology</b>	61,400	5,595	5,090	2,125	74,215
<b>Biology</b>	35,395	20,850	6,560	2,090	64,895
<b>Chemistry</b>	24,355	24,475	5,090	90	54,005
<b>History</b>	19,335	10,295	12,760	0	42,390
<b>Sociology</b>	36,865	3,645	0	1,870	42,385
<b>Art and design subjects</b>	21,285	5,935	7,965	6,555	41,740
<b>Business studies</b>	16,115	1,170	17,765	3,275	38,330
<b>Physics</b>	20,195	11,485	3,660	565	35,905
<b>Economics</b>	13,230	2,775	18,290	945	35,240

The 10 highest volume subjects account for 67.0% of all A level certificates, 0.1% more than in the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

In the 2022 to 2023 academic year, physics left while geography entered the 10 highest volume A level subjects. The only subjects in the top 10 to see a drop in the number of certificates issued since the 2021 to 2022 academic year were art and design subjects and mathematics (down by 1,700 and 1,400 respectively) compared with the 2021 to 2022 academic year. Economics saw the largest increase in the number of certificates issued (up by 2,000).

The market share of awarding organisations in all A level subjects in the 2022 to 2023 academic year is given in the [data tables accompanying this release \(Table 10\)](#).

## 6. Vocational and other qualifications

In this release, 'vocational and other qualifications' include all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, AS and A level, apprenticeship EPAs and T Level TQs.

## 6.1 Certificates in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area

[Sector subject areas \(SSAs\)](#) is a classification of qualifications into business sectors or subject areas maintained by Ofqual. There are 15 SSAs in total. Sector subject areas are self-assigned on Ofqual's Register by the awarding organisation with reference to Ofqual's published list of sector subject areas.

### Number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area

Sector subject area	Number of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Share of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023	Share of certificates in 2022 to 2023
<b>Health, Public Services and Care</b>	1,270,365	25.7%	1,301,645	25.6%
<b>Preparation for Life and Work</b>	936,245	19.0%	1,004,390	19.7%
<b>Arts, Media and Publishing</b>	687,080	13.9%	698,170	13.7%
<b>Business, Administration and Law</b>	335,095	6.8%	349,660	6.9%
<b>Construction, Planning and the Built Environment</b>	311,565	6.3%	326,555	6.4%
<b>Leisure, Travel and Tourism</b>	299,695	6.1%	297,500	5.8%
<b>Retail and Commercial Enterprise</b>	297,790	6.0%	276,755	5.4%
<b>Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies</b>	240,305	4.9%	245,550	4.8%
<b>Science and Mathematics</b>	111,680	2.3%	121,755	2.4%

<b>Languages, Literature and Culture</b>	96,280	2.0%	118,770	2.3%
<b>Information and Communication Technology</b>	133,555	2.7%	117,620	2.3%
<b>Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care</b>	95,820	1.9%	96,960	1.9%
<b>Education and Training</b>	74,135	1.5%	81,145	1.6%
<b>Social Sciences</b>	36,180	0.7%	41,660	0.8%
<b>History, Philosophy and Theology</b>	9,030	0.2%	8,675	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,934,810</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5,086,810</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Percentage change in certificates awarded by sector subject area between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023



<b>Sector subject area</b>	<b>Percentage change in certificates awarded between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023</b>
<b>Health, Public Services and Care</b>	2.5%
<b>Preparation for Life and Work</b>	7.3%
<b>Arts, Media and Publishing</b>	1.6%
<b>Business, Administration and Law</b>	4.3%
<b>Construction, Planning and the Built Environment</b>	4.8%
<b>Leisure, Travel and Tourism</b>	-0.7%
<b>Retail and Commercial Enterprise</b>	-7.1%
<b>Engineering and Manufacturing</b>	2.2%

## Technologies

<b>Science and Mathematics</b>	9.0%
<b>Languages, Literature and Culture</b>	23.4%
<b>Information and Communication Technology</b>	-11.9%
<b>Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care</b>	1.2%
<b>Education and Training</b>	9.5%
<b>Social Sciences</b>	15.2%
<b>History, Philosophy and Theology</b>	-3.9%
<b>Total</b>	3.1%

There were 5.1 million certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications in the 2022 to 2023 academic year. This is up 3.1% compared with the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

Although Languages, Literature and Culture saw the largest proportional increase, the largest increase in the raw number of certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications was seen in Preparation for Life and Work (up by 68,100 certificates). Retail and Commercial Enterprise saw the most substantial decline in the number of certificates awarded (down by 21,000 certificates). The number of certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications for all Sector Subject Areas in the 2022 to 2023 academic year and previous 4 academic years is given in the [data tables accompanying this release \(Table 4\)](#).

## 6.2 Certificates in vocational and other qualifications by level

Regulated qualifications are assigned a level from [entry level through to level 8](#). Qualification level indicates the relative level of demand of the qualification, with higher levels being more difficult. Levels are assigned on [Ofqual's Register](#) by the awarding organisation with reference to [Ofqual's published level descriptors](#).

### Number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications by level



Qualification level	Number of certificates	Number of certificates	Number of certificates	Number of certificates	Number of certificates in
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	in 2018 to 2019	in 2019 to 2020	in 2020 to 2021	in 2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023
<b>Entry Level</b>	701,525	504,330	506,470	588,090	650,515
<b>Level 1</b>	1,270,820	805,625	832,720	898,115	952,180
<b>Level 1/Level 2</b>	313,615	389,175	412,845	398,420	382,100
<b>Level 2</b>	1,811,560	1,257,525	1,351,330	1,389,190	1,434,430
<b>Level 3</b>	1,566,980	1,160,885	1,395,160	1,511,405	1,512,690
<b>Level 4 to 8</b>	155,850	131,555	162,580	149,595	154,900

Numbers of Entry Level, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 certificates continued to increase in the 2022 to 2023 academic year, with the greatest increase in numbers seen in Entry Level (up by 62,400 certificates since 2021 to 2022).

The trend of decreases for Level 1/Level 2 certificate numbers continued in the 2022 to 2023 academic year, with a decrease of 16,300 certificates compared to the 2021 to 2022 academic year. The number of Level 1/Level 2 certificates (382,100) remains lower than that observed before the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

The number of certificates in Levels 4 to 8 increased this year, up by 3.5% from the 2021 to 2022 academic year to 154,900 certificates in 2022 to 2023.

### 6.3 Awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications

**Number of certificates awarded by awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications**

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023
<b>Pearson Education Ltd</b>	736,605	725,575
<b>City and Guilds of London Institute</b>	556,600	557,710
<b>NCFE</b>	332,180	347,230
<b>Highfield Qualifications</b>	301,680	318,650

<b>Qualsafe Awards</b>	238,490	229,250
<b>Trinity College London</b>	190,435	216,435
<b>OCR</b>	219,585	208,115
<b>First Aid Awards Ltd</b>	179,855	191,620
<b>Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music</b>	171,460	179,060
<b>AQA Education</b>	116,290	125,675
<b>Training Qualifications UK Ltd</b>	105,180	114,750
<b>Ascentis</b>	94,690	103,805
<b>NOCN</b>	85,905	86,955
<b>WJEC</b>	78,710	83,145
<b>Gateway Qualifications Limited</b>	67,210	74,635
<b>LAMDA</b>	65,335	72,750
<b>RLSS UK Qualifications</b>	60,440	70,230
<b>Cambridge English</b>	53,130	69,870
<b>BIIAB</b>	47,015	67,530
<b>Qualifications Network</b>	65,365	66,605
<b>Other awarding organisations</b>	1,168,645	1,177,215
<b>Total</b>	4,934,810	5,086,810

### Percentage change in the number of certificates by awarding organisation between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023



<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Percentage change in the number of certificates between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023</b>
<b>Pearson Education Ltd</b>	-1.5%
<b>City and Guilds of London Institute</b>	0.2%

<b>NCFE</b>	4.5%
<b>Highfield Qualifications</b>	5.6%
<b>Qualsafe Awards</b>	-3.9%
<b>Trinity College London</b>	13.7%
<b>OCR</b>	-5.2%
<b>First Aid Awards Ltd</b>	6.5%
<b>Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music</b>	4.4%
<b>AQA Education</b>	8.1%
<b>Training Qualifications UK Ltd</b>	9.1%
<b>Ascentis</b>	9.6%
<b>NOCN</b>	1.2%
<b>WJEC</b>	5.6%
<b>Gateway Qualifications Limited</b>	11.0%
<b>LAMDA</b>	11.3%
<b>RLSS UK Qualifications</b>	16.2%
<b>Cambridge English</b>	31.5%
<b>BIIAB</b>	43.6%
<b>Qualifications Network</b>	1.9%
<b>Other awarding organisations</b>	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	3.1%

The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications in the 2022 to 2023 academic year awarded 76.9% of all certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications. BIIAB are new to the group of 20 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates for this year. VTCT left this group during since the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

In terms of raw numbers, Trinity College London had the largest increase (up by 26,000) in



certificates compared with the previous year. BIIAB showed the largest percentage increase in certificate numbers (up by 43.6%, an increase of 20,500 certificates compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year).

Please note, data for all awarding organisations offering the qualifications covered in this section is available in [the Vocational and Other qualifications quarterly](#) published by Ofqual.

## 7. In focus: technical qualifications and applied generals

Technical and applied qualifications are vocational qualifications designated as such according to Department for Education criteria and can count towards [school and college performance tables](#). Please note, performance tables can change every year. The figures in this section relate only to technical and applied qualifications that were included in the respective year's performance tables.

Applied qualifications (known as Applied General qualifications) are for students who want to continue their education through applied learning and offer a progression route to employment or higher education. Applied General qualifications are all Level 3 qualifications aimed at post-16 students.

Technical qualifications comprise Tech Levels, Technical Certificates and Technical Awards. The purpose of technical qualifications is to equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills not usually associated with general qualifications. They are Level 1, 1/2, 2 and 3 qualifications.

Please note, figures reported below may differ slightly from those published by the Department for Education for a number of reasons, including differences in data processing and rounding. There may also be slight differences in the timing of when data was collected from awarding organisations.

### 7.1 Share of technical qualifications and applied generals in the 2022 to 2023 academic year by qualification category

Qualification category	Number of qualifications	Number of certificates	Share of vocational and other qualifications
Applied Generals	134	218,700	4.3%
Tech Levels	148	48,045	0.9%
Technical Awards	72	380,530	7.5%
Technical Certificates	80	14,720	0.3%
<b>Remaining vocational and</b>	<b>16,791</b>	<b>4,424,815</b>	<b>87.0%</b>

## other qualifications

Applied General qualifications saw 218,700 certificates issued, making up 4.3% of vocational and other certificates in the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

The 443,300 technical qualifications certificates awarded in the 2022 to 2023 academic year can be further broken down into:

- 380,500 Technical Awards, which are Level 1, Level 2 or Level 1/ Level 2 qualifications and designed for study at key stage 4 (14- to 16-year-olds). They require the same or more guided learning hours as a GCSE.
- 14,700 Technical Certificates, which are Level 2 qualifications designed for study at key stage 5 (16- to 19-year-olds) and are intended for students who wish to specialise in a specific industry or prepare for a particular job.
- 48,000 Tech Levels, which are also designed for study at key stage 5. These are Level 3 qualifications.

## 7.2 Technical and applied qualifications certificates by sector subject area

### Number of technical and applied qualifications certificates by sector subject area

Sector subject area	Applied Generals	Technical Awards	Technical Certificates	Tech Levels	Total
<b>Leisure, Travel and Tourism</b>	24,980	90,990	175	1,855	118,000
<b>Business, Administration and Law</b>	59,495	47,505	3,885	5,270	116,155
<b>Health, Public Services and Care</b>	31,505	71,280	405	9,640	112,825
<b>Arts, Media and Publishing</b>	13,505	88,615	45	4,095	106,260
<b>Information and Communication Technology</b>	16,650	23,090	505	4,655	44,900
<b>Social Sciences</b>	36,825	0	0	0	36,825
<b>Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies</b>	5,810	20,735	660	5,590	32,800
<b>Retail and Commercial Enterprise</b>	1,315	28,520	1,800	935	32,570

<b>Science and Mathematics</b>	28,580	0	0	0	28,580
<b>Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care</b>	0	1,910	3,480	11,535	16,925
<b>Construction, Planning and the Built Environment</b>	30	7,885	3,770	4,470	16,160
<b>Total</b>	218,700	380,530	14,720	48,045	661,995

### Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded by sector subject area between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023



<b>Sector subject area</b>	<b>Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023</b>	
<b>Leisure, Travel and Tourism</b>		-6.9%
<b>Business, Administration and Law</b>		-4.9%
<b>Health, Public Services and Care</b>		-3.2%
<b>Arts, Media and Publishing</b>		-10.8%
<b>Information and Communication Technology</b>		-6.8%
<b>Social Sciences</b>		11.2%
<b>Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies</b>		3.7%
<b>Retail and Commercial Enterprise</b>		-2.5%
<b>Science and Mathematics</b>		-3.6%
<b>Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care</b>		-2.6%
<b>Construction, Planning and the Built Environment</b>		-7.4%
<b>Total</b>		-4.8%

The number of certificates decreased across the majority of SSAs in the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The largest decrease in numbers was seen in Arts, Media and Publishing with a decrease of 12,915 certificates between the 2021 to 2022 academic year and 2022 to 2023 academic year.

Increases in certificate numbers were seen in Social Sciences and in Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies. Social Sciences saw the largest increase in the number of certificates awarded in the 2022 to 2023 academic year compared to the 2021 to 2022 academic year (up by 3,700 certificates). Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies increased from 31,600 certificates in the 2021 to 2022 academic year to 32,800 in 2022 to 2023 (up by 1,200 certificates).

Technical Certificates in Construction, Planning and the Built Environment saw the largest proportional increase (up by 12.6%) in the number of certificates compared to other qualification categories and SSAs in the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The number of certificates increased from 3,400 certificates in 2021 to 2022 to 3,800 certificates in the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

### 7.3 Distribution of Technical and Applied General certificates by sector subject area



Sector subject area	Applied Generals	Technical Awards	Technical Certificates	Tech Levels
<b>Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care</b>	0.0%	11.3%	20.6%	68.2%
<b>Arts, Media and Publishing</b>	12.7%	83.4%	0.0%	3.9%
<b>Business, Administration and Law</b>	51.2%	40.9%	3.3%	4.5%
<b>Construction, Planning and the Built Environment</b>	0.2%	48.8%	23.3%	27.7%
<b>Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies</b>	17.7%	63.2%	2.0%	17.0%
<b>Health, Public Services and Care</b>	27.9%	63.2%	0.4%	8.5%
<b>Information and Communication Technology</b>	37.1%	51.4%	1.1%	10.4%
<b>Leisure, Travel and Tourism</b>	21.2%	77.1%	0.1%	1.6%
<b>Retail and Commercial Enterprise</b>	4.0%	87.6%	5.5%	2.9%
<b>Science and Mathematics</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

<b>Social Sciences</b>	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	33.0%	57.5%	2.2%	7.3%

Different SSAs have a different mix of technical and applied qualifications. For instance, the Arts, Media and Publishing sector is dominated by Technical Awards and the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care sector is dominated by Tech Levels. The Science and Mathematics and Social Sciences SSAs consist entirely of Applied General qualifications.

## 7.4 Technical and applied qualifications certificates by awarding organisation

### Number of technical and applied qualifications certificates by awarding organisation

<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Applied Generals</b>	<b>Technical Awards</b>	<b>Technical Certificates</b>	<b>Tech Levels</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pearson Education Ltd</b>	137,265	178,660	1,735	13,930	331,595
<b>OCR</b>	25,385	132,095	815	7,680	165,975
<b>WJEC</b>	39,360	36,720	0	0	76,080
<b>NCFE</b>	140	20,615	0	8,885	29,640
<b>City and Guilds of London Institute</b>	0	600	7,730	9,660	17,990
<b>The London Institute of Banking &amp; Finance</b>	10,770	0	0	0	10,770
<b>RSL Awards Ltd</b>	0	8,325	10	925	9,265
<b>Association of Accounting Technicians</b>	0	0	3,390	5,270	8,660
<b>AQA Education</b>	2,775	865	0	0	3,645
<b>University of the Arts London</b>	3,000	0	0	0	3,000
<b>VTCT</b>	0	1,590	595	400	2,585
<b>Excellence, Achievement &amp; Learning Limited</b>	0	430	195	715	1,340

<b>The Institute of the Motor Industry</b>	0	305	180	50	535
<b>AIM Qualifications</b>	0	0	0	460	460
<b>1st4sport</b>	0	200	0	0	200
<b>Active IQ</b>	0	0	65	70	135
<b>Skills and Education Group Awards</b>	0	125	0	0	125
<b>Total</b>	218,700	380,530	14,720	48,045	661,995

Pearson was the largest provider of Applied Generals and Technical Awards due to its Level 3 Applied General and Level 1/Level 2 Technical BTEC qualifications. The City and Guilds and Association of Accounting Technicians were the largest providers of Technical Certificates, and Pearson, City and Guilds and NCFE were the largest providers of Tech Levels.

### Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023



<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023</b>
<b>Pearson Education Ltd</b>	-6.5%
<b>OCR</b>	-3.0%
<b>WJEC</b>	5.4%
<b>NCFE</b>	-5.8%
<b>City and Guilds of London Institute</b>	-9.2%
<b>The London Institute of Banking &amp; Finance</b>	1.1%
<b>RSL Awards Ltd</b>	-4.9%
<b>Association of Accounting Technicians</b>	-34.8%
<b>AQA Education</b>	-13.1%

<b>University of the Arts London</b>	-7.2%
<b>VTCT</b>	8.8%
<b>Excellence, Achievement &amp; Learning Limited</b>	-12.4%
<b>The Institute of the Motor Industry</b>	27.3%
<b>AIM Qualifications</b>	-8.6%
<b>1st4sport</b>	3,880.0%
<b>Active IQ</b>	-10.7%
<b>Skills and Education Group Awards</b>	-0.8%
<b>Total</b>	-4.8%

Most awarding organisations saw a decrease in certificate numbers for technical and applied qualifications in the 2022 to 2023 academic year. WJEC, The London Institute of Banking & Finance, VTCT, The Institute of the Motor Industry and 1st4sport saw increases in the number of certificates awarded.

WJEC and VTCT saw the largest increase in the number of certificates awarded (up by 3,900 and 210 respectively) compared with the 2021 to 2022 academic year. The largest percentage increase in certificates awarded was seen by 1st4sport, up from 5 certificates in 2021 to 2022 to 199 in 2022 to 2023.

Pearson saw the largest overall drop in the number of technical and applied qualification certificates, down from 354,600 certificates in the 2021 to 2022 academic year to 331,600 in the 2022 to 2023 academic year (down by 23,000 certificates).

## 8. In focus: Functional Skills qualifications

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

### 8.1 Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications



	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023
Number of certificates	614,290	447,670	302,275	324,230	351,895

The overall number of certificates awarded in Functional Skills qualifications has increased by 9% (equivalent to 27,700 certificates) in the 2022 to 2023 academic year compared with the 2021 to 2022 academic year. Certifications in Functional Skills qualifications continues the upward trend seen since the 2021 to 2022 academic year. There are a number of factors that may have influenced the trend over time, to a greater or lesser extent. These are discussed in the [background notes](#) accompanying this release.

## 8.2 Number of certificates of Functional Skills qualifications by subject



Subject	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023
<b>Mathematics</b>	287,945	205,710	138,265	158,365	177,960
<b>English</b>	243,605	189,345	131,930	143,915	155,700
<b>ICT</b>	82,740	52,610	32,080	21,950	18,235

There were increases in the number of certificates across mathematics and English in the 2022 to 2023 academic year compared with the 2021 to 2022 academic year (up by 19,600 and 11,800 certificates respectively). The number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in ICT decreased (down by 3,700) compared with the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

The decrease in ICT Functional Skills certificates may in part be attributed to the introduction of new digital functional skills qualifications as well as changes in [funding policies](#).

## 8.3 Number of certificates of Functional Skills by level



Qualification level	2018 to 2019	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023
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<b>Entry Level</b>	208,250	136,600	110,465	129,450	150,740
<b>Level 1</b>	171,455	132,505	78,245	79,810	85,960
<b>Level 2</b>	234,585	178,560	113,560	114,970	115,190

There was an increase in the number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications across all levels in the 2022 to 2023 academic year compared with the 2021 to 2022 academic year. The largest increase in the number of certificates was in Entry Level qualifications, up by 21,300 certificates.

## 8.4 Certificates of Functional Skills qualifications by awarding organisation

### Number of certificates of Functional Skills qualifications by awarding organisation

<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2021 to 2022</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023</b>
<b>Pearson Education Ltd</b>	153,800	163,410
<b>City and Guilds of London Institute</b>	108,080	119,405
<b>NCFE</b>	22,965	23,080
<b>AQA Education</b>	16,455	19,215
<b>Highfield Qualifications</b>	6,405	8,850
<b>NOCN</b>	6,490	6,330
<b>Open Awards</b>	4,730	5,315
<b>VTCT</b>	2,675	3,940
<b>OCR</b>	2,165	2,065
<b>Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd</b>	350	285
<b>SFJ Awards Ltd</b>	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5
<b>Skillsfirst Awards Ltd</b>	125	0

<b>Total</b>	324,230	351,895
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### Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded by awarding organisation between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023



<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023</b>	
<b>Pearson Education Ltd</b>		6.2%
<b>City and Guilds of London Institute</b>		10.5%
<b>NCFE</b>		0.5%
<b>AQA Education</b>		16.8%
<b>Highfield Qualifications</b>		38.2%
<b>NOCN</b>		-2.5%
<b>Open Awards</b>		12.3%
<b>VTCT</b>		47.4%
<b>OCR</b>		-4.5%
<b>Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd</b>		-18.1%
<b>SFJ Awards Ltd</b>		0.0%
<b>Skillsfirst Awards Ltd</b>		-100.0%
<b>Total</b>		8.5%

There were 11 awarding organisation issuing certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in the 2022 to 2023 academic year, down from 12 in the 2021 to 2022 academic year. Skillsfirst Awards Ltd issued no certificates for Functional Skills qualifications this year.

Most awarding organisations awarded more certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in the 2022 to 2023 academic year in comparison with the 2021 to 2022 academic year. Of those with a decrease in the number of certificates awarded, NOCN saw the largest decline in the number of certificates in the 2022 to 2023 academic year compared with the 2021 to 2022 academic year (down by 160).

## 9. In focus: International market

Ofqual-regulated awarding organisations offer a wide selection of regulated qualifications outside the UK. These [qualifications, offered internationally, are protected by Ofqual regulation](#) so long as they are also taken by learners in England. The [certification data for delivery of regulated qualifications outside the UK](#) was collected for the fourth time in the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

### 9.1 Number of certificates of regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK

Year	Number of certificates
2019 to 2020	4,880,120
2020 to 2021	5,776,325
2021 to 2022	6,732,000
2022 to 2023	8,552,050

In total, 8.6 million certificates were awarded for 2,700 different regulated qualifications to students outside the UK over the 2022 to 2023 academic year, up by 27.0% compared with the previous year.

### 9.2 Certificates of regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK by type

#### Number of certificates of regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK by type

Qualification type	Number of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023	Share of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Share of certificates in 2022 to 2023
English for Speakers of Other Languages	4,780,605	6,570,450	71.0%	76.8%
Other General Qualification	1,105,615	1,155,860	16.4%	13.5%
Performing Arts	535,890	502,060	8.0%	5.9%

## Graded Examination

<b>Vocationally-Related Qualification</b>	215,040	219,290	3.2%	2.6%
<b>GCSE (9 to 1)</b>	36,115	39,815	0.5%	0.5%
<b>Other qualifications</b>	58,735	64,575	0.9%	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,732,000</b>	<b>8,552,050</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded by qualification type between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023



Qualification type	Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023
<b>English for Speakers of Other Languages</b>	37.4%
<b>Other General Qualification</b>	4.5%
<b>Performing Arts Graded Examination</b>	-6.3%
<b>Vocationally-Related Qualification</b>	2.0%
<b>GCSE (9 to 1)</b>	10.2%
<b>Other qualifications</b>	9.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.0%</b>

The 5 highest volume qualification types accounted for 99.2% of all certificates issued outside the UK. English for Speakers of Other Languages had the highest number of certificates issued, followed by Other General Qualification and Performing Arts Graded Examinations.

The largest increase in the number of certificates awarded outside the UK was among English for Speakers of Other Languages regulated qualifications, up by 2 million compared with the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

### 9.3 Certificates of regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK by level

#### Number of certificates of regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK by level

Qualification level	Number of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023	Share of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Share of certificates in 2022 to 2023
Entry Level	1,199,140	1,996,200	17.8%	23.3%
Level 1	2,640,315	3,313,760	39.2%	38.7%
Level 1/Level 2	162,835	179,780	2.4%	2.1%
Level 2	1,328,565	1,539,290	19.7%	18.0%
Level 3	1,322,795	1,440,670	19.6%	16.8%
Level 4 to 8	78,350	82,350	1.2%	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,732,000</b>	<b>8,552,050</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded by qualification level between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023



Qualification level	Percentage change in the number of certificates between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023
Entry Level	66.5%
Level 1	25.5%
Level 1/Level 2	10.4%
Level 2	15.9%
Level 3	8.9%
Level 4 to 8	5.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.0%</b>

Level 1 regulated qualifications had the highest number of certificates issued outside the UK in the 2022 to 2023 academic year, accounting for 38.7% of the non-UK total.

All qualification levels saw an increase in the number of certificates issued outside the UK in the 2022 to 2023 academic year compared with the 2021 to 2022 academic year. Entry Level regulated qualifications saw the largest proportional increase and also the largest increase in the raw number of certificates issued outside the UK, up by 66.5%, equivalent to an increase of 797,100 certificates compared with the previous year.

## 9.4 Awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates for regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK

### Number of certificates awarded by awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates for regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023
Cambridge English	3,647,700	5,130,400
International Baccalaureate Organisation	1,102,070	1,151,235
Pearson Education Ltd	748,155	1,042,280
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	220,260	218,630
Trinity College London	184,475	209,560
LanguageCert	197,180	171,280
Royal Academy of Dance	154,270	102,185
WSET Awards	72,630	85,610
The British Council	25,090	76,180
Learning Resource Network	55,040	48,735
RSL Awards Ltd	33,365	35,730
Highfield Qualifications	19,565	26,680

<b>NOCN</b>	23,080	24,230
<b>AQA Education</b>	20,845	23,575
<b>English Speaking Board (International) Ltd</b>	27,040	18,460
<b>VTCT</b>	29,930	18,080
<b>City and Guilds of London Institute</b>	24,410	17,645
<b>Qualifi Ltd</b>	16,125	16,190
<b>AIM Qualifications</b>	12,150	14,705
<b>University of West London</b>	18,490	14,520
<b>Other awarding organisations</b>	100,130	106,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,732,000</b>	<b>8,552,050</b>

### Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded by awarding organisation between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023



<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Percentage change in the number of certificates awarded between 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023</b>
<b>Cambridge English</b>	40.6%
<b>International Baccalaureate Organisation</b>	4.5%
<b>Pearson Education Ltd</b>	39.3%
<b>Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music</b>	-0.7%
<b>Trinity College London</b>	13.6%
<b>LanguageCert</b>	-13.1%
<b>Royal Academy of Dance</b>	-33.8%
<b>WSET Awards</b>	17.9%
<b>The British Council</b>	203.6%

<b>Learning Resource Network</b>	-11.5%
<b>RSL Awards Ltd</b>	7.1%
<b>Highfield Qualifications</b>	36.4%
<b>NOCN</b>	5.0%
<b>AQA Education</b>	13.1%
<b>English Speaking Board (International) Ltd</b>	-31.7%
<b>VTCT</b>	-39.6%
<b>City and Guilds of London Institute</b>	-27.7%
<b>Qualifi Ltd</b>	0.4%
<b>AIM Qualifications</b>	21.0%
<b>University of West London</b>	-21.5%
<b>Other awarding organisations</b>	6.0%
<b>Total</b>	27.0%

The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of non-UK certificates of regulated qualifications in the 2022 to 2023 academic year awarded 98.8% of all regulated qualifications certificates issued outside the UK. There were no new awarding organisations to the top 20 this year.

Cambridge English and Pearson Education Ltd saw the largest increases in certificates compared with the previous year (up by 1 million and 294,100 certificates respectively), mainly due to increases in the number of certificates awarded for English for Speakers of Other Languages qualifications.

The British Council has had the largest percentage increase (up by 203.6%) in certificate numbers compared with 2021 to 2022. The increase in the certificate numbers was also due to increases in the number of certificates for English for Speakers of Other Languages qualifications.

Data for all awarding organisations is available in the [accompanying data tables \(Table 22\)](#).

[Back to top](#)



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