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Official Statistics

# Annual qualifications market report: academic year 2023 to 2024

Published 11 March 2025

## Applies to England

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## Key headlines

# Annual qualifications market report: 2023 to 2024 academic year

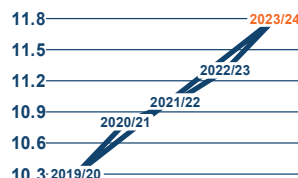
## Active qualifications

**10,148**

qualifications available for certification

a 5.3% decrease from the previous academic year

## Certificates issued

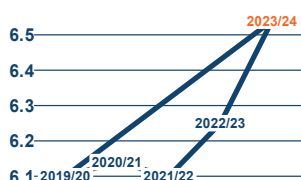


**11.8 million**

across all qualifications  
in the 2023 to 2024  
academic year

up 3.7% from the previous academic year

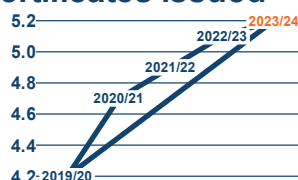
## GCSE, AS and A level certificates issued



**6.5 million**

up by 4.6% from the previous academic year

## Vocational and other qualifications certificates issued



**5.2 million**

up by 2.6% from the previous academic year

The main headlines in the regulated qualifications market in England for the 2023 to 2024 academic year were:

- There were 10,148 active qualifications (available qualifications with certificates) in the academic year 2023 to 2024, a 5.3% decrease from the 2022 to 2023 academic year.
- A total of 11.8 million certificates were issued for GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and other qualifications, up 3.7% from the 2022 to 2023 academic year.
- There were 6.5 million GCSE, AS and A level certificates issued in the 2023 to 2024 academic year, up 4.6% from the previous academic year.
- There were 5.2 million certificates issued for vocational and other qualifications in the 2023 to 2024 academic year, up 2.6% from the 2022 to 2023 academic year.
- The awarding organisations with the largest overall market shares (by number of certificates issued across all qualification types) were AQA (34.4%), Pearson (20.1%), OCR (6.5%) and City & Guilds (4.7%).

## Provide your feedback

We welcome your feedback on our publications. If you have any comments on this statistical release, or how to improve it to meet your needs, please [complete our short survey](#) or [email our statistics team](#).

This release covers regulated qualifications across GCSEs, AS, A levels, and vocational and other qualifications. Please note that where this release refers to ‘vocational and other’ qualifications, this means all qualifications other than GCSE, AS, A level, apprenticeship end-point assessments (EPAs) and T Level Technical Qualifications (TQs). EPAs and TQs are not included in the counts of qualifications and certificates within this report. 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 2023 to 2024 academic year, especially in comparison with 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](#).

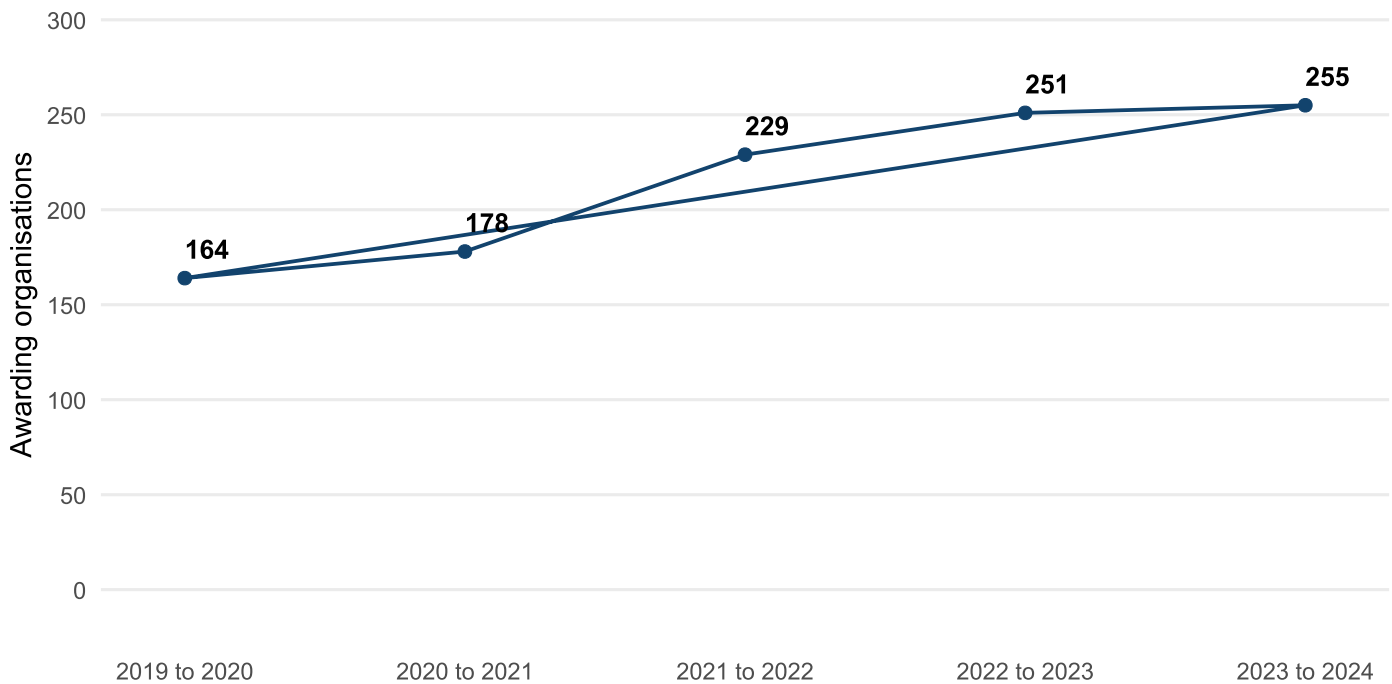
Changes in cohort sizes can also affect the overall numbers of certifications within an academic year. Notably, there was a 5.2% increase in the 16-year-old population over the last year, from 670,982 in 2023 (according to [ONS population estimates in 2022](#)) to 706,006 in 2024 (according to [ONS population estimates in 2023](#)).

## Awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications

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

## There were 255 Ofqual regulated awarding organisations during the 2023 to 2024 academic year

Number of regulated awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications over time



**Table 1: Number of awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications**

	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024
Number of awarding organisations	164	178	229	251	255

There were 255 Ofqual regulated awarding organisations during the 2023 to 2024 academic year. This number includes 85 awarding organisations which only delivered EPAs for apprenticeship standards during the 2023 to 2024 academic year and 19 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](#).

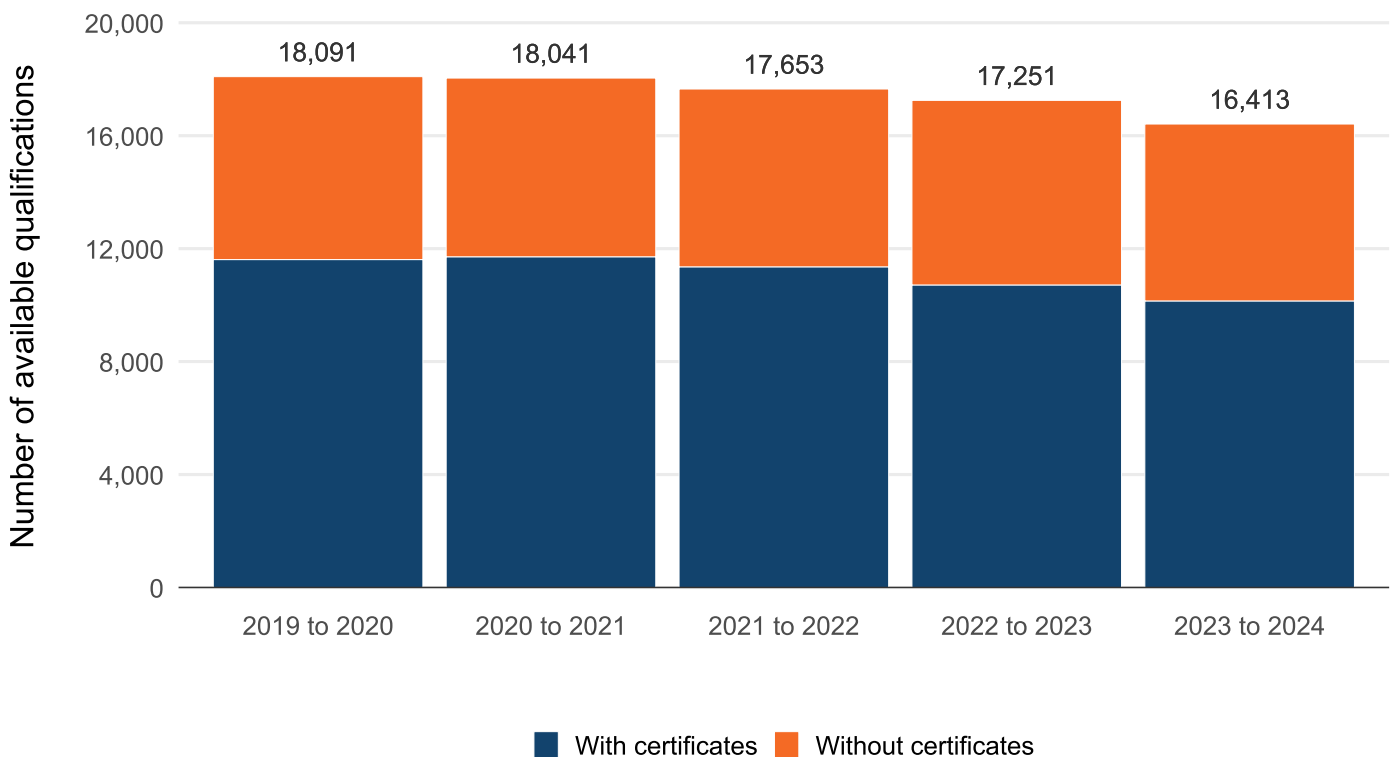
## Regulated qualifications

Information on qualifications including title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level is taken from Ofqual's [Register of Regulated Qualifications](#). The availability of a particular qualification offered by an awarding organisation is determined according to whether certificates can be issued to candidates within the respective academic year. Awarding organisations self-report on when a particular qualification they are offering is 'active' or available to candidates for certification.

## Available qualifications

### There were 16,413 qualifications available for certification in the 2023 to 2024 academic year

Number of available qualifications with, and without, certificates over time



**Table 2: Number of available qualifications**

	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024
Number of qualifications with certificates	11,613	11,712	11,356	10,714	10,148
Number of qualifications without certificates	6,478	6,329	6,297	6,537	6,265

without certificates

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Total number of qualifications	18,091	18,041	17,653	17,251	16,413
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There were 16,413 qualifications available for certification in the 2023 to 2024 academic year. This is a 4.9% decrease from the 2022 to 2023 academic year, continuing the downward trend seen in previous years. No certificates will have been issued for some qualifications because they are new and require a 1- or 2-year course of study before students can certificate.

Of these available qualifications, 10,148 had certificates issued in the 2023 to 2024 academic year, a 5.3% decrease compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

## 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](#).

**Table 3: Number of available qualifications by type in 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

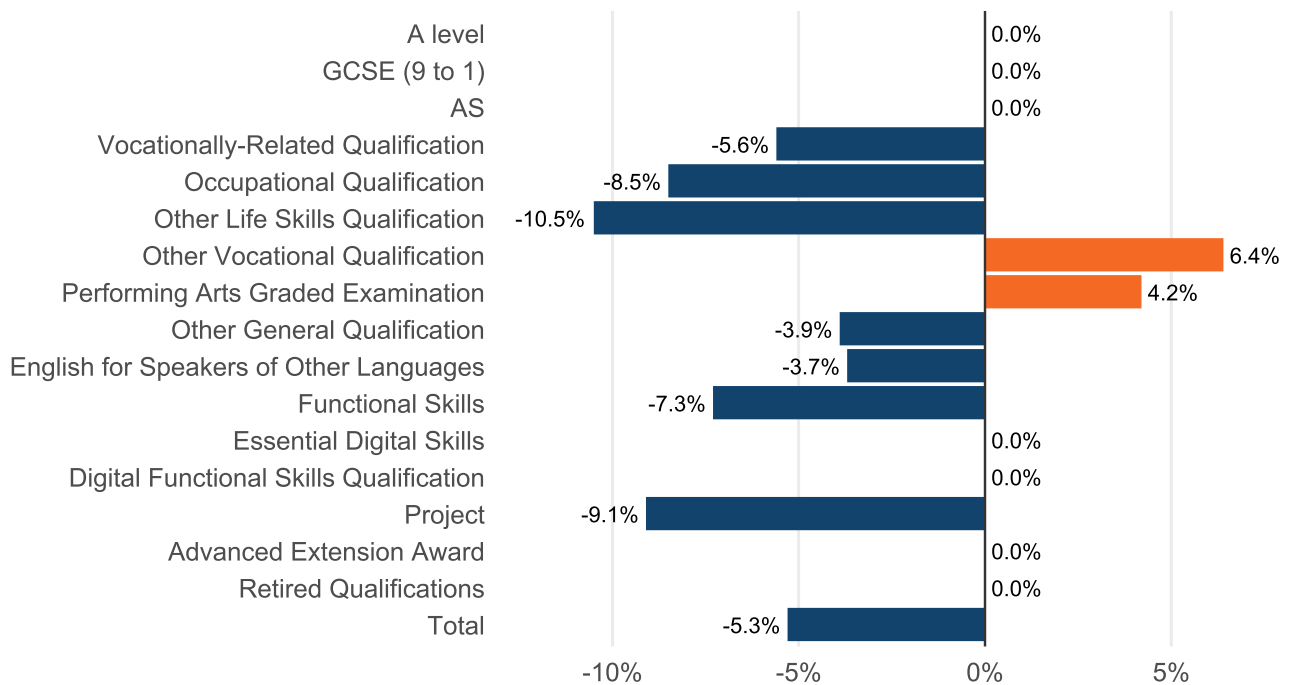
Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate in 2022 to 2023	Number of qualifications available to certificate in 2023 to 2024	Number of qualifications available to certificate with certificates in 2022 to 2023	Number of qualifications available to certificate with certificates in 2023 to 2024
A level	137	137	137	137
GCSE (9 to 1)	137	137	137	137
AS	96	96	95	95
Vocationally-Related	8,070	7,719	4,633	4,375

Qualification				
Occupational Qualification	4,503	4,195	2,615	2,392
Other Life Skills Qualification	1,715	1,492	1,230	1,101
Other Vocational Qualification	947	920	611	650
Performing Arts Graded Examination	663	731	524	546
Other General Qualification	463	451	363	349
English for Speakers of Other Languages	379	384	245	236
Functional Skills	96	100	96	89
Essential Digital Skills	16	20	16	16
Digital Functional Skills Qualification	12	14	0	14
Project	12	12	11	10
Advanced Extension Award	1	1	1	1

Retired Qualifications	4	4	0	0
Total	17,251	16,413	10,714	10,148

**Other Vocational qualifications saw the largest percentage and overall increase in the number of available qualifications with certificates**

Percentage change in the number of qualifications with certifications by qualification type



**Table 4: Percentage change in the number of qualifications with certifications by type between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

Qualification type	Percentage change in the number of qualifications with certifications between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024
A level	0.0%
GCSE (9 to 1)	0.0%
AS	0.0%
Vocationally-	-5.6%



Related Qualification	
Occupational Qualification	-8.5%
Other Life Skills Qualification	-10.5%
Other Vocational Qualification	6.4%
Performing Arts Graded Examination	4.2%
Other General Qualification	-3.9%
English for Speakers of Other Languages	-3.7%
Functional Skills	-7.3%
Essential Digital Skills	0.0%
Digital Functional Skills Qualification	0.0%
Project	-9.1%
Advanced Extension Award	0.0%
Retired Qualifications	0.0%
Total	-5.3%

Other Vocational qualifications saw the largest percentage and overall increase in the number of available qualifications with certificates, up by 39 qualifications since 2022 to 2023, equivalent to a percentage increase of 6.4%.

Vocationally-Related and Occupational qualifications saw the largest decrease in the number of qualifications with certificates (down by 258 and 223 qualifications, respectively). The largest percentage decrease in the number of qualifications with certificates was seen in Other Life Skills Qualification, down 10.5% from the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

## **Certificates issued for regulated qualifications**

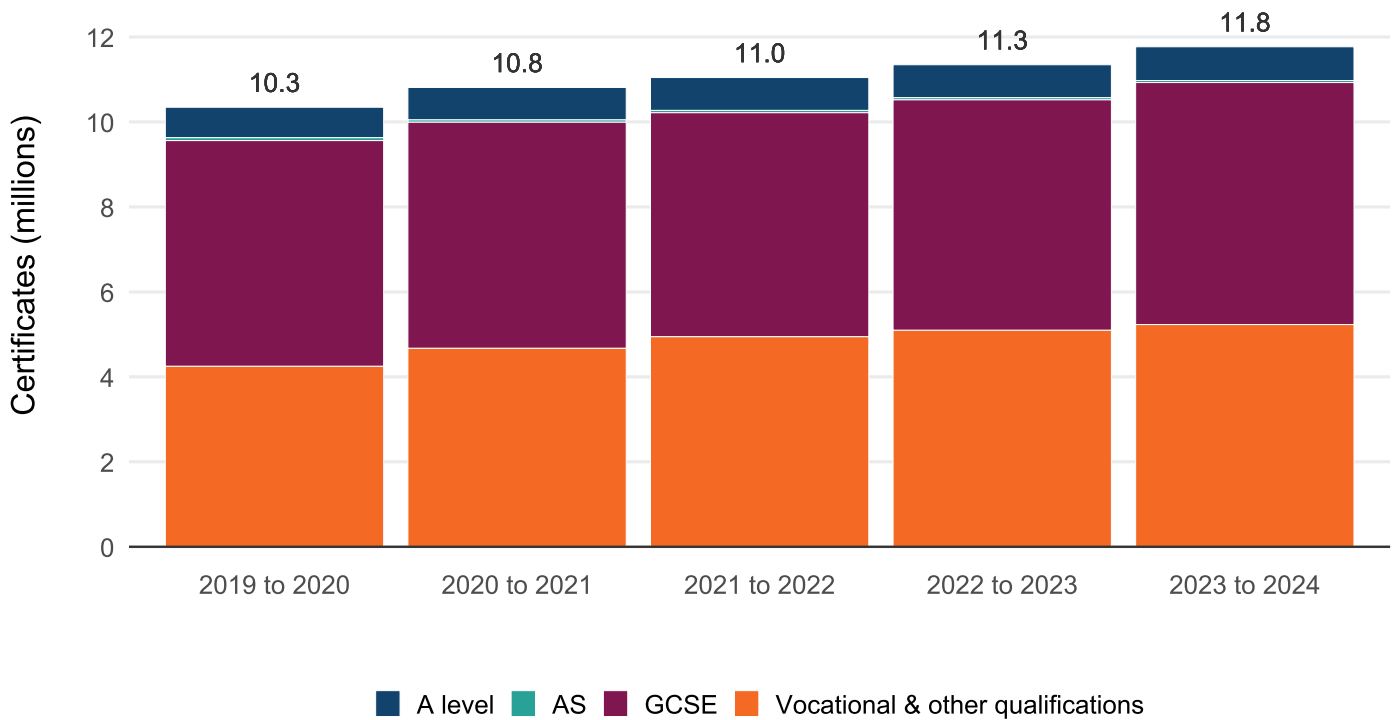
Final certificates reflect the final outcome and are usually issued some time after the issuing of provisional results. Please note that combined science certificates have been double counted throughout the report and data tables to reflect the fact that they count as 2 GCSEs.

Please also note that where this release refers to 'vocational and other' qualifications, this means all qualifications other than GCSEs, AS, A levels, EPAs and T Levels TQs.

## **Overall certificates**

## There were 11.8 million certificates issued for all qualifications in the 2023 to 2024 academic year

Number of certificates issued for all qualifications over time



**Table 5: Number of certificates issued for regulated qualifications**

	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024
A level	717,020	763,930	773,300	775,615	793,545
AS	68,380	55,150	55,445	50,940	48,520
GCSE	5,313,175	5,321,595	5,272,685	5,423,805	5,696,820
Vocational & other qualifications	4,248,215	4,671,855	4,944,350	5,096,500	5,230,980
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,346,790</b>	<b>10,812,525</b>	<b>11,045,785</b>	<b>11,346,865</b>	<b>11,769,865</b>

The total number of certificates issued for all qualifications (A level, AS, GCSE and vocational and other qualifications) in the 2023 to 2024 academic year was 11.8 million, up 3.7% compared with the previous year.

The overall number of certificates for A level qualifications in 2023 to 2024 has

increased by 17,925 certificates (up 2.3%) from the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

AS qualifications saw a 4.8% decrease in the number of certificates (down by 2,420 certificates compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year). The decrease in AS certificates reflects a continuation of the downward trend seen in [AS entries in previous years](#), following the decoupling of AS and A levels after [qualification reforms](#).

The overall number of certificates for GCSE qualifications has increased by 5.0%, which may in part reflect the increase in [GCSE entries](#). This is at least partially driven by changes in the 16-year-old cohort that increased by 5.2% in 2024 compared with the previous year, according to ONS population estimates in [2022](#) and [2023](#).

There was an increase in the overall number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications (up by 2.6%) in the 2023 to 2024 academic year compared with 2022 to 2023.

## Certificates by qualification type

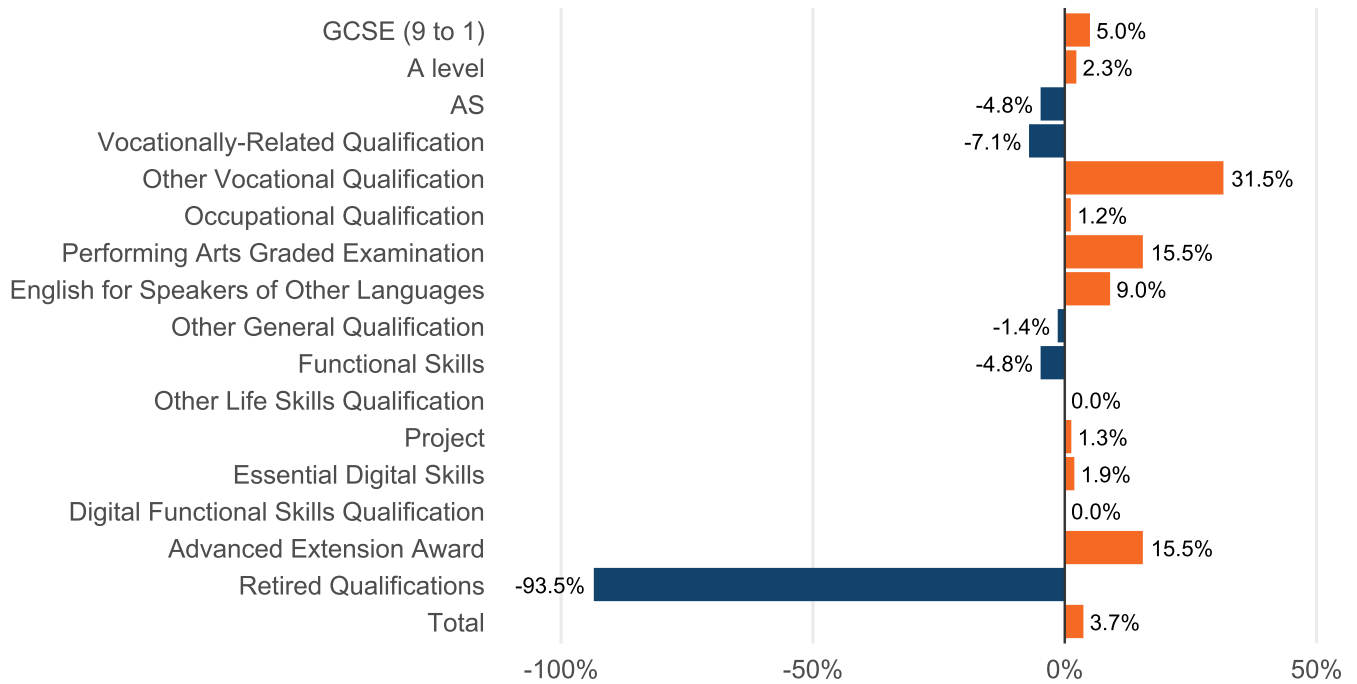
**Table 6: Number of certificates issued by qualification type in 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

Qualification type	Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023	Share of certificates in 2022 to 2023	Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Share of certificates in 2023 to 2024
GCSE (9 to 1)	5,423,805	47.8%	5,696,820	48.4%
A level	775,615	6.8%	793,545	6.7%
AS	50,940	0.4%	48,520	0.4%
Vocationally-Related Qualification	1,972,240	17.4%	1,833,110	15.6%
Other Vocational Qualification	557,805	4.9%	733,600	6.2%

Occupational Qualification	650,815	5.7%	658,815	5.6%
Performing Arts Graded Examination	470,145	4.1%	542,950	4.6%
English for Speakers of Other Languages	404,515	3.6%	440,720	3.7%
Other General Qualification	412,420	3.6%	406,785	3.5%
Functional Skills	351,895	3.1%	335,130	2.8%
Other Life Skills Qualification	210,100	1.9%	210,035	1.8%
Project	51,255	0.5%	51,915	0.4%
Essential Digital Skills	15,140	0.1%	15,430	0.1%
Digital Functional Skills Qualification	0	0.0%	2,320	Less than 0.1%
Advanced Extension Award	150	Less than 0.1%	170	Less than 0.1%
Retired Qualifications	30	Less than 0.1%	Fewer than 5	Less than 0.1%
Total	11,346,865	100.0%	11,769,865	100.0%

## Among vocational and other qualifications, the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates was seen in Other Vocational qualifications

Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type



**Table 7: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

**Qualification type**      **Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

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GCSE (9 to 1)      5.0%

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A level      2.3%

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AS      -4.8%

---

Vocationally-Related Qualification      -7.1%

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Other Vocational Qualification      31.5%

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Occupational Qualification      1.2%

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Performing Arts Graded Examination	15.5%
English for Speakers of Other Languages	9.0%
Other General Qualification	-1.4%
Functional Skills	-4.8%
Other Life Skills Qualification	0.0%
Project	1.3%
Essential Digital Skills	1.9%
Digital Functional Skills Qualification	0.0%
Advanced Extension Award	15.5%
Retired Qualifications	-93.5%
Total	3.7%

Among vocational and other qualifications in 2023 to 2024, the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates was seen in Other Vocational qualifications (up by 31.5%, equivalent to an increase of 175,800 certificates).

The largest percentage decrease in the number of certificates among vocational and other qualifications (other than for retired qualifications) was seen in Vocationally-Related qualifications, down by 7.1%, equivalent to 139,100 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 academic year to learners who started their qualifications earlier.

## Certificates by awarding organisation

Table 8 shows the 20 awarding organisations with the greatest number of certificates in 2023 to 2024. Others are combined within the 'other awarding organisations' group. For a full breakdown of all awarding organisations, see Table 4 in the [accompanying data tables](#).

**Table 8: Number of certificates issued by awarding organisation in 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

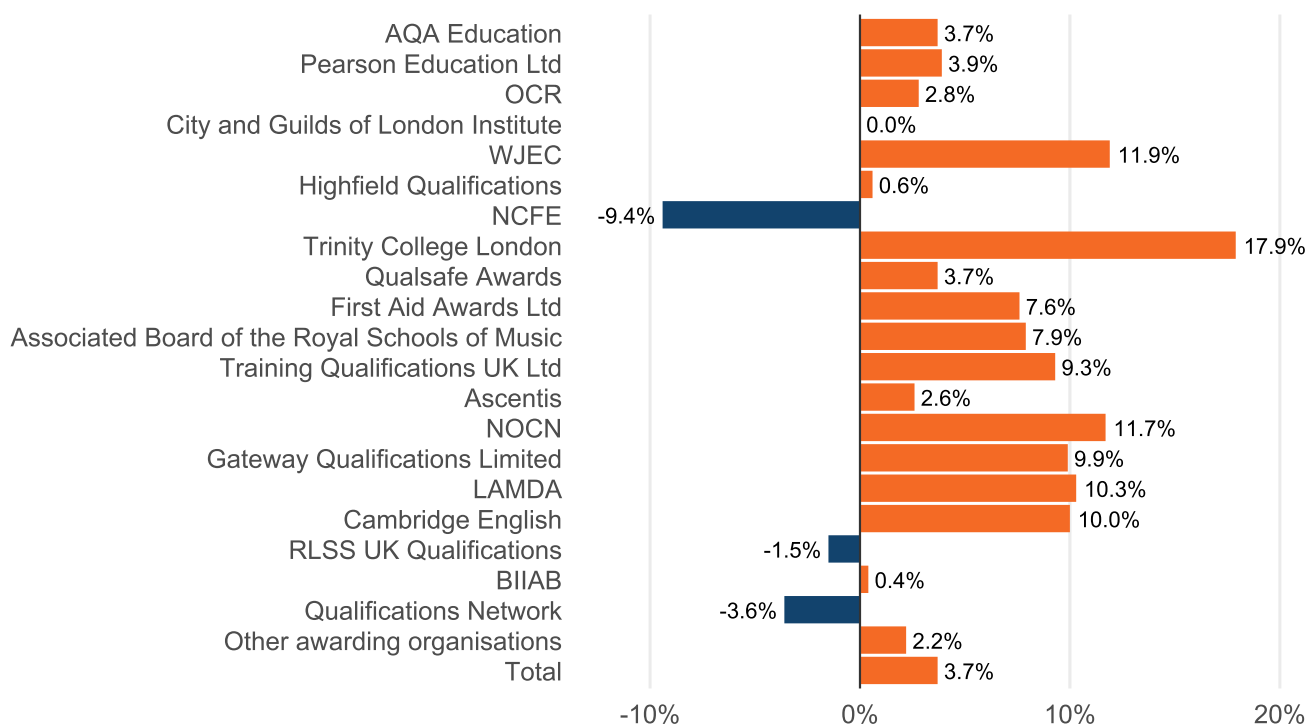
<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024</b>
AQA Education	3,900,640	4,044,660
Pearson Education Ltd	2,279,140	2,368,225
OCR	744,035	764,910
City and Guilds of London Institute	555,355	555,200
WJEC	469,065	524,725
Highfield Qualifications	318,650	320,640
NCFE	347,230	314,530
Trinity College London	216,435	255,245
Qualsafe Awards	229,250	237,640
First Aid Awards Ltd	191,620	206,170
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	179,060	193,210
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	114,750	125,430



Ascentis	103,805	106,510
NOCN	86,955	97,120
Gateway Qualifications Limited	74,635	81,995
LAMDA	72,750	80,265
Cambridge English	67,580	74,345
RLSS UK Qualifications	70,230	69,190
BIIAB	67,530	67,805
Qualifications Network	66,605	64,240
Other awarding organisations	1,191,550	1,217,810
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,346,865</b>	<b>11,769,865</b>

### Trinity College London had the largest percentage increase in certificates

Percentage change in the number of certificates by awarding organisation



**Table 9: Percentage change in the number of certificates by awarding**

## organisation between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024

<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Percentage change between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024</b>
AQA Education	3.7%
Pearson Education Ltd	3.9%
OCR	2.8%
City and Guilds of London Institute	0.0%
WJEC	11.9%
Highfield Qualifications	0.6%
NCFE	-9.4%
Trinity College London	17.9%
Qualsafe Awards	3.7%
First Aid Awards Ltd	7.6%
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	7.9%
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	9.3%
Ascentis	2.6%
NOCN	11.7%
Gateway Qualifications Limited	9.9%
LAMDA	10.3%
Cambridge English	10.0%
RLSS UK Qualifications	-1.5%
BIIAB	0.4%
Qualifications Network	-3.6%

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Other awarding organisations	2.2%
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Total	3.7%
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The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of certificates in the 2023 to 2024 academic year awarded 89.7% of all certificates. Trinity College London had the largest percentage increase in certificates (up by 17.9%, an increase of 38,800 certificates) since the 2022 to 2023 academic year. No new awarding organisations joined this list this year.

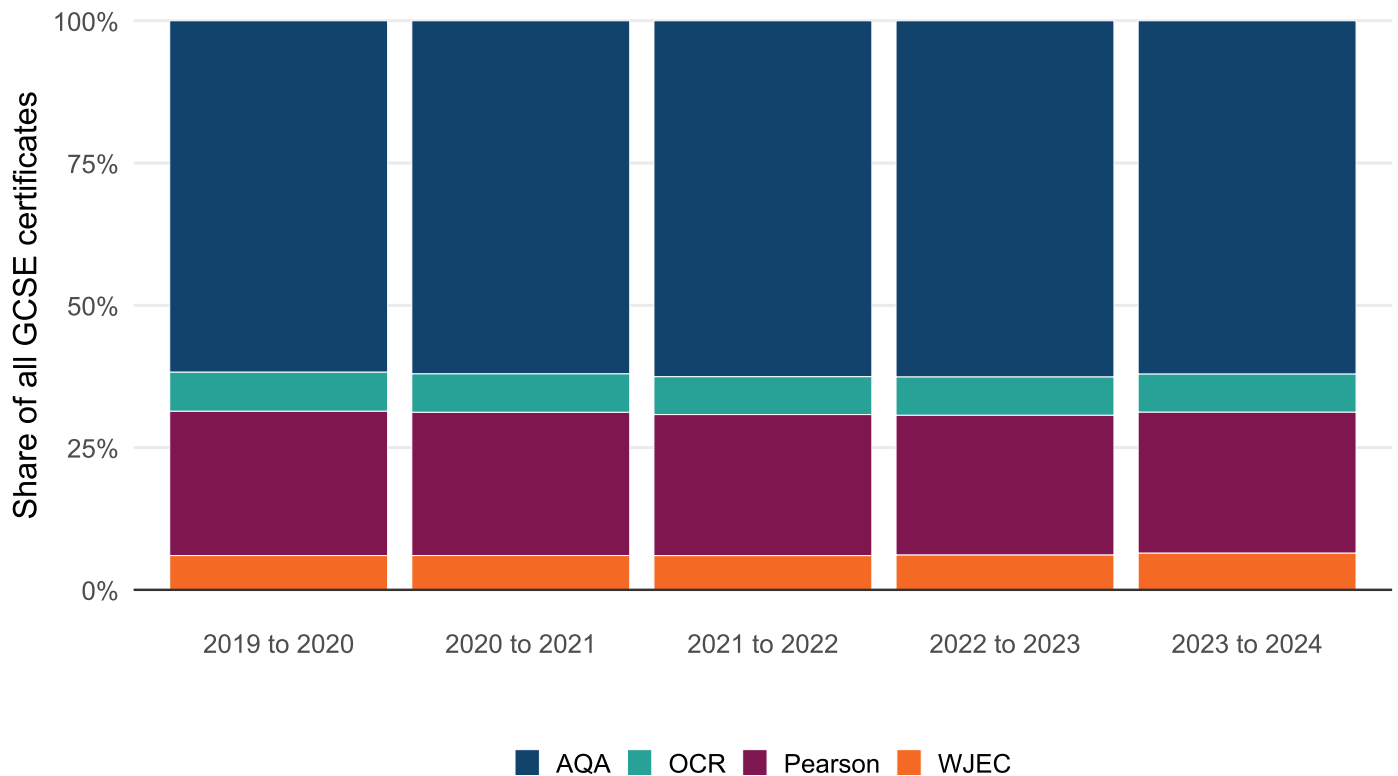
AQA Education had the largest increase in the raw number of certificates issued (up by 144,000) compared with the previous year.

## **GCSE, AS and A levels**

### **Market share per awarding organisation: GCSE**

## The GCSE market continued to be stable in the 2023 to 2024 academic year

GCSE market share per awarding organisation



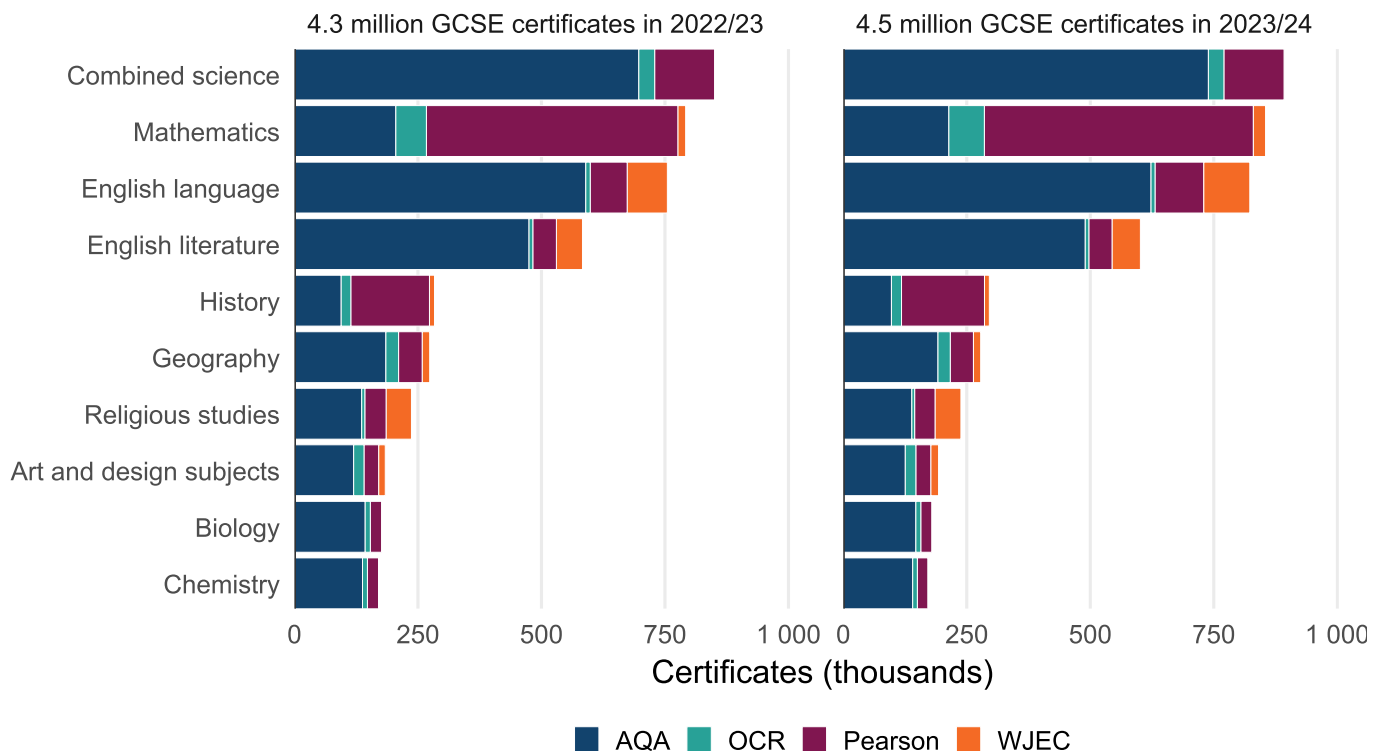
**Table 10: GCSE market share per awarding organisation**

Awarding organisation	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024
AQA	61.8%	62.1%	62.6%	62.6%	62.1%
OCR	6.9%	6.8%	6.7%	6.7%	6.7%
Pearson	25.4%	25.2%	24.8%	24.6%	24.8%
WJEC	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%	6.1%	6.4%

## GCSE certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in 2023 to 2024

## The 10 highest volume subjects account for 79.5% of all GCSE certificates

GCSE certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in 2023 to 2024



**Table 11: GCSE certificates issued in 2023 to 2024 by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in 2023 to 2024**

Subject	AQA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Combined science	739,060	31,430	122,120	0	892,610
Mathematics	213,790	71,800	544,565	24,680	854,835
English language	622,995	8,080	98,780	93,085	822,940
English literature	489,870	7,210	46,955	57,440	601,475
History	97,520	20,405	167,950	9,815	295,685
Geography	191,745	24,800	46,995	14,655	278,195
Religious studies	138,830	5,680	41,215	52,435	238,160
Art and design subjects	125,580	21,350	30,550	15,430	192,910
Biology	146,990	9,955	22,585	0	179,525
Chemistry					

Chemistry	140,570	9,340	21,625	0	171,540
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**Table 12: GCSE certificates issued in 2022 to 2023 by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year in 2023 to 2024**

Subject	AQA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Combined science	697,130	32,160	121,400	0	850,695
Mathematics	205,280	61,840	509,380	15,450	791,945
English language	589,790	8,895	74,840	81,370	754,895
English literature	474,895	7,655	47,705	52,815	583,075
History	94,650	19,490	159,225	10,155	283,520
Geography	185,140	25,680	48,030	14,940	273,795
Religious studies	136,225	6,265	43,000	51,380	236,875
Art and design subjects	119,900	20,905	29,925	13,130	183,860
Biology	143,230	10,335	23,060	0	176,620
Chemistry	137,800	9,925	22,570	0	170,295

The 10 highest volume subjects (with the highest number of certificates awarded this year) account for 79.5% of all GCSE certificates, 0.1 percentage points more than in 2022 to 2023.

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.

All of the 10 highest volume subjects saw an increase in the number of certificates issued compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The largest increases in the number of certificates were for English language and mathematics (up by 68,000 and 62,900 respectively), likely due to the increased 16-year-old cohort size. Among the 10 highest volume subjects, English language saw the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates (up by 9.0% from the 2022 to 2023 academic year).

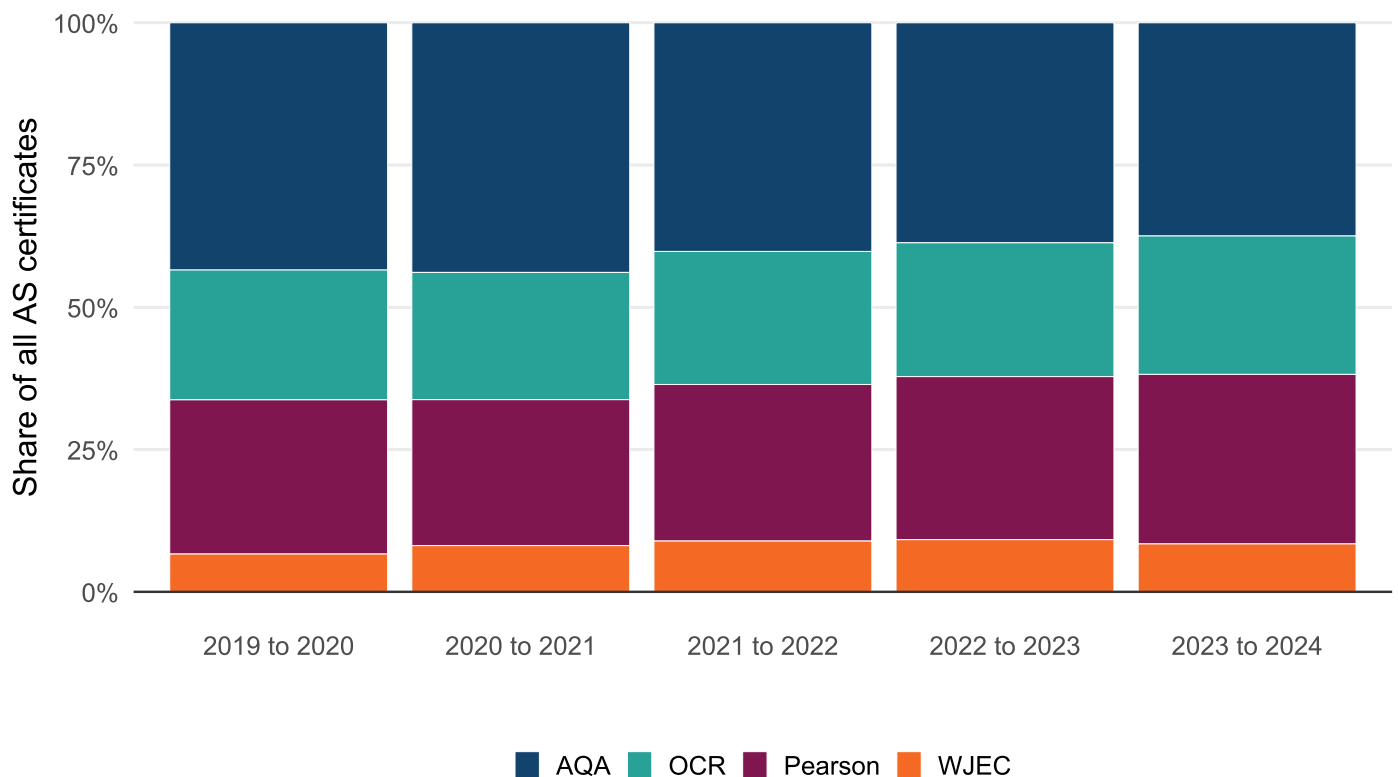
The market share of awarding organisations in all GCSE subjects in the 2023 to

2024 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.

## Market share per awarding organisation: AS

The AS market remained relatively stable in the 2023 to 2024 academic year

AS market share per awarding organisation



**Table 13: AS market share per awarding organisation**

Awarding organisation	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024
AQA	43.5%	43.9%	40.2%	38.7%	37.5%
OCR	22.8%	22.4%	23.4%	23.5%	24.3%
Pearson	27.1%	25.6%	27.5%	28.7%	29.8%
WJEC	6.6%	8.1%	8.9%	9.2%	8.4%

The total number of certificates for AS qualifications has decreased by 4.8%

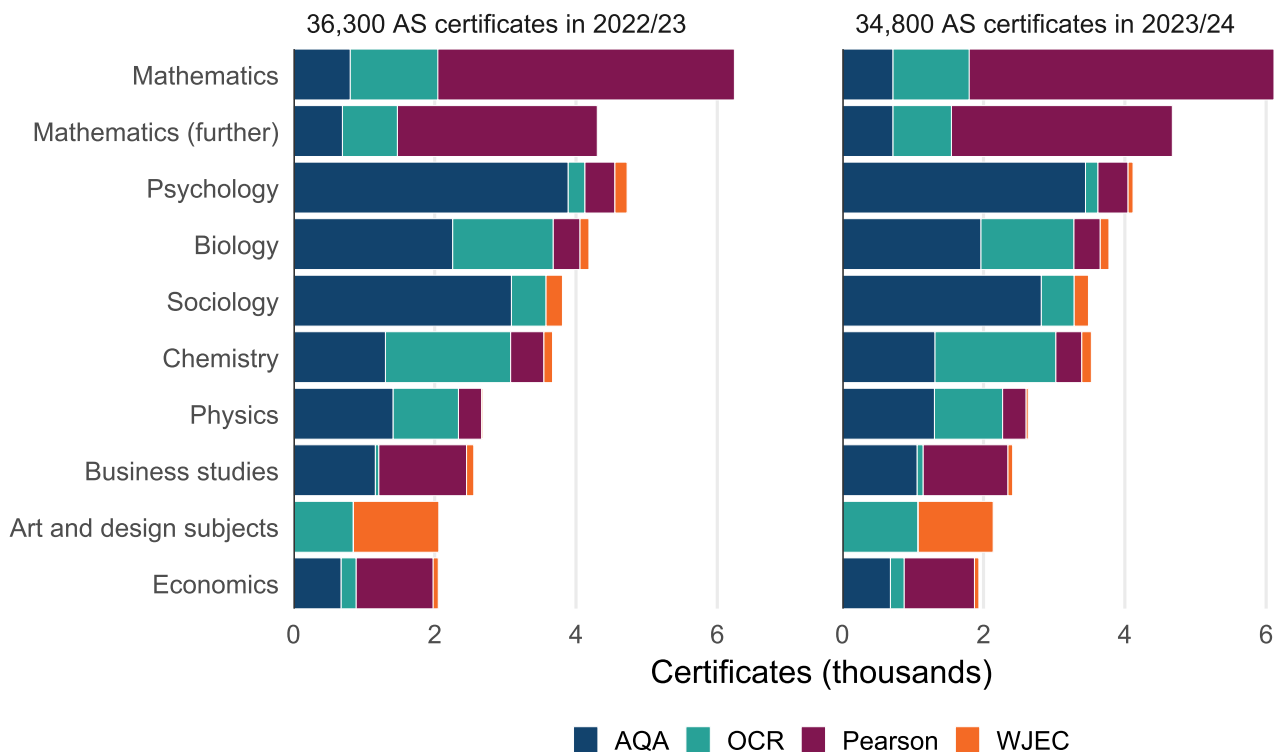
between the 2022 to 2023 academic year and the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

AQA and WJEC saw a decrease (down by 1.2% and 0.7% respectively) in their 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 2023 to 2024 academic year).

## AS certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2023 to 2024

### The 10 highest volume subjects account for 71.7% of all AS certificates

AS certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in 2023 to 2024



**Table 14: AS certificates issued in 2023 to 2024 by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2023 to 2024**

Subject	AQA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Mathematics	715	1,080	4,315	0	6,110
Mathematics (further)	715	830	3,125	0	4,670



Psychology	3,445	175	430	70	4,115
Biology	1,965	1,315	370	125	3,775
Chemistry	1,310	1,715	365	135	3,525
Sociology	2,820	465	0	200	3,485
Physics	1,305	965	335	30	2,630
Business studies	1,060	80	1,205	65	2,410
Art and design subjects	0	1,075	0	1,065	2,135
Economics	680	195	995	65	1,935

**Table 15: AS certificates issued in 2022 to 2023 by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year in 2023 to 2024**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>AQA</b>	<b>OCR</b>	<b>Pearson</b>	<b>WJEC</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mathematics	805	1,240	4,200	0	6,240
Psychology	3,890	235	425	170	4,725
Mathematics (further)	695	780	2,830	0	4,300
Biology	2,255	1,425	380	125	4,185
Sociology	3,085	490	0	230	3,810
Chemistry	1,300	1,775	470	120	3,670
Physics	1,410	925	330	15	2,680
Business studies	1,160	45	1,245	100	2,555
Art and design subjects	0	845	0	1,210	2,060
Economics	675	210	1,090	70	2,050

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 economics. OCR has the largest share in chemistry and in art and design subjects.

The 10 highest volume subjects account for 71.7% of all AS certificates, 0.4 percentage points more than in the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The 10 highest volume AS subjects changed slightly between the 2022 to 2023 academic year and the 2023 to 2024 academic year, with history leaving the 10 most certified subjects and economics entering.

There has been a decrease in the number of certificates for most of the highest volume AS subjects since the 2022 to 2023 academic year. Only art and design subjects and further mathematics saw an increase in the number of certificates, with an increase of 80 and 370 certificates between the 2022 to 2023 academic year and the 2023 to 2024 academic year respectively. The largest decrease in the number of certificates was seen for psychology, with 605 fewer certificates than in the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

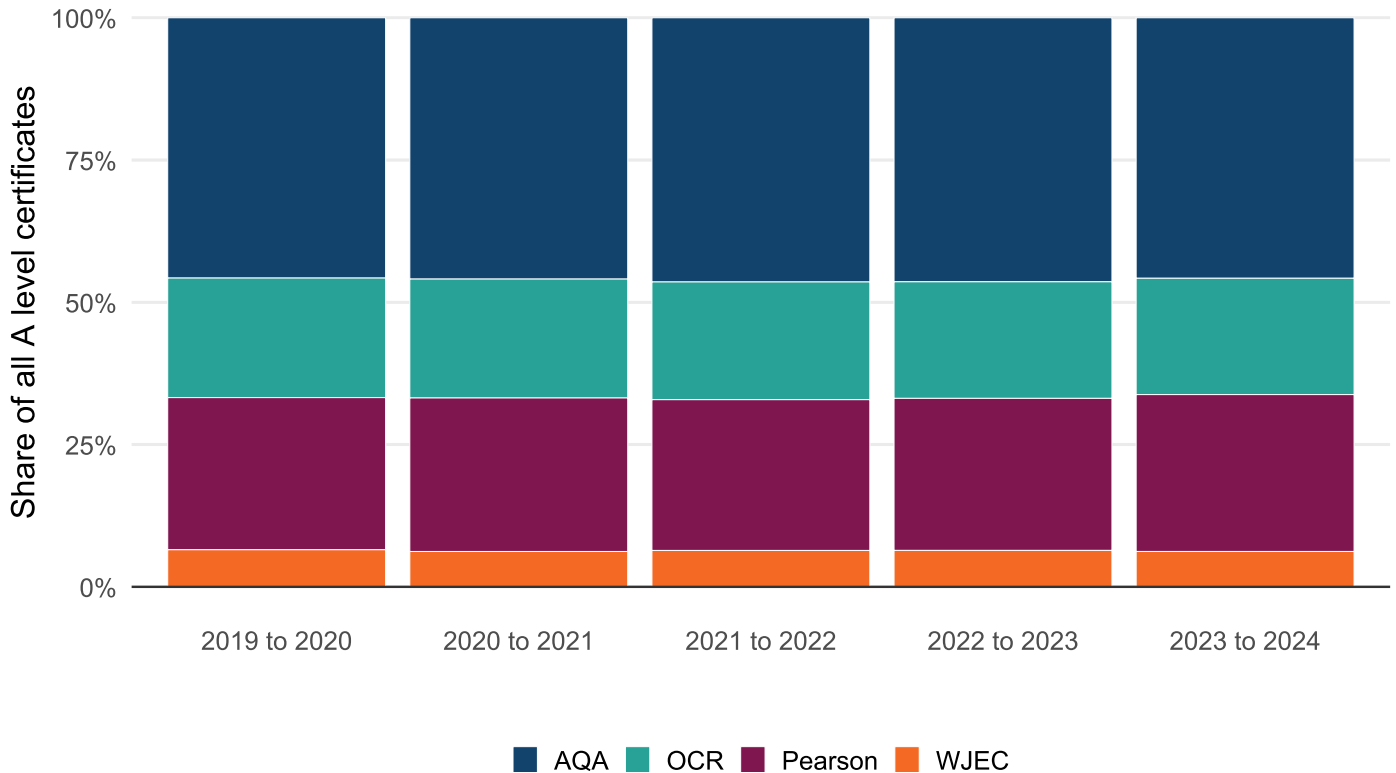
The market share of awarding organisations in all AS subjects in the 2023 to 2024 academic year is given in the [data tables accompanying this release \(Table 9\)](#).

## **Market share by awarding organisation: A level**

The A level market continued to be stable in the 2023 to 2024 academic year. The total number of certificates for A levels increased by 2.3% since the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

## The A level market continued to be stable in the 2023 to 2024 academic year

A level market share per awarding organisation



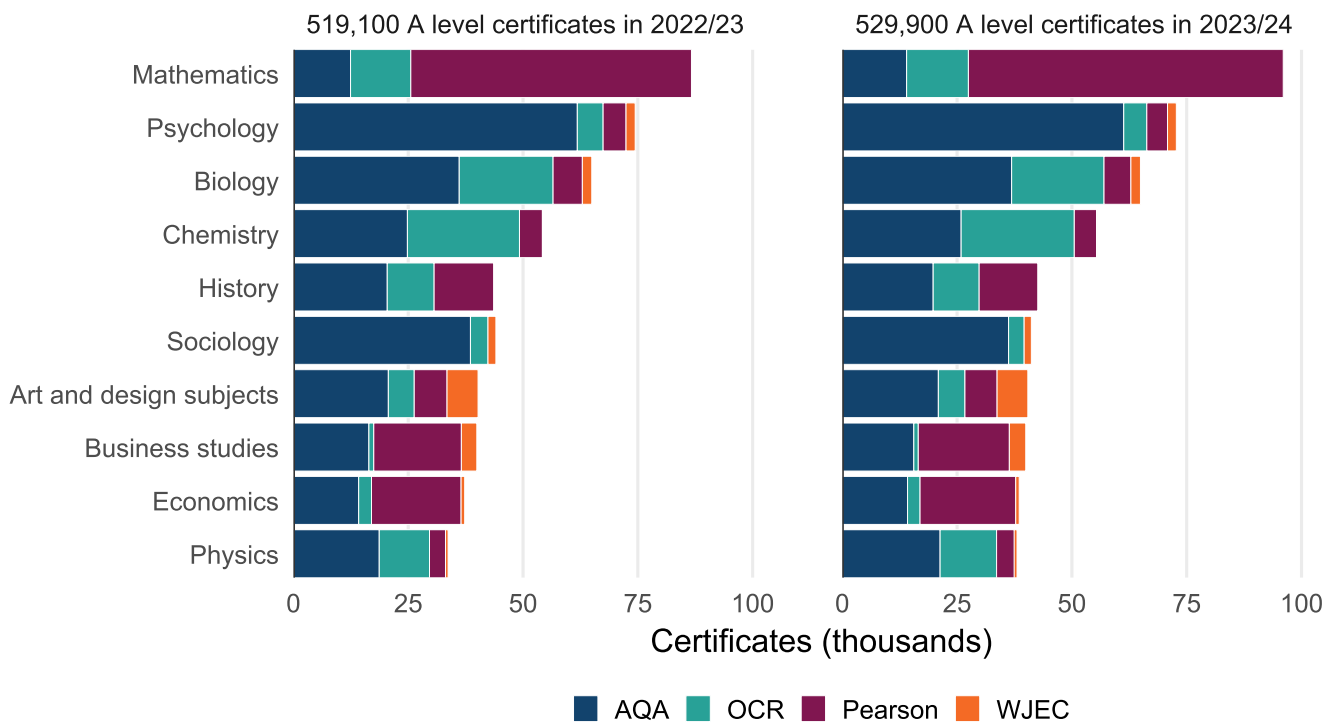
**Table 16: A level market share by awarding organisation**

	<b>2019 to 2020</b>	<b>2020 to 2021</b>	<b>2021 to 2022</b>	<b>2022 to 2023</b>	<b>2023 to 2024</b>
AQA	45.7%	45.9%	46.4%	46.4%	45.8%
OCR	21.0%	20.9%	20.7%	20.5%	20.4%
Pearson	26.7%	27.0%	26.5%	26.7%	27.6%
WJEC	6.5%	6.2%	6.4%	6.4%	6.2%

**A level certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2023 to 2024**

## The 10 highest volume subjects account for 66.8% of all A level certificates

A level certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in 2023 to 2024



**Table 17: A level certificates issued in 2023 to 2024 by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2023 to 2024**

Subject	AQA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Mathematics	14,015	13,430	68,570	0	96,020
Psychology	61,290	5,025	4,510	1,915	72,740
Biology	36,880	20,115	5,855	2,075	64,930
Chemistry	25,885	24,635	4,845	110	55,475
History	19,795	9,970	12,805	0	42,570
Sociology	36,215	3,390	0	1,570	41,175
Art and design subjects	20,925	5,750	7,040	6,695	40,410
Business studies	15,580	930	19,870	3,575	39,955
Economics	14,215	2,680	20,880	750	38,525

Physics	21,305	12,300	3,825	625	38,055
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**Table 18: A level certificates issued in 2022 to 2023 by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year in 2023 to 2024**

Subject	AQA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Mathematics	12,435	13,100	61,135	0	86,670
Psychology	61,815	5,620	4,990	1,990	74,415
Biology	36,100	20,435	6,375	2,055	64,965
Chemistry	24,820	24,400	4,990	100	54,310
Sociology	38,545	3,820	0	1,725	44,085
History	20,430	10,160	13,000	0	43,590
Art and design subjects	20,665	5,595	7,185	6,750	40,200
Business studies	16,435	1,035	19,095	3,365	39,935
Economics	14,205	2,790	19,510	785	37,290
Physics	18,685	10,945	3,485	560	33,680

The 10 highest volume subjects account for 66.8% of all A level certificates, 0.2 percentage points less than in the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

In the 2023 to 2024 academic year, geography left whilst physics 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 2022 to 2023 academic year were sociology, psychology and history (down by 2,900, 1,700 and 1,000 respectively). Mathematics saw the largest increase in the number of certificates issued (up by 9,300).

The market share of awarding organisations in all A level subjects in the 2023 to 2024 academic year is given in the [data tables accompanying this release \(Table 10\)](#).

# Vocational and other qualifications

In this release, ‘vocational and other’ qualifications include all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, AS, A levels, apprenticeship EPAs and T Level TQs. T Level TQs are not included in this section as certificates are issued for the overall T Level. Apprenticeship EPAs are not included in this section because the awarding organisations that conduct EPAs do not issue certificates for the completion of EPAs. Certificates for overall T Levels and apprenticeship EPAs are issued by the Department for Education. Please note that some changes in the market are likely to be driven by ongoing reform to these qualifications. For more detail please see the [background notes](#).

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

Please also note that we are expecting a data resubmission for the international market section which may also lead to a very small change in the number of England certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications in each year prior to 2022 to 2023. We expect the size of this change to be less than 0.5% difference in certificate numbers each year. Following the data resubmission, we will republish this release to include updated figures for the academic years 2019 to 2020, 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022. We expect this to happen by the end of May 2025.

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

All levels and types of regulated qualifications may be assigned to a [Sector Subject Area \(SSA\)](#), which 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.

**Table 19: Number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area**

Sector subject area	Number of certificates in 2022 to	Share of certificates in 2022 to	Number of certificates in 2023 to	Share of certificates in 2023 to 2024
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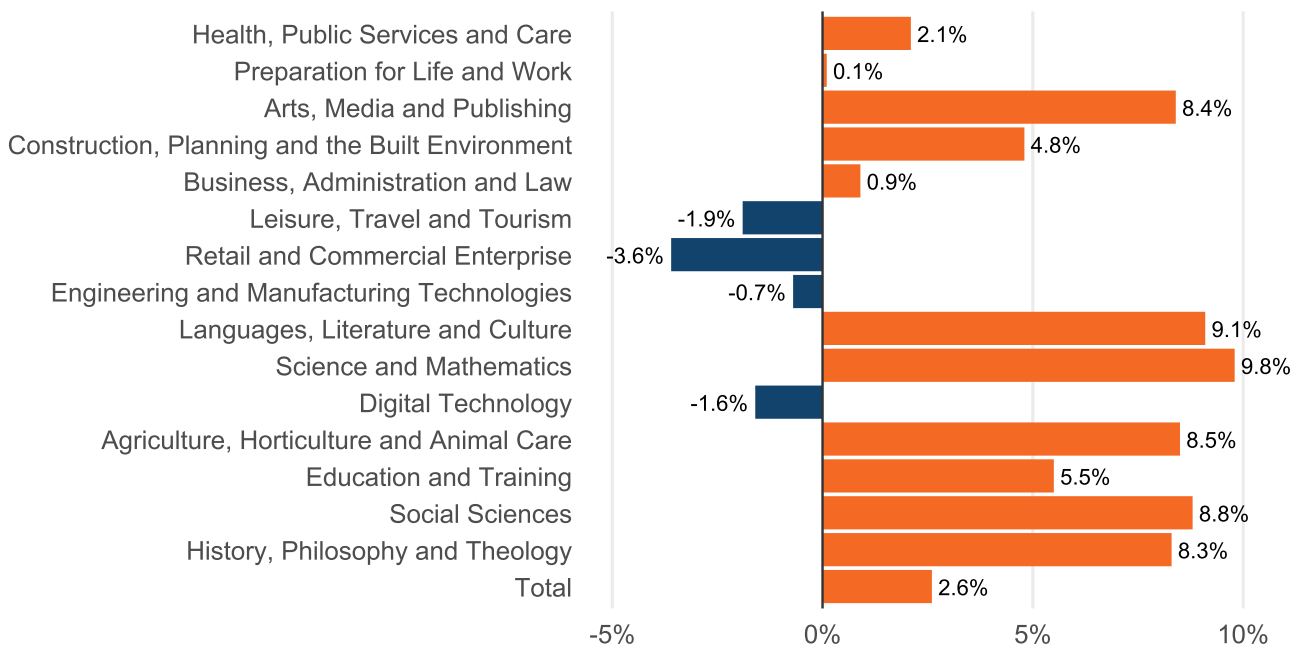
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	
Health, Public Services and Care	1,299,365	25.5%	1,327,055	25.4%
Preparation for Life and Work	919,105	18.0%	919,775	17.6%
Arts, Media and Publishing	698,175	13.7%	756,705	14.5%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	340,905	6.7%	357,225	6.8%
Business, Administration and Law	349,660	6.9%	352,775	6.7%
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	297,500	5.8%	291,970	5.6%
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	276,755	5.4%	266,730	5.1%
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	245,475	4.8%	243,700	4.7%
Languages, Literature and Culture	201,420	4.0%	219,650	4.2%
Science and Mathematics	121,950	2.4%	133,910	2.6%
Digital Technology	117,805	2.3%	115,935	2.2%
Agriculture,	96,925	1.9%	105,215	2.0%

## Horticulture and Animal Care

Education and Training	81,160	1.6%	85,655	1.6%
Social Sciences	41,625	0.8%	45,280	0.9%
History, Philosophy and Theology	8,675	0.2%	9,395	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,096,500</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5,230,980</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Science and Mathematics sector subject area saw the largest proportional increase in the number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications

Percentage change in certificates issued by sector subject area



**Table 20: Percentage change in certificates issued by sector subject area between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

Sector subject area	Percentage change in certificates issued between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024
Health, Public Services and Care	2.1%



Preparation for Life and Work	0.1%
Arts, Media and Publishing	8.4%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	4.8%
Business, Administration and Law	0.9%
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	-1.9%
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	-3.6%
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	-0.7%
Languages, Literature and Culture	9.1%
Science and Mathematics	9.8%
Digital Technology	-1.6%
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	8.5%
Education and Training	5.5%
Social Sciences	8.8%
History, Philosophy and Theology	8.3%
Total	2.6%

There were 5.2 million certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications in the 2023 to 2024 academic year. This is up 2.6% compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

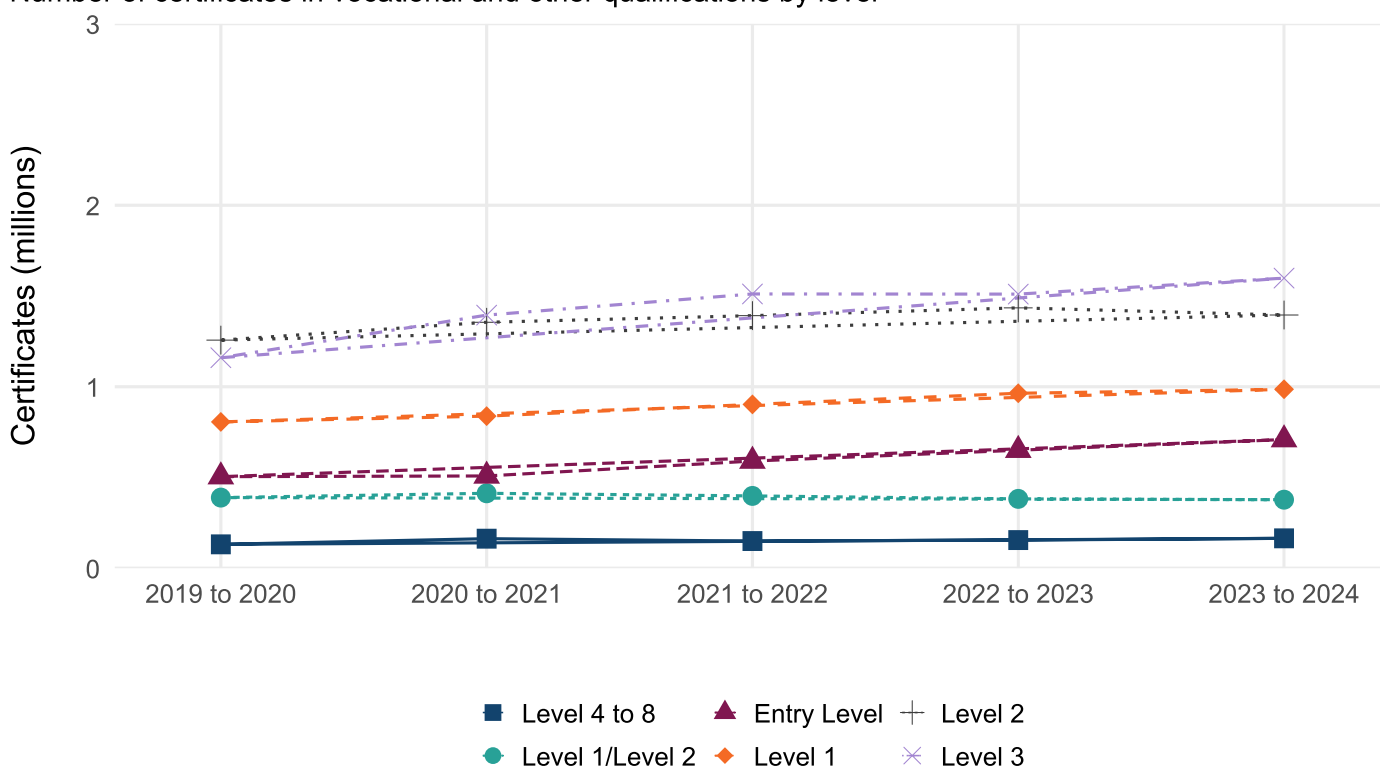
Although Science and Mathematics saw the largest proportional increase, the largest increase in the absolute number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications was seen in Arts, Media and Publishing (up by 58,500 certificates). Retail and Commercial Enterprise saw the most substantial decline in the number of certificates issued (down by 10,000 certificates). The number of certificates issued for vocational and other qualifications for all Sector Subject Areas in the 2023 to 2024 academic year and previous 4 academic years is given in the [data tables accompanying this release \(Table 4\)](#).

## 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 demanding. Levels are assigned on [Ofqual's Register](#) by the awarding organisation with reference to [Ofqual's published level descriptors](#).

### Numbers of Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 3 certificates continued to increase in the 2023 to 2024 academic year

Number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications by level



**Table 21: Number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications by level**

Qualification level	Number of certificates in 2019 to 2020	Number of certificates in 2020 to 2021	Number of certificates in 2021 to 2022	Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023	Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024
Entry Level	504,500	508,375	590,445	650,195	708,765
Level 1	806,165	838,075	902,660	964,055	986,095
Level 1/Level 2	389,175	412,845	398,420	382,100	377,565
Level 2	1,256,860	1,355,160	1,391,835	1,434,665	1,395,275
Level 3	1,159,975	1,394,670	1,511,260	1,510,435	1,598,640
Level 4 to 8	131,545	162,730	149,730	155,050	164,640

Numbers of Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 3 certificates continued to increase in the 2023 to 2024 academic year, with the greatest increase in numbers seen in Level 3 (up by 88,200 certificates since 2022 to 2023).

The trend of decreases for Level 1/Level 2 certificate numbers continued in the 2023 to 2024 academic year, with a decrease of 39,400 certificates compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The number of Level 1/Level 2 certificates (377,600) 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 6.2% from the 2022 to 2023 academic year to 164,600 certificates in 2023 to 2024. Following a period of increasing certification numbers, the number of certificates in Level 2 decreased this year, down by 2.7% from the 2022 to 2023 academic year to 1.4 million certificates in 2023 to 2024.

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

Table 22 shows the 20 awarding organisations with the greatest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications in 2023 to 2024. Others are combined within the 'other awarding organisations' group.

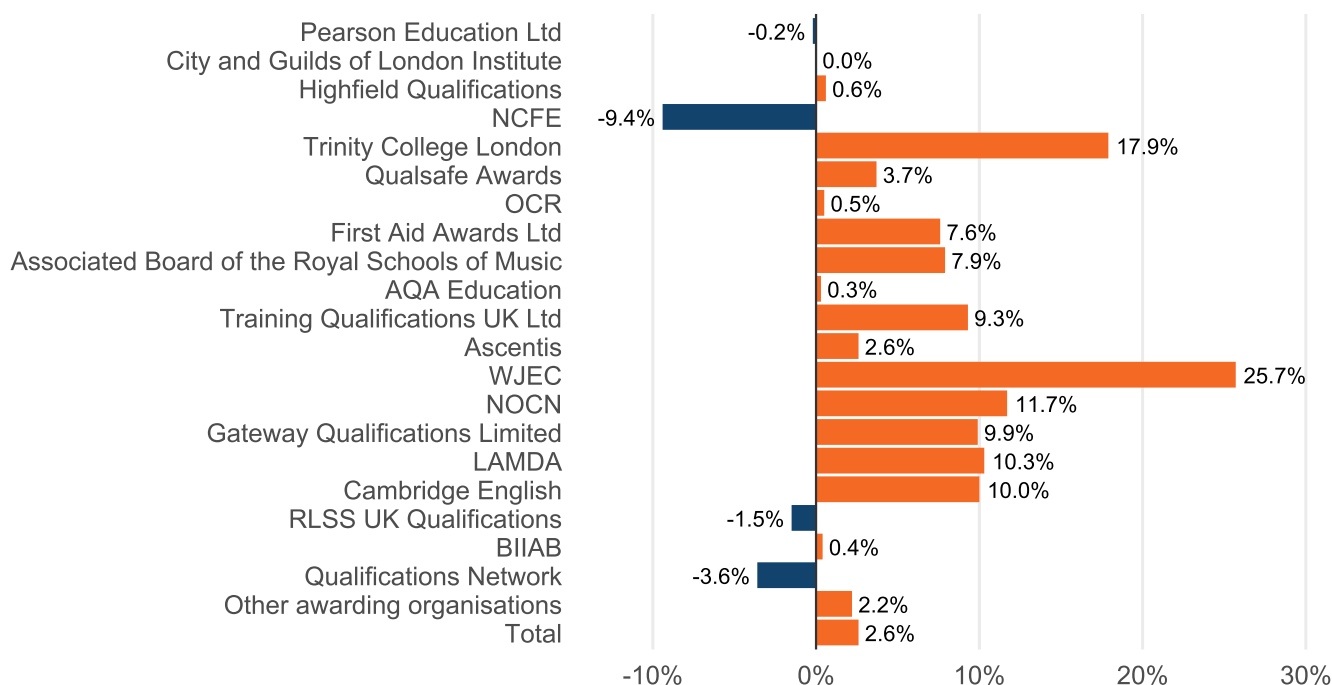
**Table 22: Awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications in 2023 to 2024**

<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024</b>
Pearson Education Ltd	725,575	723,820
City and Guilds of London Institute	555,355	555,200
Highfield Qualifications	318,650	320,640
NCFE	347,230	314,530
Trinity College London	216,435	255,245
Qualsafe Awards	229,250	237,640
OCR	208,115	209,235
First Aid Awards Ltd	191,620	206,170
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	179,060	193,210
AQA Education	125,675	126,075
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	114,750	125,430
Ascentis	103,805	106,510
WJEC	83,145	104,505
NOCN	86,955	97,120
Gateway Qualifications Limited	74,635	81,995
LAMDA	72,750	80,265

Cambridge English	67,580	74,345
RLSS UK Qualifications	70,230	69,190
BIIAB	67,530	67,805
Qualifications Network	66,605	64,240
Other awarding organisations	1,191,550	1,217,810
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,096,500</b>	<b>5,230,980</b>

**Trinity College London had the largest increase (up by 38,800) in the number of certificates issued**

Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation



**Table 23: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

**Awarding organisation      Percentage change in the number of certificates between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

Pearson Education Ltd	-0.2%
City and Guilds of London	0.0%

## Institute

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Highfield Qualifications 0.6%

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NCFE -9.4%

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Trinity College London 17.9%

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Qualsafe Awards 3.7%

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OCR 0.5%

---

First Aid Awards Ltd 7.6%

---

Associated Board of the  
Royal Schools of Music 7.9%

---

AQA Education 0.3%

---

Training Qualifications UK  
Ltd 9.3%

---

Ascentis 2.6%

---

WJEC 25.7%

---

NOCN 11.7%

---

Gateway Qualifications  
Limited 9.9%

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LAMDA 10.3%

---

Cambridge English 10.0%

---

RLSS UK Qualifications -1.5%

---

BIIAB 0.4%

---

Qualifications Network -3.6%

---

Other awarding  
organisations 2.2%

---

Total 2.6%

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The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications in the 2023 to 2024 academic year awarded 76.7% of all vocational and other qualifications certificates. No new awarding organisations joined this list this year.

Trinity College London had the largest increase (up by 38,800) in certificates compared with the previous year. WJEC showed the largest percentage increase in certificate numbers (up by 25.7%, an increase of 21,400 certificates compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year).

## In focus: technical qualifications and applied generals

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

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 GCSE, AS and A levels. They are Level 1, 1/2, 2 and 3 qualifications.

New Technical Awards were awarded for the first time in 2023 to 2024. From the 2023 to 2024 academic year, there were new rules introduced about the design and structure of the qualifications. In many cases, the changes led to substantial differences in the design and delivery of the qualifications. For more information on these changes please see the [background notes](#).

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.

## Technical qualifications and applied generals by qualification category

**Table 24: Share of technical qualifications and applied generals in the 2023 to 2024 academic year by qualification category**

Qualification category	Number of available qualifications	Number of certificates	Share of vocational and other qualifications
Applied Generals	134	238,590	4.6%
Tech Levels	148	38,195	0.7%
Technical Awards	72	350,835	6.7%
Technical Certificates	80	13,275	0.3%
Remaining vocational and other qualifications	16,043	4,590,085	87.7%

Applied General qualifications saw 238,600 certificates issued, making up 4.6% of vocational and other certificates in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

The 402,300 technical qualifications certificates issued in the 2023 to 2024 academic year can be further broken down into:

- 350,800 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.
- 13,300 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.



- 38,200 Tech Levels, which are also designed for study at key stage 5. These are Level 3 qualifications.

## Technical and Applied General qualifications certificates by sector subject area

**Table 25: Number of technical qualifications and applied generals in the 2023 to 2024 academic year by sector subject area**

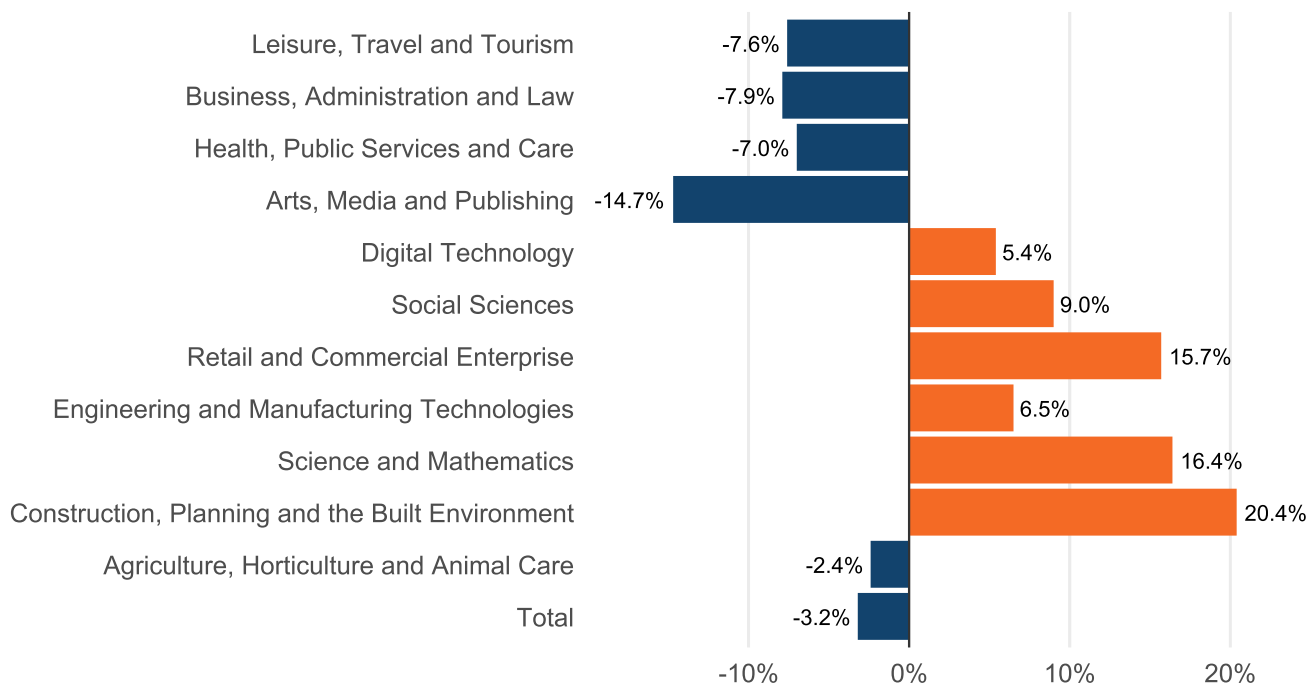
<b>Sector subject area</b>	<b>Applied Generals</b>	<b>Technical Awards</b>	<b>Technical Certificates</b>	<b>Tech Levels</b>	<b>Total</b>
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	28,000	79,175	190	1,690	109,060
Business, Administration and Law	65,695	39,345	1,090	820	106,950
Health, Public Services and Care	31,845	66,285	585	6,175	104,890
Arts, Media and Publishing	13,270	73,350	35	4,020	90,675
Digital Technology	19,065	23,660	600	3,985	47,310
Social Sciences	40,155	0	0	0	40,155
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	1,345	34,155	1,515	665	37,675
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	5,905	23,670	455	4,890	34,925
Science and Mathematics	33,275	0	0	0	33,275
Construction, Planning and the Built	35	9,370	5,240	4,815	19,460

## Environment

Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	0	1,825	3,570	11,130	16,520
<b>Total</b>	<b>238,590</b>	<b>350,835</b>	<b>13,275</b>	<b>38,195</b>	<b>640,895</b>

### Construction, Planning and the Built Environment sector subject area saw the largest proportional increase in the number of certificates issued

Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by sector subject area



**Table 26: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by sector subject area between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

Sector subject area	Percentage change in the number of certificates issued between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024
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Leisure, Travel and Tourism	-7.6%
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Business, Administration and Law	-7.9%
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Health, Public Services and Care	-7.0%
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Arts, Media and Publishing	-14.7%
Digital Technology	5.4%
Social Sciences	9.0%
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	15.7%
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	6.5%
Science and Mathematics	16.4%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	20.4%
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	-2.4%
Total	-3.2%

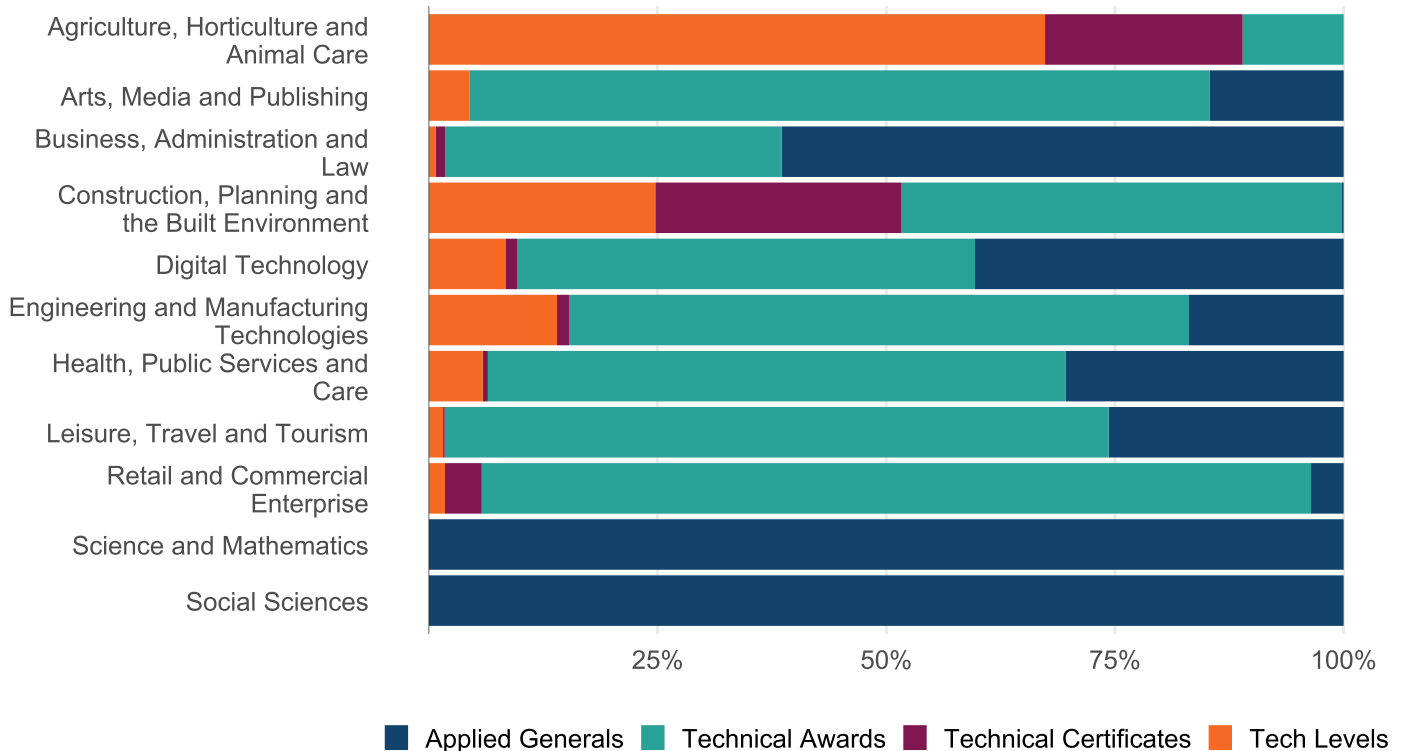
The sector subject area with the largest decrease in number of certificates was Arts, Media and Publishing with a decrease of 15,585 certificates between the 2022 to 2023 academic year and 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Retail and Commercial Enterprise saw the largest increase in the number of certificates issued in the 2023 to 2024 academic year compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year (up by 5,100 certificates).

Technical Certificates in Health, Public Services and Care saw the largest proportional increase (up by 44.3%) in the number of certificates compared with other qualification categories and SSAs in the 2023 to 2024 academic year. The number of certificates increased from 405 certificates in 2022 to 2023 to 585 certificates in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

## Different SSAs have a different mix of technical and Applied General qualifications

Distribution of Technical and Applied General certificates by sector subject area



**Table 27: Distribution of Technical and Applied General certificates by sector subject area**

Sector subject area	Applied Generals	Technical Awards	Technical Certificates	Tech Levels
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	0.0%	11.0%	21.6%	67.4%
Arts, Media and Publishing	14.6%	80.9%	0.0%	4.4%
Business, Administration and Law	61.4%	36.8%	1.0%	0.8%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	0.2%	48.2%	26.9%	24.7%
Digital Technology	40.3%	50.0%	1.3%	8.4%
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	16.9%	67.8%	1.3%	14.0%
Health, Public Services and Care	30.4%	63.2%	0.6%	5.9%

## Care

Leisure, Travel and Tourism	25.7%	72.6%	0.2%	1.6%
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	3.6%	90.7%	4.0%	1.8%
Science and Mathematics	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Social Sciences	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	37.2%	54.7%	2.1%	6.0%

Different SSAs have a different mix of technical and Applied General 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. Some other SSAs contain more of a mixture of different qualification types.

## Technical and Applied General qualifications certificates by awarding organisation

**Table 28: Number of technical and Applied General qualifications certificates by awarding organisation**

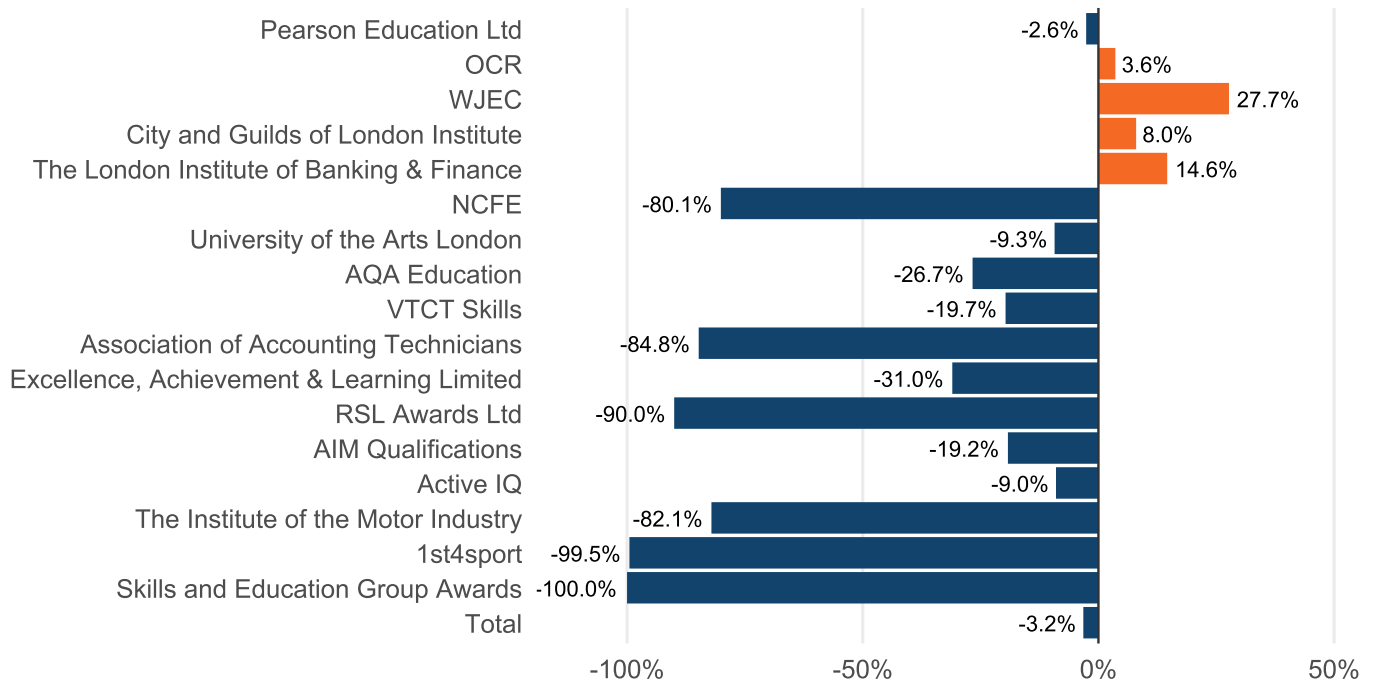
Awarding organisation	Applied Generals	Technical Awards	Technical Certificates	Tech Levels	Total
Pearson Education Ltd	153,425	154,640	1,790	13,050	322,905
OCR	25,580	138,485	1,085	6,795	171,945
WJEC	42,725	54,435	0	0	97,165
City and Guilds of London Institute	0	935	9,040	9,455	19,430
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	11,330	1,015	0	0	12,345

NCFE	135	0	0	5,755	5,890
University of the Arts London	2,720	0	0	0	2,720
AQA Education	2,670	0	0	0	2,670
VTCT Skills	0	1,325	500	250	2,075
Association of Accounting Technicians	0	0	495	820	1,310
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	0	0	245	680	925
RSL Awards Ltd	0	0	5	915	920
AIM Qualifications	0	0	0	370	370
Active IQ	0	0	55	65	120
The Institute of the Motor Industry	0	0	60	35	95
1st4sport	Fewer than 5	0	0	0	Fewer than 5
Skills and Education Group Awards	0	0	0	0	0
Total	238,590	350,835	13,275	38,195	640,895

Pearson was the largest provider of Applied Generals. Pearson and OCR were the largest providers of Technical Awards. City & Guilds and Pearson were the largest providers of Technical Certificates, and Pearson, City & Guilds and OCR were the largest providers of Tech Levels.

## Most awarding organisations saw a decrease in certificate numbers for technical and Applied General qualifications

Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation



**Table 29: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

Awarding organisation	Percentage change in the number of certificates issued between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024
Pearson Education Ltd	-2.6%
OCR	3.6%
WJEC	27.7%
City and Guilds of London Institute	8.0%
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	14.6%
NCFE	-80.1%
University of the Arts London	-9.3%

AQA Education	-26.7%
VTCT Skills	-19.7%
Association of Accounting Technicians	-84.8%
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	-31.0%
RSL Awards Ltd	-90.0%
AIM Qualifications	-19.2%
Active IQ	-9.0%
The Institute of the Motor Industry	-82.1%
1st4sport	-99.5%
Skills and Education Group Awards	-100.0%
Total	-3.2%

Most awarding organisations saw a decrease in certificate numbers for technical and Applied General qualifications in the 2023 to 2024 academic year. OCR, WJEC, City & Guilds and The London Institute of Banking & Finance saw increases in the number of certificates issued.

WJEC and OCR saw the largest increase in the number of certificates issued (up by 21,100 and 6,000 respectively) compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The largest percentage increase in certificates issued (27.7%) was seen by WJEC, up from 76,100 certificates in 2022 to 2023 to 97,200 in 2023 to 2024.

NCFE saw the largest overall drop in the number of technical and Applied General qualification certificates, down from 29,600 certificates in the 2022 to 2023 academic year to 5,900 in the 2023 to 2024 academic year (down by 23,700 certificates).



# **In focus: Functional Skills Qualifications**

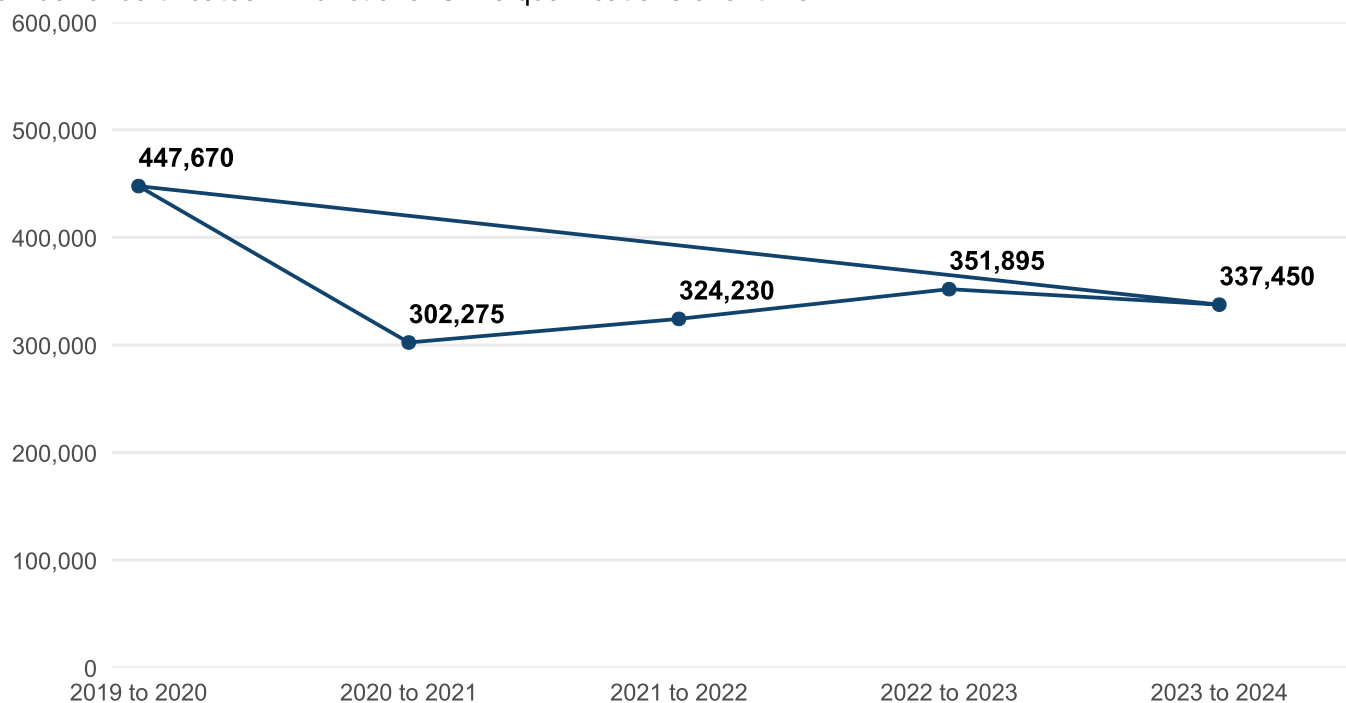
Functional Skills are qualifications that cover the fundamental and applied skills that help people to get the most from everyday life, education and work. Functional Skills qualifications are available in English, mathematics and, until recently, ICT at the following levels: Entry Level, Level 1 and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

Whilst some Functional Skills qualifications in ICT were still certificating in 2023 to 2024, they are no longer available to new learners and have been replaced by Digital Functional Skills qualifications (DFSQs). DFSQs were first certificated in 2023 to 2024 and are a separate qualification type only available at Entry Level and Level 1. DFSQs place greater emphasis on the use of digital devices and developing digital skills to use in daily life as well as in the workplace or education setting. As DFSQs are considered a separate qualification type, they are not included in this section but overall volumes are reported in Table 6: Number of certificates issued by qualification type.

## **Certificates in Functional Skills qualifications**

**The overall number of certificates issued in Functional Skills qualifications has reduced by 4% in the 2023 to 2024 academic year compared to the 2022 to 2023 academic year**

Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications over time



**Table 30: Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications over time**

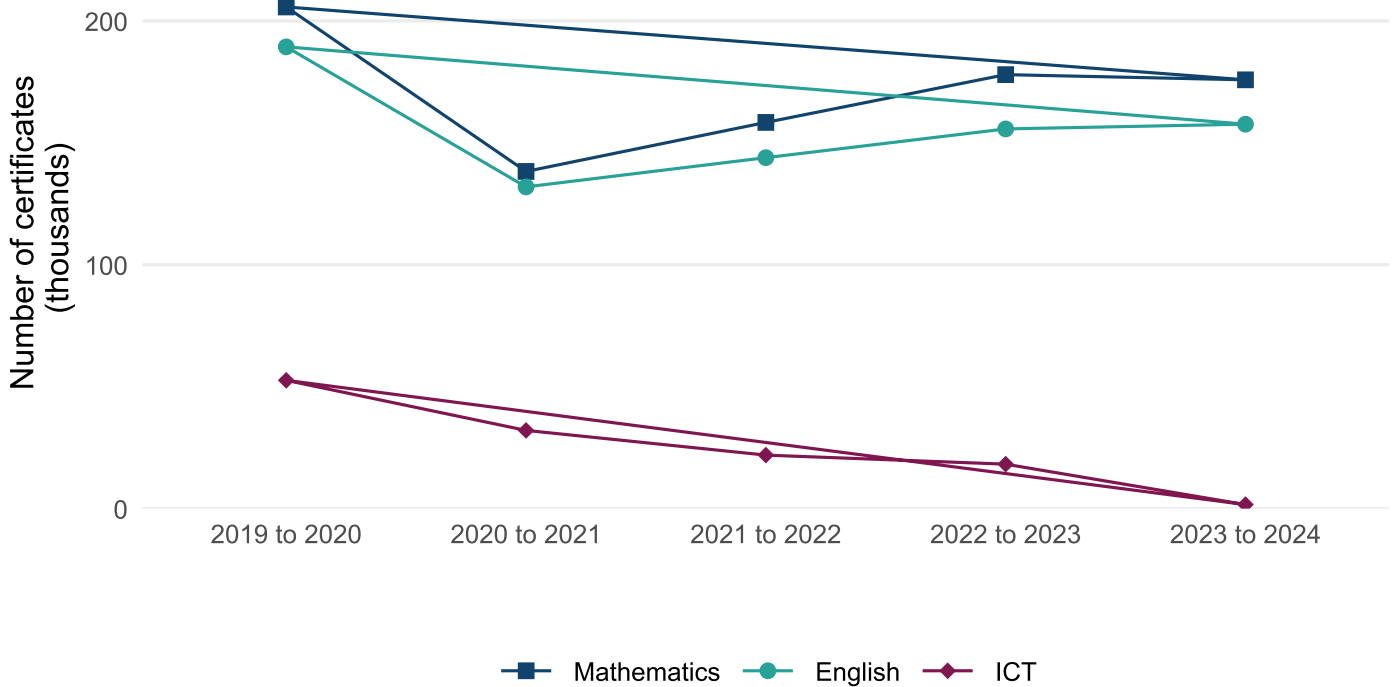
	<b>2019 to 2020</b>	<b>2020 to 2021</b>	<b>2021 to 2022</b>	<b>2022 to 2023</b>	<b>2023 to 2024</b>
Number of certificates	447,670	302,275	324,230	351,895	337,450

The overall number of certificates issued in Functional Skills qualifications has reduced by 4% (equivalent to 14,400 certificates) in the 2023 to 2024 academic year compared to the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

**Certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by subject**

## There was an increase in the number of certificates in English in the 2023 to 2024 academic year compared to the 2022 to 2023 academic year

Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by subject over time



**Table 31: Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by subject**

Subject	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024
Mathematics	205,710	138,265	158,365	177,960	175,830
English	189,345	131,930	143,915	155,700	157,640
ICT	52,610	32,080	21,950	18,235	1,655

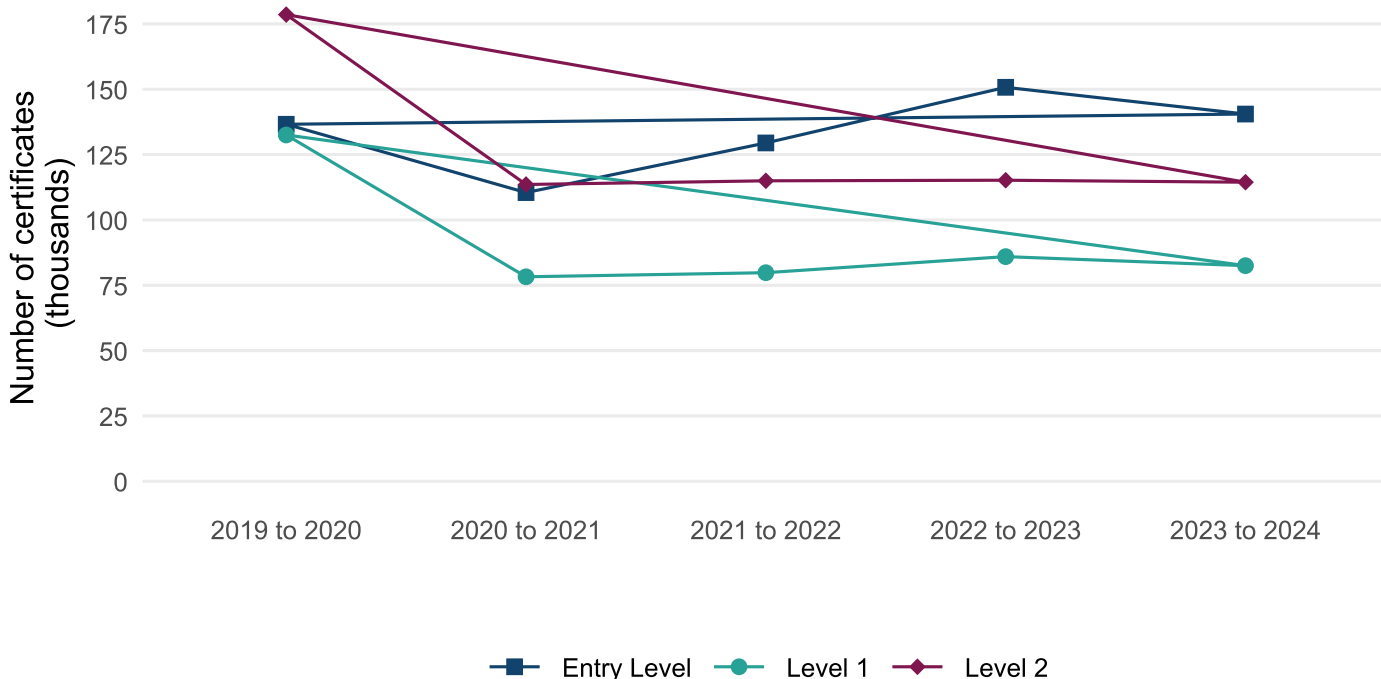
There was an increase in the number of certificates in English in the 2023 to 2024 academic year compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year (up by 1,900 certificates). The number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in mathematics decreased (down by 2,100) compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

The decrease in ICT Functional Skills certificates is due to them no longer being available and being replaced by new DFSQs.

# Certificates in Functional Skills by level

**There was a decrease in the number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications across all levels in the 2023 to 2024 academic year compared to the 2022 to 2023 academic year**

Number of certificates in Functional Skills by level over time



**Table 32: Number of certificates in Functional Skills by level**

Qualification level	2019 to 2020	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024
Entry Level	136,600	110,465	129,450	150,740	140,515
Level 1	132,505	78,245	79,810	85,960	82,500
Level 2	178,560	113,560	114,970	115,190	114,435

There was a decrease in the number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications across all levels in the 2023 to 2024 academic year compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The largest decrease in the number of certificates was in Entry Level qualifications, down by 10,200 certificates.

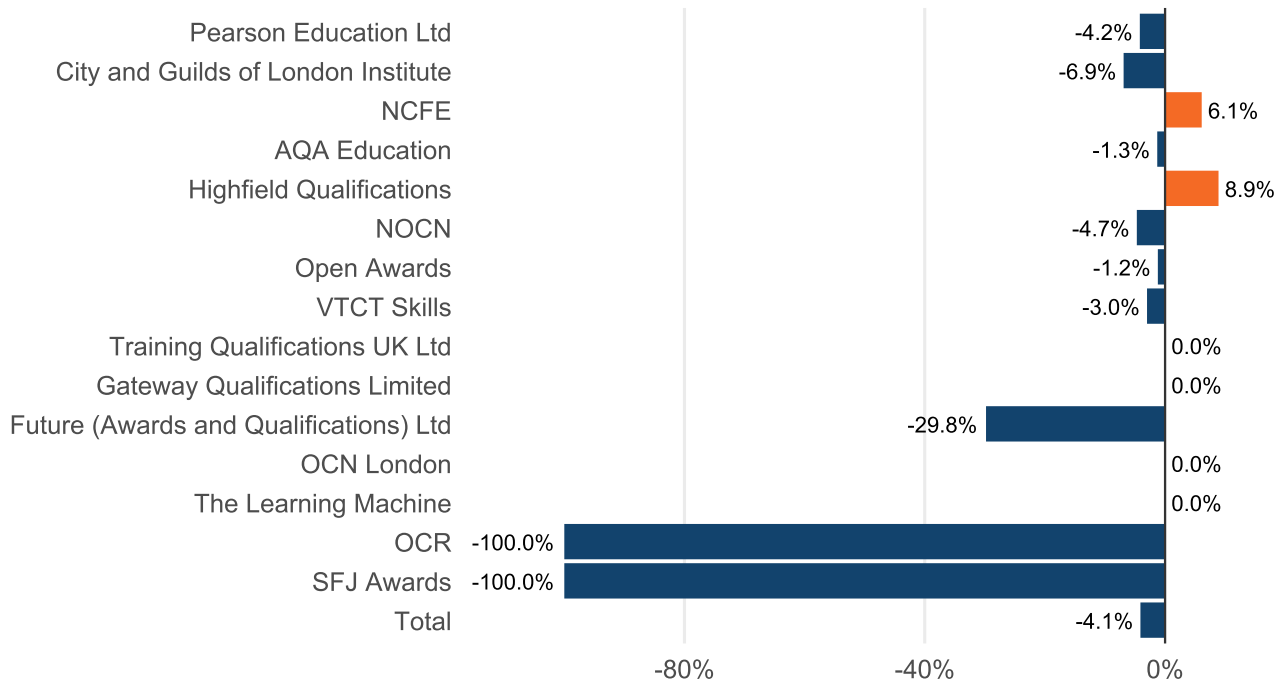
# Certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by awarding organisation

**Table 33: Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by awarding organisation in 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024</b>
Pearson Education Ltd	163,410	156,620
City and Guilds of London Institute	119,405	111,175
NCFE	23,080	24,480
AQA Education	19,215	18,965
Highfield Qualifications	8,850	9,635
NOCN	6,330	6,035
Open Awards	5,315	5,250
VTCT Skills	3,940	3,820
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	0	875
Gateway Qualifications Limited	0	275
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	285	200
OCN London	0	70
The Learning Machine	0	50
OCR	2,065	0
SFJ Awards	Fewer than 5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>351,895</b>	<b>337,450</b>

## Most awarding organisations awarded fewer certificates in Functional Skills in the 2023 to 2024 academic year in comparison to the previous year

Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation



**Table 34: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisations between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

Awarding organisation	Percentage change in the number of certificates issued between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024
Pearson Education Ltd	-4.2%
City and Guilds of London Institute	-6.9%
NCFE	6.1%
AQA Education	-1.3%
Highfield Qualifications	8.9%
NOCN	-4.7%

Open Awards	-1.2%
VTCT Skills	-3.0%
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	0.0%
Gateway Qualifications Limited	0.0%
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	-29.8%
OCN London	0.0%
The Learning Machine	0.0%
OCR	-100.0%
SFJ Awards	-100.0%
Total	-4.1%

There were 13 awarding organisation issuing certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in the 2023 to 2024 academic year, up from 11 in the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

Most awarding organisations awarded fewer certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in the 2023 to 2024 academic year in comparison with the 2022 to 2023 academic year. Of those with a decrease in the number of certificates issued, City and Guilds of London Institute saw the largest decline in the number of certificates in the 2023 to 2024 academic year compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year (down by 8,200).

## 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.

Please note that due to an expected resubmission of data from previous academic years, we are only presenting certification data for regulated qualifications delivered outside the UK for the 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024 academic years. Following the data resubmission, we will republish this release to include figures for the academic years 2019 to 2020, 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022. We expect this to happen by the end of May 2025.

## Certificates for Ofqual regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK

**Table 35: Number of certificates for Ofqual regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of certificates</b>
2022 to 2023	8,408,285
2023 to 2024	8,522,925

In total, 8.5 million certificates were awarded for 2,613 different regulated qualifications to students outside the UK over the 2023 to 2024 academic year, up by 1.4% compared with the previous year.

## Certificates for regulated qualifications issued outside the UK by type

**Table 36: Number of certificates for Ofqual regulated qualifications issued outside the UK by type**

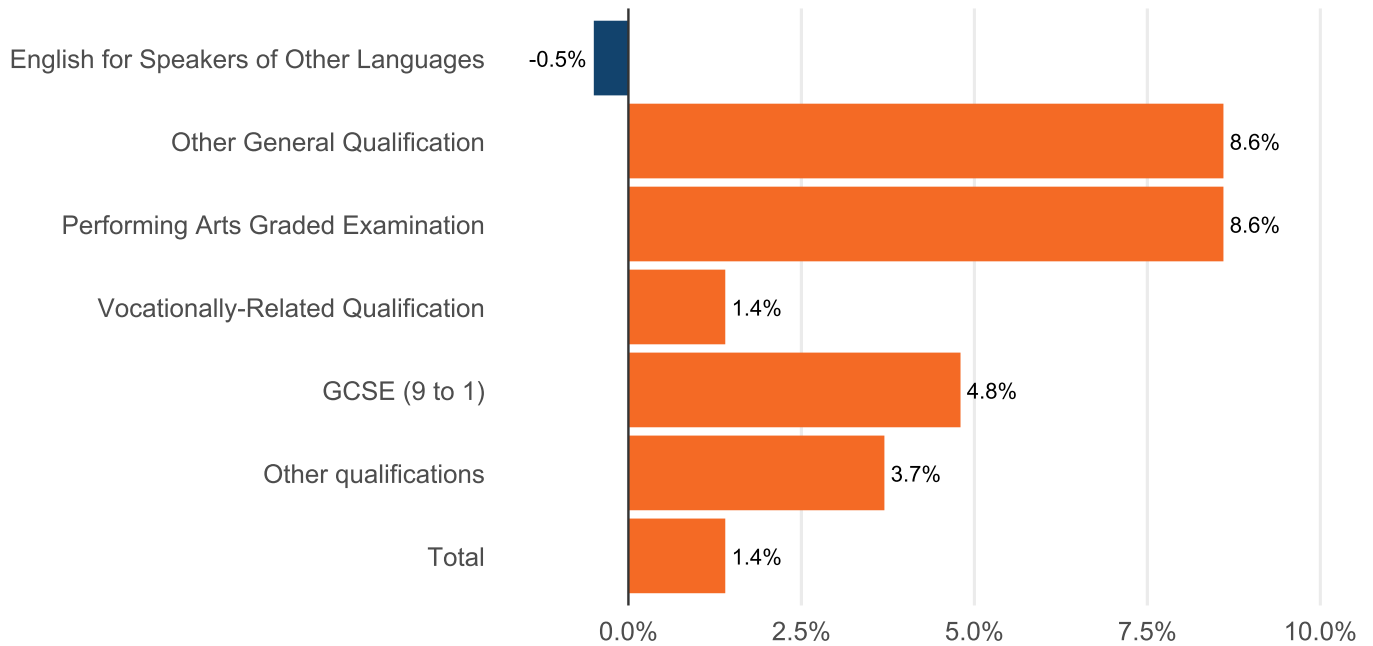
<b>Qualification type</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Share of certificates in 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Share of certificates in 2023 to 2024</b>
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English for Speakers of Other Languages	6,426,075	6,391,030	76.4%	75.0%
Other General Qualification	1,155,860	1,254,960	13.7%	14.7%
Performing Arts Graded Examination	502,060	545,375	6.0%	6.4%
Vocationally-Related Qualification	219,290	222,255	2.6%	2.6%
GCSE (9 to 1)	40,095	42,010	0.5%	0.5%
Other qualifications	64,905	67,295	0.8%	0.8%
Total	8,408,285	8,522,925	100.0%	100.0%

## The largest proportional increase in the number of certificates issued outside the UK was among Other General Qualification and Performing Arts Graded Examination regulated qualifications

Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type



**Table 37: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

**Qualification type**                      **Percentage change in the number of certificates issued between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

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English for Speakers of Other Languages                      -0.5%

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Other General Qualification                      8.6%

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Performing Arts Graded Examination                      8.6%

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Vocationally-Related Qualification                      1.4%

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GCSE (9 to 1)                      4.8%

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Other qualifications                      3.7%

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Total                      1.4%

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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 Qualifications and Performing Arts Graded Examinations.

The largest increase in the number of certificates issued outside the UK was among Other General Qualification regulated qualifications, up by 99,100 compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

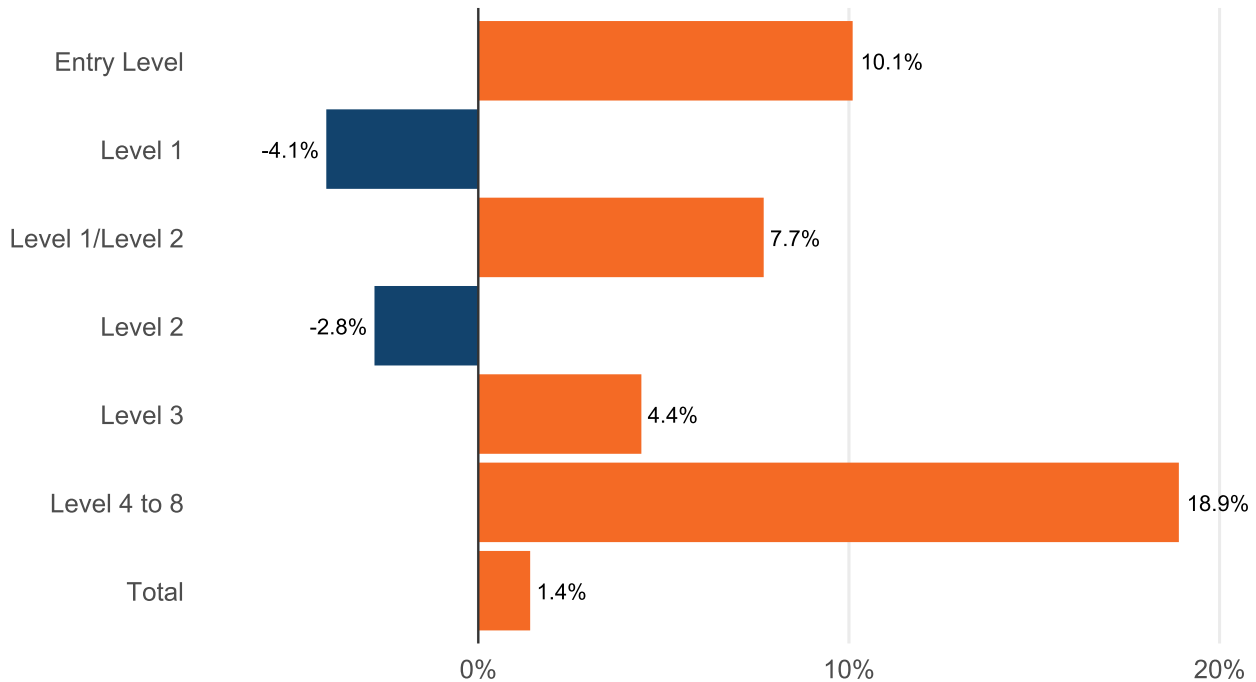
## Certificates for regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK by level

**Table 38: Number of certificates for regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK by level**

Qualification level	Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023	Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Share of certificates in 2022 to 2023	Share of certificates in 2023 to 2024
Entry Level	1,946,335	2,143,710	23.1%	25.2%
Level 1	3,254,560	3,121,105	38.7%	36.6%
Level 1/Level 2	180,060	193,890	2.1%	2.3%
Level 2	1,517,065	1,474,995	18.0%	17.3%
Level 3	1,427,905	1,491,300	17.0%	17.5%
Level 4 to 8	82,355	97,925	1.0%	1.1%
Total	8,408,285	8,522,925	100.0%	100.0%

## Level 4 to 8 regulated qualifications saw the largest proportional increase in the number of certificates issued outside the UK

Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification level



**Table 38: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued outside the UK by qualification level between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

**Qualification level**      **Percentage change in the number of certificates between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

Entry Level      10.1%

Level 1      -4.1%

Level 1/Level 2      7.7%

Level 2      -2.8%

Level 3      4.4%

Level 4 to 8      18.9%

Total      1.4%

Level 1 regulated qualifications had the highest number of certificates issued

outside the UK in the 2023 to 2024 academic year, accounting for 36.6% of the non-UK total.

Level 4 to 8 regulated qualifications saw the largest proportional increase in the number of certificates issued outside the UK in the 2023 to 2024 academic year compared with the 2022 to 2023 academic year, up by 18.9%. Entry Level saw the largest increase in the raw number of certificates issued outside the UK certificates compared with the previous year (an increase of 197,400).

Level 1 regulated qualifications saw the largest proportional decrease in the number of certificates issued outside the UK, down by 4.1%, equivalent to a decrease of 133,500 certificates compared with the previous year.

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

Table 39 shows the 20 awarding organisations with the greatest number of certificates issued outside the UK in 2023 to 2024. Others are combined within the 'other awarding organisations' group. For a full breakdown of all awarding organisations, see Table 22 in the [accompanying data tables](#).

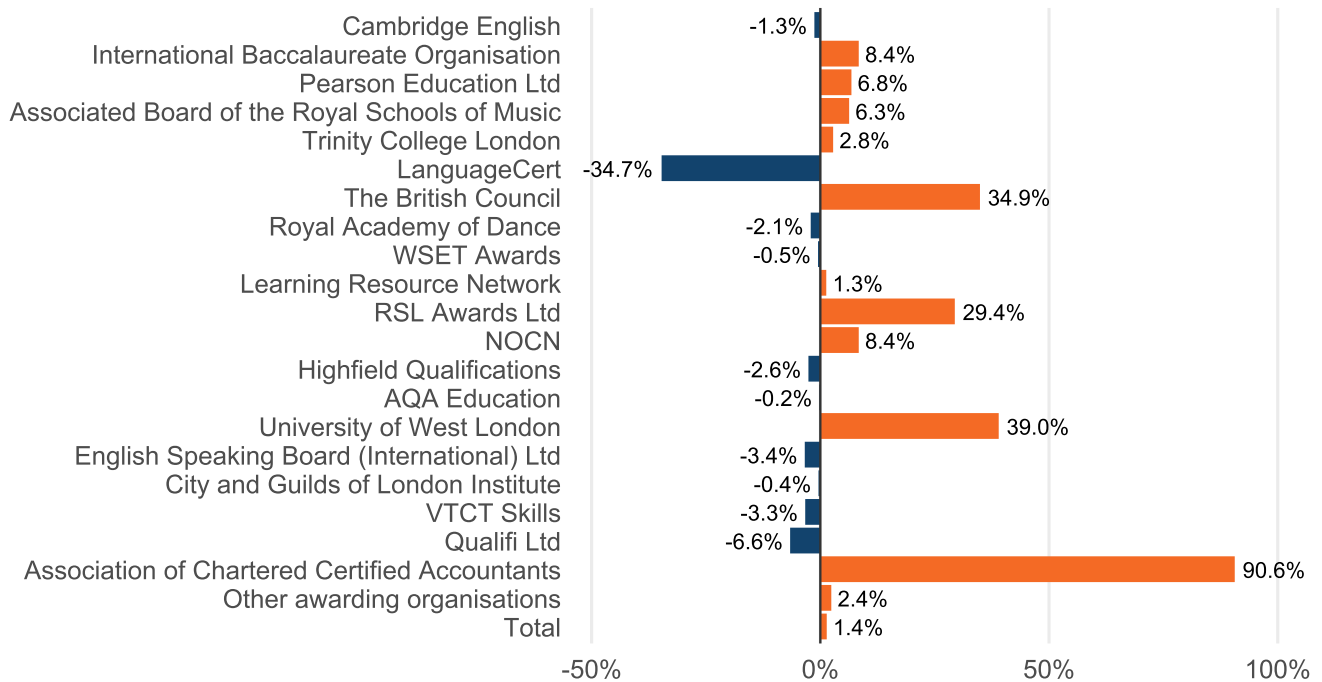
**Table 39: Awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates for regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK in 2023 to 2024**

<b>Awarding organisation</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024</b>
Cambridge English	4,986,030	4,923,545
International Baccalaureate Organisation	1,151,235	1,247,820
Pearson Education Ltd	1,042,760	1,113,825
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	218,630	232,510
Trinity College London	209,560	215,460
LanguageCert	171,280	111,830

The British Council	76,180	102,800
Royal Academy of Dance	102,185	100,000
WSET Awards	85,610	85,220
Learning Resource Network	48,735	49,360
RSL Awards Ltd	35,730	46,245
NOCN	24,230	26,275
Highfield Qualifications	26,680	25,995
AQA Education	23,610	23,550
University of West London	14,520	20,185
English Speaking Board (International) Ltd	18,460	17,840
City and Guilds of London Institute	17,645	17,580
VTCT Skills	18,080	17,480
Qualifi Ltd	16,190	15,130
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	7,355	14,015
Other awarding organisations	113,580	116,255
Total	8,408,285	8,522,925

## Association of Chartered Certified Accountants saw the largest percentage increase in certificate numbers

Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation



**Table 40: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

**Awarding organisation**      **Percentage change in the number of certificates issued between 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024**

Cambridge English      -1.3%

International Baccalaureate Organisation      8.4%

Pearson Education Ltd      6.8%

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music      6.3%

Trinity College London      2.8%

LanguageCert      -34.7%

The British Council      34.9%

Royal Academy of Dance	-2.1%
WSET Awards	-0.5%
Learning Resource Network	1.3%
RSL Awards Ltd	29.4%
NOCN	8.4%
Highfield Qualifications	-2.6%
AQA Education	-0.2%
University of West London	39.0%
English Speaking Board (International) Ltd	-3.4%
City and Guilds of London Institute	-0.4%
VTCT Skills	-3.3%
Qualifi Ltd	-6.6%
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	90.6%
Other awarding organisations	2.4%
Total	1.4%

The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of non-UK certificates of regulated qualifications in the 2023 to 2024 academic year awarded 98.6% of all regulated qualifications certificates issued outside the UK. Association of Chartered Certified Accountants is new to the top 20 this year.

International Baccalaureate Organisation and Pearson Education Ltd saw the largest



increases in certificates compared with the previous year (up by 96,600 and 71,100 certificates respectively).

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants has had the largest percentage increase (up by 90.6%) in certificate numbers compared with 2022 to 2023.

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

Head of profession: Ben Cuff

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