



Official Statistics

Annual qualifications market report: academic year 2024 to 2025

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Applies to England

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This release provides information on the number and types of qualifications available, and the number of certificates awarded by Ofqual-regulated awarding organisations in England during the 2024 to 2025 academic year. It also includes statistics on certificates issued for the same qualifications in international jurisdictions.

For this report, because certificates are collected quarterly, the 2024 to 2025 academic year is considered to be the start of October 2024 until the end of September 2025.

The release covers regulated qualifications across GCSEs, AS, A levels, and vocational and other qualifications. Where this release refers to ‘vocational and other’ qualifications, this means all qualifications other than GCSE, AS, A level, apprenticeship end-point assessments (EPAs), Apprenticeships Assessment Qualifications and T Level Technical Qualifications (TQs). This report does not include EPAs, Apprenticeships Assessment Qualifications or TQs in the counts of qualifications and certificates. You can find further information on the qualifications covered in this release in the accompanying [background notes](#).

Many assessments used alternative arrangements in the 2020 to 2021 academic year because of ongoing disruption from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Exams and other formal assessments returned in the 2021 to 2022 academic year, with some adaptations, and then in the 2022 to 2023 academic year, most exams and assessments returned to pre-pandemic arrangements. The figures reported for the 2024 to 2025 academic year, especially in comparison with the 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022 academic years, may reflect these changes.

Changes in cohort sizes can also affect the overall numbers of certifications in an academic year. Notably, the number of 16-year-olds fell by 0.25% over the last year, from 711,389 in 2024 to 709,586 in 2025 [according to Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) population projections](#). You can find more detail on how these figures were retrieved in the ‘external influences’ section of the [background information](#) accompanying this release. For more information on how population projections are calculated, see [Office for National Statistics: Population projections](#).

Information on regulated qualifications (covering title, type, availability, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level) and recognised awarding organisations in England is taken from Ofqual’s [Register of Regulated Qualifications](#), referred to as ‘the Register’ in this release. This database is continually updated - this report reflects its contents when the data was extracted on 10 February 2026.

Key headlines



The main headlines in the regulated qualifications market in England for the 2024 to 2025 academic year were:

- There were 10,190 active qualifications (available qualifications with certificates) in the academic year 2024 to 2025, a 0.4% increase from the 2023 to 2024 academic year.
- A total of 11.8 million certificates were issued for GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and other qualifications, up 0.2% from the 2023 to 2024 academic year.
- There were 6.5 million GCSE, AS and A level certificates issued in the 2024 to 2025 academic year, down 0.1% from the previous academic year.
- There were 5.3 million certificates issued for vocational and other qualifications in the 2024 to 2025 academic year, up 0.5% from the 2023 to 2024 academic year.
- The awarding organisations with the largest overall market shares (by number of certificates issued across all qualification types in scope of this release) were AQA (34.0%), Pearson (20.1%), Cambridge OCR (6.3%) and WJEC (4.8%).

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](#).

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 254 Ofqual regulated awarding organisations during the 2024 to 2025 academic year. This number includes 87 awarding organisations which only delivered EPAs or Apprenticeships Assessment Qualifications for apprenticeship standards during the 2024 to 2025 academic year and 11 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 and Apprenticeships Assessment Qualifications. We report on volumes and outcomes of regulated apprenticeship EPAs [in a separate statistical publication](#).

Ofqual regulated 254 awarding organisations during the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 1: Number of regulated awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications over time

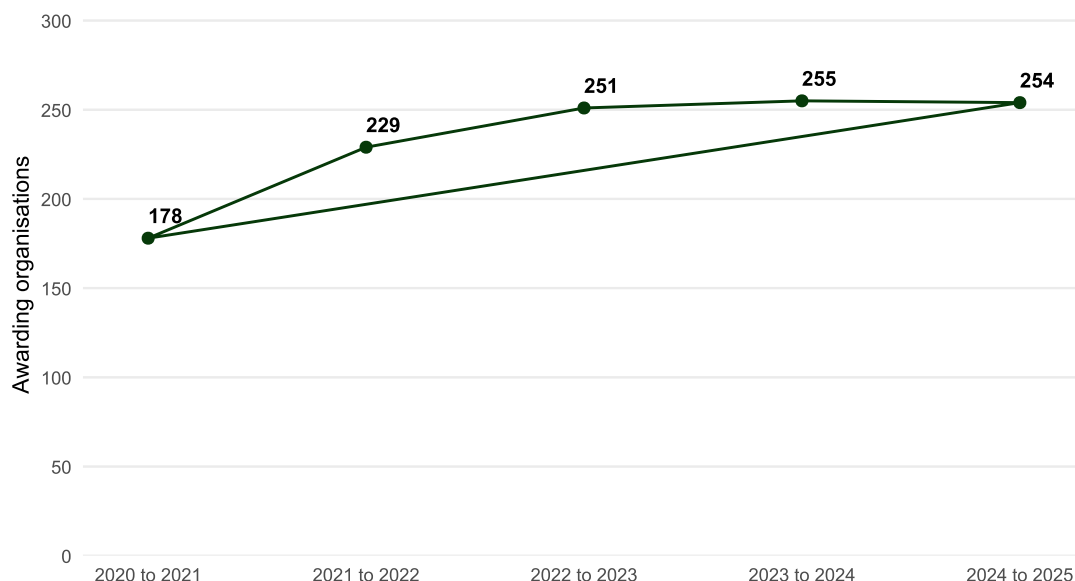


Table 1: Number of awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications

	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
Number of awarding organisations	178	229	251	255	254

Regulated qualifications

Information on qualifications including title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level is taken from Ofqual's [Register of Regulated Qualifications](#). A qualification is counted as available in a given academic year if an awarding organisation can issue certificates for it during that year. Awarding organisations self-report when a qualification they offer is 'active' or available to candidates for certification.

Available qualifications

There were 16,503 qualifications available for certification in the 2024 to 2025 academic year. This is a 0.2% increase from the 2023 to 2024 academic year,

marking a change in the downward trend from the previous academic year.

Of the available qualifications, 10,190 had certificates issued in the 2024 to 2025 academic year. This is a 0.4% increase compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year. Some qualifications did not have any certificates issued because they are new and require a 1- or 2-year course of study before students can complete them.

There were 16,503 qualifications available for certification across all GCSE, AS, A level and vocational and other qualifications in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 2: Number of available qualifications with, and without, certificates over time



Table 2: Number of available qualifications

	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
Number of qualifications with certificates	11,716	11,360	10,718	10,146	10,190
Number of qualifications without certificates	6,043	6,183	6,489	6,327	6,313
Total number of qualifications	17,759	17,543	17,207	16,473	16,503

Available qualifications by type

Qualification types describe the nature of regulated qualifications. Information on qualification type comes from Ofqual's [Register of Regulated Qualifications](#).

Qualifications available to certificate

Performing arts graded examination qualifications had the largest percentage increase in the number of qualifications available to certificate, up by 9.6% from the 2023 to 2024 academic year. Technical occupation qualification saw the largest overall increase in the number of qualifications available to certificate, up by 89 qualifications.

Occupational qualification and Other Life Skills qualification qualifications had the largest decreases in the number of qualifications available to certificate (down by 182 and 53 qualifications, respectively). Functional Skills had the largest percentage decrease in the number of available qualifications, down 18.0% from the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Please note that qualifications with certificates issued for the first time this year, and therefore showing no year-on-year change in certificate numbers, are denoted as '[x]' in both the charts and the tables.

Among all GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and other qualifications, Performing arts graded examination qualifications had the largest percentage increase in the number of qualifications available to certificate, up by 9.6% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 3: Percentage change in the number of qualifications available to certificate by qualification type

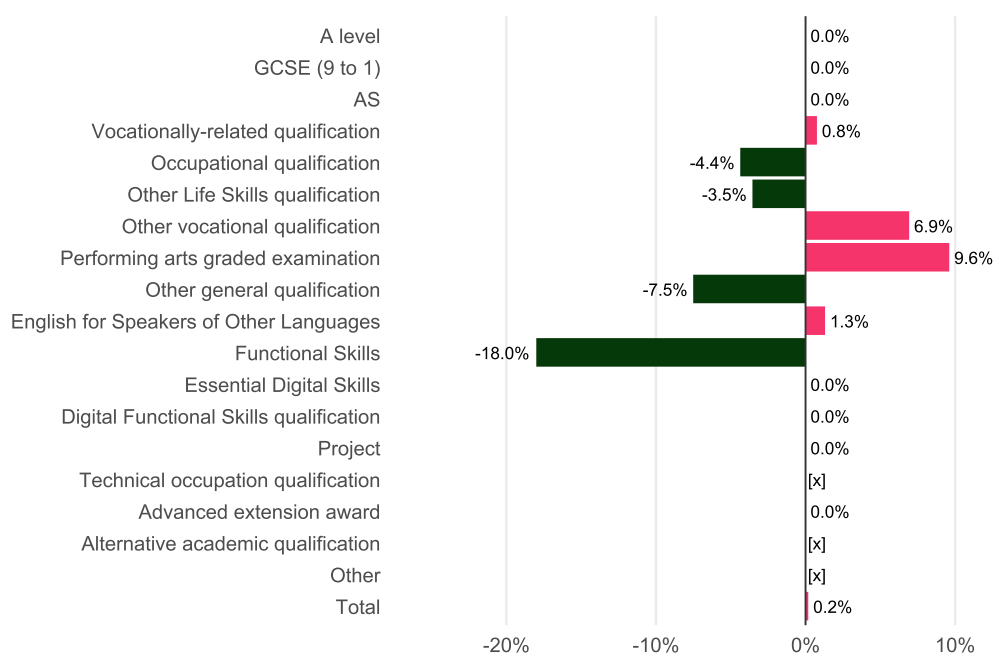


Table 3: Number of qualifications available to certificate by type between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Qualification type	Number of qualifications available to certificate in 2023 to 2024	Number of qualifications available to certificate in 2024 to 2025	Percentage change in the number of qualifications available to certificate between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
A level	137	137	0.0%
GCSE (9 to 1)	137	137	0.0%
AS	96	96	0.0%
Vocationally-related qualification	7,755	7,814	0.8%
Occupational qualification	4,169	3,987	-4.4%
Other Life Skills qualification	1,493	1,440	-3.5%
Other vocational qualification	953	1,019	6.9%
Performing arts graded examination	739	810	9.6%
Other general qualification	466	431	-7.5%
English for Speakers of Other Languages	384	389	1.3%
Functional Skills	100	82	-18.0%
Essential Digital Skills	18	18	0.0%
Digital Functional	14	14	0.0%

Skills qualification			
Project	11	11	0.0%
Technical occupation qualification	0	89	[x]
Advanced extension award	1	1	0.0%
Alternative academic qualification	0	27	[x]
Other	0	1	[x]
Total	16,473	16,503	0.2%

Available qualifications with certificates

Essential Digital Skills qualifications had the largest percentage increase in the number of available qualifications with certificates, up by 6.2% from the 2023 to 2024 academic year. Vocationally-related qualification had the largest overall increase in the number of available qualifications with certificates, up by 58 qualifications.

Occupational qualification and Other Life Skills qualification qualifications had the largest decreases in the number of available qualifications with certificates, with 33 and 23 qualifications, respectively. Functional Skills had the largest percentage decrease in available qualifications with certificates, down 14.6% from the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Please note that qualifications with certificates issued for the first time this year, and therefore showing no year-on-year change in certificate numbers, are denoted as '[x]' in both the charts and the tables.

Among all GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and other qualifications, Essential Digital Skills qualifications had the largest percentage increase in the number of available qualifications with certificates, up by 6.2% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 4: Percentage change in the number of available qualifications with certificates by qualification type

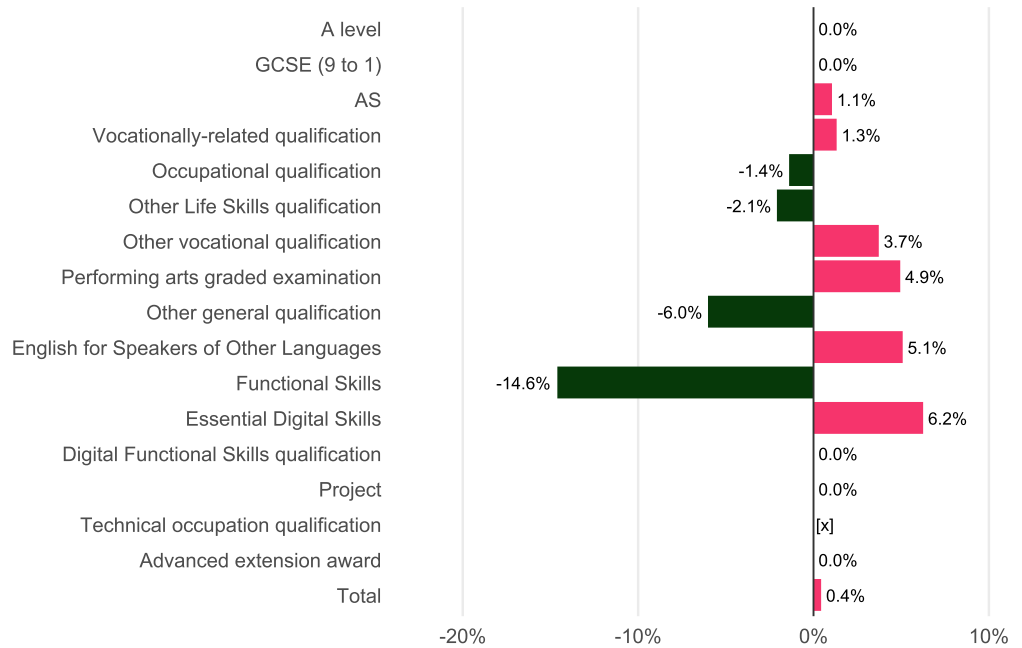


Table 4: Number of qualifications with certificates by type between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Qualification type	Number of available qualifications with certificates in 2023 to 2024	Number of available qualifications with certificates in 2024 to 2025	Percentage change in the number of available qualifications with certificates between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
A level	137	137	0.0%
GCSE (9 to 1)	137	137	0.0%
AS	95	96	1.1%
Vocationally-related qualification	4,397	4,455	1.3%
Occupational qualification	2,371	2,338	-1.4%
Other Life Skills qualification	1,102	1,079	-2.1%
Other vocational qualification	645	669	3.7%

Performing arts graded examination	546	573	4.9%
Other general qualification	349	328	-6.0%
English for Speakers of Other Languages	236	248	5.1%
Functional Skills	89	76	-14.6%
Essential Digital Skills	16	17	6.2%
Digital Functional Skills qualification	14	14	0.0%
Project	11	11	0.0%
Technical occupation qualification	0	11	[x]
Advanced extension award	1	1	0.0%
Total	10,146	10,190	0.4%

Certificates issued for regulated qualifications

Overall certificates

The total number of certificates issued for all qualifications (A level, AS, GCSE and vocational and other qualifications) in the 2024 to 2025 academic year was 11.8 million, up 0.2% compared with the previous year.

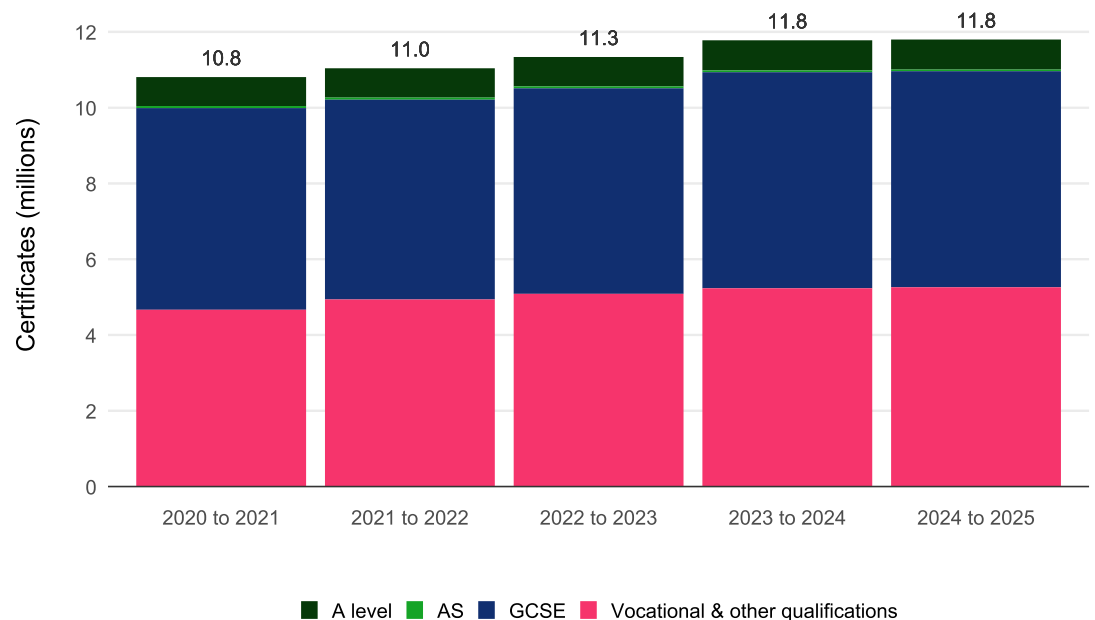
The number of certificates for A level qualifications in 2024 to 2025 decreased by 1,172 certificates, down 0.1% from the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

AS qualifications also saw a decrease in the number of certificates, with 5,400 certificates fewer compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year. This continues the downward trend seen in [AS entries in previous years](#), following the decoupling of AS and A levels after [qualification reforms](#).

The number of certificates for GCSE qualifications increased slightly by less than 0.1%. This small rise reflects a higher number of certificates issued in the November exam series, offset by fewer certificates issued in the summer 2024 to 2025 exam series compared with the previous academic year. The decrease in GCSE certificates issued in the summer 2024 to 2025 series is at least partly due to demographic changes. [According to Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) population projections](#), the number of 16-year-olds decreased by 0.3% compared with previous year.

The number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications increased by 0.5% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared with 2023 to 2024.

There were 11.8 million certificates issued for GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and other qualifications in the 2024 to 2025 academic year
Figure 5: Number of certificates issued for all qualifications, England



Please note that where this release refers to ‘vocational and other’ qualifications, this means all qualifications other than GCSEs, AS, A levels, EPAs, Apprenticeships Assessment Qualifications and T Level TQs.

Table 5: Number of certificates issued for regulated qualifications

2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
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A level	763,930	773,300	775,615	794,385	793,215
AS	55,150	55,445	50,940	48,615	43,215
GCSE	5,321,595	5,272,685	5,423,805	5,701,340	5,702,275
Vocational & other qualifications	4,665,960	4,937,560	5,086,425	5,233,105	5,259,215
Total	10,806,630	11,038,990	11,336,785	11,777,445	11,797,92

Final certificates show the final outcome and are usually issued some time after provisional results. Please note that GCSE combined science certificates have been double counted throughout the report and data tables because the qualification is the size of 2 single GCSEs.

Certificates by qualification type

Table 6: Number of certificates issued by qualification type in 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Qualification type	Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Share of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Number of certificates in 2024 to 2025	Share of certificates in 2024 to 2025
GCSE (9 to 1)	5,701,340	48.4%	5,702,275	48.3%
A level	794,385	6.7%	793,215	6.7%
AS	48,615	0.4%	43,215	0.4%
Vocationally-related qualification	1,839,665	15.6%	1,837,280	15.6%
Other vocational qualification	729,280	6.2%	738,640	6.3%
Occupational qualification	658,305	5.6%	634,905	5.4%
Performing arts graded	542,950	4.6%	551,730	4.7%

examination

English for Speakers of Other Languages	440,720	3.7%	446,260	3.8%
Other general qualification	406,785	3.5%	425,215	3.6%
Functional Skills	335,130	2.8%	326,060	2.8%
Other Life Skills qualification	210,770	1.8%	228,200	1.9%
Project	51,575	0.4%	53,025	0.4%
Essential Digital Skills	15,430	0.1%	12,500	0.1%
Digital Functional Skills qualification	2,320	Less than 0.1%	4,905	Less than 0.1%
Technical occupation qualification	0	0.0%	290	Less than 0.1%
Advanced extension award	175	Less than 0.1%	200	Less than 0.1%
Retired qualifications	Fewer than 5	Less than 0.1%	0	0.0%
Total	11,777,445	100.0%	11,797,920	100.0%

Among vocational and other qualifications in 2024 to 2025, Digital Functional Skills qualification had the largest percentage increase in certificates, up by 111.3%, (an increase of 2,585 certificates).

The largest percentage decrease in certificates among vocational and other qualifications (except retired qualifications) was in Essential Digital Skills qualifications, down by 19.0%, (a decrease of 2,930 certificates).

Please note that qualifications with certificates issued for the first time this year, and therefore showing no year-on-year change in certificate numbers, are

denoted as '[x]' in both the charts and the tables.

Among vocational and other qualifications, the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates was in Digital Functional Skills qualification, up by 111.3% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared with 2023 to 2024 academic year

Figure 6: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type

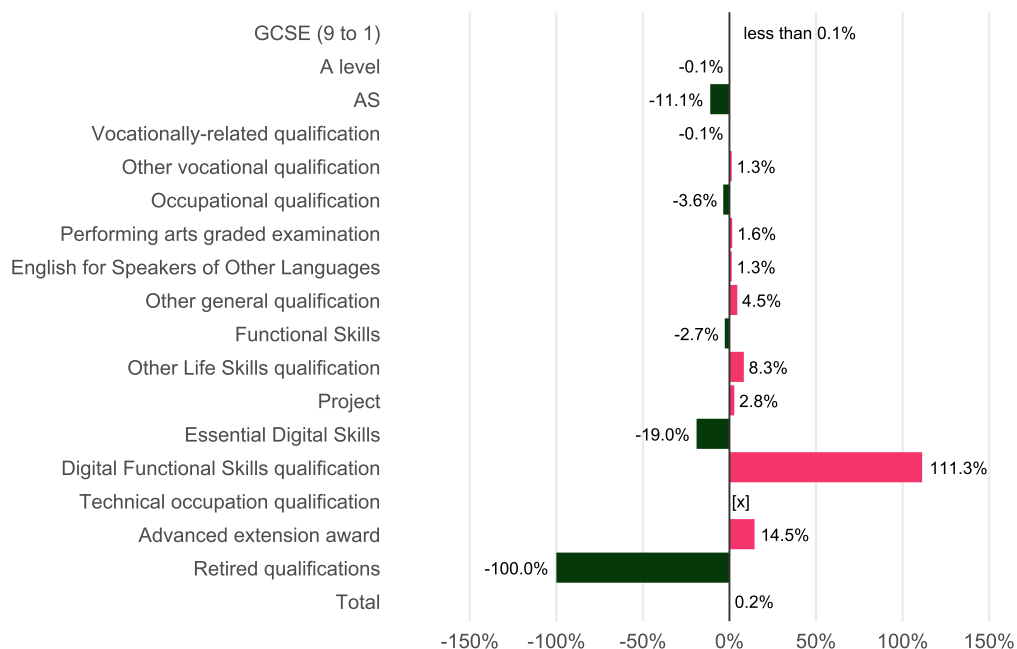


Table 7: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Qualification type	Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
GCSE (9 to 1)	less than 0.1%
A level	-0.1%
AS	-11.1%
Vocationally-related qualification	-0.1%
Other vocational qualification	1.3%
Occupational qualification	-3.6%

Performing arts graded examination	1.6%
English for Speakers of Other Languages	1.3%
Other general qualification	4.5%
Functional Skills	-2.7%
Other Life Skills qualification	8.3%
Project	2.8%
Essential Digital Skills	-19.0%
Digital Functional Skills qualification	111.3%
Technical occupation qualification	[x]
Advanced extension award	14.5%
Retired qualifications	-100.0%
Total	0.2%

Certificates by awarding organisation

The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of certificates in the 2024 to 2025 academic year awarded 89.6% of all certificates. Gateway Qualifications Limited had the largest percentage increase in certificates, up by 17.8% (an increase of 14,610 certificates) since the 2023 to 2024 academic year. No new awarding organisations joined this list this year.

WJEC had the largest overall increase in the number of certificates issued, up by 45,335 compared with the previous year.

Figure 7 and Table 8 show the 20 awarding organisations with the greatest number of certificates in 2024 to 2025. Others are grouped under the 'other awarding organisations'. You can find a full breakdown of all awarding organisations, in Table 4 of the [accompanying data tables](#).

Among awarding organisations with the highest volume of certificates issued in GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and other qualifications, Gateway Qualifications Limited had the largest percentage increase in certificates, up by 17.8% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 7: Percentage change in the number of certificates by awarding organisation

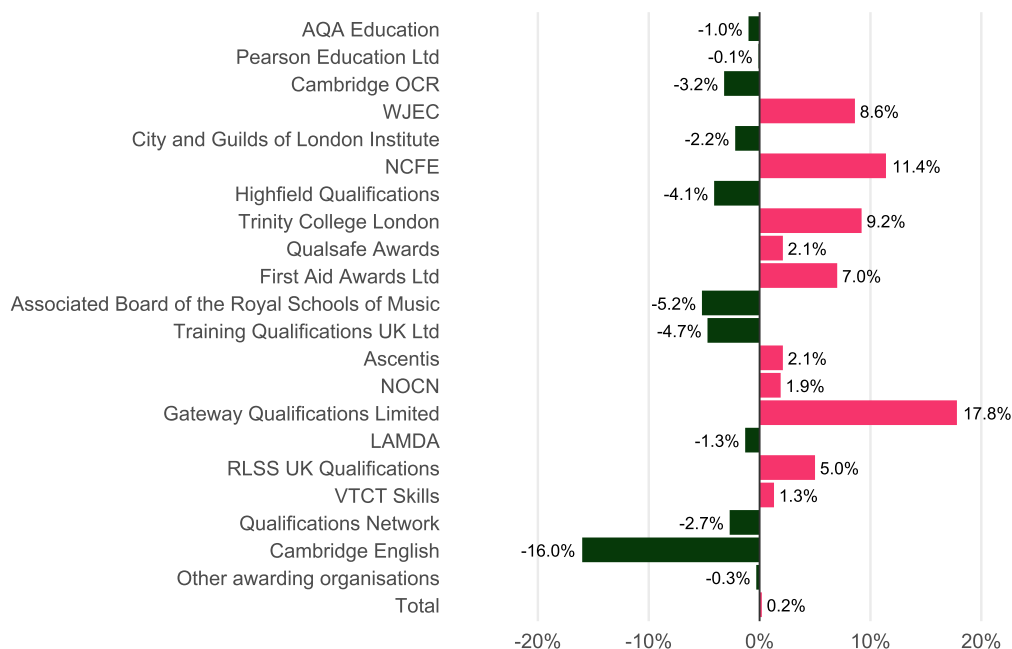


Table 8: Number of certificates issued and percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Number of certificates in 2024 to 2025	Percentage change in the number of certificates by awarding organisation between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
AQA Education	4,047,695	4,006,595	-1.0%
Pearson Education Ltd	2,369,750	2,367,285	-0.1%
Cambridge OCR	765,260	741,050	-3.2%
WJEC	524,890	570,225	8.6%

City and Guilds of London Institute	555,200	543,260	-2.2%
NCFE	314,530	350,365	11.4%
Highfield Qualifications	320,640	307,630	-4.1%
Trinity College London	255,245	278,750	9.2%
Qualsafe Awards	237,640	242,685	2.1%
First Aid Awards Ltd	206,170	220,660	7.0%
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	193,210	183,080	-5.2%
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	125,430	119,520	-4.7%
Ascentis	106,510	108,770	2.1%
NOCN	97,120	98,990	1.9%
Gateway Qualifications Limited	81,995	96,605	17.8%
LAMDA	80,265	79,260	-1.3%
RLSS UK Qualifications	69,190	72,665	5.0%
VTCT Skills	62,430	63,215	1.3%
Qualifications Network	64,240	62,535	-2.7%
Cambridge English	74,345	62,435	-16.0%
Other	4,005,005	4,000,005	-0.1%

Other awarding organisations	1,225,695	1,222,335	-0.3%
Total	11,777,445	11,797,920	0.2%

GCSE, AS and A levels

Market share per awarding organisation: GCSE

The total number of certificates for GCSE qualifications increased by less than 0.1% between the 2023 to 2024 academic year and the 2024 to 2025 academic year. AQA continues to hold the largest market share.

The GCSE market continued to be stable in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 8: GCSE market share per awarding organisation

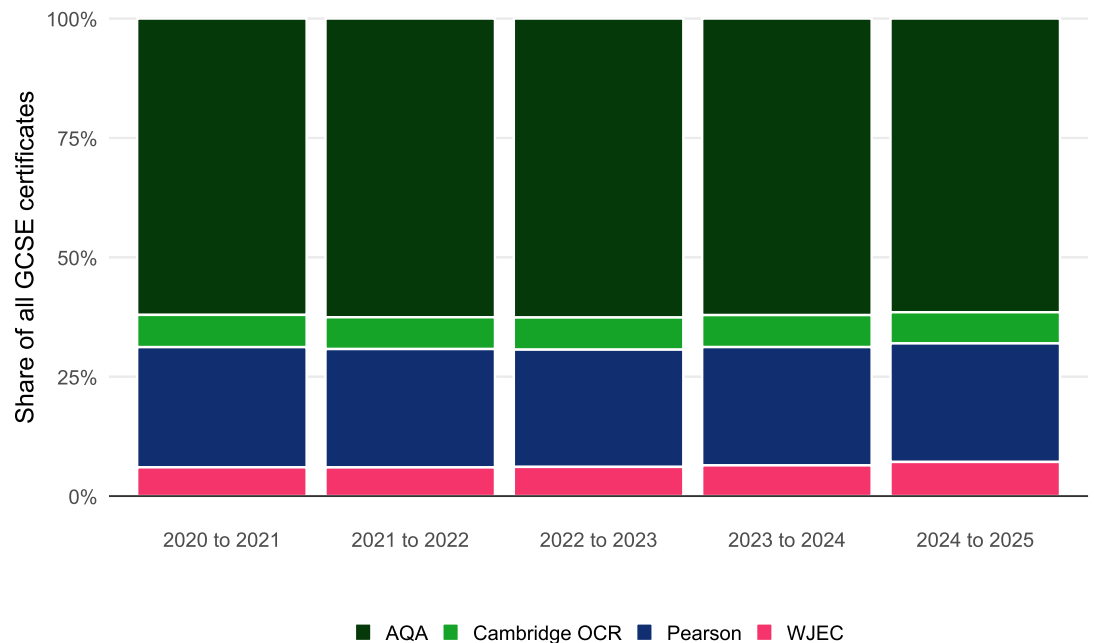


Table 9: GCSE market share per awarding organisation

Awarding organisation	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
AQA	62.1%	62.6%	62.6%	62.1%	61.5%
Cambridge OCR	6.8%	6.7%	6.7%	6.7%	6.5%

Pearson	25.2%	24.8%	24.6%	24.8%	24.8%
WJEC	6.0%	6.0%	6.1%	6.4%	7.1%

GCSE certificates issued by awarding organisations for the 10 most certified subjects in 2024 to 2025

The 10 subjects with the highest volume of certificates this year (called 'highest volume subjects' in this release) account for 79.7% of all GCSE certificates, which is 0.2 percentage points higher than in 2023 to 2024.

You can find the market share of awarding organisations in all GCSE subjects in the 2024 to 2025 academic year in the [data tables accompanying this release \(Table 8\)](#). Please note that GCSE combined science certificates have been double counted throughout the report and data tables because the qualification is the size of 2 single GCSEs.

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.

Of the 10 highest volume subjects, the largest increases in the number of certificates were for English language and mathematics (up by 31,715 and 21,190 certificates respectively), driven by increase in the numbers of certificates issued in both November and June series. Among the 10 highest volume subjects, English language had the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates (up by 3.9% from the 2023 to 2024 academic year).

The 10 highest volume subjects account for 79.7% of all GCSE certificates in 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 9: GCSE certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects

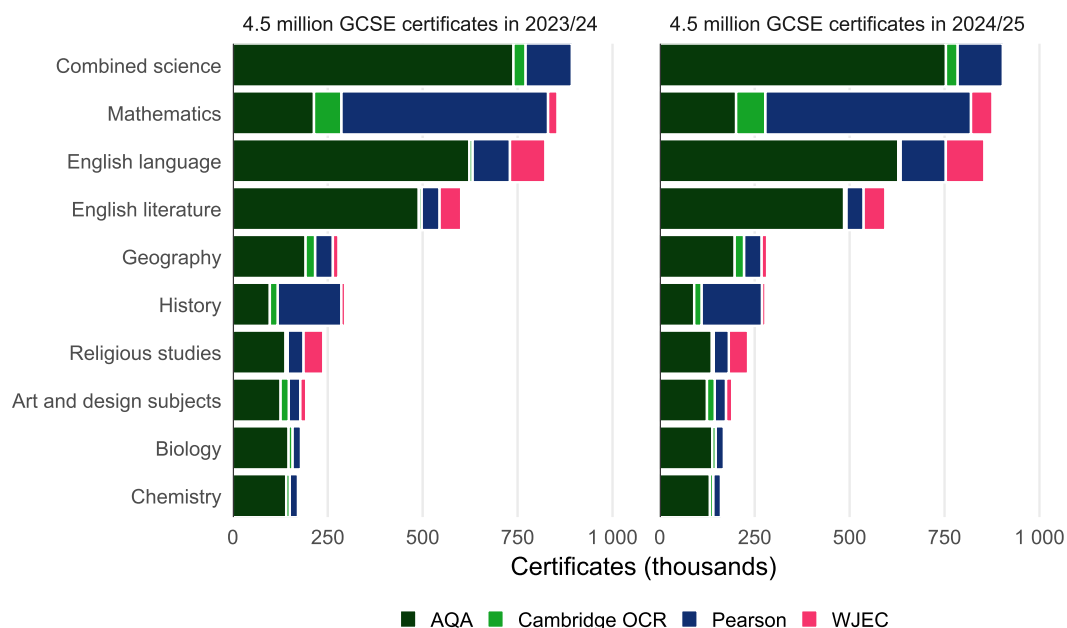


Table 10: GCSE certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Subject	AQA	Cambridge OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Combined science	753,725	30,435	119,365	0	903,525
Mathematics	201,085	76,690	542,035	56,445	876,255
English language	628,210	5,945	119,335	101,380	854,870
English literature	485,580	5,790	45,075	57,660	594,105
Geography	197,410	24,440	46,630	14,325	282,805
History	90,690	19,320	159,420	8,965	278,390
Religious studies	137,225	5,035	39,555	50,840	232,660
Art and design subjects	124,365	20,400	29,860	16,205	190,830
Biology	138,335	9,165	21,340	0	168,840
Chemistry	132,020	8,615	20,465	0	161,100

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

Subject	AQA	Cambridge	Pearson	WJEC	Total
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OCR					
Combined science	739,200	31,430	122,175	0	892,810
Mathematics	213,800	71,820	544,740	24,705	855,065
English language	623,085	8,080	98,855	93,130	823,155
English literature	489,910	7,210	46,960	57,460	601,545
History	97,565	20,410	168,000	9,825	295,800
Geography	191,735	24,800	47,005	14,665	278,205
Religious studies	138,855	5,685	41,235	52,450	238,220
Art and design subjects	125,955	21,350	30,545	15,435	193,285
Biology	146,995	9,955	22,590	0	179,540
Chemistry	140,600	9,345	21,635	0	171,575

Market share per awarding organisation: AS

The total number of certificates for AS qualifications has decreased by 11.1% between the 2023 to 2024 academic year and the 2024 to 2025 academic year.

Cambridge OCR and AQA saw a decrease (down by 1.5% and 0.8% respectively) in their share of the AS market, with Pearson seeing an increase in its market share (up by 2.3% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year). WJEC saw no change in their share of the AS market in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared to the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

The AS market remained relatively stable in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 10: AS market share per awarding organisation

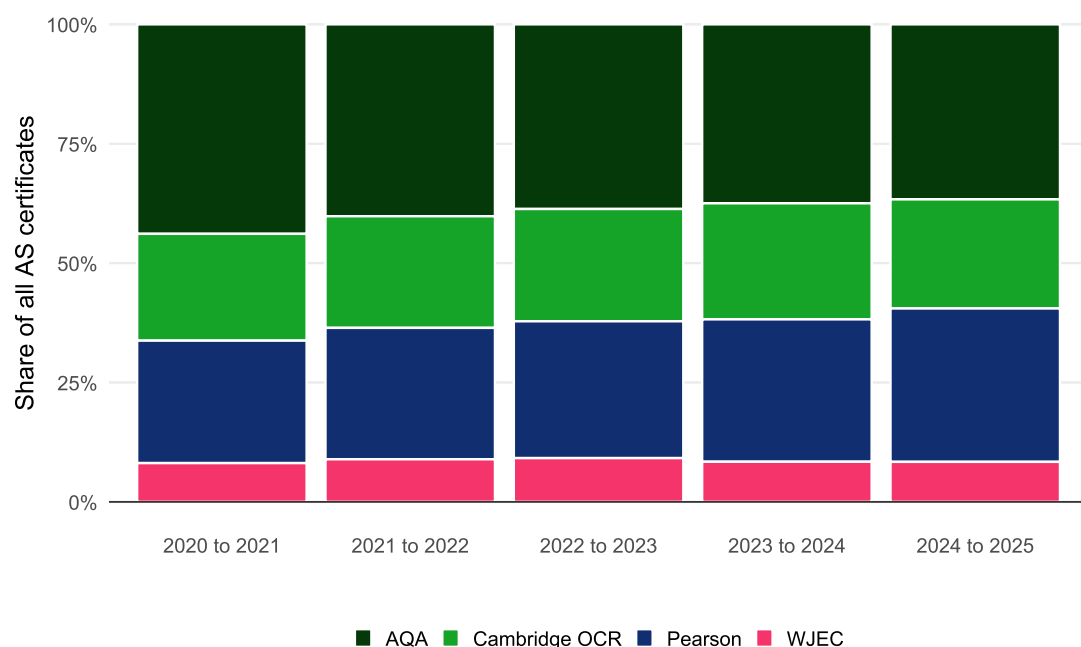


Table 12: AS market share per awarding organisation

Awarding organisation	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
AQA	43.9%	40.2%	38.7%	37.5%	36.7%
Cambridge OCR	22.4%	23.4%	23.5%	24.3%	22.8%
Pearson	25.6%	27.5%	28.7%	29.8%	32.1%
WJEC	8.1%	8.9%	9.2%	8.4%	8.4%

AS certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2024 to 2025

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

The 10 highest volume subjects account for 72.5% of all AS certificates, which is 0.8 percentage points more than in the 2023 to 2024 academic year. The order of the 10 highest volume AS subjects changed slightly between the 2023 to 2024 academic year and the 2024 to 2025 academic year. No subjects have left the 10

most certified subjects and no new subjects have entered the list.

The number of certificates for most of the highest volume AS subjects has decreased since the 2023 to 2024 academic year. Only further mathematics increased, with 215 more certificates between the 2023 to 2024 academic year and the 2024 to 2025 academic year. The largest decrease was in for mathematics, with 720 fewer certificates than in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

The 10 highest volume subjects account for 72.5% of all AS certificates in 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 11: AS certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects

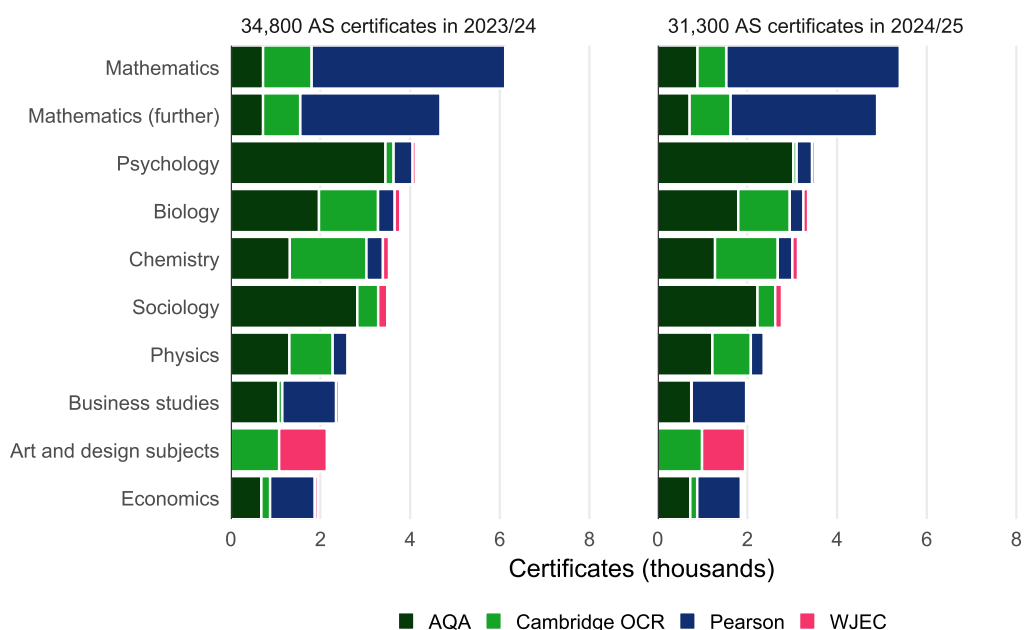


Table 13: AS certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Subject	AQA	Cambridge OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Mathematics	885	640	3,875	0	5,400
Mathematics (further)	705	915	3,270	0	4,895
Psychology	3,025	70	350	65	3,505
Biology	1,795	1,150	305	105	3,355
Chemistry	1,275	1,400	325	125	3,125
Sociology	2,225	395	0	150	2,770
Physics	1,220	855	290	35	2,405
Business studies	745	Fewer than 5	1,225	55	2,025

Art and design subjects	0	990	0	960	1,950
Economics	725	155	975	45	1,900

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

Subject	AQA	Cambridge OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Mathematics	720	1,080	4,320	0	6,120
Mathematics (further)	715	830	3,130	0	4,675
Psychology	3,450	175	430	70	4,125
Biology	1,965	1,315	370	125	3,780
Chemistry	1,310	1,715	365	135	3,530
Sociology	2,820	465	0	200	3,490
Physics	1,305	965	335	30	2,635
Business studies	1,060	80	1,205	65	2,415
Art and design subjects	0	1,080	0	1,065	2,140
Economics	680	195	1,000	65	1,935

The market share of awarding organisations in all AS subjects in the 2024 to 2025 academic year is given in the [data tables accompanying this release \(Table 9\)](#).

Market share by awarding organisation: A level

The A level market remained stable in the 2024 to 2025 academic year. The total number of certificates for A levels decreased by 0.1% since the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

The A level market remained stable in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 12: A level market share per awarding organisation

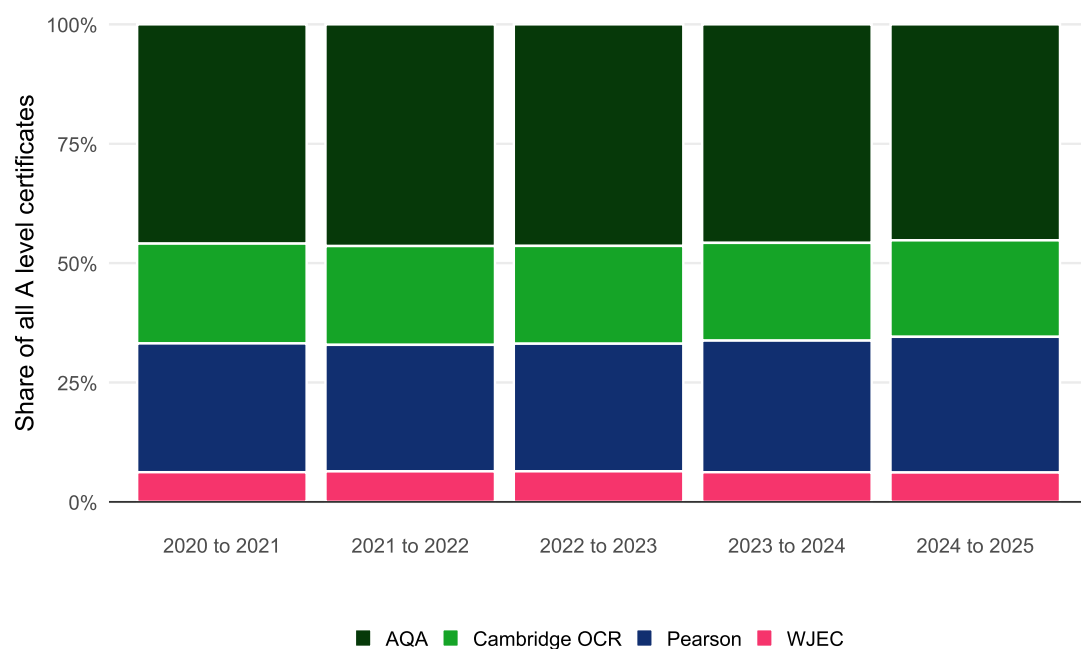


Table 15: A level market share by awarding organisation

	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
AQA	45.9%	46.4%	46.4%	45.8%	45.2%
Cambridge OCR	20.9%	20.7%	20.5%	20.5%	20.2%
Pearson	27.0%	26.5%	26.7%	27.6%	28.4%
WJEC	6.2%	6.4%	6.4%	6.2%	6.2%

A level certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the academic year 2024 to 2025

The 10 highest volume subjects account for 67.2% of all A level certificates, 0.5 percentage points more than in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

The top 3 subjects with the largest decreases in the number of certificates issued since the 2023 to 2024 academic year were biology, history and psychology (down by 2,435, 2,290 and 1,975 certificates respectively). Mathematics had the largest increase in the number of certificates issued (up by 4,740 certificates).

The 10 highest volume subjects account for 67.2% of all A level certificates

in 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 13: A level certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects

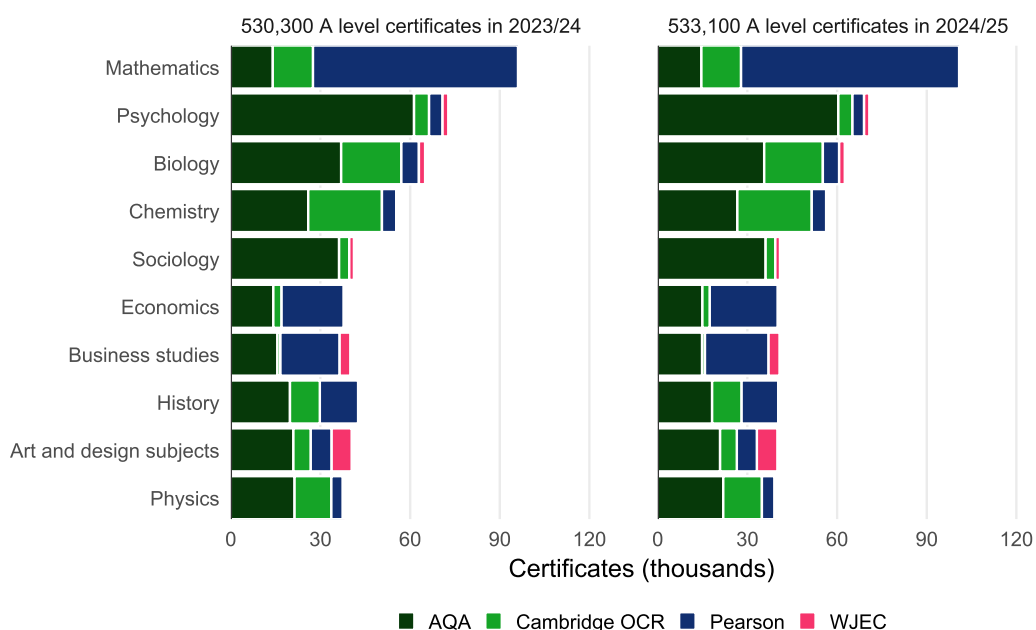


Table 16: A level certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10 most certified subjects in the in 2024 to 2025 academic year

Subject	AQA	Cambridge OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Mathematics	14,600	13,230	73,010	0	100,835
Psychology	60,420	4,735	3,885	1,760	70,795
Biology	35,615	19,625	5,455	1,890	62,580
Chemistry	26,630	24,895	4,825	110	56,460
Sociology	36,095	3,240	0	1,565	40,900
Economics	14,940	2,410	22,825	620	40,795
Business studies	14,840	925	21,320	3,670	40,755
History	18,190	9,790	12,320	0	40,305
Art and design subjects	20,860	5,585	6,700	6,885	40,035
Physics	21,915	12,925	4,240	590	39,670

Table 17: A level certificates issued by awarding organisation for the 10

most certified subjects in the 2023 to 2024 academic year

Subject	AQA	Cambridge OCR	Pearson	WJEC	Total
Mathematics	14,030	13,435	68,635	0	96,100
Psychology	61,310	5,030	4,510	1,920	72,770
Biology	36,920	20,145	5,870	2,080	65,015
Chemistry	25,900	24,670	4,850	110	55,530
History	19,795	9,980	12,820	0	42,595
Sociology	36,230	3,395	0	1,570	41,200
Art and design subjects	20,940	5,755	7,045	6,700	40,440
Business studies	15,590	930	19,895	3,575	39,990
Economics	14,225	2,685	20,895	750	38,555
Physics	21,330	12,310	3,835	625	38,095

The market share of awarding organisations in all A level subjects in the 2024 to 2025 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, Apprenticeship Assessment Qualifications and T Level TQs. This section does not include T Level TQs because certificates are issued for the overall T Level, which is not regulated by Ofqual. This section also does not include apprenticeship EPAs because the awarding organisations that carry out EPAs do not issue certificates for their completion. The Department for Education issues certificates for overall T Levels, apprenticeship EPAs, and Apprenticeship Assessment Qualifications. Some changes in the market are likely to be caused by ongoing qualifications reform. You can find more detail in the [background notes](#).

Most of the data for awarding organisations offering qualifications covered in this section is available in Ofqual's [Vocational and Other qualifications quarterly](#) publication. However, this section also includes data for Project qualifications and

Advanced Extension Awards, which are not reported in [the Vocational and Other qualifications quarterly](#) publication.

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 [the Register](#) by the awarding organisation with reference to Ofqual's published list of sector subject areas.

There were 5.3 million certificates awarded in vocational and other qualifications in the 2024 to 2025 academic year. This is up 0.5% compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Although History, philosophy and theology saw the largest percentage increase (of 9.2%), the largest increase in the absolute number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications was seen in Preparation for life and work (up by 34,030 certificates). Health, public services and care saw the most substantial decline in the number of certificates issued (down by 22,315 certificates). The number of certificates issued for vocational and other qualifications for all sector subject areas in the 2024 to 2025 academic year and previous 4 academic years is given in the [data tables accompanying this release \(Table 4\)](#).

Table 18: Number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area

Sector subject area	Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Share of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Number of certificates in 2024 to 2025	Share of certificates in 2024 to 2025
Health, public services and care	1,327,675	25.4%	1,305,365	24.8%
Preparation for life and work	919,565	17.6%	953,595	18.1%
Arts, media and publishing	756,705	14.5%	765,135	14.5%
Construction, planning and the built environment	357,700	6.8%	367,715	7.0%

Business, administration and law	353,990	6.8%	336,800	6.4%
Leisure, travel and tourism	294,190	5.6%	306,055	5.8%
Retail and commercial enterprise	264,685	5.1%	264,550	5.0%
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	243,235	4.6%	254,255	4.8%
Languages, literature and culture	219,650	4.2%	202,985	3.9%
Science and mathematics	133,915	2.6%	136,240	2.6%
Digital technology	115,945	2.2%	118,160	2.2%
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	105,785	2.0%	104,880	2.0%
Education and training	85,375	1.6%	86,815	1.7%
Social sciences	45,295	0.9%	46,400	0.9%
History, philosophy and theology	9,395	0.2%	10,260	0.2%
Total	5,233,105	100.0%	5,259,215	100.0%

Among all vocational and other qualifications, History, philosophy and theology sector subject area saw the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates issued, up by 9.2% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 14: Percentage change in certificates issued by sector subject area

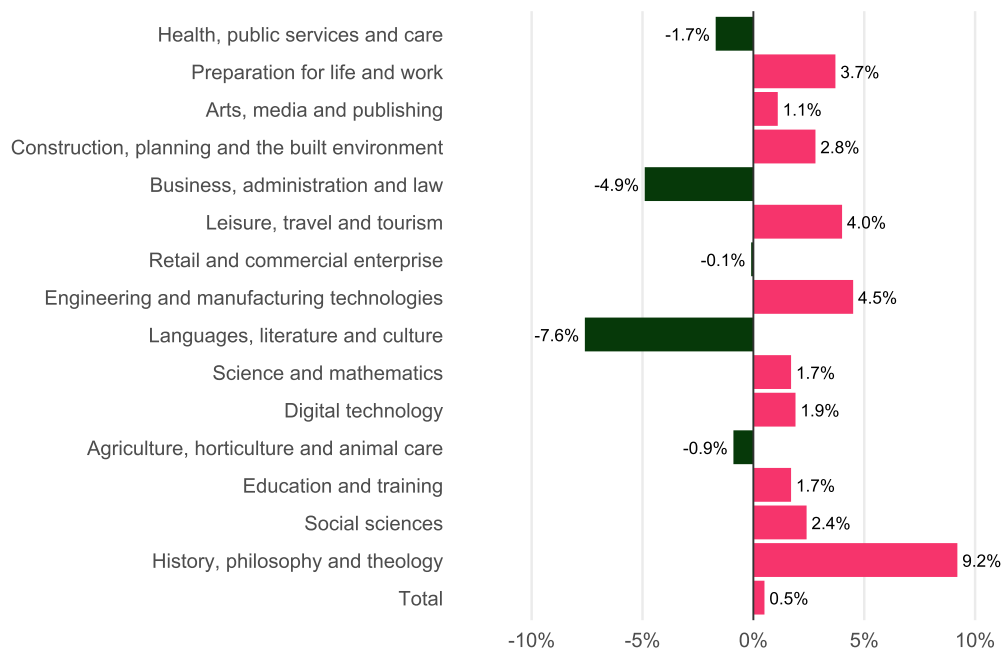


Table 19: Percentage change in certificates issued by Sector subject area between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Sector subject area	Percentage change in certificates issued between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
Health, public services and care	-1.7%
Preparation for life and work	3.7%
Arts, media and publishing	1.1%
Construction, planning and the built environment	2.8%
Business, administration and law	-4.9%
Leisure, travel and tourism	4.0%
Retail and commercial enterprise	-0.1%
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	4.5%
Languages, literature and culture	-7.6%

Science and mathematics	1.7%
Digital technology	1.9%
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	-0.9%
Education and training	1.7%
Social sciences	2.4%
History, philosophy and theology	9.2%
Total	0.5%

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

Numbers of entry level and level 3 certificates continued to increase in the 2024 to 2025 academic year, with the greatest increase in numbers seen in entry level (up by 41,300 certificates since 2023 to 2024).

The number of level 1/level 2 certificates rose by 40,700 certificates in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared with 2023 to 2024 academic year, totalling 398,270 certificates.

The number of certificates in levels 4 to 8 increased this year, up by 4.1% from the 2023 to 2024 academic year to 171,945 certificates in 2024 to 2025. The number of certificates in level 2 decreased by 40,700 certificates this year, down by 2.9% from the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Among all vocational and other qualifications, the numbers of entry level and level 3 certificates continued to increase in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 15: Number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications by level

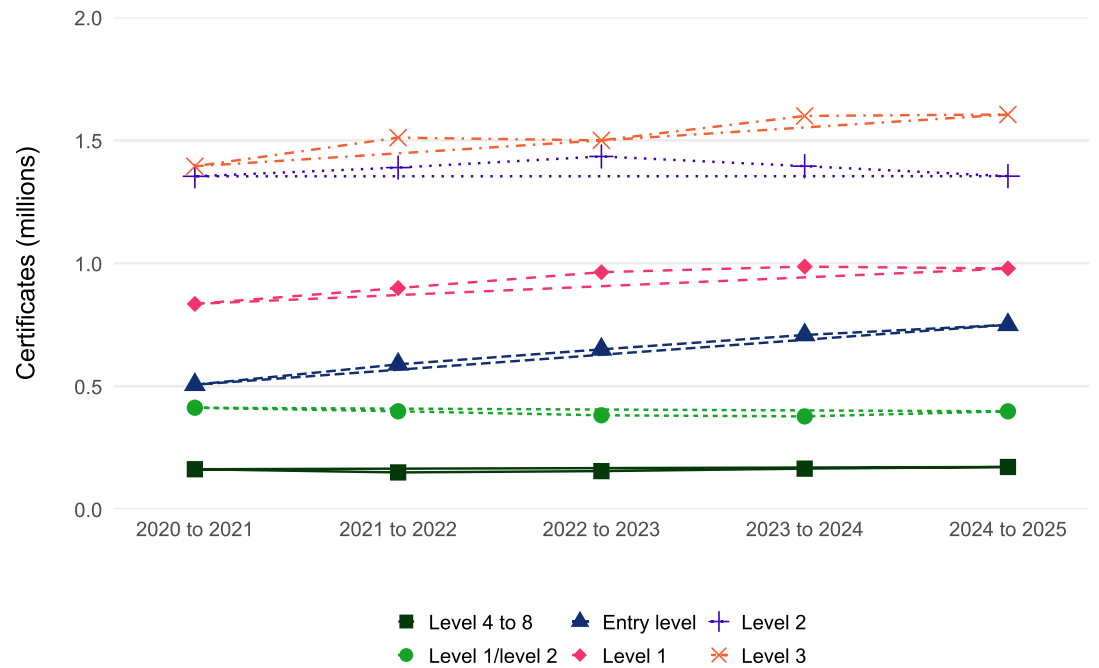


Table 20: Number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications by level

Qualification level	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	Number of certificates in 2024 to 2025
Entry level	506,540	589,205	650,195	708,765	750,095
Level 1	835,070	899,530	964,055	986,810	979,005
Level 1/level 2	412,845	398,420	382,100	377,565	398,270
Level 2	1,354,020	1,389,460	1,434,680	1,395,300	1,354,500
Level 3	1,394,755	1,511,205	1,500,285	1,599,555	1,605,300
Level 4 to 8	162,730	149,740	155,110	165,115	171,940

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

The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of certificates

issued in vocational and other qualifications in the 2024 to 2025 academic year awarded 76.8% of all vocational and other qualifications certificates.

NCFE had the largest increase (up by 35,835 certificates) in certificates compared with the previous year. Gateway Qualifications Limited showed the largest percentage increase in certificate numbers (up by 17.8%, an increase of 14,610 certificates compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year).

Figure 16 & Table 21 show the 20 awarding organisations with the greatest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications in 2024 to 2025. Others are grouped under the 'other awarding organisations'.

Among all awarding organisations with certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, Gateway Qualifications Limited had the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates issued, up by 17.8% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 16: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation

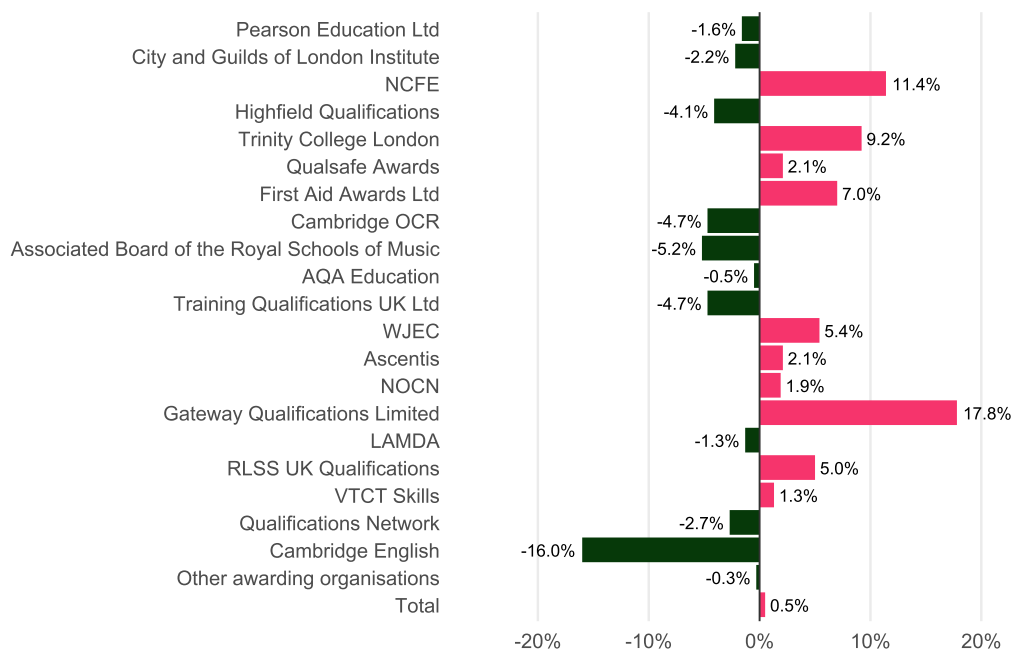


Table 21: Awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications in 2024 to 2025

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Number of certificates in 2024 to 2025	Percentage change in number of certificates between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
Pearson Education Ltd	724,345	712,455	-1.6%
City and Guilds of London	555,200	543,260	-2.2%

Institute			
NCFE	314,530	350,365	11.4%
Highfield Qualifications	320,640	307,630	-4.1%
Trinity College London	255,245	278,750	9.2%
Qualsafe Awards	237,640	242,685	2.1%
First Aid Awards Ltd	206,170	220,660	7.0%
Cambridge OCR	208,825	198,980	-4.7%
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	193,210	183,080	-5.2%
AQA Education	125,580	124,890	-0.5%
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	125,430	119,520	-4.7%
WJEC	104,505	110,120	5.4%
Ascentis	106,510	108,770	2.1%
NOCN	97,120	98,990	1.9%
Gateway Qualifications Limited	81,995	96,605	17.8%
LAMDA	80,265	79,260	-1.3%
RLSS UK Qualifications	69,190	72,665	5.0%
VTCT Skills	62,430	63,215	1.3%
Qualifications Network	64,240	62,535	-2.7%
Cambridge	74,345	62,435	-16.0%

English

Other awarding organisations	1,225,695	1,222,335	-0.3%
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Total	5,233,105	5,259,215	0.5%
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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. Please note that this is different to, and does not include, the technical qualification components of T level qualifications. 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

Applied general qualifications saw 219,860 certificates issued, making up 4.2% of vocational and other certificates in the 2024 to 2025 academic year.

The 418,585 technical qualifications certificates issued in the 2024 to 2025 academic year can be further broken down into:

- 373,855 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
- 13,215 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
- 31,520 tech levels, which are also designed for study at key stage 5; these are level 3 qualifications

Table 22: Share of technical qualifications and applied generals in the 2024 to 2025 academic year by qualification category

Qualification category	Number of available qualifications	Number of certificates	Share of vocational and other qualifications
Applied general	134	219,860	4.2%
Tech levels	148	31,520	0.6%
Technical awards	72	373,855	7.1%
Technical certificates	80	13,215	0.3%
Remaining vocational and other qualifications	16,133	4,620,770	87.9%

Technical and applied general qualifications certificates by sector subject area

The sector subject area with the largest decrease in number of certificates was Business, administration and law with a decrease of 10,205 certificates between the 2023 to 2024 academic year and 2024 to 2025 academic year.

Retail and commercial enterprise saw the largest increase in the number of certificates issued in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year (up by 7,600 certificates).

Technical certificates in Agriculture, horticulture and animal care saw the largest percentage increase (up by 24.2%) in the number of certificates compared with

other qualification categories and SSAs in the 2024 to 2025 academic year. The number of certificates increased from 3,570 certificates in 2023 to 2024 to 4,435 certificates in the 2024 to 2025 academic year.

Table 23: Number of technical qualifications and applied generals in the 2024 to 2025 academic year by sector subject area

Sector subject area	Applied generals	Technical awards	Technical certificates	Tech levels	Total
Leisure, travel and tourism	27,765	85,625	140	1,855	115,380
Health, public services and care	28,725	72,895	550	4,505	106,675
Business, administration and law	56,610	39,540	590	0	96,745
Arts, media and publishing	11,660	70,780	40	3,660	86,140
Retail and commercial enterprise	1,365	42,125	1,300	485	45,275
Digital technology	16,165	23,335	530	3,840	43,870
Social sciences	40,910	0	0	0	40,910
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	5,345	27,820	445	4,505	38,120
Science and mathematics	31,290	0	0	0	31,290
Construction, planning and the built environment	30	9,750	5,185	3,210	18,175
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	0	1,985	4,435	9,455	15,875
Total	219,860	373,855	13,215	31,520	638,445

Among all technical qualifications and applied generals, Retail and commercial enterprise sector subject area had the largest percentage

increase in the number of certificates issued for 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 17: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by sector subject area

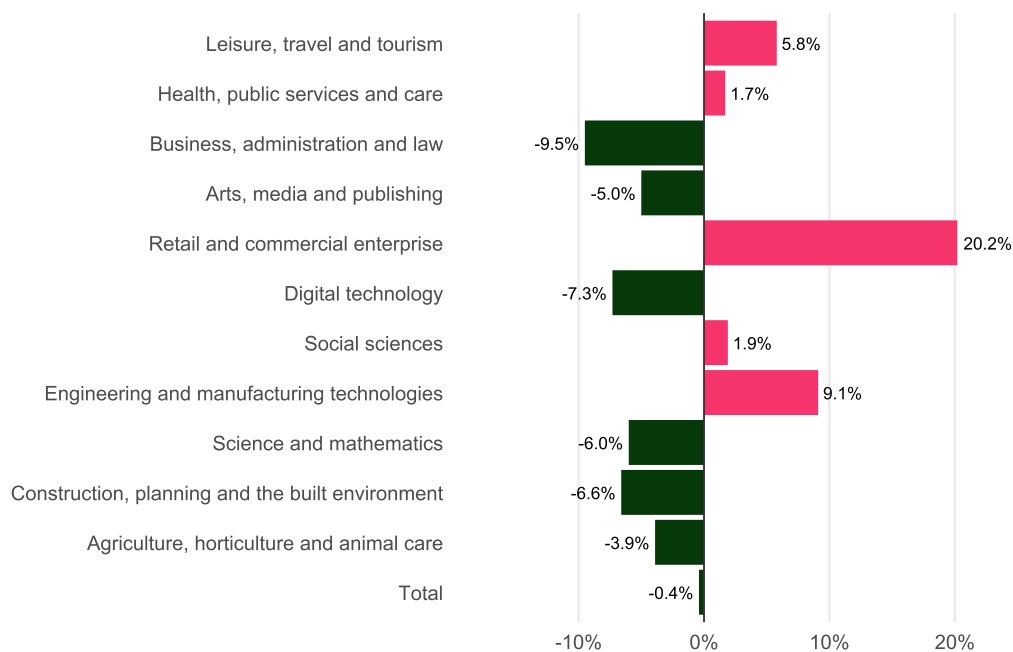


Table 24: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by sector subject area between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Sector subject area	Number of certificates issued for technical qualifications and applied generals in the 2023 to 2024 academic year	Number of certificates issued for technical qualifications and applied generals in the 2024 to 2025 academic year	Percentage change in the number of certificates issued between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
Leisure, travel and tourism	109,060	115,380	5.8%
Health, public services and care	104,890	106,675	1.7%
Business, administration and law	106,950	96,745	-9.5%
Arts, media and publishing	90,675	86,140	-5.0%

Retail and commercial enterprise	37,675	45,275	20.2%
Digital technology	47,310	43,870	-7.3%
Social sciences	40,155	40,910	1.9%
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	34,925	38,120	9.1%
Science and mathematics	33,275	31,290	-6.0%
Construction, planning and the built environment	19,460	18,175	-6.6%
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	16,520	15,875	-3.9%
Total	640,895	638,445	-0.4%

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.

Different SSAs have a different mix of technical and applied general qualifications

Figure 18: Distribution of technical and applied general certificates by sector subject area

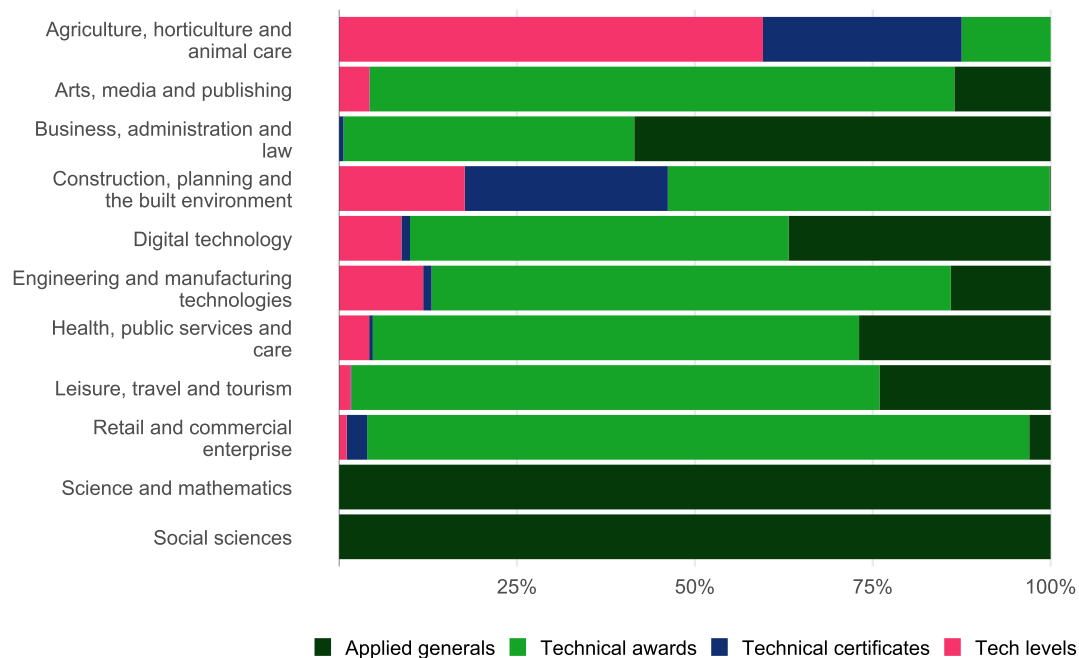


Table 25: Distribution of technical and applied general certificates by sector subject area

Sector subject area	Applied generals	Technical awards	Technical certificates	Tech levels
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	0.0%	12.5%	27.9%	59.6%
Arts, media and publishing	13.5%	82.2%	0.0%	4.3%
Business, administration and law	58.5%	40.9%	0.6%	0.0%
Construction, planning and the built environment	0.2%	53.7%	28.5%	17.7%
Digital technology	36.8%	53.2%	1.2%	8.8%
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	14.0%	73.0%	1.2%	11.8%
Health, public services and care	26.9%	68.3%	0.5%	4.2%
Leisure, travel and tourism	24.1%	74.2%	0.1%	1.6%
Retail and commercial enterprise	3.0%	93.0%	2.9%	1.1%
Science and mathematics	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Social sciences	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	34.4%	58.6%	2.1%	4.9%

Technical and applied general qualifications certificates by awarding organisation

Pearson was the largest provider of applied generals. Pearson and Cambridge OCR were the largest providers of technical awards. City & Guilds and Pearson were the largest providers of technical certificates, and Pearson, City & Guilds and Cambridge OCR were the largest providers of tech levels.

Most awarding organisations saw a decrease in certificate numbers for technical and applied general qualifications in the 2024 to 2025 academic year. Only WJEC, NCFE, VTCT Skills and The Institute of the Motor Industry saw increases in the number of certificates issued.

NCFE and WJEC saw the largest overall increase in the number of certificates issued (up by 23,680 and 6,270 certificates respectively) compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year. The largest percentage increase in certificates issued (402%) was seen by NCFE, up from 5,890 certificates in 2023 to 2024 to 29,570 in 2024 to 2025.

Pearson saw the largest overall drop in the number of technical and applied general qualification certificates, down from 322,905 certificates in the 2023 to 2024 academic year to 309,280 certificates in the 2024 to 2025 academic year (down by 13,630 certificates).

Please note that '[g]' denotes a percentage change greater than the range on the chart, which has been restricted to 200% to aid better interpretation of the rest of the chart.

Among all awarding organisations with certificates issued in technical and applied general qualifications, NCFE had the largest percentage increase in certificates issued, up by 402% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year
Figure 19: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation

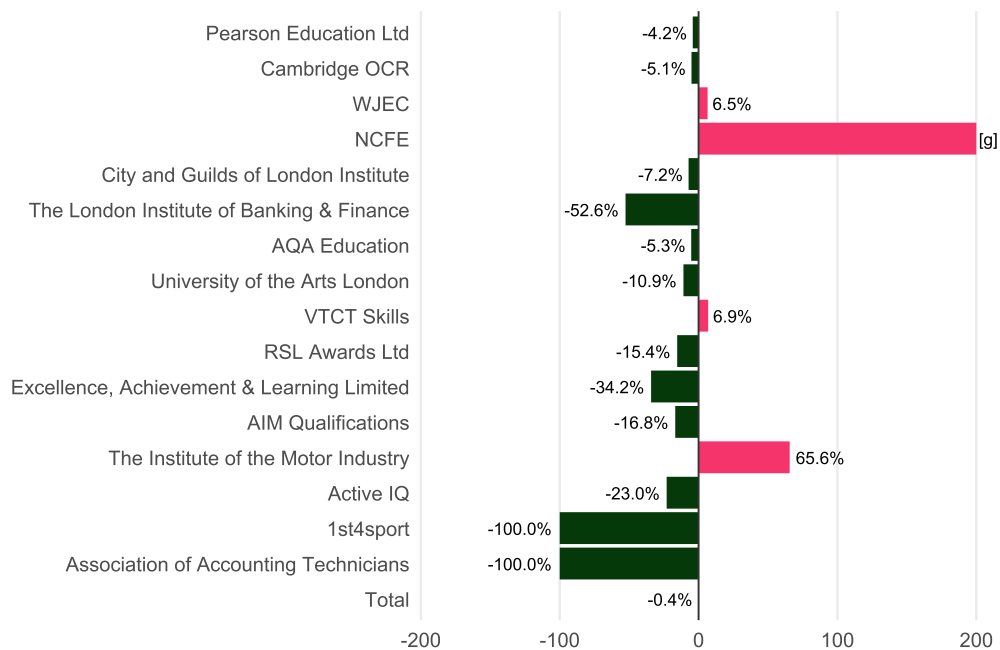


Table 26: Number of technical and applied general qualifications certificates by awarding organisation

Awarding organisation	Applied generals	Technical awards	Technical certificates	Tech levels	Total
Pearson Education Ltd	141,450	154,370	1,870	11,590	309,280
Cambridge OCR	25,420	130,115	950	6,670	163,155
WJEC	43,540	59,895	0	0	103,435
NCFE	195	25,065	0	4,305	29,570
City and Guilds of London Institute	0	1,260	9,620	7,140	18,025
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	4,295	1,560	0	0	5,855
AQA Education	2,530	0	0	0	2,530
University of the Arts London	2,425	0	0	0	2,425
VTCT Skills	0	1,590	455	175	2,220
RSL Awards Ltd	0	0	Fewer than 5	775	780

Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	0	0	150	460	610
AIM Qualifications	0	0	0	310	310
The Institute of the Motor Industry	0	0	115	45	160
Active IQ	0	0	45	50	95
1st4sport	0	0	0	0	0
Association of Accounting Technicians	0	0	0	0	0
Total	219,860	373,855	13,215	31,520	638,445

Table 27: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates issued for technical qualifications and applied generals in the 2023 to 2024 academic year	Number of certificates issued for technical qualifications and applied generals in the 2024 to 2025 academic year	Percentage change in the number of certificates issued between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
Pearson Education Ltd	322,905	309,280	-4.2%
Cambridge OCR	171,945	163,155	-5.1%
WJEC	97,165	103,435	6.5%
NCFE	5,890	29,570	402.0%
City and Guilds of London Institute	19,430	18,025	-7.2%
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	12,345	5,855	-52.6%

AQA Education	2,670	2,530	-5.3%
University of the Arts London	2,720	2,425	-10.9%
VTCT Skills	2,075	2,220	6.9%
RSL Awards Ltd	920	780	-15.4%
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	925	610	-34.2%
AIM Qualifications	370	310	-16.8%
The Institute of the Motor Industry	95	160	65.6%
Active IQ	120	95	-23.0%
1st4sport	Fewer than 5	0	-100.0%
Association of Accounting Technicians	1,310	0	-100.0%
Total	640,895	638,445	-0.4%

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.

While some Functional Skills qualifications in ICT were still certificating in 2024 to 2025, they are no longer available to new learners and have been replaced by Digital Functional Skills qualifications (DFSQs). DFSQs were first certified 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 Tables 3 and 4: 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 2.7% (equivalent to 9,100 certificates) in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared to the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

The overall number of certificates issued in Functional Skills qualifications has reduced by 2.7% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 20: Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications over time

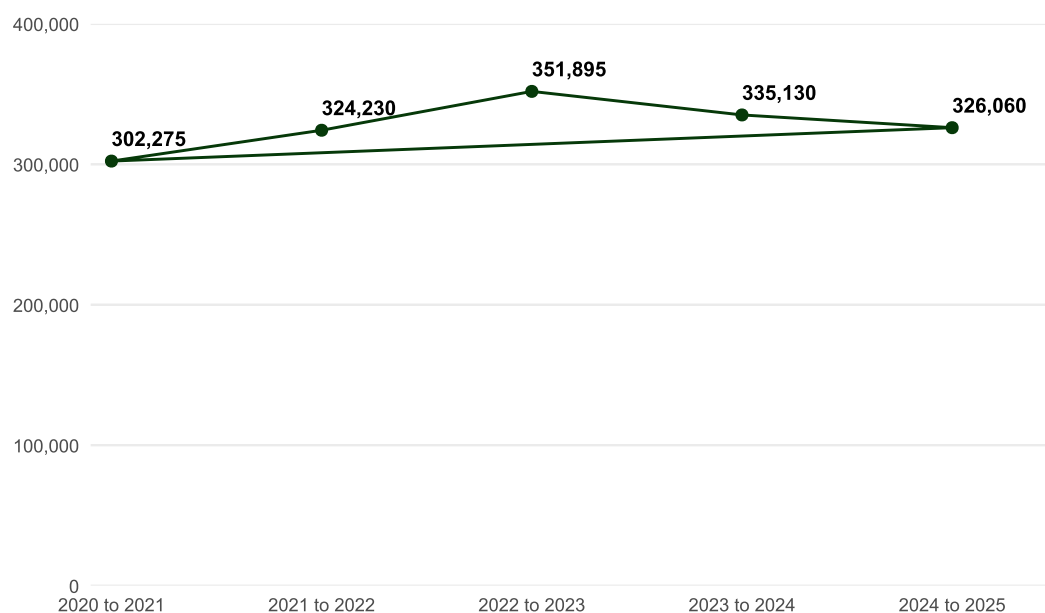


Table 28: Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications over time

	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
Number of certificates	302,275	324,230	351,895	335,130	326,060

Certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by

subject

The number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in mathematics and English decreased (down by 5,300 and 2,200 certificates respectively) in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

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

Mathematics and English Functional Skills qualifications decreased in number of certificates in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared to the 2023 to 2024 academic year

Figure 21: Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by subject over time

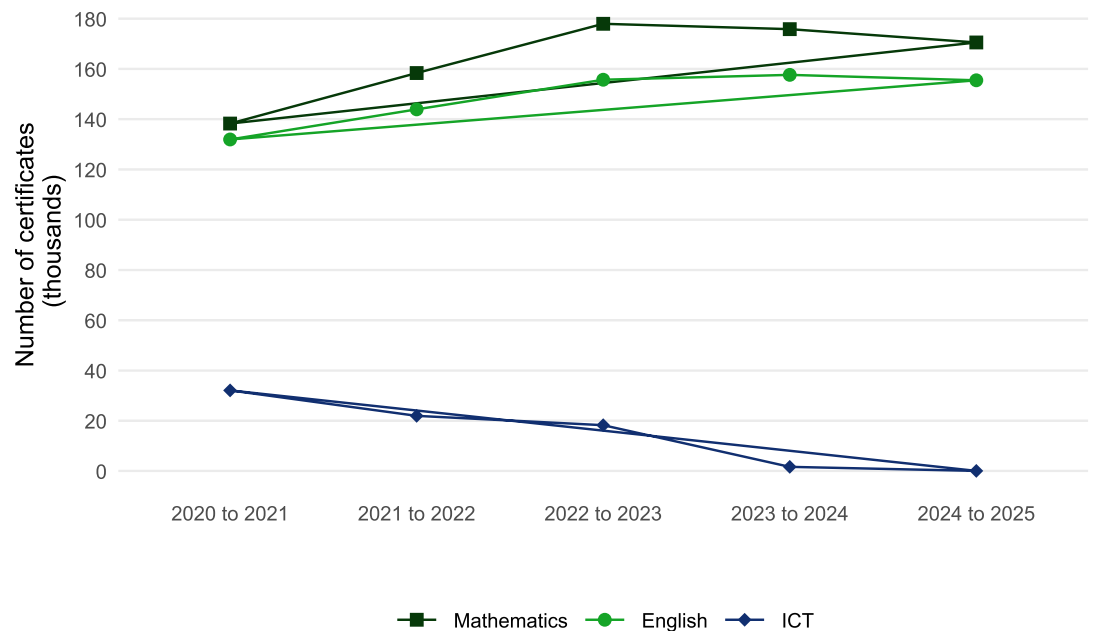


Table 29: Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by subject

Subject	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
Mathematics	138,265	158,365	177,960	175,830	170,530
English	131,930	143,915	155,700	157,640	155,480
ICT	32,080	21,950	18,235	1,655	50

Certificates in Functional Skills by level

There was a decrease in the number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications for level 1 and 2 while entry level increased in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year. The largest decrease in the number of certificates was in level 2 qualifications, down by 8,700 certificates.

Level 1 and 2 qualifications had a decrease in the number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications while entry level increased in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared to the 2023 to 2024 academic year

Figure 22: Number of certificates in Functional Skills by level over time

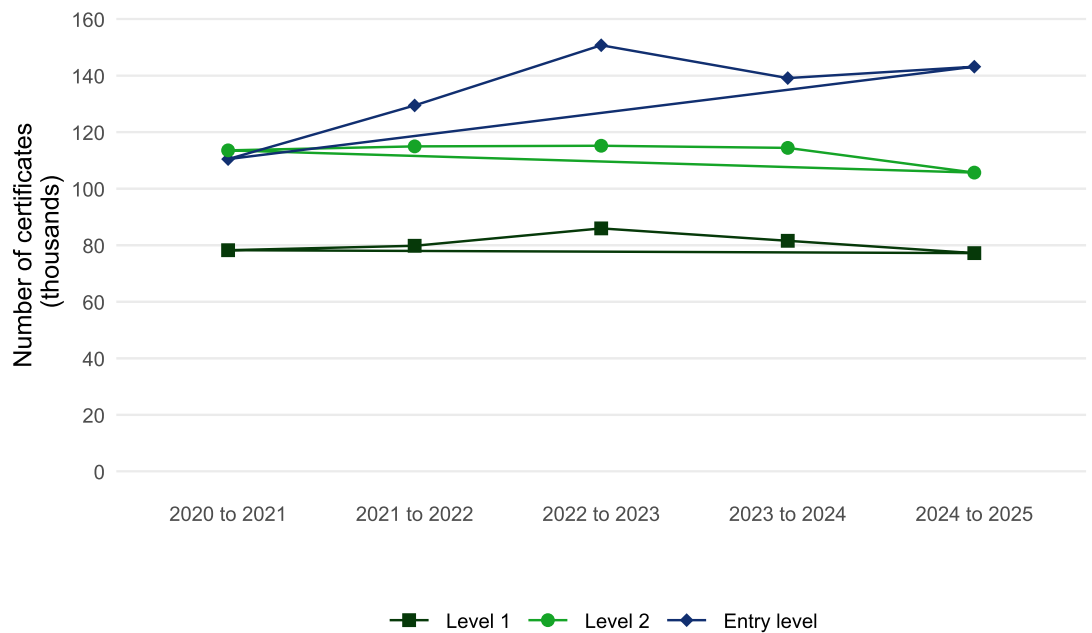


Table 29: Number of certificates in Functional Skills by level

Qualification level	2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025
Entry level	110,465	129,450	150,740	139,120	143,155
Level 1	78,245	79,810	85,960	81,570	77,210
Level 2	113,560	114,970	115,190	114,435	105,690

Certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by

awarding organisation

There were 11 awarding organisation issuing certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in the 2024 to 2025 academic year, up from 10 in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Most awarding organisations awarded fewer certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in the 2024 to 2025 academic year in comparison with the 2023 to 2024 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 2024 to 2025 academic year compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year (down by 8,465 certificates).

Please note that an awarding organisation with certificate issued for the first time this year, and therefore showing no year-on-year change in certificate numbers, are denoted as '[x]' in both the charts and the tables. '[g]' denotes a percentage change greater than the range on the chart, which has been restricted to 200% to aid better interpretation of the rest of the chart.

Most awarding organisations awarded fewer certificates in Functional Skills qualifications in the 2024 to 2025 academic year in comparison with the previous year

Figure 23: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation

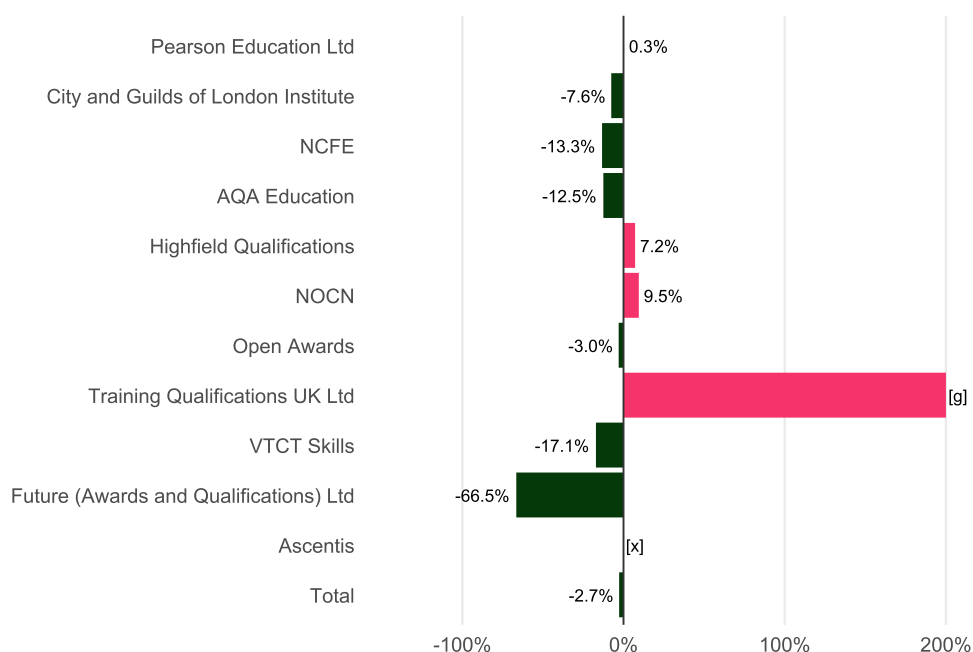


Table 30: Number of certificates in Functional Skills qualifications by awarding organisation in 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates in 2023 to	Number of certificates in 2024 to	Percentage change in the number of certificates between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
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	2024	2025	
Pearson Education Ltd	156,060	156,605	0.3%
City and Guilds of London Institute	110,700	102,235	-7.6%
NCFE	23,675	20,525	-13.3%
AQA Education	18,965	16,585	-12.5%
Highfield Qualifications	9,635	10,335	7.2%
NOCN	5,950	6,515	9.5%
Open Awards	5,250	5,090	-3.0%
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	875	4,875	458.6%
VTCT Skills	3,820	3,165	-17.1%
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	200	65	-66.5%
Ascentis	0	60	[x]
Total	335,130	326,060	-2.7%

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.

Certificates for Ofqual regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK

In total, 8.3 million certificates were awarded for 2,739 different regulated qualifications to students outside the UK over the 2024 to 2025 academic year, down by 2.4% compared with the previous year.

Table 31: Number of certificates for Ofqual regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK

Year	Number of certificates
2020 to 2021	6,365,655
2021 to 2022	7,478,255
2022 to 2023	8,407,355
2023 to 2024	8,522,610
2024 to 2025	8,316,385

Certificates for regulated qualifications issued outside the UK by type

The 5 highest volume qualification types accounted for 99.1% 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 issued outside the UK was among other general qualification regulated qualifications, up by 82,035 compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

Table 32: Number of certificates for Ofqual regulated qualifications issued outside the UK by type

Qualification type	Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Number of certificates in 2024 to 2025	Share of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Share of certificates in 2024 to 2025
English for Speakers of Other	6,391,030	6,096,925	75.0%	73.3%

Languages

Other general qualification	1,254,960	1,336,990	14.7%	16.1%
Performing arts graded examination	545,375	541,120	6.4%	6.5%
Vocationally-related qualification	221,220	218,630	2.6%	2.6%
GCSE (9 to 1)	42,090	44,755	0.5%	0.5%
Other qualifications	67,935	77,970	0.8%	0.9%
Total	8,522,610	8,316,385	100.0%	100.0%

The largest percentage increase in the number of certificates issued outside the UK was among other general qualification and GCSE (9 to 1) regulated qualifications for the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 24: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type

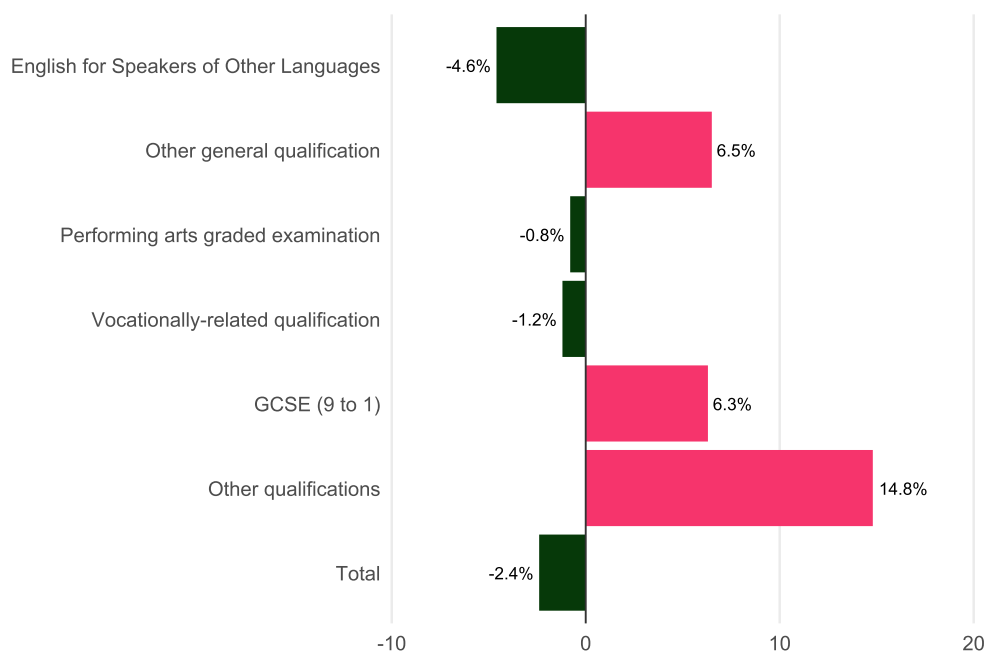


Table 33: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Qualification type	Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification type between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to
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2025

English for Speakers of Other Languages	-4.6%
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Other general qualification	6.5%
-----------------------------	------

Performing arts graded examination	-0.8%
------------------------------------	-------

Vocationally-related qualification	-1.2%
------------------------------------	-------

GCSE (9 to 1)	6.3%
---------------	------

Other qualifications	14.8%
----------------------	-------

Total	-2.4%
-------	-------

Certificates for regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK by level

Level 1 regulated qualifications had the highest number of certificates issued outside the UK in the 2024 to 2025 academic year, accounting for 35.4% of the non-UK total.

Level 4 to 8 regulated qualifications had the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates issued outside the UK in the 2024 to 2025 academic year compared with the 2023 to 2024 academic year, up by 12.1%. Level 3 saw the largest increase in the raw number of certificates issued outside the UK certificates compared with the previous year (an increase of 40,395 certificates).

Level 1 regulated qualifications had the largest percentage decrease in the number of certificates issued outside the UK, down by 5.6%, equivalent to a decrease of 176,305 certificates compared with the previous year.

Table 34: Number of certificates for regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK by level

Qualification level	Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Number of certificates in 2024 to 2025	Share of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Share of certificates in 2024 to 2025
Entry level	2,143,710	2,039,565	25.2%	24.5%
Level 1	3,121,375	2,945,070	36.6%	35.4%
Level 1/level 2	193,965	213,645	2.3%	2.6%
Level 2	1,474,970	1,477,185	17.3%	17.8%
Level 3	1,490,305	1,530,700	17.5%	18.4%
Level 4 to 8	98,285	110,220	1.2%	1.3%
Total	8,522,610	8,316,385	100.0%	100.0%

Level 4 to 8 regulated qualifications had the largest percentage increase in the number of certificates issued outside the UK, up by 12.1% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 25: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by qualification level

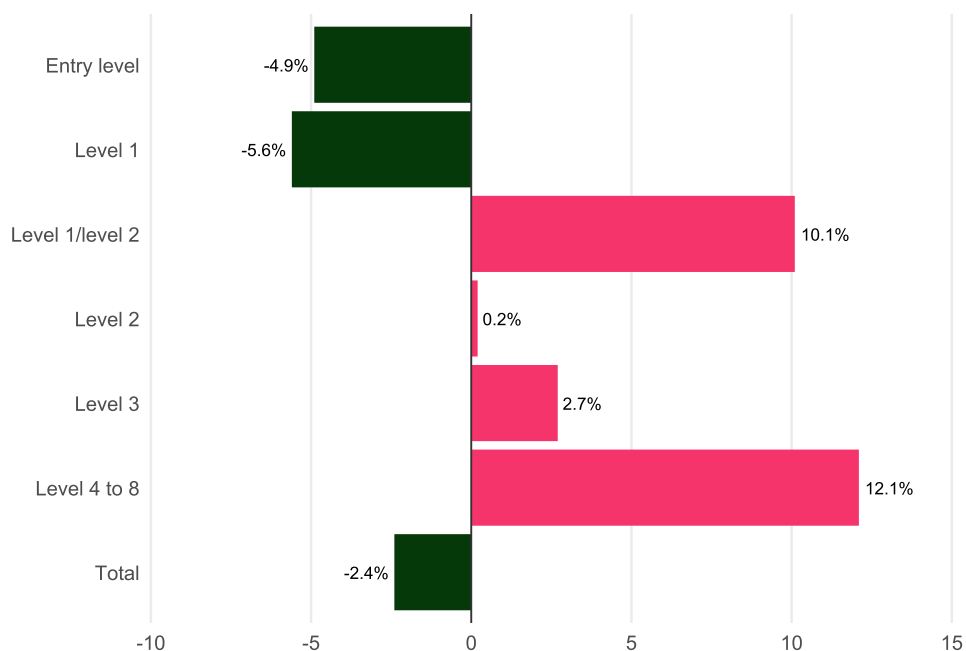


Table 35: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued outside the UK by qualification level between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025

Qualification level	Percentage change in the number of certificates issued between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
---------------------	--

Entry level	-4.9%
Level 1	-5.6%
Level 1/level 2	10.1%
Level 2	0.2%
Level 3	2.7%
Level 4 to 8	12.1%
Total	-2.4%

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

The 20 awarding organisations that reported the highest volume of non-UK certificates of regulated qualifications in the 2024 to 2025 academic year awarded 98.5% of all regulated qualifications certificates issued outside the UK. AIM Qualifications is new to the top 20 this year.

International Baccalaureate Organisation and The British Council saw the largest increases in certificates compared with the previous year (up by 82,910 and 44,640 certificates respectively).

AIM Qualifications has had the largest percentage increase (up by 53.4%) in certificate numbers compared with 2023 to 2024.

Figure 26 & Table 36 show the 20 awarding organisations that issued the most certificates outside the UK in 2024 to 2025. Others are grouped under the 'other awarding organisations'. You can find a full breakdown of all awarding organisations, in Table 22 of the [accompanying data tables](#).

Among all awarding organisations with certificates for regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK, AIM Qualifications saw the largest percentage increase in certificate numbers, up by 53.4% in the 2024 to 2025 academic year

Figure 26: Percentage change in the number of certificates issued by awarding organisation

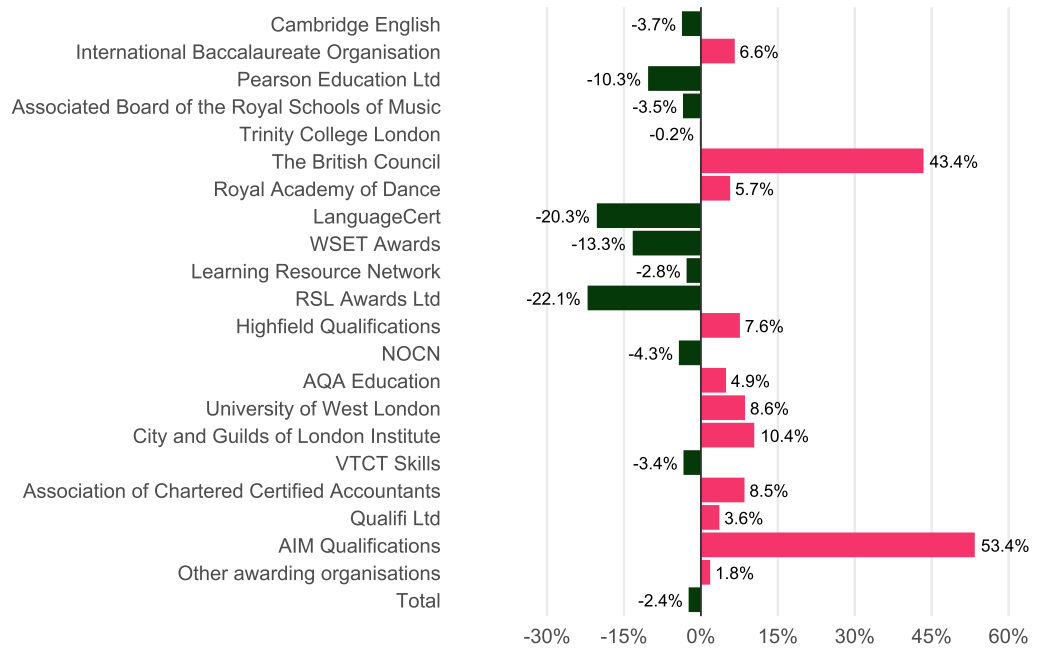


Table 36: Awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates for regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK in 2024 to 2025

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates in 2023 to 2024	Number of certificates in 2024 to 2025	Percentage change in number of certificates between 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025
Cambridge English	4,923,545	4,739,050	-3.7%
International Baccalaureate Organisation	1,247,820	1,330,730	6.6%
Pearson Education Ltd	1,114,115	999,665	-10.3%
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	232,510	224,390	-3.5%
Trinity College London	215,460	215,055	-0.2%
The British Council	102,800	147,435	43.4%
Royal Academy of	100,000	105,655	5.7%

Dance

LanguageCert	111,830	89,085	-20.3%
WSET Awards	85,220	73,890	-13.3%
Learning Resource Network	49,360	47,970	-2.8%
RSL Awards Ltd	46,245	36,020	-22.1%
Highfield Qualifications	25,995	27,970	7.6%
NOCN	26,275	25,155	-4.3%
AQA Education	23,590	24,755	4.9%
University of West London	20,185	21,920	8.6%
City and Guilds of London Institute	17,580	19,410	10.4%
VTCT Skills	17,480	16,880	-3.4%
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	14,015	15,205	8.5%
Qualifi Ltd	13,745	14,240	3.6%
AIM Qualifications	9,095	13,950	53.4%
Other awarding organisations	125,745	127,960	1.8%
Total	8,522,610	8,316,385	-2.4%

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

Contextual Information

To ensure confidentiality of the published accompanying data, figures have been rounded to the nearest 5. If the value is less than 5, it is represented as “fewer than 5” and 0 represents zero entries.

Where individual rounded values have been presented in a table along with their sum total, this total may be slightly different to the sum of the individual rounded values. This is because the total has been calculated using the original unrounded values.

We also use unrounded values to derive percentages. Percentages are then rounded to one decimal place. Due to this rounding, percentages may not always add to up exactly 100%.

For more information, see our [Ofqual's rounding policy](#).

You can find further information is available in the detailed [background information and data tables accompanying this release](#).

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