

**SFR 40/2006****19 October 2006****Coverage: England****Theme: Education and  
Training****Issued by**Department for Education  
and Skills  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT**Telephone:****Press Office**

020 7925 6789

**Public Enquiries**

0870 000 2288

**Statistician**Sophie Ingram  
020 7925 6174**Email**

info@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

**Internet**[http://www.dfes.gov.uk/  
rsgateway/DB/SFR/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/)

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**GCE/VCE A/AS AND EQUIVALENT EXAMINATION RESULTS IN  
ENGLAND, 2005/06 (PROVISIONAL)****INTRODUCTION**

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides the earliest information on the overall achievements of young people in GCE and VCE examinations and other equivalent qualifications. This information is based on data collated for the 2006 School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables (formerly Performance Tables) and has, for the first time, been extended to cover achievements in all Level 3 qualifications approved under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act (2000). In order to do so, the new QCA tariff for Level 3 qualifications has been adopted in point score calculations.

The 2006 achievement data presented in this SFR is currently in the process of being checked by schools and colleges. Revised figures will be published in January 2007 accounting for amendments made by schools up until the publication of the Achievement and Attainment Tables.

**KEY POINTS****For students aged 16-18 in schools and colleges entered for all  
Level 3 qualifications in 2005/06**

- The average QCA point score per candidate entered for Level 3 qualifications was 716.4 (Table 1)
- The average Level 3 point score per entry was 205.9 (Table 1)
- 94.7% of candidates achieved passes equivalent in size to at least 2 GCE/VCE A-levels (Table 1)

**For students aged 16-18 in schools and colleges entered for  
GCE/VCE A/AS and Key Skills at Level 3 examinations in 2005/06**

- The average QCA point score per candidate entered for GCE/VCE A/AS and key skills at Level 3 examinations was 737.7 (Table 2). The average UCAS point score for these candidates was 287.4 –

an increase of 9.6 points from the final 2004/05 results.

- The average QCA GCE/VCE A/AS and key skills at Level 3 point score per entry was 205.6 (Table 2). The equivalent UCAS point score per entry was 80.1 – an increase of 0.2 points from 2004/05.
- 94.5% of GCE/VCE A/AS and key skills at Level 3 candidates achieved 2 or more GCE/VCE A Level (or equivalent) passes. (Table 2). This is an increase of 1.3 percentage points from 2004/05.
- 10.6% of GCE/VCE A Level candidates achieved 3 or more A grades at A Level (Table 2) – an increase of 1.1 percentage points from 2004/05.

## MAIN TABLES

**Table 1:** Level 3 results of candidates aged 16-18 by the end of 2005/06, by type of establishment and gender

**Table 2:** GCE/VCE A/AS and key skills at Level 3 results of candidates aged 16-18, by the end of 2005/06, by type of establishment and gender.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (These tables are only available on the DFES Research and Statistics Gateway website: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000687/index.shtml>)**

**Tables 3, 3m and 3f:** GCE A level examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by gender, subject and grade in 2005/06.

**Tables 4, 4m and 4f:** GCE AS level examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by gender, subject and grade in 2005/06.

**Table 5:** VCE A level examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by gender, subject and grade in 2005/06.

**Table 6:** VCE AS level examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by gender, subject and grade in 2005/06.

**Tables 7, 7m and 7f:** VCE Double Award examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by gender, subject and grade in 2005/06.

**Table 8:** Average Level 3 point scores of 16-18 year old candidates by gender in each Local Authority and Government Office Region by the end of 2005/06.

**Table 9:** Average GCE/VCE and Key Skills at Level 3 QCA point scores of 16-18 candidates in each Local Authority and Government Office Region by the end of 2005/06.

**Table 10:** Average GCE/VCE and Key Skills at Level 3 UCAS point scores of 16-18 candidates in each Local Authority and Government Office Region by the end of 2005/06.

## DEFINITIONS

- Age used for reporting examination and awards is “age at the start of the academic year”.
- Further notes on coverage and definitions can be found at the bottom of each table.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

The statistics in this first release cover the data prepared for the publication of the 2006 School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

**The figures for GCE/VCE A/AS examinations by subject and grade differ from those published by Awarding Bodies in August. The Awarding Bodies’ figures related to the outcome of the individual subject areas for all candidates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, regardless of their age. The figures published in this Statistical First Release focus on the overall performance of candidates aged 16, 17 or 18 taking these examinations in England only.**

The coverage of this Statistical First Release is 16 to 18 year old students at the end of their second (and final) year of post-16 study. However, as the year group is not collected, a set of proxy criteria has been established. The criteria are that students must be 16, 17 or 18 (age at the start of the academic year) and they must have been entered for a GCE/VCE A level, a VCE Double Award or a Level 3 qualification equivalent in size to at least one GCE/VCE A Level in Summer 2006.

Local Authority and Government Office Region figures are published for the maintained sector only (LA maintained schools, CTCs, Academies and FE Sector Colleges).

The figures in this SFR are based on data provided by Awarding Bodies. This year there are some issues in the data provided by some Awarding Bodies. For this reason the provisional nature of these figures should be emphasised and any conclusions drawn from these figures, including comparisons between school types, should be treated with caution.

## QCA TARIFF

The range of qualifications reported in this SFR has been extended to cover all Level 3 qualifications approved under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act (2000). In order to do so the new QCA tariff for level 3 qualifications has been adopted in table 1. The QCA points allocated to Level 3 qualifications can be viewed at <http://www.openquals.org.uk> .

## UCAS TARIFF

The post-16 tables previously used the UCAS tariff to calculate average point scores; however this does not extend to all approved qualifications. Figures based on the UCAS tariff are presented in this SFR, covering GCE/VCE A/AS and Key Skills at Level 3 qualifications

UCAS points are assigned to general (GCE) and vocational (VCE) advanced level grades on the following basis (new QCA scores included for illustrative purposes):

Qualification. Type	A Level Equivalent Size	Grade	UCAS points	QCA points
GCE/VCE A Level	1	A	120	270
		B	100	240
		C	80	210
		D	60	180
		E	40	150
GCE/VCE AS level	0.5	A	60	135
		B	50	120
		C	40	105
		D	30	90
		E	20	75
VCE Double Award	2	AA	240	540
		AB	220	510
		BB	200	480
		BC	180	450
		CC	160	420
		CD	140	390
		DD	120	360
		DE	100	330
		EE	80	300
		U/N/X	0	0
Key Skills at Level 3	QCA size: 0.3 UCAS size: 1/6	P	20	63

### Key to symbols

'X' – indicates that a figure has been suppressed due to small numbers of entries in that subject.

The National Statistics Code of Practice requires that reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that all

published or disseminated statistics produced by the DfES protect confidentiality.

Every effort has been made to ensure the tables do not allow the identification of individuals. To protect confidentiality, low numbers of entries by either males or females in a particular subject will result in both sets of figures being suppressed. Where the total number of entries is very low, the numbers achieving each grade are suppressed.

### **Queries**

Enquiries about the figures contained in this press release should be addressed to:

Rick Baker,  
Data Services Group,  
Department for Education and Skills,  
Moorfoot,  
Sheffield,  
S1 4PQ

Telephone number: 0114 259 3787

Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at:

Department for Education and Skills,  
Sanctuary Buildings,  
Great Smith Street,  
London,  
SW1P 3BT

Telephone number: 020 7925 6789

**Table 1: Level 3 achievements of candidates<sup>1</sup> aged 16-18<sup>2</sup>, by the end of 2005/06, by type of establishment and gender.**

**PROVISIONAL FIGURES**

	16-18 year old candidates entered for level 3 qualifications at least equivalent in size to one GCE/VCE A Level	Average QCA point score by candidates achieving all Level 3 qualifications <sup>3</sup>		Percentage of candidates achieving 2 or more passes of A Level equivalent size	
		Per candidate	Per entry		
<b>Comprehensive Schools<sup>4</sup></b>					
Males	54,637	681.0	192.5	93.2	
Females	63,816	727.6	203.5	95.9	
Total	118,453	706.1	198.5	94.7	
<b>Selective Schools</b>					
Males	9,620	943.4	221.5	99.6	
Females	10,685	956.5	228.1	99.6	
Total	20,305	950.3	224.9	99.6	
<b>Modern Schools</b>					
Males	1,718	521.4	172.2	84.6	
Females	2,285	597.3	189.7	91.3	
Total	4,003	564.8	182.3	88.4	
<b>All Maintained Schools<sup>5</sup></b>					
Males	66,116	714.8	197.1	93.9	
Females	76,963	755.2	207.0	96.3	
Total	143,079	736.5	202.4	95.2	
<b>Independent Schools<sup>6</sup></b>					
Males	18,291	866.4	232.1	96.9	
Females	17,141	884.3	238.5	96.9	
Total	35,432	875.1	235.2	96.9	
<b>All Schools</b>					
Males	84,407	747.7	204.8	94.6	
Females	94,104	778.7	212.9	96.4	
Total	178,511	764.0	209.1	95.5	
<b>Sixth Form Colleges</b>					
Males	23,916	730.0	196.5	95.4	
Females	29,538	790.0	208.0	97.4	
Total	53,454	763.2	202.9	96.5	
<b>Other FE Sector Colleges</b>					
Males	37,305	551.6	194.3	89.8	
Females	43,744	605.7	204.3	93.2	
Total	81,049	580.8	199.8	91.7	
<b>All FE Sector Colleges</b>					
Males	61,221	621.3	195.3	92.0	
Females	73,282	680.0	206.0	94.9	
Total	134,503	653.3	201.2	93.6	
<b>All Schools and FE Sector Colleges</b>					
Males	2005/06	145,628	694.5	201.1	93.5
	2004/05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2003/04	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Females	2005/06	167,386	735.5	210.0	95.7
	2004/05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2003/04	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	2005/06	313,014	716.4	205.9	94.7
	2004/05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2003/04	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

1. Students entered for a GCE or VCE A level or other Level 3 qualification equivalent in size to an A-level.

2. Age at the start of the 2005/06 academic year i.e. 31 August 2005.

3. Cumulative results obtained in academic years 2004/05 and 2005/06.

4. Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

5. Includes the results for community and foundation special schools, hospital schools and pupil referral units.

6. Includes non-maintained special schools.

**Table 2: GCE/VCE A/AS<sup>1</sup> and key skills at Level 3<sup>2</sup> results of candidates<sup>3</sup> aged 16-18<sup>4</sup>, by the end of 2005/06, by type of establishment and gender.**

		<b>PROVISIONAL FIGURES</b>							
		16-18 year old candidates entered for GCE/VCE A level qualifications:	Average QCA point score by candidates achieving GCE/VCE A/AS and Key Skills at Level 3 qualifications <sup>5</sup> :		Average UCAS point score by candidates achieving GCE/VCE A/AS and Key Skills at Level 3 qualifications <sup>5</sup> :		Percentage of candidates achieving 2 or more GCE/VCE A Level (or equivalent) passes	Percentage of candidates achieving 3 or more A grades <sup>6</sup> at GCE/VCE A Level	
			Per candidate	Per entry	Per candidate	Per entry			
<b>Comprehensive Schools<sup>7</sup></b>									
	Males	53,955	678.4	192.5	256.8	72.9	92.9	6.3	
	Females	62,954	725.6	203.3	280.5	78.6	95.7	7.3	
	Total	116,909	703.8	198.4	269.6	76.0	94.4	6.8	
<b>Selective Schools</b>									
	Males	9,481	940.7	221.5	379.1	89.3	99.6	22.4	
	Females	10,584	953.4	228.1	389.3	93.1	99.7	23.4	
	Total	20,065	947.4	225.0	384.5	91.3	99.6	23.0	
<b>Modern Schools</b>									
	Males	1,677	518.4	171.6	185.9	61.5	84.0	1.4	
	Females	2,186	592.1	188.4	221.5	70.5	90.1	2.7	
	Total	3,863	560.1	181.3	206.0	66.7	87.4	2.1	
<b>All Maintained Schools<sup>8</sup></b>									
	Males	65,250	712.2	197.0	272.6	75.4	93.6	8.5	
	Females	75,892	753.2	206.9	293.9	80.7	96.0	9.4	
	Total	141,142	734.2	202.4	284.1	78.3	94.9	9.0	
<b>Independent Schools<sup>9</sup></b>									
	Males	17,606	859.2	232.9	355.4	96.3	96.9	27.0	
	Females	16,795	879.6	238.7	367.8	99.8	97.0	29.7	
	Total	34,401	869.1	235.7	361.5	98.0	96.9	28.3	
<b>All Schools</b>									
	Males	82,856	743.4	204.8	290.2	79.9	94.3	12.4	
	Females	92,687	776.1	212.7	307.3	84.2	96.2	13.1	
	Total	175,543	760.7	209.0	299.2	82.2	95.3	12.8	
<b>Sixth Form Colleges</b>									
	Males	22,537	733.5	196.1	278.5	74.5	94.8	7.4	
	Females	28,007	793.2	207.6	308.0	80.6	97.1	8.8	
	Total	50,544	766.6	202.5	294.9	77.9	96.1	8.2	
<b>Other FE Sector Colleges</b>									
	Males	14,347	553.4	184.4	204.6	68.2	86.0	3.1	
	Females	19,882	594.2	194.5	224.1	73.4	89.1	3.5	
	Total	34,229	577.1	190.3	216.0	71.2	87.8	3.3	
<b>All FE Sector Colleges</b>									
	Males	36,884	663.4	192.2	249.8	72.3	91.4	5.7	
	Females	47,889	710.6	202.9	273.2	78.0	93.8	6.6	
	Total	84,773	690.1	198.2	263.0	75.6	92.7	6.2	
<b>All Schools and FE Sector Colleges</b>									
	Males	2005/06	119,740	718.8	201.0	277.8	77.7	93.4	10.4
		2004/05	121,929	N/A	N/A	267.9	77.5	92.0	9.3
		2003/04	123,690	N/A	N/A	258.5	76.1	90.6	8.8
	Females	2005/06	140,576	753.8	209.5	295.7	82.2	95.4	10.9
		2004/05	141,706	N/A	N/A	286.3	81.9	94.2	9.7
		2003/04	141,567	N/A	N/A	278.6	81.0	93.3	9.2
	Total	2005/06	260,316	737.7	205.6	287.4	80.1	94.5	10.6
		2004/05	263,635	N/A	N/A	277.8	79.9	93.2	9.5
		2003/04	265,257	N/A	N/A	269.2	78.7	92.0	9.0

<sup>1</sup> Each GCE/VCE AS attempt or pass counts as half of a GCE/VCE A level and each VCE Double Award counts as 2 GCE/VCE A levels.

<sup>2</sup> A key skill Level 3 counts as 0.3 of an A level entry in point score calculations and is equivalent to 63 QCA and 20 UCAS points.

<sup>3</sup> Students entered for a GCE or VCE A level or VCE Double Award in Summer of the academic year.

<sup>4</sup> Age at the start of the 2005/06 academic year i.e. 31 August 2005.

<sup>5</sup> Cumulative GCE/VCE A/AS results obtained in academic years 2004/05 and 2005/06.

<sup>6</sup> A VCE Double Award at grade AA counts as two grade As, an award at grade AB counts as one.

<sup>7</sup> Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

<sup>8</sup> Includes the results for community and foundation special schools, hospital schools and pupil referral units.

<sup>9</sup> Includes non-maintained special schools.