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GCE/VCE/APPLIED A/AS AND EQUIVALENT EXAMINATION RESULTS IN ENGLAND, 2007/08 (PROVISIONAL)

INTRODUCTION

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides the earliest information on the overall achievements of young people in GCE, VCE and Applied examinations and other equivalent qualifications. This information is based on data collated for the 2008 School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables (formerly Performance Tables) and covers achievements in all Level 3 qualifications approved under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act (2000). The QCA tariff is used to calculate point scores for all Level 3 qualifications.

The 2008 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 2009 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 2007/08 (Table 1)

- The average QCA point score per candidate entered for Level 3 qualifications in 2007/08 was 733.5, compared with 731.2 in 2006/07.
- The average Level 3 point score per entry was 209.1, compared with 207.5 in 2006/07.
- 94.6% of candidates achieved passes equivalent in size to at least 2 GCE/VCE A-levels, compared with 95.2% in 2006/07.
- 11.9% of GCE/VCE A Level candidates achieved 3 or more A grades at A Level – the same as 2006/07.

MAIN TABLE

This table is available within this document and on the DCSF research and statistics website at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000816/index.shtml> .

TABLE 1: Level 3 achievements of candidates aged 16-18, by type of establishment and gender, 2007/08, England.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

These tables are only available on the DCSF Research and Statistics Gateway website at: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000816/index.shtml> .

TABLES 2, 2m and 2f: GCE A level examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by subject and grade, 2007/08, England.

TABLES 3, 3m and 3f: GCE AS level examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by subject and grade, 2007/08, England.

TABLE 4: VCE/GCE Applied A level examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by gender, subject and grade, 2007/08, England.

TABLE 5: VCE/GCE Applied AS level examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by gender, subject and grade, 2007/08, England.

TABLES 6, 6m and 6f: VCE/GCE Applied Double Award examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by subject and grade, 2007/08, England.

TABLE 7: GCE Applied AS Double Award examination results of 16-18 year old students in all schools and colleges by subject and grade, 2007/08, England.

TABLE 8: Level 3 point scores of 16-18 year old candidates by gender in each Local Authority and Government Office Region, 2007/08, England.

DEFINITIONS

Age used for reporting examination and awards is “age at 31 August”.

Further notes on coverage and definitions can be found at the bottom of each table.

TECHNICAL NOTES

The statistics in this first release cover the data prepared for the publication of the 2008 School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

The figures for GCE/VCE/Applied 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 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/Applied A level or a VCE/Applied Double Award in Summer 2008 or a Level 3 qualification equivalent in size to at least one GCE/VCE/Applied A Level during the 2007/2008 academic year.

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

QCA TARIFF

The range of qualifications reported in this SFR covers all Level 3 qualifications approved under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act (2000). In order to do so the QCA tariff for level 3 qualifications has been adopted in table 1.

Annex A lists a few of the common qualifications and their scores based on the QCA tariff. Also included are their sizes in terms of entries.

Other approved qualifications at Level 3 and their point scores can be found at <http://www.ndaq.org.uk>.

Key to symbols

‘x’ – indicates that a figure has been suppressed due to small numbers of entries in that subject.
‘.’ – indicates not applicable.

The National Statistics Code of Practice requires that reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that all published or disseminated statistics produced by the DCSF 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.

A National Statistics publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

Related publications

SFR35/2007 - *GCE/VCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2006/07 (Provisional)*
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000755/index.shtml>.

SFR02/2008 - *GCE/VCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2006/07 (Revised)*
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000769/index.shtml>.

SFR28/2008 - *GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2007/08 (Provisional) - Key tables only*
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000815/index.shtml>

This publication is also available from 9.30am on Thursday 16th October 2008.

Examination Results in Wales, 2007/08 (Provisional): This publication was produced by the Welsh Assembly Government and provides the earliest results of external examinations taken by pupils aged 15 or 17 in schools in Wales in 2007/08. It was published on 30 September 2008 and is available at:
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/schools2008/hdw200809306/?lang=en>.

The Department for Education Northern Ireland (DENI) have published A and AS level headline statistics 2008 on their website, which are available at: http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/80-curriculum-and-assessment/80-curriculum_and_assessment-qualifications_pg/22-a_and_as_level_headline_statistics_2008.htm

Statistics Publication Notice Education Series: SQA Examination Results in Scottish Schools, 2007/08. This publication was produced by the *Scottish Executive* and presents information attainment of National Qualifications by all pupils in publicly funded secondary schools. It was published on 23 September 2008 and is available at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/09/10154841/0>.

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ANNEX A - QCA TARIFF POINTS

GCE/VCE/Applied A/AS/Double Awards

General/Vocational/Applied A level		
Grade	Size	Points
A	1	270
B	1	240
C	1	210
D	1	180
E	1	150

General/Vocational/Applied AS		
Grade	Size	Points
A	0.5	135
B	0.5	120
C	0.5	105
D	0.5	90
E	0.5	75

Vocational/Applied Double Award		
Grade	Size	Points
AA	2	540
AB	2	510
BB	2	480
BC	2	450
CC	2	420
CD	2	390
DD	2	360
DE	2	330
EE	2	300

BTEC Awards

BTEC National Award		
Grade	Size	Points
D	1	270
M	1	225
P	1	165

BTEC National Certificate		
Grade	Size	Points
DD	2	540
DM	2	480
MM	2	420
MP	2	360
PP	2	300

BTEC National Diploma		
Grade	Size	Points
DDD	3	810
DDM	3	757.5
DMM	3	705
MMM	3	652.5
MMP	3	600
MPP	3	547.5
PPP	3	495

International Baccalaureate Diploma

Grade	Size	Points
45	5	1380
44	5	1350
43	5	1320
42	5	1290
41	5	1260
40	5	1230
39	5	1200
38	5	1170
37	5	1140
36	5	1110
35	5	1080
34	5	1050
33	5	1020
32	5	990
31	5	960
30	5	930
29	5	900
28	5	870
27	5	840
26	5	810
25	5	780
24	5	750

Others

Advanced Free Standing Maths		
Grade	Size	Points
A	0.1667	45
B	0.1667	40
C	0.1667	35
D	0.1667	30
E	0.1667	25

Advanced Extension Award		
Grade	Size	Points
D	0	27
M	0	23

Level 3 Key Skill		
Grade	Size	Points
P	0.3	63

TABLE 1: Level 3 achievements of candidates¹ aged 16-18² by type of establishment and gender
Year: 2007/08 (Provisional)
Coverage: England

	Level 3 Qualifications			GCE/VCE/Applied A Levels and Double Awards			
	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 ³		Percentage of candidates achieving 2 or more passes of A Level equivalent size	16-18 year old candidates entered for GCE/VCE/Applied A levels and Double Awards	Percentage of candidates achieving 3 or more A grades ⁴ at GCE/VCE/Applied A Level and Double Awards	
		Per candidate	Per entry				
Comprehensive Schools⁵							
Males	55,541	700.1	196.0	94.4	53,486	7.3	
Females	65,341	742.6	205.6	96.5	63,501	7.8	
Total	120,882	723.1	201.2	95.5	116,987	7.6	
Selective Schools							
Males	10,079	953.6	224.4	99.4	9,927	25.6	
Females	11,386	969.6	229.8	99.8	11,263	25.5	
Total	21,465	962.1	227.2	99.6	21,190	25.5	
Modern Schools							
Males	1,882	531.8	177.1	85.7	1,652	1.2	
Females	2,400	599.1	188.1	91.7	2,258	2.1	
Total	4,282	569.5	183.4	89.1	3,910	1.7	
All Maintained Schools⁶							
Males	67,864	732.6	200.4	94.9	65,383	9.9	
Females	79,533	770.2	209.1	96.8	77,398	10.2	
Total	147,397	752.9	205.1	95.9	142,781	10.0	
Independent Schools⁷							
Males	18,673	874.9	234.2	97.1	17,911	29.0	
Females	17,652	897.0	239.5	97.9	16,995	31.6	
Total	36,325	885.6	236.8	97.5	34,906	30.3	
All Schools							
Males	86,537	763.3	207.8	95.3	83,294	14.0	
Females	97,185	793.2	214.7	97.0	94,393	14.0	
Total	183,722	779.1	211.5	96.2	177,687	14.0	
Sixth Form Colleges							
Males	25,503	758.1	200.6	96.2	22,572	8.5	
Females	30,652	809.9	210.0	97.7	27,995	9.7	
Total	56,155	786.4	205.8	97.0	50,567	9.2	
Other FE Sector Colleges							
Males	43,886	581.8	201.2	87.6	12,010	4.1	
Females	47,831	635.4	209.6	92.1	17,050	4.1	
Total	91,717	609.8	205.7	90.0	29,060	4.1	
All FE Sector Colleges							
Males	69,389	646.6	201.0	90.8	34,582	7.0	
Females	78,483	703.6	209.8	94.3	45,045	7.6	
Total	147,872	676.8	205.7	92.7	79,627	7.3	
All Schools and FE Sector Colleges							
Males	2007/08	155,926	711.4	205.0	93.3	117,876	11.9
	2006/07 (final)	145,467	713.0	203.2	94.0	113,512	11.8
	2005/06 (final)	144,229	700.9	201.5	94.0	118,593	10.5
Females	2007/08	175,668	753.2	212.6	95.8	139,438	12.0
	2006/07 (final)	171,685	746.5	211.0	96.1	136,035	12.0
	2005/06 (final)	167,258	739.3	210.2	96.1	139,692	10.9
Total	2007/08	331,594	733.5	209.1	94.6	257,314	11.9
	2006/07 (final)	317,152	731.2	207.5	95.2	249,547	11.9
	2005/06 (final)	311,487	721.5	206.2	95.1	258,285	10.7

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

2. Age at the start of the 2007/08 academic year i.e. 31 August 2007.

3. Cumulative results obtained in academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08.

4. A VCE/GCE Applied Double Award at grade AA counts as two grade As, an award at grade AB counts as one.

5. Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

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

7. Includes non-maintained special schools.

8. Average QCA point scores are not available prior to 2005/06 as data covering all Level 3 qualifications was not collected at this time. Previous measures were based on the UCAS tariff and only covered GCE/VCE A/AS levels, Double Awards and Key Skills qualifications at level 3.