

Examination results in England

- The percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above at Key Stage 2 (KS2) rose sharply between 1997 and 2000. In 2015, 89% of pupils attained this level in reading, 87% in maths and 80% in reading, writing and maths.
- Pupils taking KS2 tests in 2016 were the first to follow the new national curriculum. Overall 53% reach new (higher) expected standards in reading, writing and maths.
- From 2013/14 GCSE data reflect changes to how equivalents are counted and only include a pupil's first attempt at a qualification.
- Even using the earlier methodology there was a fall in pupils passing at least five GCSEs/equivalents at A*-C including English and Maths. This may in part reflect other changes to GCSEs introduced in 2013/14
- A new GCSE headline measure 'Attainment 8' was introduced in 2016. It measures average achievement in up to 8 qualifications. The average score per pupil was 48.2 points in 2016, up from 47.4 in 2015.
- The percentage of 16-18 year old candidates with three or more A-level passes rose almost twenty points between 1997/98 and 2004/05.
- More than one-quarter of independent school pupils and one-quarter of selective school pupils gained three or more As at A-Level in 2015/16. At comprehensive schools around one in twelve pupils achieved this – up from one in twenty in 1997/98.

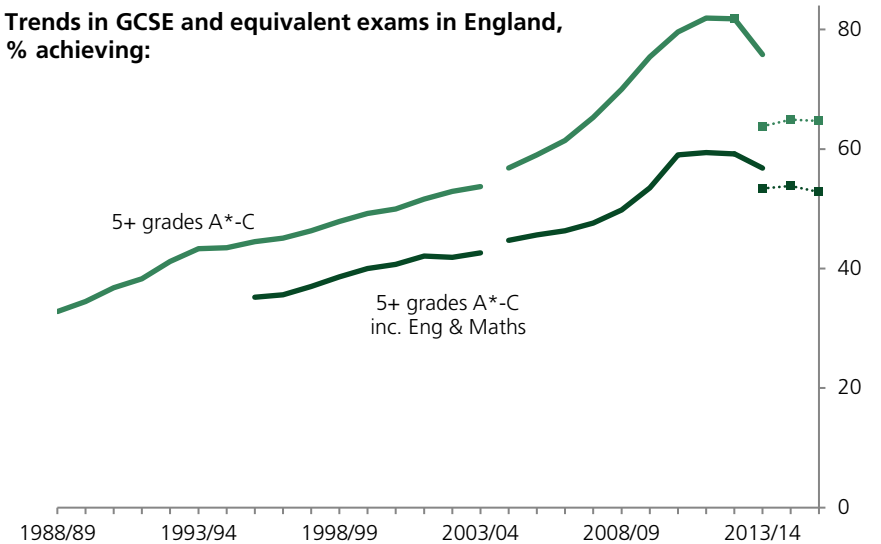
A-level and equivalent achievements in schools and colleges

England, academic years

| | % of examinees with A-level or equivalent passes | | % achieving at least three A grades, by school type | | |
|---------|--|------|---|---------|-------------|
| | 2+ | 3+ | Comprehensive | Grammar | Independent |
| 1997/98 | 81.4 | 57.1 | 4.7 | 12.7 | 16.9 |
| 2000/01 | 86.5 | 61.2 | 4.9 | 15.5 | 19.4 |
| 2005/06 | 95.1 | - | 6.7 | 23.1 | 29.1 |
| 2010/11 | 94.1 | - | 8.4 | 27.7 | 32.7 |
| 2011/12 | 93.6 | - | 8.3 | 27.7 | 31.6 |
| 2012/13 | 92.3 | - | 8.4 | 28.0 | 30.5 |
| 2013/14 | 90.5 | - | 7.8 | 26.1 | 29.4 |
| 2014/15 | 91.4 | - | 7.7 | 25.5 | 28.3 |
| 2015/16 | - | - | 8.7 | 24.8 | 29.2 |

Source: Provisional A level and other 16-18 results in England, 2015/2016 (and earlier), DfE

Trends in GCSE and equivalent exams in England, % achieving:



Percentage achieving the expected standard at Key Stage 2

England, all schools

| | Reading, writing & maths ^a | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| | Reading | Maths | Reading, writing & maths ^a | Science |
| Level 4 or better | | | | |
| 1997 | 67 | 62 | .. | 69 |
| 2000 | 83 | 72 | .. | 85 |
| 2005 | 84 | 75 | .. | 86 |
| 2010 | 83 | 79 | 64 | .. |
| 2011 | 84 | 80 | 67 | .. |
| 2012 | 87 | 84 | 75 | .. |
| 2013 | 86 | 85 | 75 | .. |
| 2014 | 89 | 86 | 78 | .. |
| 2015 | 89 | 87 | 80 | .. |
| New higher expected standard | | | | |
| 2016 | 66 | 70 | 53 | .. |

(a) 2012 and later results are based on reading tests and writing teacher assessments, in earlier years both were test-based so the new data are not directly comparable.

Source: National curriculum assessments at key stage 2: 2016 (provisional), and earlier, DfE