

GCSE and equivalent, and Post-16 SCAAT points – a general guide

This Policy Watch outlines changes that have been made to the tables over the past few years, looks at the 2008, and the planned 2009 position, answers some common discounting queries asked about the tables, and lists the points for some of the most popular Edexcel qualifications. This includes the points for the new Distinction* grade in the BTEC First Diplomas and Certificates.

It covers the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables for GCSE and equivalent, and Post-16 only. Further information on other aspects of the SCAATs, such as Key Stage 2 and 3 areas can be found on the [DCSF](#) website.

This document doesn't list all qualifications, but these can all be looked up on the [QCA National Database of Accredited Qualifications](#) (NDAC). Accreditation is a continuous process, and data is uploaded to the NDAC weekly, usually overnight each Friday. Performance figures can only be added after the DCSF has approved the qualification. It could be up to four weeks from when a qualification receives accreditation to when performance figures appear on NDAC.

QCA allocate points for qualifications, and DCSF make the final decisions about what are included in the tables.

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2009 - PLANNED CHANGES

Developments this year for inclusion in the 2009 Tables include:

A new measures of progress

New targets for two levels of progress from KS1-2, KS2-3 and KS3-4 will be introduced. In 2008 they will pilot a measure of the proportion of pupils in schools progressing by at least two levels in English and maths at the end of KS2, 3 and 4 with a view to future publication.

Contextual Value Added including English and maths

A modification to the KS4 CVA model will be developed and tested in 2008 which takes account of attainment in English and maths.

2008 - SUMMARY OF CHANGES

KS4 Tables (GCSE and equivalent) - Introduction of a new modern foreign languages indicator

The 2008 KS4 Tables will include:

- the percentage of pupils at the end of KS4 who achieved at least one full GCSE (or equivalent) at grade A*-C in a modern foreign language
- the percentage of pupils at the end of KS4 who achieved at least one short course GCSE (or equivalent) at grade A*-G in a modern foreign language.

To be counted in the new indicators, a pupil must have achieved any Level 1 or Level 2 modern foreign language qualification approved for use pre-16, for example GCSEs, the Languages Ladder/Asset Language qualifications or NVQ language units. AS and Level 3 Asset Language qualifications taken early at KS4 will also count.

The following qualifications will not count towards the indicator:

- classical languages
- British sign languages
- any English for Speakers of Other languages (ESOL)
- qualifications reflecting a study of literature and/or culture.

A full list of the languages and qualifications included in the new indicators will be posted shortly on the [OCA](#) website. The website will also list qualifications that count towards the English, maths and science indicators in the KS4 Tables.

Post 16 Tables - Introduction of a Contextual Value Added (CVA) measure

In 2006, the Department piloted a KS4-5 CVA measure involving 200 schools and colleges, extending it in 2007 to allow further development in response to stakeholder feedback.

Evaluation among stakeholders - including schools, colleges, local authorities and representative bodies - earlier this year produced near unanimous support for including the CVA measure in the KS5 AATs nationally. The measure will be included from 2008. Full details of the CVA model will be provided to schools and colleges when they are asked to check data in the Autumn term prior to publication in the Tables.

2007 - SUMMARY OF CHANGES

KS3-4 Tables - Introduction of a Contextual Value Added (CVA) measure

The CVA measure adjusts predicted achievement to take account of not only prior attainment, but also a range of other factors observed to impact on performance which are outside a school's control.

When calculating a school's CVA measure pupil level factors are taken into account that have been observed to impact on a pupil performance - prior attainment, gender, ethnicity,

age in year, SEN status, free school meals status, first language, whether pupil is or has been in care, mobility and a rating from the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).

So now, in addition to the KS2-4 CVA measure shown in the KS4 Tables, a KS3-4 CVA measure will be published.

KS4 Tables (GCSE and equivalent) - Introduction of a new KS4 science indicator

The Government's *Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014: Next Steps* document announced the intention to publish 'the percentage of pupils who achieve two or more good (A*-C) GCSEs in science in school performance tables from 2007. The aim of the indicator is to encourage take up of science and improve performance so that more pupils progress to study GCE A levels in Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Applied Science and other substantial advanced level qualifications in science.

Edexcel welcomed the later news that BTEC First Certificates and First Diplomas in science will be included in this science indicator.

The Government's original decision, which was to exclude the qualifications from the tables, had not accounted for the substantial increase in pupils taking the BTEC science qualifications. After Edexcel and others raised this issue with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), a Ministerial decision was made to include both BTEC First Certificates and First Diplomas in the new Key Stage 4 science indicator.

For each school, the percentage of pupils at the end of KS4 who have achieved at least two GCSEs at grades A*-C and equivalents which cover the KS4 science programme of study and provide a progression route to A levels in Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Applied Science and other substantial level 3 qualifications in science will be published.

This means, that to be counted in the indicator:

- pupils must have achieved grades A*-C in:
 - GCSE Science ('core') and GCSE Additional Science
 - GCSE Science ('core') and GCSE Additional Applied Science
 - GCSE Applied Science Double Award
 - GCSE Science and GCSE Environmental and Land-based Science
- Pupils who have taken GCSEs in all three of Physics, Chemistry and Biology will be counted, but need only have attained grades A*-C in at least two of the disciplines. This ensures all pupils taking separate sciences have covered the full programme of study, but continues to place the emphasis on those attaining at least two good grades.
- In order to recognise acceleration, any GCE AS levels taken early will also be counted. Therefore, pupils who have taken GCSEs and/or GCE AS levels in all three of Physics, Chemistry and Biology will also be counted, but need only have attained GCSE grades A*-C and/or GCE AS grades A-E in at least two of the disciplines.
- Level 2 BTEC First Certificates and First Diplomas in Applied Science at pass, merit and distinction
- OCR Level 2 National Awards and National Certificates in Science at pass, merit and distinction.

2006 - SUMMARY OF CHANGES

KS4 Tables (GCSE and equivalent) - Introduction of a new English and maths indicator

A new 'gold standard' indicator has been included in the tables since 2006 showing:

- % achieving 5+A*-C GCSE (and equivalent) including English and maths GCSEs (only English and maths GCSE count for this indicator, no equivalents are permissible). All English and maths GCSEs count except English Literature and statistics.

The new indicator counts all those pupils achieving at least a grade C English GCSE, *and* at least a grade C maths GCSE, *and* at least the equivalent of another three C+ GCSEs.

- the existing 5+ A*-C GCSEs (and equivalent) indicator (this will continue to be published alongside the new indicator until 2008).

The tables also show the achievements of those pupils for whom good GCSEs are not a realistic option. From 2006, the tables therefore include:

- % achieving at least level 2 in 'functional English and maths' (i.e. without necessarily having achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSEs).

Pupils counted in this indicator must have gained at least: a C+ GCSE in English or a level 2 Key Skill in communication or a level 2 Basic Skill in literacy; *and* a C+ GCSE in maths or a level 2 Key Skill in application of numbers or a level 2 Basic Skill in numeracy

- % achieving at least level 1 in 'functional English and maths' (i.e. without necessarily having achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSEs).

Pupils counted in this indicator must have gained at least: a G+ GCSE in English or a level 1 Key Skill in communication or a level 1 Basic Skill in literacy; *and* a G+ GCSE in maths or a level 1 Key Skill in application of numbers or a level 1 Basic Skill in numeracy.

Post 16 Tables - Inclusion of all qualifications

From 2006, the tables included all qualifications approved for use post-16.

2004 - SUMMARY OF CHANGES

KS4 Tables (GCSE and equivalent) - Inclusion of all qualifications

Since 2004 the Tables have included all qualifications approved for use pre-16 at Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2. This means that BTECs (including short-courses on the NQF), NVQs and basic skills qualifications are all included.

COMMON DISCOUNTING QUERIES

Discounting table

Discounting occurs to preclude the counting of 2 or more subjects with the same (or similar) content. Only qualifications within the same family discount one another. A higher level qualification counts ahead of a lower level qualification in the same family.

GENERAL	GENERAL VOCATIONAL	OCCUPATIONAL	VOCATIONALLY RELATED	KEY SKILLS	BASIC SKILLS	VOCATIONAL LANGUAGES	GRADED EXAMS
GCE AS	VCE AS	NVQ Level 2	VRQ Level 2 or BTEC First	Key Skills Level 2	Basic Skills Level 2	Intermediate GNVQ language Unit	Grade 8
GCE A2	Full GNVQ, Intermediate	NVQ Level 1	VRQ Level 1	Key Skills Level 1	Basic Skills Level 1	NVQ language unit at Level 2	Grade 7
GCSE Full course	Vocational GCSEs					Foundation GNVQ language unit	Grade 6
GCSE Short Course	GNVQ Part 1 Intermediate					NVQ language unit at Level 1	Grade 5
Entry Level 3	Full GNVQ Foundation						Grade 4
Entry Level 2	GNVQ Part 1 Foundation						Grade 3
Entry Level 1							Grade 2
							Grade 1

Common discounting queries

All of the rules below are as things stand currently. They are always subject to change by the QCA.

- Key Skills do not currently discount Basic Skills - both qualifications can be counted.
- Functional Skills will discount Key Skills, but not Basic Skills.
- If a pupil obtains a Key Skill by proxy, both qualifications can be counted for the purposes of the tables. *The exception to this is ICT where it is achieved by full proxy.*
- GCSEs and Key Skills qualifications achieved in the same subject will both count towards the tables. *However, again, this does not apply to Key Skills in ICT obtained by full proxy.*
- *The same applies to Key Skills in ICT obtained by full proxy when taken alongside the DiDA suite of qualifications - both qualifications cannot be counted.*
- DiDA and GNVQ are in different qualification families so don't discount each other.

POINTS FOR SOME OF THE POPULAR EDEXCEL QUALIFICATIONS, AND THE BTEC FIRSTS

The table below lists the points for some of the most popular Edexcel qualifications. It doesn't list all qualifications, but these can all be looked up on the QCA [National Database of Accredited Qualifications](#) (NDAC).

Accreditation is a continuous process, and data is uploaded to the NDAC weekly, usually overnight each Friday. Performance figures can only be added after the DCSF has approved the qualification. It could be up to four weeks from when a qualification receives accreditation to when performance figures appear on NDAC.

QCA confirmed the Achievement and Attainment Table points for the revised Edexcel Level 2 BTEC First Certificates and Diplomas accredited for implementation from September 2006. The points now include the Distinction* (D*) grade. The new points align much more closely with the points for the GCSEs. There is no change to the equivalences for the BTEC Firsts which were accredited in 2002/03, or for any BTEC Firsts that do not include the new Distinction*. These qualifications utilise the old points.

LEVEL	QUALIFICATION	CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 THRESHOLD	CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL 3 THRESHOLD	GRADE	POINT SCORE
ENTRY					
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Adult Literacy	-	-	3	3.5
				2	3
				1	2.5
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Adult Numeracy	-	-	3	3.5
				2	3
				1	2.5
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 1)	-	-	Not yet available	Not yet available
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 2)	-	-	Not yet available	Not yet available
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 3)	-	-	Not yet available	Not yet available
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 1)	-	-	Not yet available	Not yet available
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 2)	-	-	Not yet available	Not yet available
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 3)	-	-	Not yet available	Not yet available
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate	-	-	3	14
				2	12
				1	10
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate (Double Award)	-	-	3	28
				2	24
				1	20

LEVEL	QUALIFICATION	CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 THRESHOLD	CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL 3 THRESHOLD	GRADE	POINT SCORE
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Life Skills	-	-	3	28
				2	24
				1	20
Entry	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Skills for Working Life	-	-	3	28
				2	24
				1	20
	Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in Adult ICT Skills for Life	-	-	Not yet available	Not yet available
LEVEL 1					
Level 1	Edexcel Level 1 Certificate in Adult Literacy	10%	-	P	12.5
Level 1	Edexcel Level 1 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	10%	-	P	12.5
Level 1	Edexcel Level 1 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life	Not yet available	-	Not yet available	Not yet available
Level 1	Any key skill qualification	15%	-	P	18.8
Level 1	Any GCSE	20%	-	D	34
				E	28
				F	22
				G	16
Level 1	Any GCSE (double award)	40%	-	D	68
				E	56
				F	44
				G	32
Level 1	Any GCSE short course	10%	-	D	17
				E	14
				F	11
				G	8
Level 1	Edexcel Level 1 BTEC Introductory Certificate	40%	-	D	68
				M	56
				P	38
Level 1	Edexcel Level 1 BTEC Introductory Diploma	80%	-	D	136
				M	112
				P	76
Level 1	Any NVQ language unit	5%	-	P	7
Level 1	NVQ (Depends on qualification, check the NDAC database)	100%	-	P	140
		120%	-		168
Level 1	DiDA	80% (A distinction will contribute to the level 2 target)	-	D	160
				M	136
				C	112
				P	76
Level 1	CiDA	40% (A distinction will contribute to the level 2 target)	-	D	80
				M	68
				C	56
				P	38

LEVEL	QUALIFICATION	CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 THRESHOLD	CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL 3 THRESHOLD	GRADE	POINT SCORE
Level 1	AIDA	20% (A distinction will contribute to the level 2 target)	-	D M C P	40 34 28 19
LEVEL 2					
Level 2	Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	10%	-	P	23
Level 2	Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	10%	-	P	23
Level 2	Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life	Not yet available	-	Not yet available	Not yet available
Level 2	Any key skill qualification	15%	-	P	34.5
Level 2	Any GCSE	20%	-	A* A B C	58 52 46 40
Level 2	Any GCSE (double award)	40%	-	A* A B C	116 104 92 80
Level 2	Any GCSE short course	10%	-	A* A B C	29 26 23 20
Level 2	First Certificate (without Distinction* as a grade)	40%	-	Distinction Merit Pass	110 98 80
Level 2	First Certificate (with Distinction* as a grade)	40%	-	Distinction* Distinction Merit Pass	116 104 92 80
Level 2	First Diploma (without Distinction* as a grade)	80%	-	Distinction Merit Pass	220 196 160
Level 2	First Diploma (with Distinction* as a grade)	80%	-	Distinction* Distinction Merit Pass	232 208 184 160
Level 2	NVQ (Depends on qualification, check the NDAC database)	100% 120%	-	P	140 294
Level 2	Any NVQ language unit	5%	-	P	12
Level 2	DiDA	80%	-	D	232

LEVEL	QUALIFICATION	CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 THRESHOLD	CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL 3 THRESHOLD	GRADE	POINT SCORE
				M	208
				P	184
				C	160
Level 2	CIDA	40%	-	D	116
				M	104
				P	92
				C	80
Level 2	AiDA	20%	-	D	58
				M	52
				P	46
				C	40
LEVEL 3					
Level 3	Any key skill qualification	24%	15%	P	63
Level 3	Edexcel Advanced VCE (Double Award)	160%	100%	AA	540
				AB	510
				BB	480
				BC	450
				CC	420
				CD	390
				DD	360
				DE	330
				EE	300
Level 3	Edexcel Advanced VCE	80%	50%	A	270
				B	240
				C	210
				D	180
				E	150
Level 3	Edexcel Advanced GCE (Double Award)	160%	100%	AA	540
				AB	510
				BB	480
				BC	450
				CC	420
				CD	390
				DD	360
				DE	330
				EE	300
Level 3	Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary GCE (Double Award)	80%	50%	AA	270
				AB	255
				BB	240
				BC	225
				CC	210
				CD	195
				DD	180
				DE	165
				EE	150
Level 3	Edexcel Advanced GCE	80%	50%	A	270

LEVEL	QUALIFICATION	CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 THRESHOLD	CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL 3 THRESHOLD	GRADE	POINT SCORE
				B C D E	240 210 180 150
Level 3	Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary GCE	40%	25%	A B C D E	135 120 105 90 75
Level 3	Edexcel Level 3 BTEC National Award	80%	50%	D M P	270 225 165
Level 3	Edexcel Level 3 BTEC National Certificate	160%	100%	DD DM MM MP PP	540 480 420 360 300
Level 3	Edexcel Level 3 BTEC National Diploma	240%	150%	DDD DDM DMM MMM MMP MPP PPP	810 757.5 705 652.5 600 547.5 495
Level 3	Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art and Design)	120%	75%	D M P	405 337.5 247.5
Level 3	Edexcel Level 3 BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (accredited 01/09/2007)	140%	87.5%	D M P	472.5 393.75 288.75
Level 3	NVQ (Depends on qualification, check the NDAC database)	160% 192% 224%	100% 120% 140%	P	480 576 672
Level 3	Edexcel Advanced Extension Award	-	5%	D M	27 23

Edexcel Policy Watches are intended to help colleagues keep up to date with national developments. Information is correct at the time of writing and is offered in good faith. No liability is accepted for decisions made on the basis of information given.