

Level 3 attainment of students¹, at the end of 16-18 study by selective institution status² (including independent schools) in 2017/18.							
Admissions basis	Level 3 students³			A level students⁴			
	Number of students	APS per entry ⁵	Students achieving at least 2 substantial level 3 qualifications (%) ⁶	Number of students	APS per entry ⁵	Students achieving 3 A*-A grades or better at A level (%) ^{7,8}	Students achieving grades AAB or better at A level (%) ^{7,8}
All students at state-funded schools⁹ (of which:)	211,881	32.02	81.0	198,801	32.15	11.4	19
selective schools	25,278	39.16	93.9	24,408	38.98	23.9	36
non-selective schools in highly selective areas	12,761	27.40	75.6	11,078	27.05	3.7	8
non-selective schools in other areas (including low selective areas)	160,329	31.01	80.2	150,380	31.11	9.4	17
Independent schools¹⁰	39,645	41.39	92.0	37,268	41.04	26.9	40

¹ Covers students, aged 16, 17 or 18 at the start of the 2017/18 academic year, for example 31 August 2017, at the end of advanced level study who were entered for at least one academic qualification equal in size to at least half (0.5) an A level or an extended project (size 0.3), or applied general or tech level qualification during their 16-18 study. Covers results achieved during all years of 16-18 study (up to three years, for example the 2015/16, 2016/17 or 2017/18 academic years).

² Selective institution status includes: Selective schools: Admit pupils wholly or mainly based on academic ability. These schools are formally designated as grammar schools. Non-selective schools in highly selective areas: covers non-selective schools in local authorities where 25% or more of state-funded secondary places are in state-funded selective schools (note: there are 12 local authorities in the 2017/18 academic year). Non-selective schools in other areas (inc. areas with low selection): covers non-selective schools in local authorities where fewer than 25% of pupils attending secondary schools are in state-funded selective schools, as well as those LAs with no selection.

³ Covers students at the end of advanced level study who were entered for at least one academic qualification equal in size to at least half (0.5) an A level or an extended project (size 0.3), or applied general or tech level qualification during their 16-18 study.

⁴ Covers students at the end of advanced level study who were entered for at least one A/AS level, applied single A/AS level, applied double A/AS level or combined A/AS level during 16-18 study.

⁵ APS: Average Point Score

⁶ Substantial level 3 academic or vocational qualifications are defined as qualifications that are at least the size of an A level (180 guided learning hours per year), such as a BTEC subsidiary diploma level 3. If a vocational or academic qualification is equal in size to 2 A levels it is counted as 2 substantial level 3 qualifications.

⁷ Covers students at the end of advanced level study who were entered for at least one A level, applied single A level, applied double A level or combined A/AS level during 16-18 study, excluding critical thinking and general studies. This measure only includes A level students who have entered less than a total of size 1 in other academic, applied general and tech level qualifications.

⁸ An applied double award A level at grade A*A* counts as two grade A*s, AA counts as two grade As and an award at grade AB counts as one grade A.

⁹ Covers selective schools, non-selective schools in highly selective areas, Non-selective schools in other areas (inc. areas with low selection) and unknown selective status. Figures for unknown selective status are not shown in the table, therefore the numbers of students do not sum to totals.

¹⁰ Not including independent special schools