# Calculating the average point scores

## 16-18 performance tables

**November 2015**

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# Calculating the average point scores

The 16 to 18 performance tables report two average point score measures: the average point score per student (full-time equivalent) and the average point score per entry. The measures are calculated for each of the A level, academic and vocational cohorts.

- A level students: average point scores are calculated based on the results in A levels and AS qualifications only
- Academic students: average point scores are calculated based on A levels, AS levels, Free Standing Maths Qualifications, International Baccalaureate, Pre-U, Advanced Extension Awards, AQA Baccalaureate and Extended Projects. Note: The A level cohort is a sub-set of the academic cohort
- Vocational students: average point scores are calculated based on all other approved qualifications at level 3

A student must have entered for a relevant qualification equal in size to at least one A level in the 2014/15 academic year to be included in a cohort.

# Calculation of the average point score per student – full-time equivalent (FTE)

An average point score per student (FTE) is calculated by dividing the total number of points achieved by students in particular qualifications by the total number of FTE students taking those qualifications.

For example, the total number of points achieved by A level students is based on the points assigned to the A level and AS results of students who have been entered for at least one A level qualification in the 2014/15 academic year.

Where a student has attempted an A level and failed, but they have been awarded an AS in the same subject, the size of the A level and the points for the AS level are counted. An example of this is shown below for student C.

Consider the following students:

- If student A achieves two A levels at grade B, one A level at grade C and one AS at grade D, they would score 780 points (240 + 240 + 210 + 90)

- If student B achieves a double A level at grade AB, an A level at grade B, and a Key Skill at level 3, they would score 750 points (510 + 240). The points for the Key Skill are excluded from the A level point score calculation because qualifications other than A and AS levels do not contribute to the A level point scores

- If student C receives a grade U for an A level but passes the AS in the same subject with a grade B, they would score 120 points for the AS level grade. If the same student also achieves a distinction in a BTEC National Award, the points assigned to the BTEC qualification will contribute towards the average point score per vocational student (FTE) rather than the equivalent A level score, given it is a vocational qualification.

The total number of A level points achieved by the students is calculated as follows[1]:

| Students | A level points |
|---|---|
| Student A | 780 |
| Student B | 750 |
| Student C | 120 |
| **Total number of A level points achieved by all students** | **1,650** |

**Table 1: total number of A level points achieved by the students**

Source: Level 1, 2 and 3 performance tables points score document on performance tables website

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[1] Examples of point scores assigned to common qualifications are provided in a separate document 'Point score allocation' on performance tables website

# Calculation of the number of A level students (FTE)

The number of A level FTE students is based on the proportion of time a student spends on their A level studies in comparison to the time they spend on their whole study programme.

Using the students in the example in Table 1:

Student A is studying A levels only and is therefore on an A level pathway. As a result, they are considered a full-time A level student and have an FTE equal to 1 in the A level and academic cohort.

A student will only be included in a cohort if they have studied a relevant qualification equal in size to at least one A level, so although student B is on a mixed qualification pathway the Key Skill is not large enough to include the student in the vocational cohort. This student therefore has a FTE equal to 1 in the A level and academic cohort.

Student C is doing A levels alongside a vocational qualification which is equal in size to one A level. This student is therefore on a mixed qualification pathway and has an A level FTE of less than 1.

The time a student spends on a qualification is defined by the size of the qualification which is based on guided learning hours. An A level and a BTEC National Award each has a size of one, a double A level has a size of two, a general or applied AS level has a size of 0.5 and a Key Skill at level 3 has a size of 0.3.

Qualifications only count towards total study size when a student belongs to a cohort, for example: Student C belongs to both the A level and vocational cohorts, therefore both their A level and vocational qualifications count towards their total study size. Student B is not included in the vocational cohort and their Key Skills at level 3 qualification does not count towards their total study size. Using this methodology for the students the number of A level students (FTE) is calculated as follows:

| Students | Total A level size | Total size of study | Number of A level students(FTE ) = total A level size/total size of study |
|---|---|---|---|
| Student A | 3.5 | 3.5 | 1=(3.5/3.5) |
| Student B | 3 | 3 | 1=(3/3) |
| Student C | 1 | 2 | 0.5=(1/2) |
| **Total number of A level students (FTE)** | | | **2.5**=(1+1+0.5) |

**Table 2: The number of A level students**

Note: Total A level size for student C is determined by their A level entry rather than their AS entry.

To calculate the average point score (APS) per A level student (FTE), the total number of A level points achieved by all students is divided by the total number of A level students (FTE).

APS per A level student (FTE) = $\dfrac{\text{Total number of A level points achieved by all students}}{\text{Total number of A level students (FTE)}}$

$$= \frac{1650}{2.5}$$

$$= 660.0 \text{ points}$$

Average point scores per student (FTE) are rounded to one decimal place, eg 660.0 points

# Calculation of the average point score per entry

An average point score per entry is calculated by dividing the total number of points achieved by students in particular qualifications by the total number of entries made in those qualifications.

To calculate the average point score per entry for the same set of students, the value used to calculate the size of the qualifications above is the same for the examination entry for each qualification, eg an A level and a BTEC National Award is each equal to one entry etc.

Where a student has attempted an A level and failed, but they have been awarded an AS in the same subject, the size of the A level entry is counted and not the size of the AS level entry. Therefore student C has an A level size of 1 and not 0.5.

Using the example students above, the average point score per A level entry is calculated as:

$$\text{APS per A level entry} = \frac{\text{the sum of each student's A level points}}{\text{the sum of each student's A level entries}}$$

$$= \frac{780 + 750 + 120}{3.5 + 3 + 1}$$

$$= \frac{1{,}650}{7.5}$$

$$= 220.0 \text{ points}$$

Average point scores per entry are rounded to one decimal place, eg 220.0 points.

The average point scores based on academic and vocational qualifications are calculated in the same way, but are only based on students entered for academic (includes A and AS levels) and vocational qualifications and their results.

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