



COBIS Annual Research Survey 2018 Summary Report

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We are delighted to be working with COBIS once again to produce the 2018 Annual Research Survey.

We work to provide schools with assessments to help teachers and senior leaders deliver whole school improvement, realise every student's potential and engage effectively with their stakeholders.

Our assessments of attainment, attitude and ability give teachers a 'whole student view' which helps them to develop students into confident and happy learners who succeed at school.



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COBIS Annual Research Survey 2018

This report details the findings of the COBIS Annual Research Survey, conducted in 2018, in partnership with GL Education. The Annual Research Survey collects information about assessment and curriculum choices, examination results, and University destinations.

The findings support the lobbying work of COBIS and inform the strategic development of the association. COBIS represents more than 250 high-quality British International Schools in over 75 countries worldwide. These schools educate more than 150,000 pupils and employ more than 30,000 teachers and support staff.

The Annual Research Survey was carried out between the 8th of October 2018 and the 6th of November 2018. 139 schools responded to the survey, giving a response rate of 54%.

The following report provides a summary of the findings. All data presented represents responding schools unless otherwise specified.

Membership Category

There are three levels of membership in the COBIS Membership Framework. COBIS Patron's Accredited Schools have completed the COBIS Patron's Accreditation. COBIS Accredited Member Schools have undergone a successful British Schools Overseas (BSO) inspection. COBIS Member Schools have completed COBIS Compliance.

Geographic Location

There are currently 259 COBIS schools worldwide, located in 76 countries. For the purpose of reporting and high-level analysis, COBIS schools are grouped into five geographical regions: Africa, The Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

- 41% of COBIS Schools are in Europe
- 21% of COBIS Schools are in Africa
- 18% of COBIS Schools are in the Middle East
- 16% of COBIS Schools are in Asia
- 4% of COBIS Schools are in the Americas

Data Sources

The primary data contained in this report was collected during the COBIS Annual Research Survey; 139 schools responded to the survey.

All top-line report figures are reliable to within 10% at the 95% confidence level.

Benchmarking Data

- UK School exam results came from the JCQ Summer 2018 results. ^[1,2]
- UK Independent School exam results came from the ISC Summer 2018 results. ^[3]
- IB Diploma results came from the Independent Schools Council (ISC) Summer 2018 results^[3] and IBO results. ^[4]
- International School exam results came from the Pearson June 2018 results ^[5] and the Cambridge International (CIE) results June 2018. ^[6,7]

1 - <https://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/gcse/2018>

2 - <https://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/a-levels/2018>

3 - <https://www.isc.co.uk/research/exam-results/>

4 - <http://www.ibo.org/contentassets/bc850970f4e54b87828f83c7976a4db6/dp-statistical-bulletin-may-2018-en.pdf>

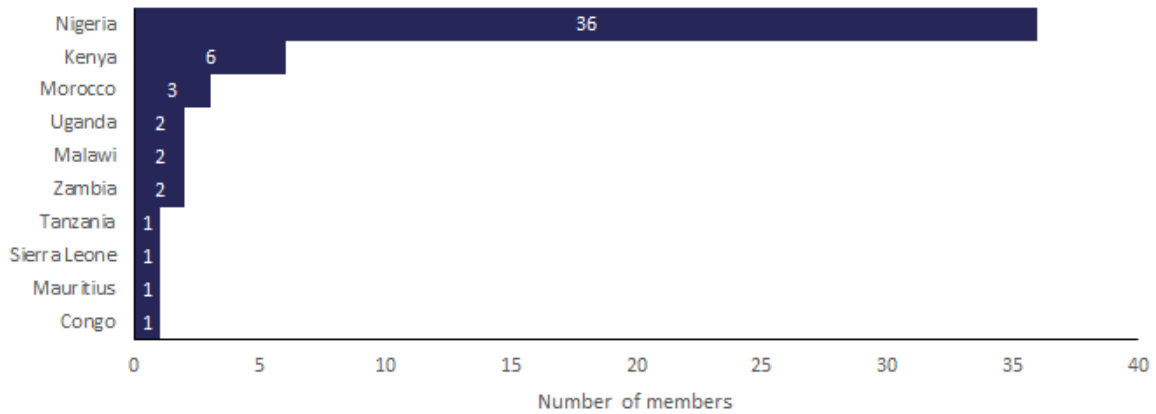
5 - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-statistics.html>

6 - <http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-international-as-and-a-levels/results-statistics/>

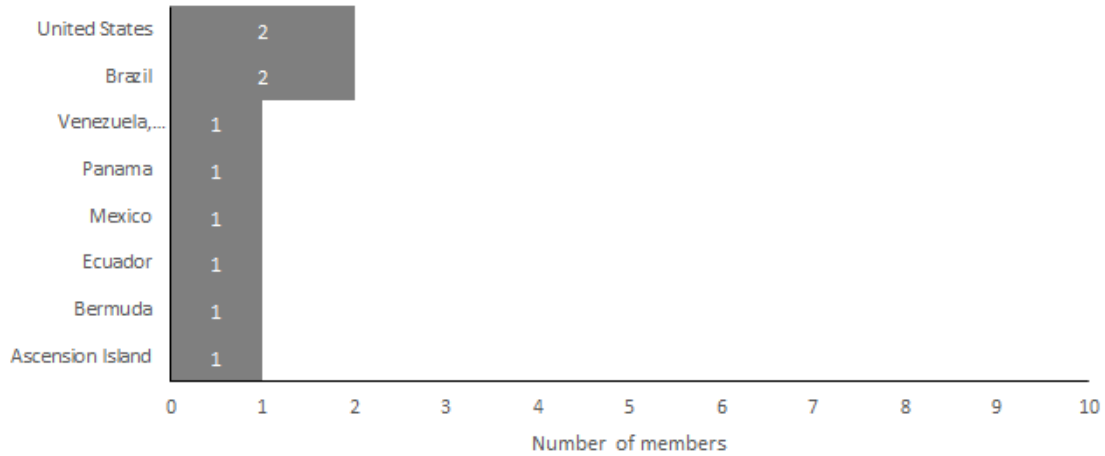
7 - <http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-secondary-2/cambridge-igcse/results-statistics/>

COBIS Schools by Country

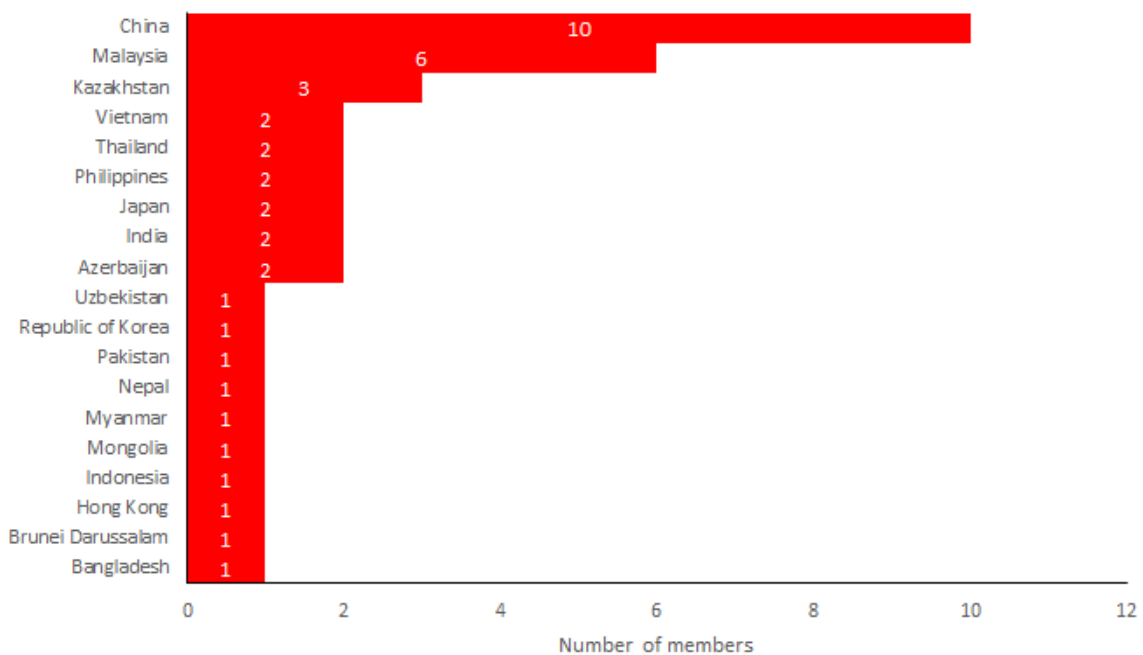
Africa



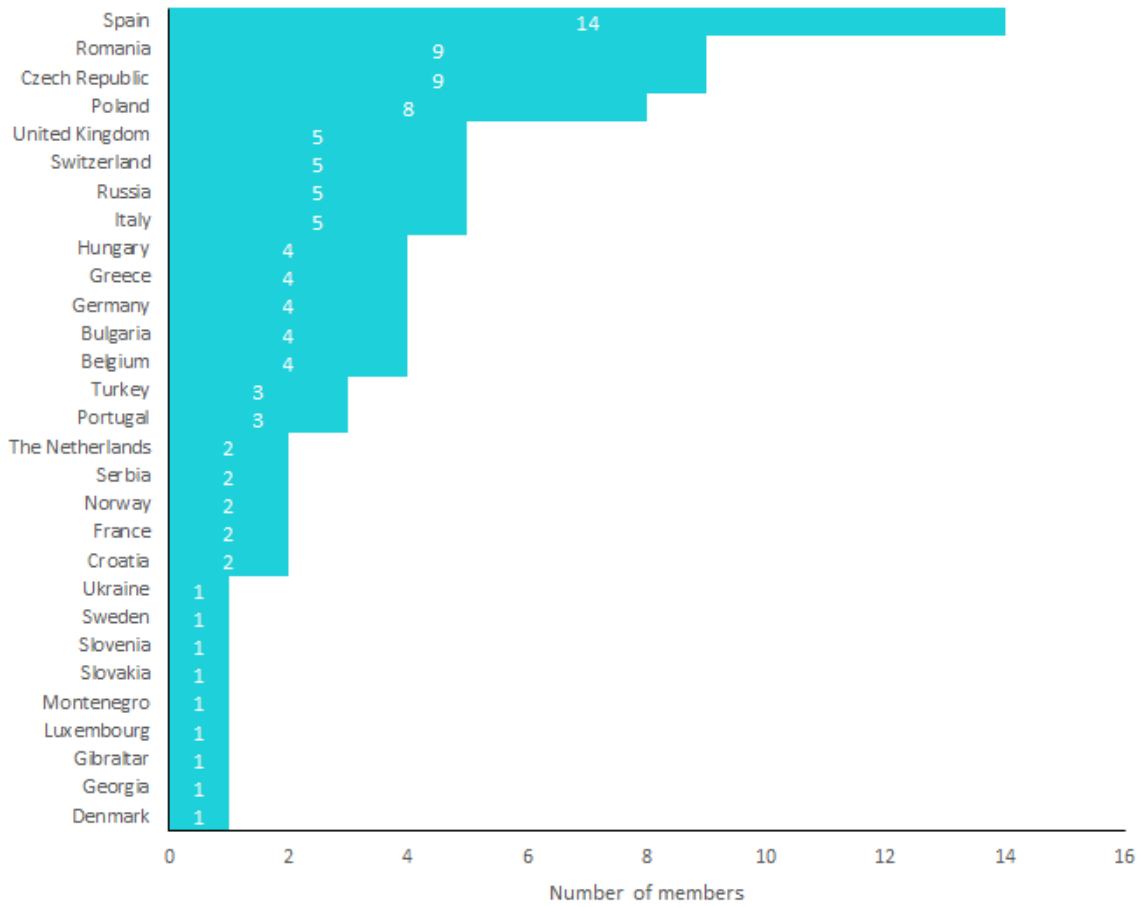
The Americas



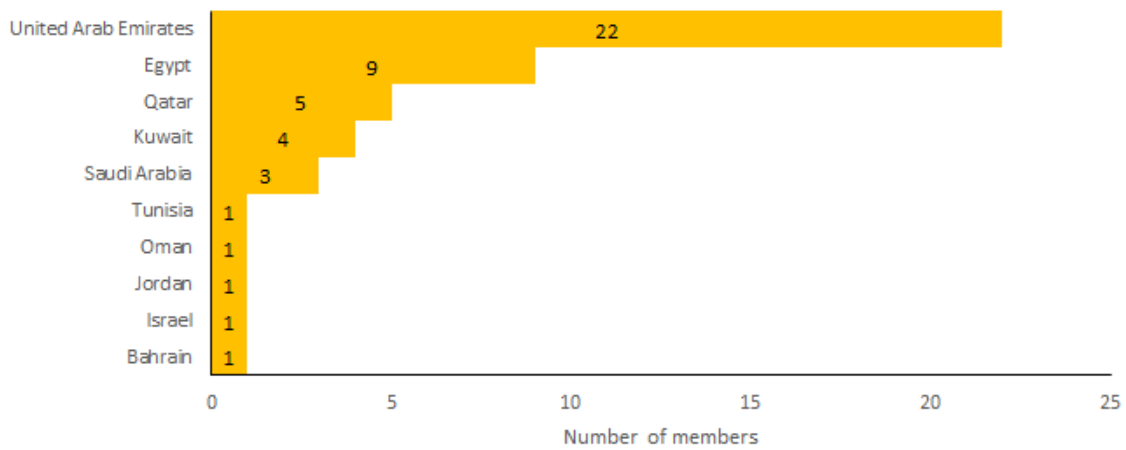
Asia



Europe



Middle East



Executive Summary

School Phases

- 74% of responding schools teach both primary and secondary phase.
- 18% of responding schools teach primary phase only.
- 8% of responding schools teach secondary phase only.

Curriculum Followed by Schools

COBIS Schools follow a range of curricula, often used in combination.

UK National Curriculum	89.2%
Cambridge Secondary	26.6%
IB Diploma	20.9%
Local National Curriculum	15.8%
International Primary Curriculum	15.8%
Cambridge Primary	13.7%
Primary Years Programme	2.9%
Middle Years Programme	2.2%
International Middle Years Curriculum	0.7%
Other	15.8%

N.B. "UK National Curriculum refers to the "National Curriculum in England".

Of those choosing "Other", more than 17% use BTECs.

Examinations Offered by Schools

The examinations most commonly administered by COBIS schools this year were IGCSE and A-Level.

IGCSE	73.4%
A Level	43.2%
AS Level	36.7%
GCSE	34.5%
IB (International Baccalaureate Diploma)	20.9%
Other	73.4%

Of those choosing "Other", more than 27% use BTECs and more than 27% use local examinations.

Awarding Bodies Used by Schools

CIE	66.2%
Edexcel/Pearson	48.2%
AQA	30.2%
Other	3.6%

Of those choosing "Other", one third use local exam boards.

University Destinations

There were a total of 2,541 leavers across all responding schools during the previous academic year. More than 45% of those leavers went on to University in the UK.

Proportion of leavers in 2017/18 going on to University/HE.	91.5%
Proportion of leavers in 2017/18 going on to University/HE in the UK.	47.0%
Proportion of leavers in 2017/18 going on to University/HE in the host country.	16.4%

Leavers from responding COBIS schools went on to a wide variety of UK Universities.

Some of the top destinations include University College London, University of Warwick, and the University of Bath. See p.14 for more detail.

For students who went on to University in countries other than the UK or the host school country, the most popular destinations were the United States, Canada and the Netherlands. See p.15 for more detail.

GCSE / IGCSE Results

For reporting purposes, GCSE and IGCSE results were combined into a single measure: schools were given the option to report grades separately, but a majority chose to report them combined.

With the transition to the new numbered grading structure, 7-9 has been taken as equivalent to A*/A and 4-9 has been taken as equivalent to A*-C. [8]

	COBIS	UK	Difference	Independent	Difference
Percentage of A*/A grades	57.2%	20.5%	36.7%	56.6%	0.6%
Percentage of A*-C grades	92.9%	66.9%	26.0%	93.3%	-0.4%
Overall pass rate.	99.2%	98.3%	0.9%	99.7%	-0.6%

		International			
	COBIS	Pearson	Difference	CIE	Difference
Percentage of A*/A grades	57.2%	42.2%	15.0%	44.2%	13.0%
Percentage of A*-C grades	92.9%	77.7%	15.2%	82.6%	10.2%
Overall pass rate.	99.2%	96.5%	2.6%	99.0%	0.1%

N.B. Only highlighted differences can be considered significant.

A Level Results

	COBIS	UK	Difference	Independent	Difference
Percentage of A*/A grades	43.9%	26.4%	17.5%	45.9%	-1.9%
Percentage of A*-B grades	66.9%	53.0%	13.9%	72.0%	-5.1%
Percentage of A*-C grades	86.9%	77.0%	9.9%	88.3%	-1.3%
Overall pass rate.	98.3%	97.6%	0.7%	99.0%	-0.7%

		International			
	COBIS	Pearson	Difference	CIE	Difference
Percentage of A*/A grades	43.9%	31.4%	12.6%	21.0%	22.9%
Percentage of A*-B grades	66.9%	54.6%	12.3%	39.3%	27.6%
Percentage of A*-C grades	86.9%	71.5%	15.4%	57.1%	29.8%
Overall pass rate.	98.3%	91.3%	7.0%	88.5%	9.9%

N.B. Only highlighted differences can be considered significant.

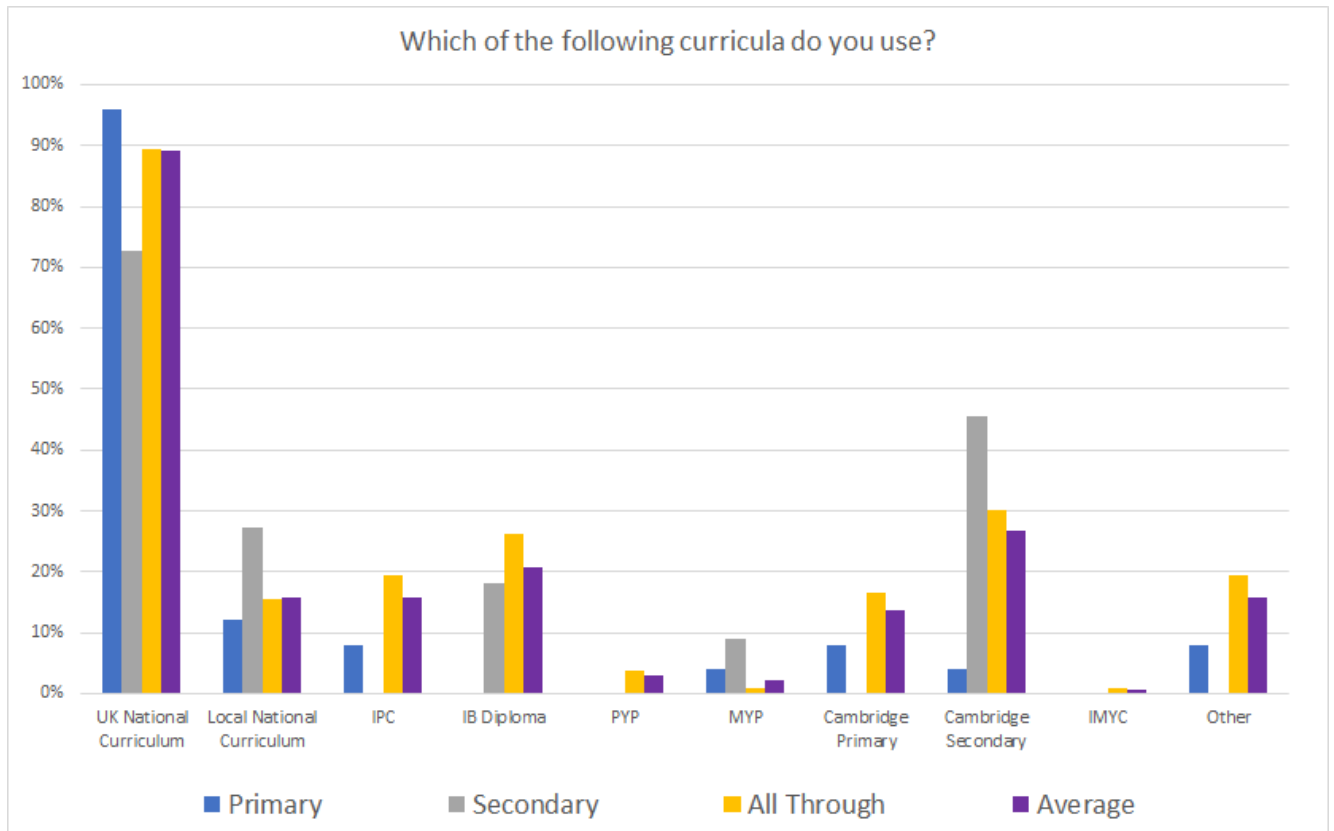
IB Diploma Results

	COBIS	ISC	Difference	IBO	Difference
Average points total	34.3	33.3	1.0	29.8	4.5
Overall pass rate	94.9%	94.3%	0.5%	78.2%	16.7%

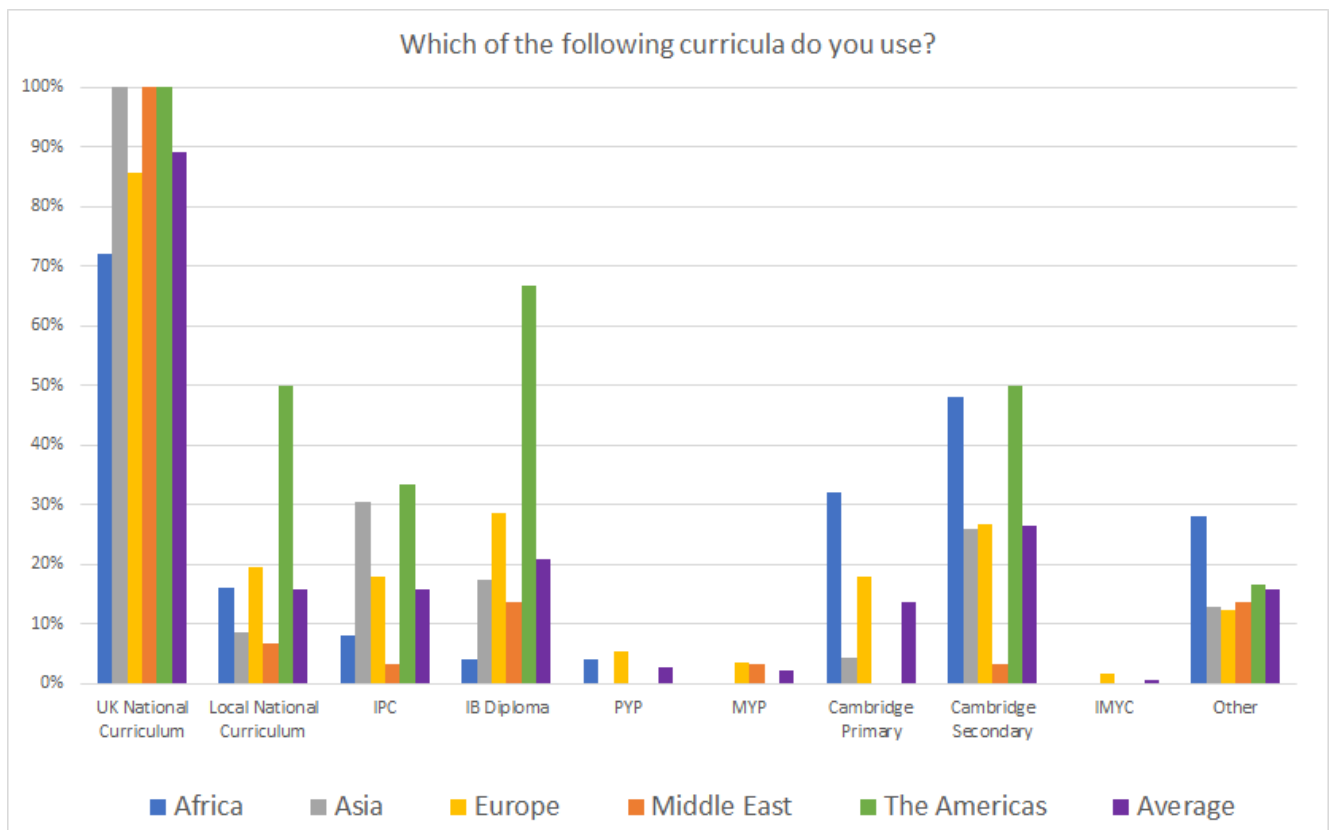
N.B. Only highlighted differences can be considered significant.

Curriculum Followed

Curriculum by Phase

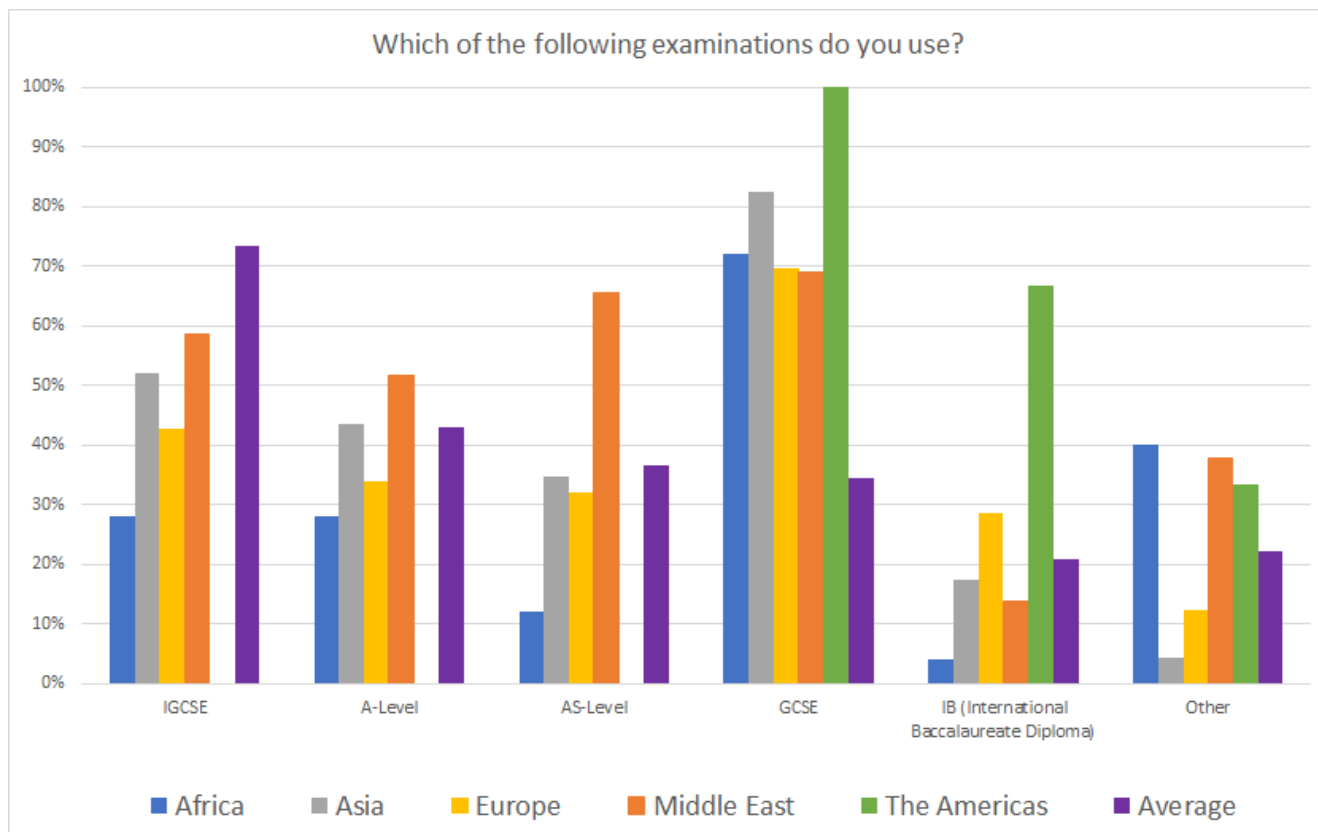


Curriculum by Region

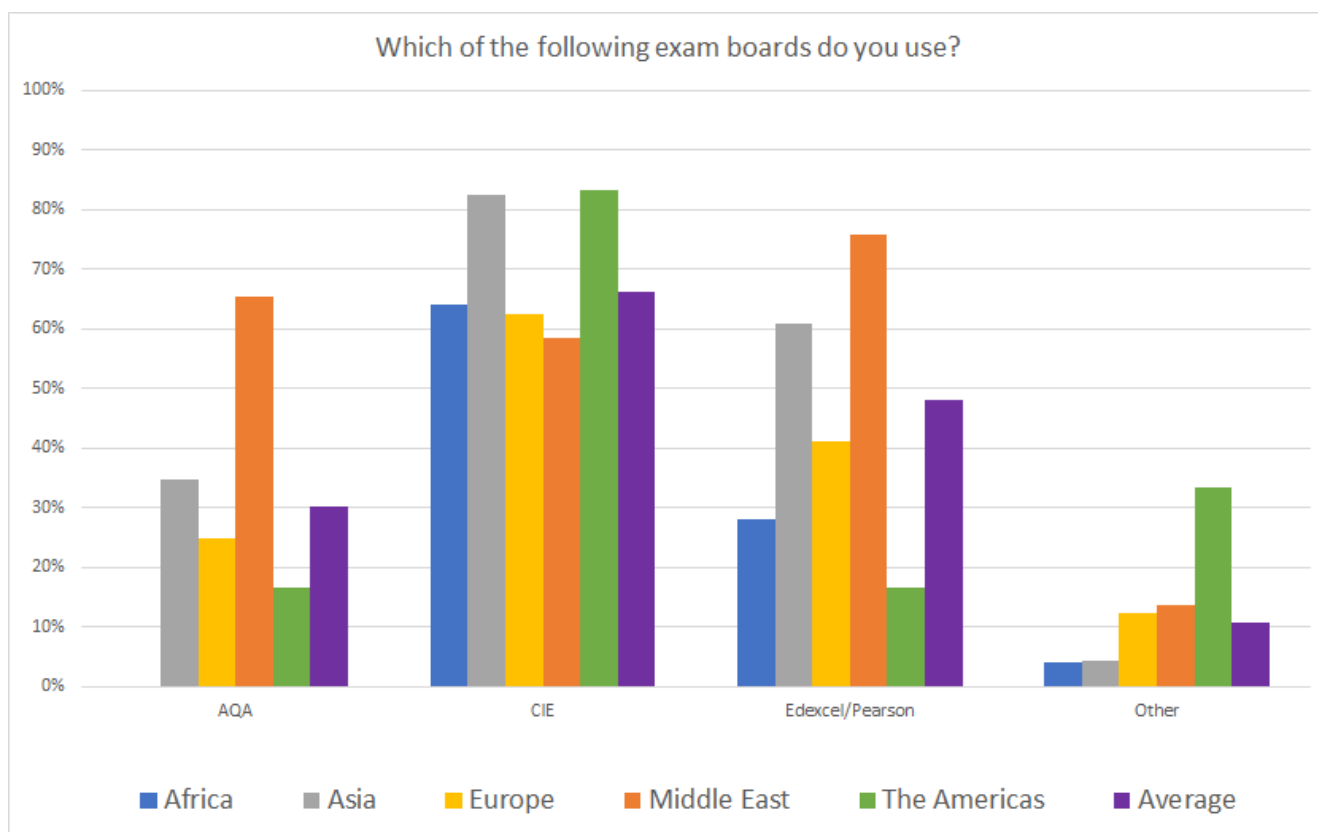


Examinations and Awarding Bodies

Examinations Offered by Region

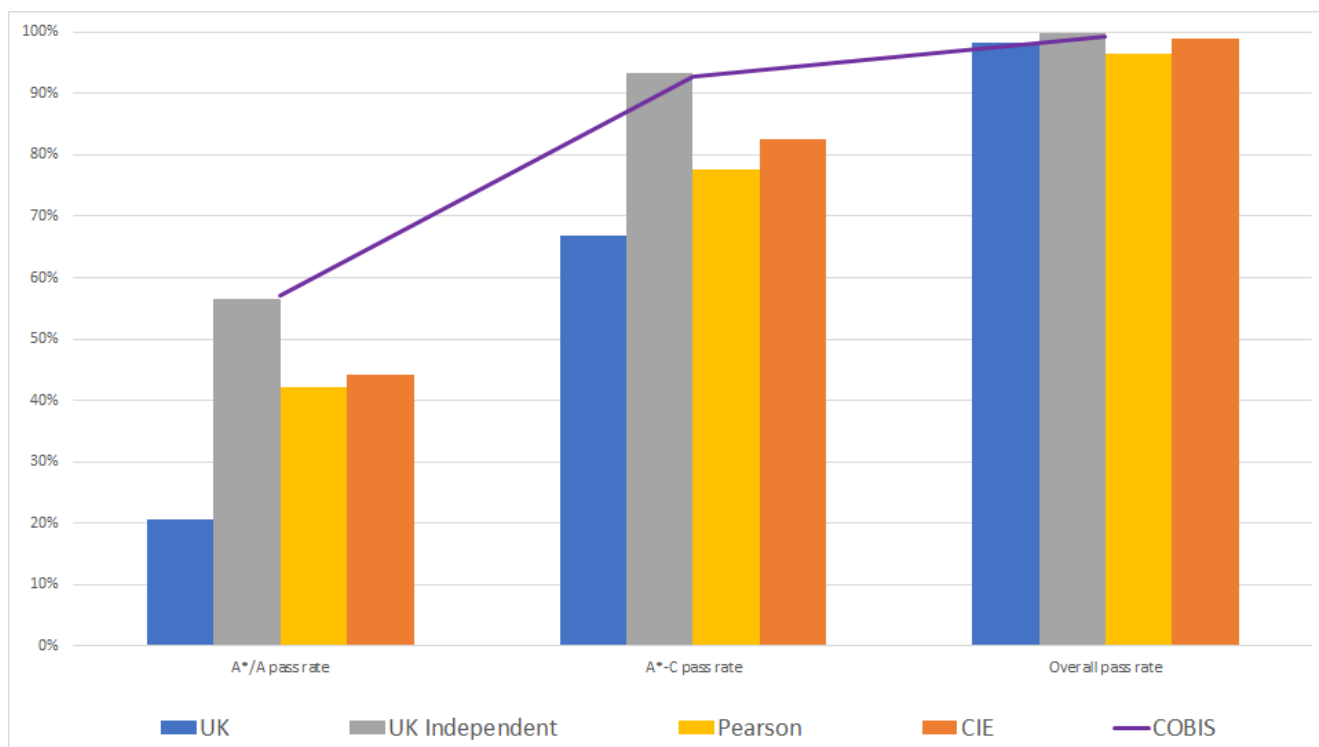


Awarding Bodies by Region

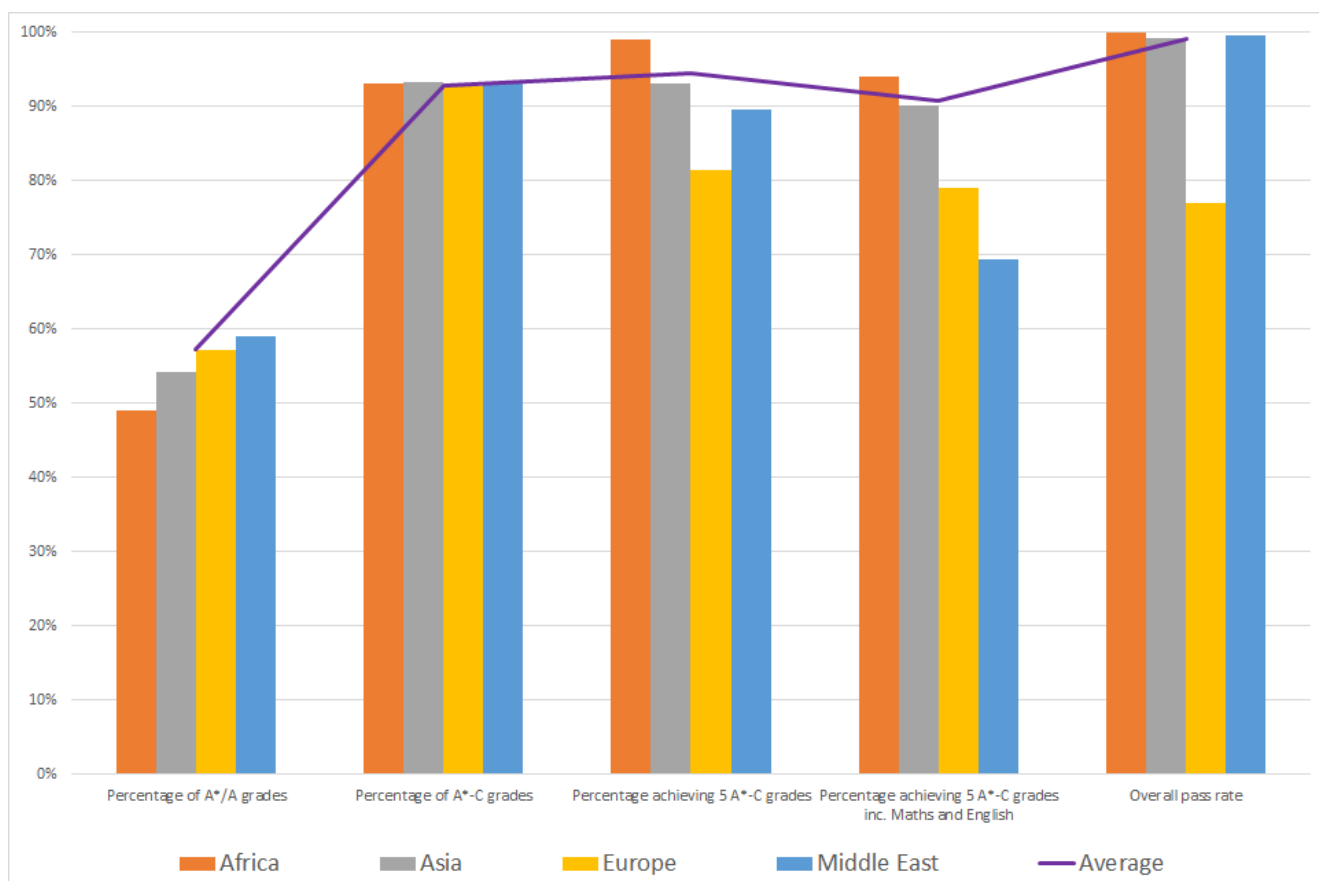


GCSE / IGCSE Results

GCSE / IGCSE Results versus Benchmarks



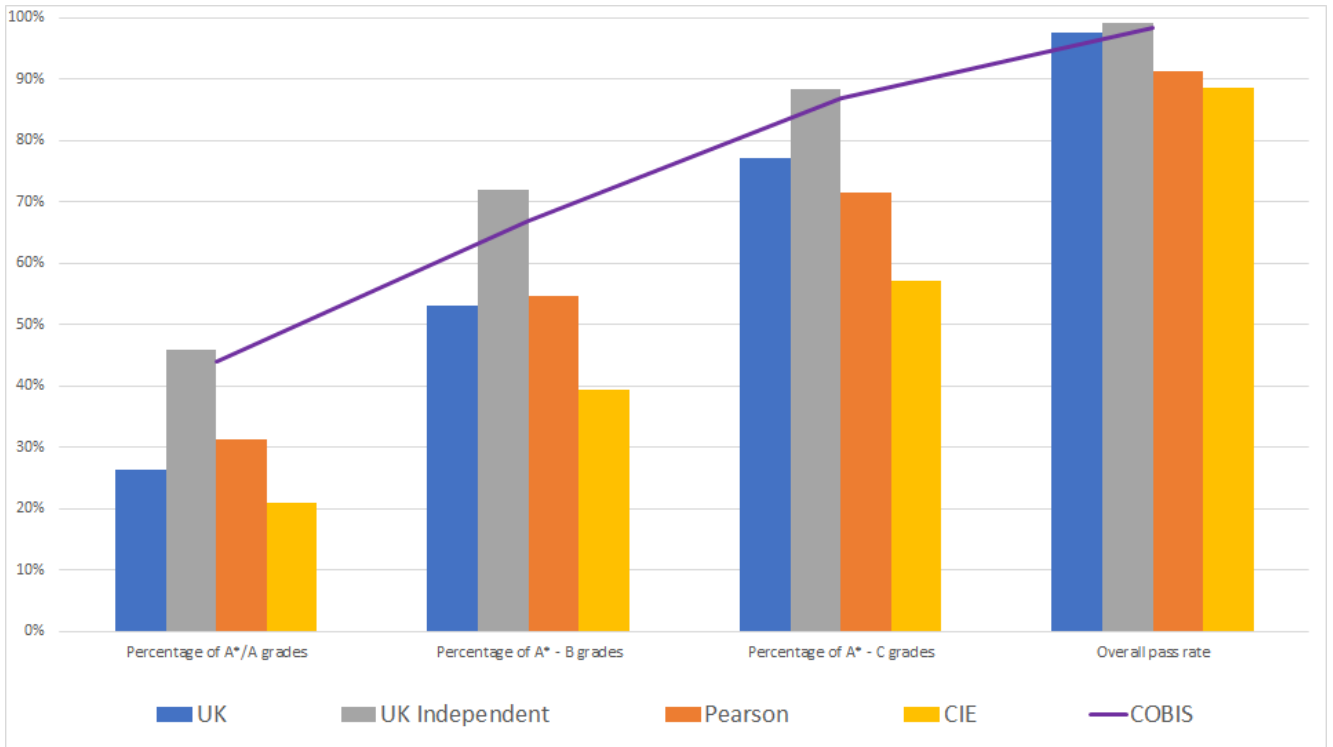
GCSE / IGCSE Results by Region



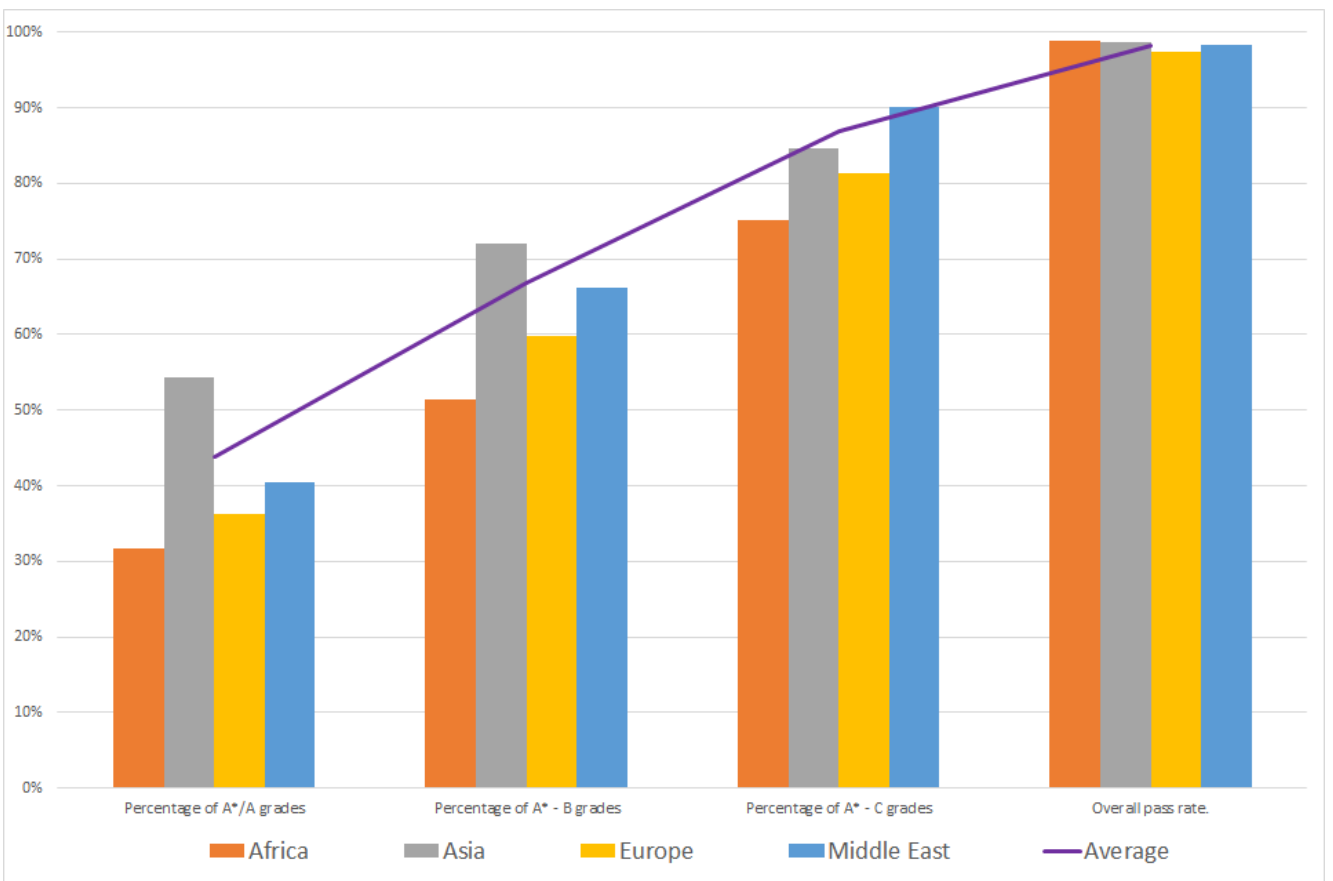
Insufficient responses were received from schools in The Americas to generate data at this level.

A Level Results

A Level Results versus Benchmarks



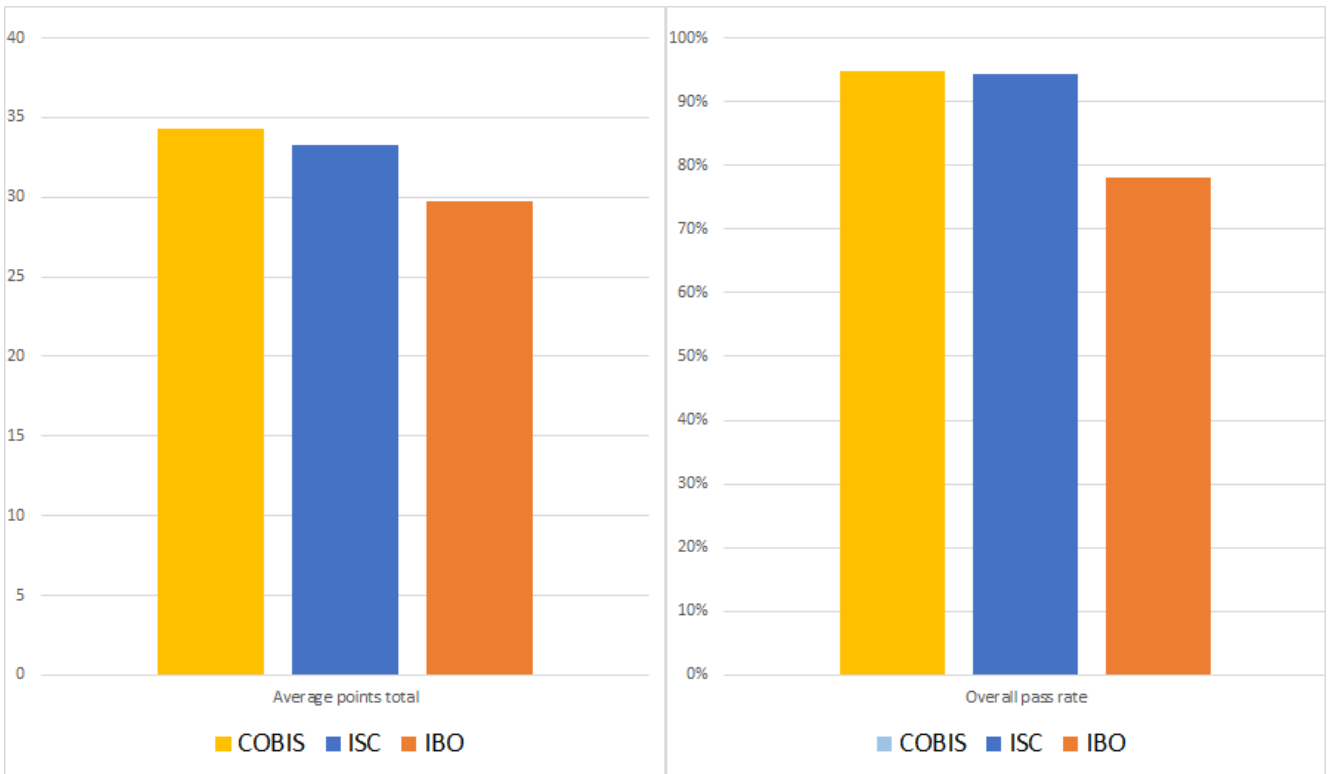
A Level Results by Region



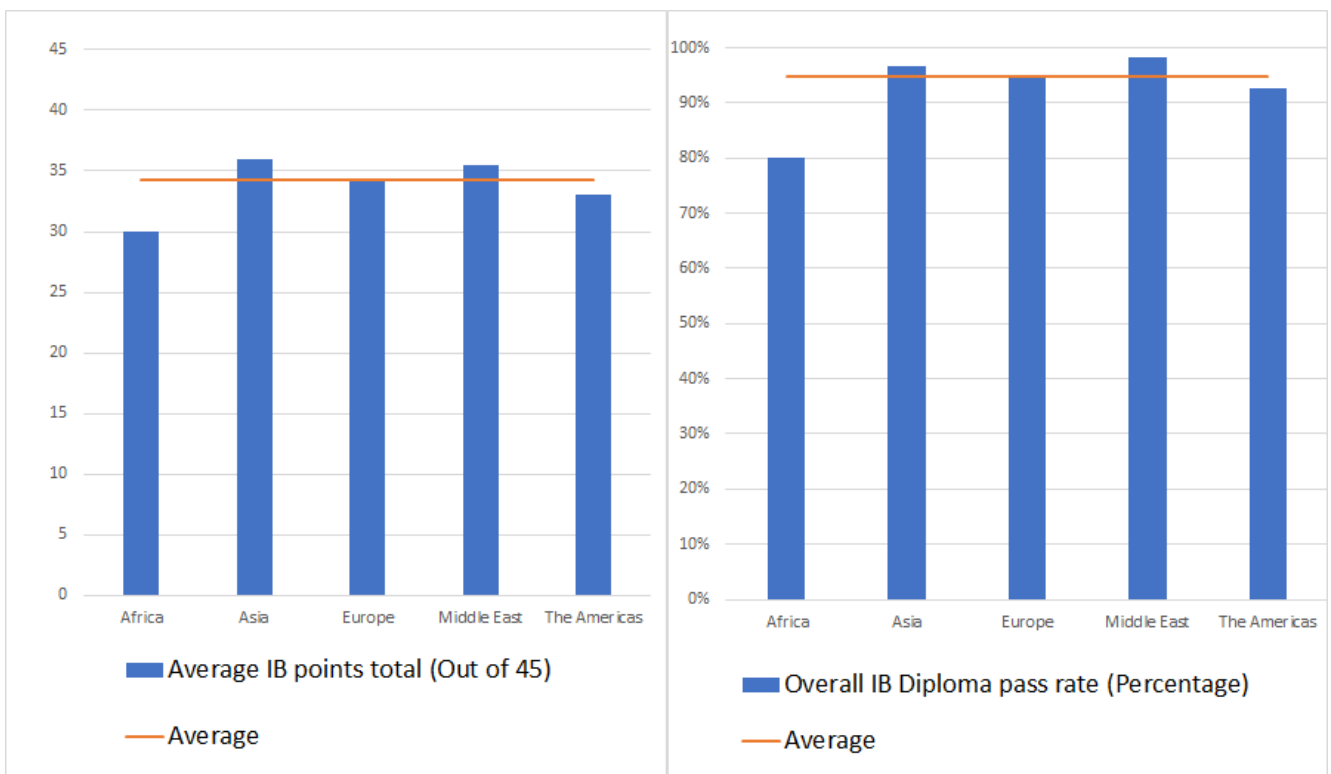
Insufficient responses were received from schools in the Americas to generate data at this level.

IB Diploma Results

IB Diploma Results versus Benchmarks



IB Diploma Results by Region

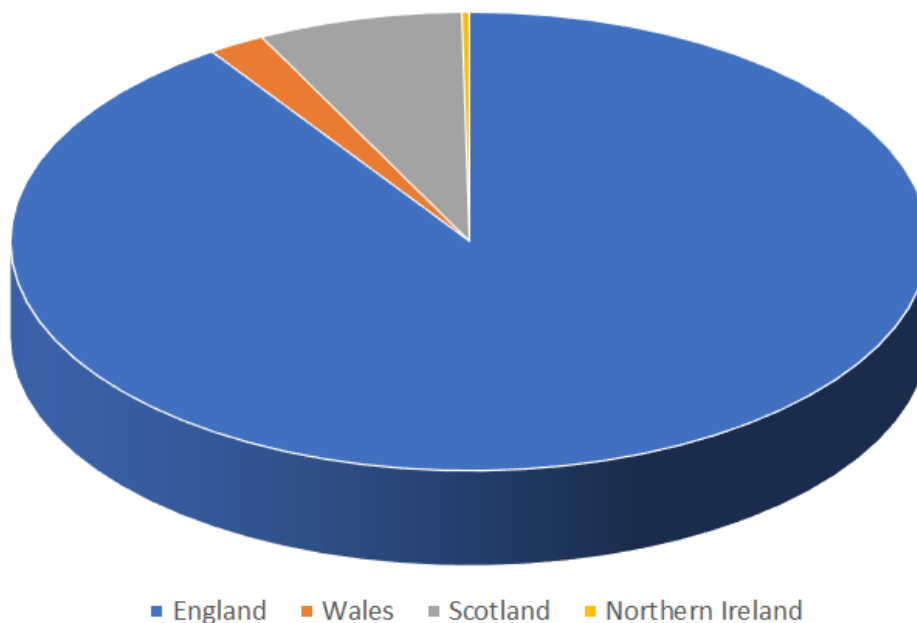


University Destinations

- 91.5% of COBIS leavers left to go on to University / HE.
 - 47.0% went on to University in the UK.
 - 16.4% went on to University in the schools' host countries.

Top UK University Destinations

University	Number of students	Proportion of UK leavers
University College London	50	6.7%
University of Warwick	49	6.6%
University of Bath	34	4.5%
London School of Economics	33	4.4%
King's College, London	32	4.3%
University of Manchester	30	4.0%
Nottingham University	28	3.7%
University of Edinburgh	28	3.7%
University of Exeter	24	3.2%
Queen Mary, University of London	23	3.1%
Imperial College, London	21	2.8%
University of Sussex	20	2.7%
Loughborough University	18	2.4%
University of Leeds	18	2.4%
The University of the Arts London	15	2.0%
University of Bristol	14	1.9%
University of Oxford	14	1.9%
University of Surrey	14	1.9%
University of Durham	13	1.7%
University of Essex	13	1.7%
University of Birmingham	12	1.6%
University of Sheffield	12	1.6%
Newcastle University	11	1.5%
University of York	11	1.5%
University of the West of England	10	1.3%



Top Non-UK University Destinations (excluding host country)

Country	Number of students	Proportion of Non-UK leavers
USA	153	33.7%
Canada	93	20.5%
Netherlands	61	13.4%
Australia	29	6.4%
Malaysia	18	4.0%
Bahrain	10	2.2%
Switzerland	10	2.2%
Indonesia	8	1.8%
Italy	8	1.8%
Hong Kong	7	1.5%
Spain	7	1.5%
Ireland	6	1.3%
Germany	6	1.3%

Top Non-UK University Destinations by Region

