



COBIS Annual Research Survey 2019 Summary Report

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We are delighted to be working with COBIS once again to produce the 2019 Annual Research Survey.

GL Education believes in a holistic student-focused approach to assessment whereby ability, attainment and barriers to learning can be assessed and compared to help you better understand each child.

With a deeper insight into your students' capability, struggles, learning barriers, current and comparative performance and rate of progress, you are better able to personalise learning according to each individual student's needs.

By taking a joined-up approach, our assessments enable you to build a whole-student view that will support your activity across the school: guiding teaching and learning, supporting inclusion, informing wellbeing interventions and providing a fair and reliable measure of value-added.



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COBIS Annual Research Survey 2019

This report details the findings of the COBIS Annual Research Survey, conducted in 2019, 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 260 high-quality British International Schools in more than 75 countries worldwide.

These schools educate more than 165,000 pupils and employ more than 30,000 teachers and support staff.

The Annual Research Survey was carried out between 7 October 2019 and 7 November 2019.

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

Membership Category

There are three levels of membership in the main 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.

In addition, COBIS Provisional School Members are those that are within two years of opening and are aiming to pursue COBIS Patron's Accreditation or Compliance.

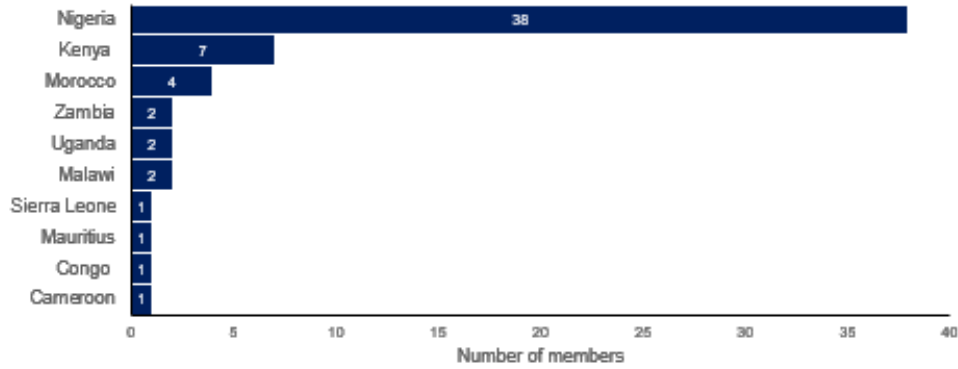
Geographic Location

There are currently 263 COBIS schools worldwide, located in 79 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.

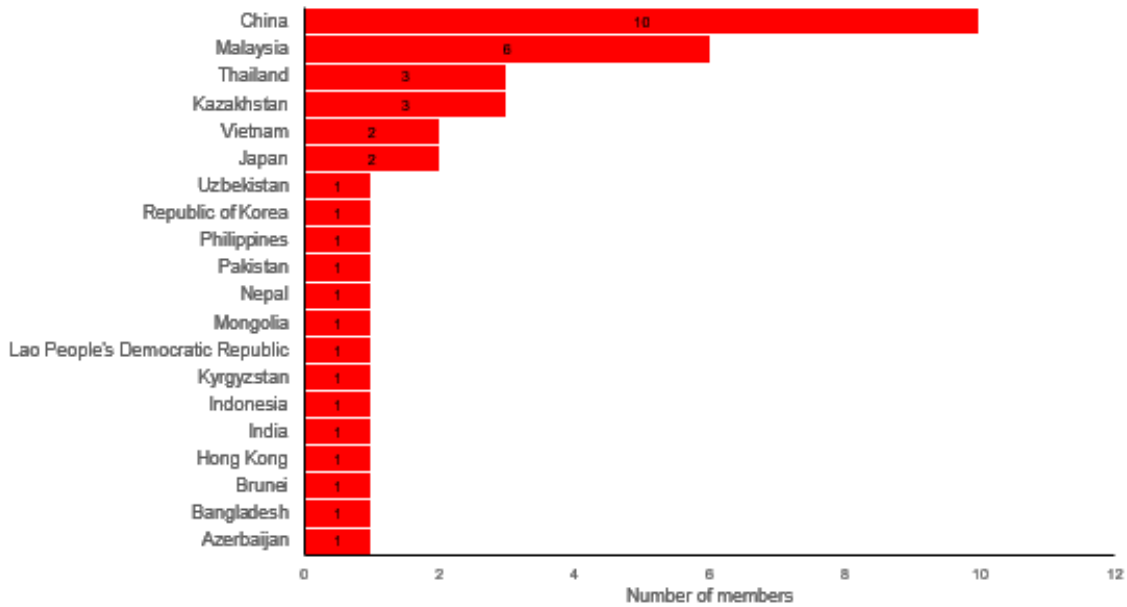
- 39% of COBIS Schools are in Europe
- 22% of COBIS Schools are in Africa
- 19% of COBIS Schools are in the Middle East
- 15% of COBIS Schools are in Asia
- 4% of COBIS Schools are in the Americas

COBIS Schools by Country

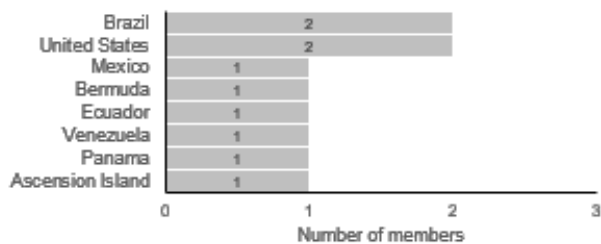
Africa



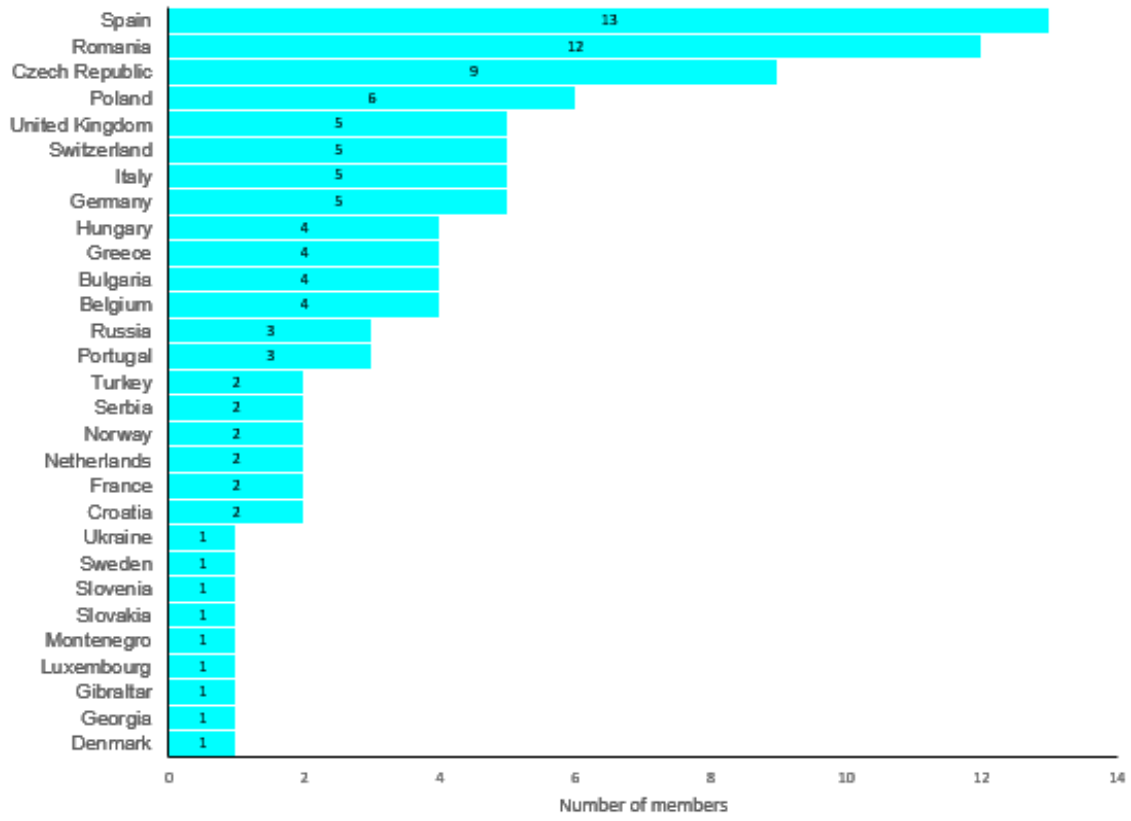
Asia



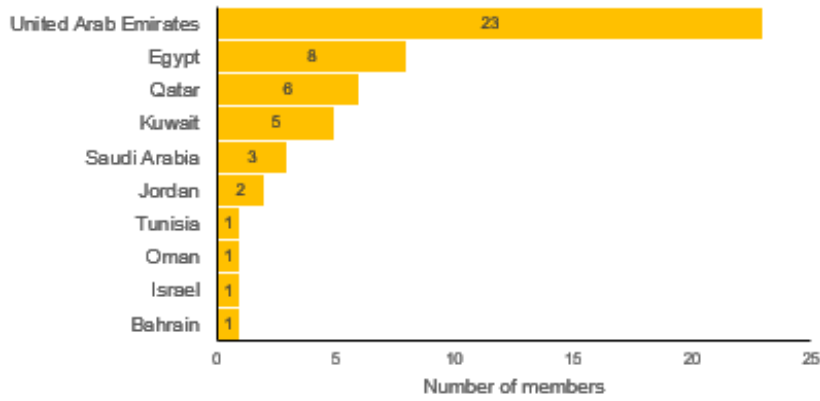
The Americas



Europe



Middle East



Data Sources

The primary data contained in this report was collected during the COBIS Annual Research Survey; 96 schools responded to the survey which was open to members from 7 October to 7 November 2019.

Benchmarking Data

- UK School exam results came from the JCQ Summer 2019 results. ^[1,2]
- UK Independent School exam results came from the ISC Summer 2019 results. ^[3]
- IB Diploma results came from the Independent Schools Council (ISC) Summer 2019 results ^[3] and International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) 2019 results. ^[4]
- International school exam results came from the Pearson June 2019 results ^[5] and the Cambridge International (CIE) results June 2019. ^[6,7]

1 - <https://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/gcse/2019/other-results-information/gcse-outcomes-for-16-year-olds-in-england-northern-ireland-and-wales>

2 - <https://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results/a-levels/2019/main-results-tables/a-level-and-as-results-summer-2019>

3 - <https://www.isc.co.uk/research/exam-results/exam-results-2019>

4 - <https://ibo.org/contentassets/bc850970f4e54b87828f83c7976a4db6/dp-statistical-bulletin-may-2019.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/>

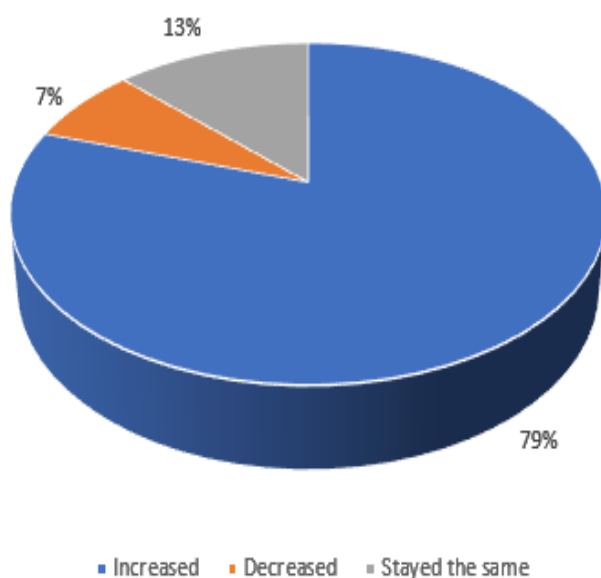
Executive Summary

School Phases

- 78% of responding schools teach both primary and secondary phase.
- 12% of responding schools teach primary phase only.
- 10% of responding schools teach secondary phase only.

Student Numbers and Nationalities

79% of responding schools indicated that student numbers had increased over the past three years.



- Primary class sizes range from 15 to 29 and Secondary class sizes range from 10 and 27 students.
- Overall school sizes vary greatly. COBIS schools range from 87 to 3,800 students. Student numbers in Primary schools (or Primary sections of all-through schools) range from 65 to 2,600. Student numbers in Secondary schools (or Secondary sections of all-through schools) range from 12 to 1,331.
- The average number of student nationalities per school is 38, ranging from a minimum of 3 nationalities to a maximum of 110.

Teacher Nationalities

Teacher nationalities per school ranged from 1 to 28. On average 43% of the teacher workforce are UK nationals and 20% of the teacher workforce are local nationals.

Curriculum Followed by Schools

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

UK National Curriculum	82.3%
Cambridge Secondary	30.2%
IB Diploma	29.2%
Local National Curriculum	28.1%
IMYC	2.1%
MYP	2.1%
Cambridge Primary	18.8%
IPC	14.6%
PYP	1.0%
Other	10.4%

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

Of those choosing "Other" 20% followed US Common Core Standards.

Examinations Offered by Schools

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

IGCSE	80.2%
A-Level	46.9%
AS-Level	41.7%
GCSE	35.4%
IB (International Baccalaureate Diploma)	29.2%
Other	15.6%

Awarding Bodies Used by Schools

The awarding body most commonly used for examinations is Cambridge International Examinations (CIE).

CIE	74.0%
Edexcel/Pearson	47.9%
AQA	27.1%
Other	11.5%

University Destinations

There were a total of 2,234 leavers across all responding schools at the end of the previous academic year. 2,048 students went on to University; 53% of those leavers went on to University in the UK.

Proportion of leavers in 2018/19 going on to University/HE.	91.7%
Proportion of leavers in 2018/19 going on to University/HE in the UK.	53.2%
Proportion of leavers in 2018/19 going on to University/HE in the host country.	14.1%

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

Some of the top destinations include the University of Exeter, University of Warwick, University of Bristol and University College London. See p.16 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, the Netherlands and Canada. See p.17 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.

Regarding the transition to the numbered grading structure, 7-9 has been taken as equivalent to A*/A and 4-9 has been taken as equivalent to A*-C. ^[1]

	COBIS	England	Difference	Independent	Difference
Percentage of A*-A or 9-7 grades	48.0%	21.8%	26.2%	64.9%	-16.9%
Percentage of A*-C or 9-4 grades	89.0%	69.9%	19.1%	96.5%	-7.5%
Overall pass rate	96.0%	98.5%	-2.5%	99.8%	-3.8%

	COBIS	International			
	COBIS	Pearson	Difference	CIE	Difference
Percentage of A*-A or 9-7 grades	48.0%	42.2%	5.8%	41.6%	6.4%
Percentage of A*-C or 9-4 grades	89.0%	77.7%	11.3%	78.7%	10.3%
Overall pass rate	96.0%	96.5%	-0.5%	98.8%	-2.8%

A Level Results

	COBIS	UK	Difference	Independent	Difference
Percentage of A*-A grades	44.4%	25.5%	18.9%	50.1%	-5.6%
Percentage of A*-B grades	68.0%	51.6%	16.4%	75.6%	-8.7%
Percentage of A*-C grades	82.6%	75.8%	6.8%	90.4%	-7.8%
Overall pass rate	97.4%	97.6%	-0.2%	99.3%	-2.0%

	COBIS	International			
	COBIS	Pearson	Difference	CIE	Difference
Percentage of A*-A grades	44.4%	31.4%	13.1%	22.6%	21.3%
Percentage of A*-B grades	68.0%	54.6%	13.4%	41.4%	25.5%
Percentage of A*-C grades	82.6%	71.5%	11.1%	58.8%	23.8%
Overall pass rate	97.4%	91.3%	6.1%	89.2%	8.1%

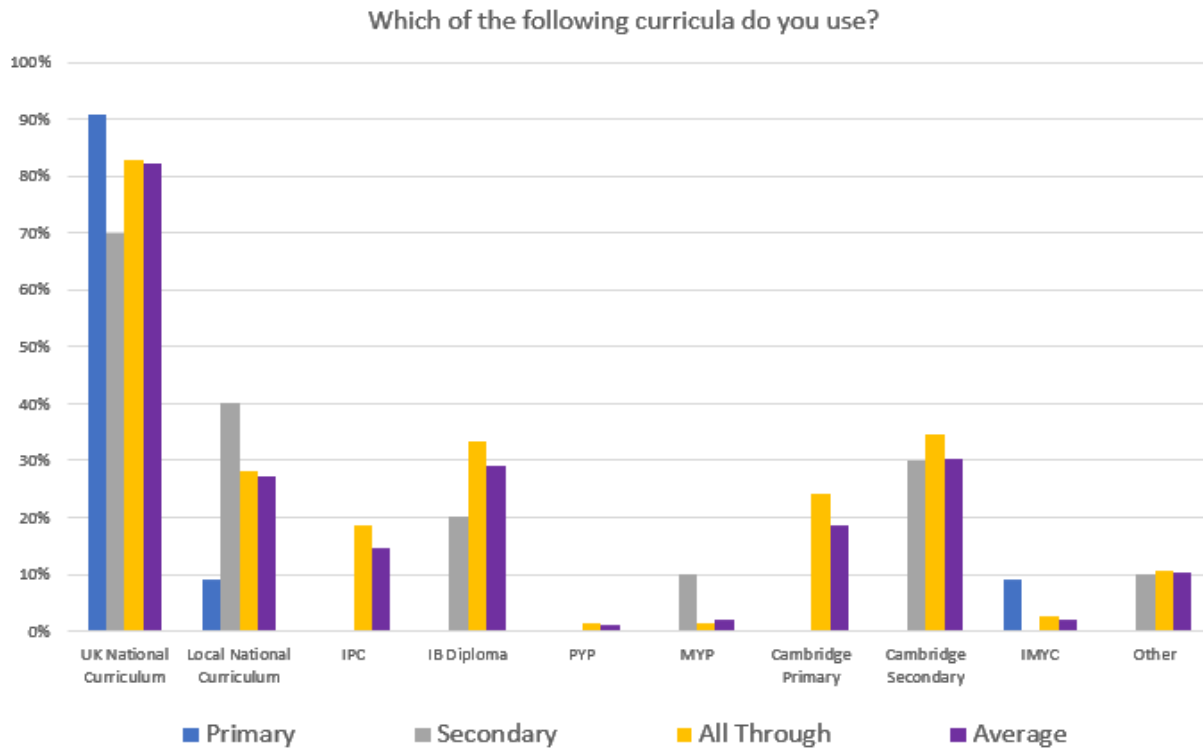
IB Diploma Results

	COBIS	ISC	Difference	IBO	Difference
Average points total	33.0	33.6	-0.6	29.7	3.4
Overall pass rate	91.0%	94.0%	-3.0%	77.8%	13.2%

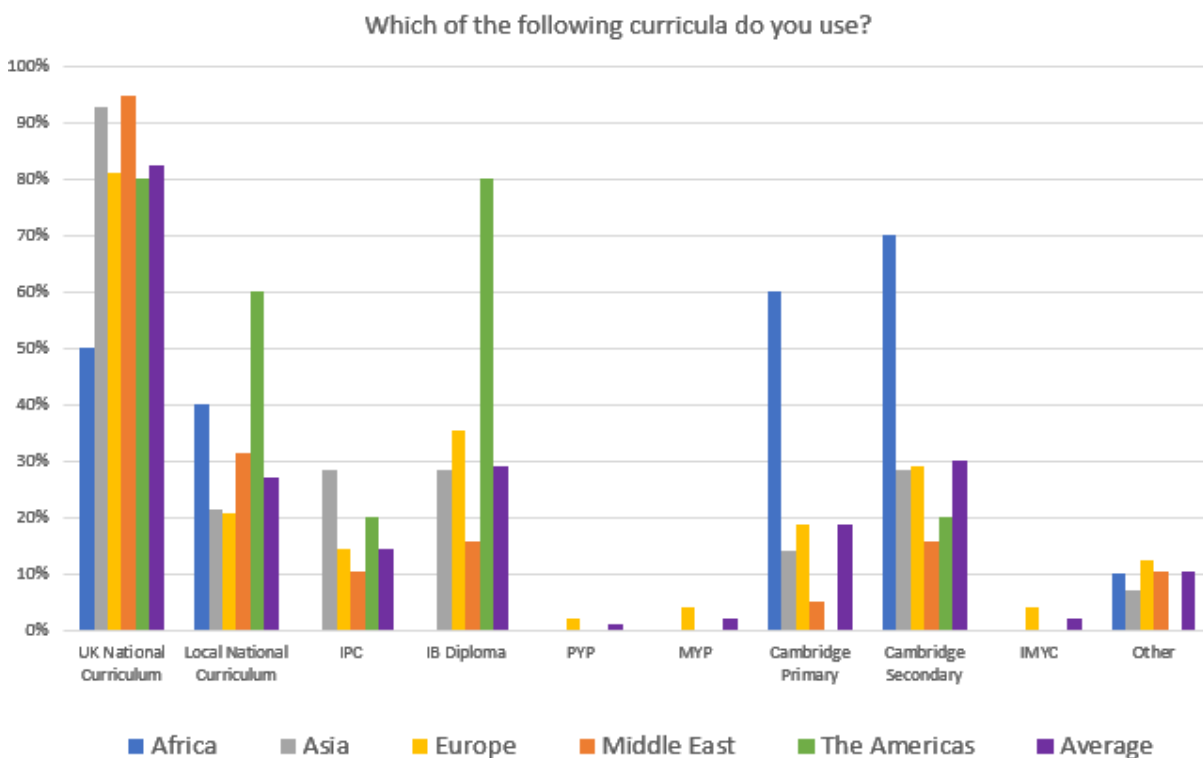
¹ <https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2019/03/02/gcse-9-to-1-grades-a-brief-guide-for-parents/>

Curriculum Followed

Curriculum by Phase

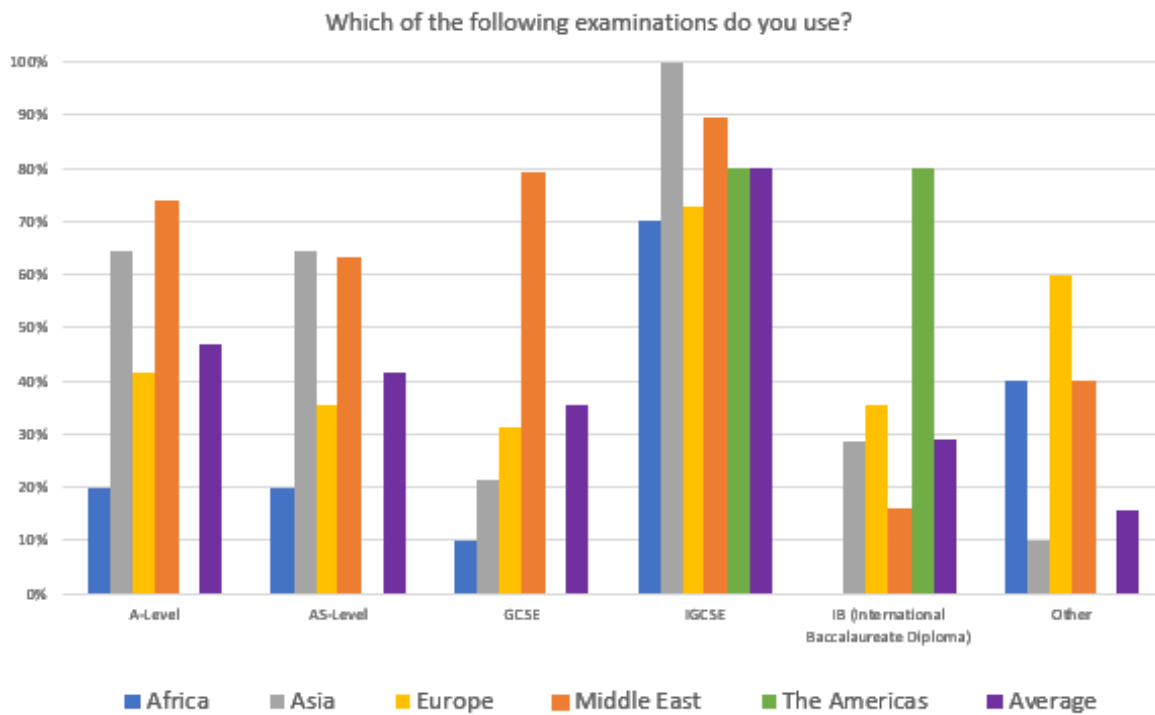


Curriculum by Region

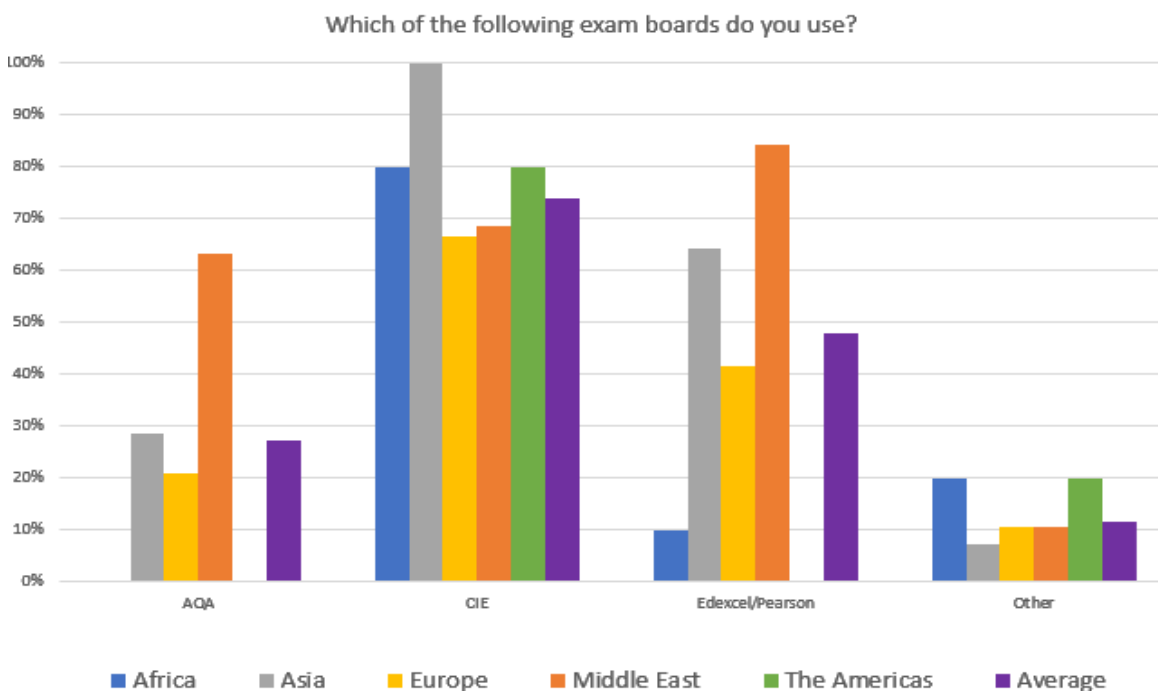


Examinations and Awarding Bodies

Examinations by Region

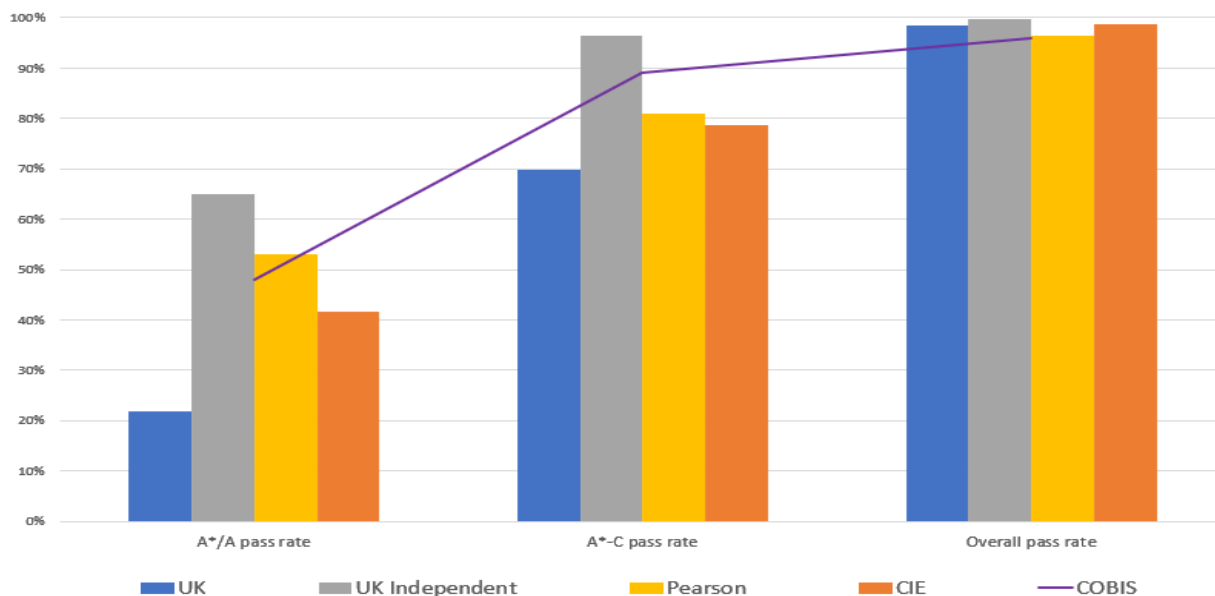


Awarding Bodies by Region

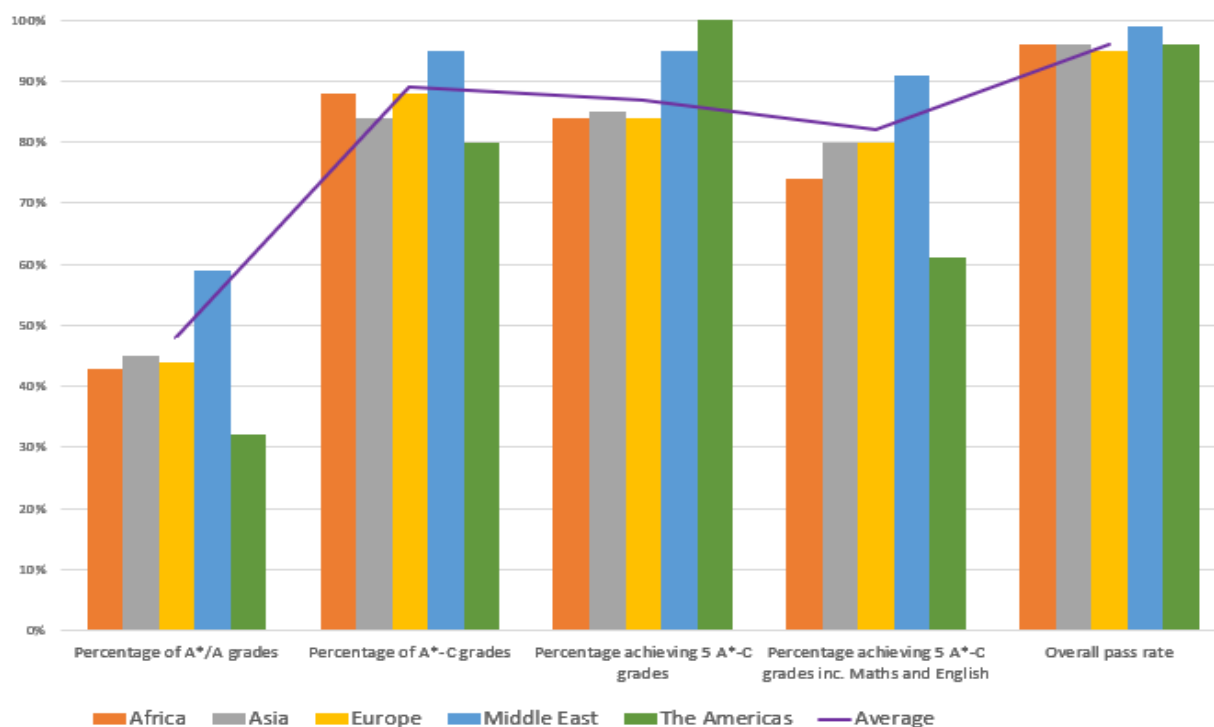


GCSE / IGCSE Results

GCSE / IGCSE Results vs Benchmarks

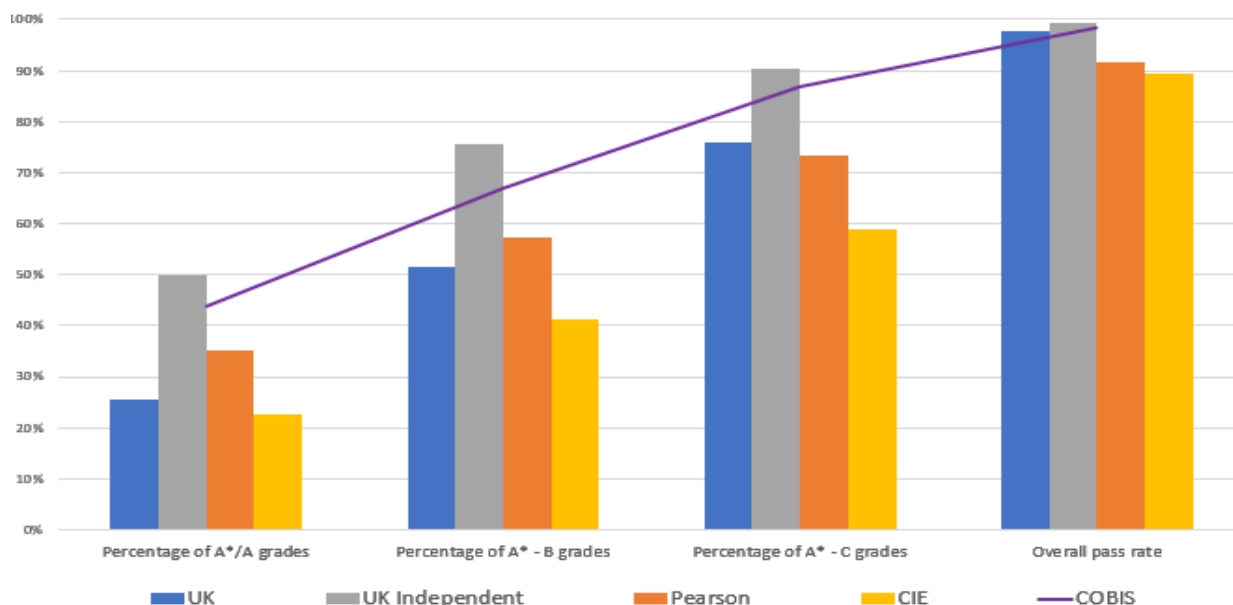


GCSE / IGCSE Results by Region

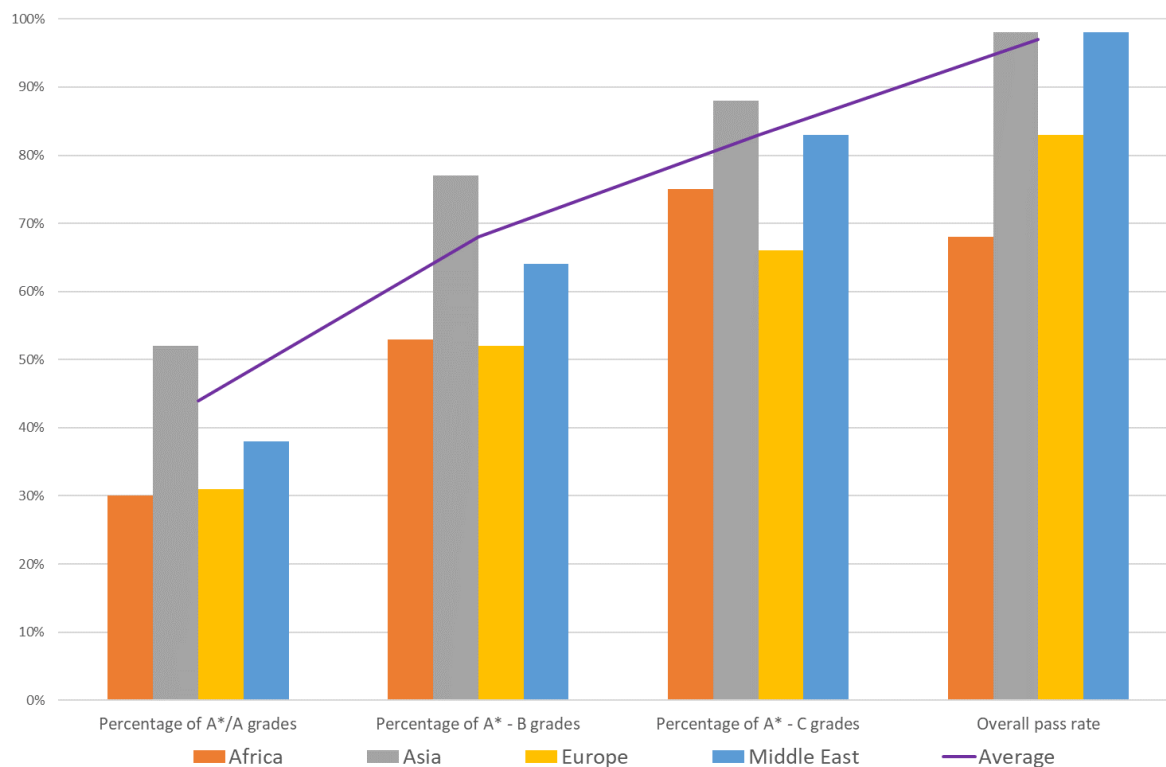


A Level Results

A Level Results vs Benchmarks



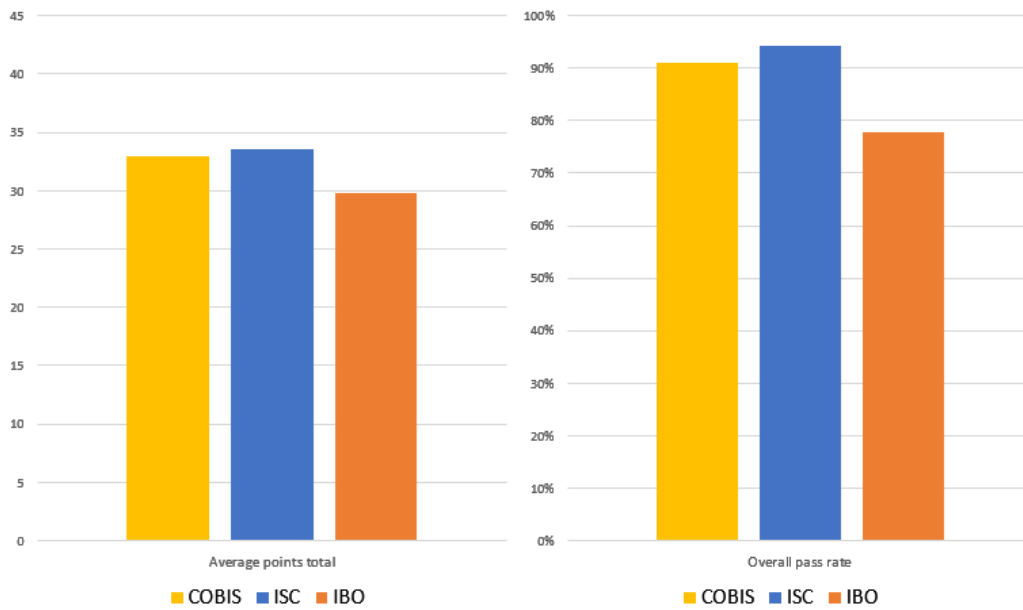
A Level Results by Region



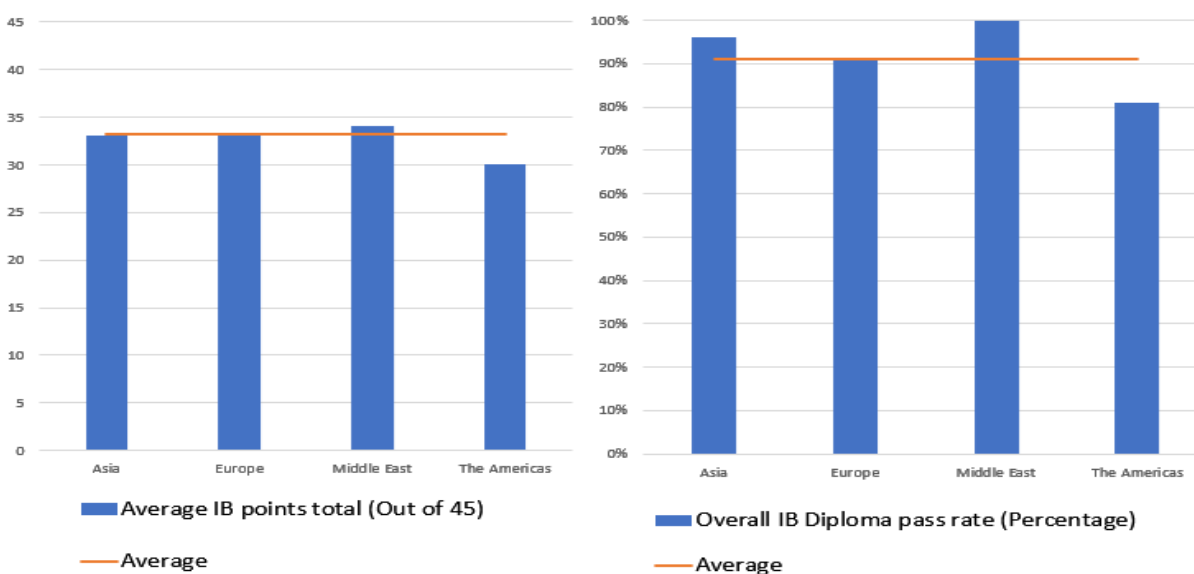
Insufficient responses were received from schools in the Americas to generate data at this level.

IB Diploma Results

IB Diploma Results vs Benchmarks



IB Diploma Results by Region



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

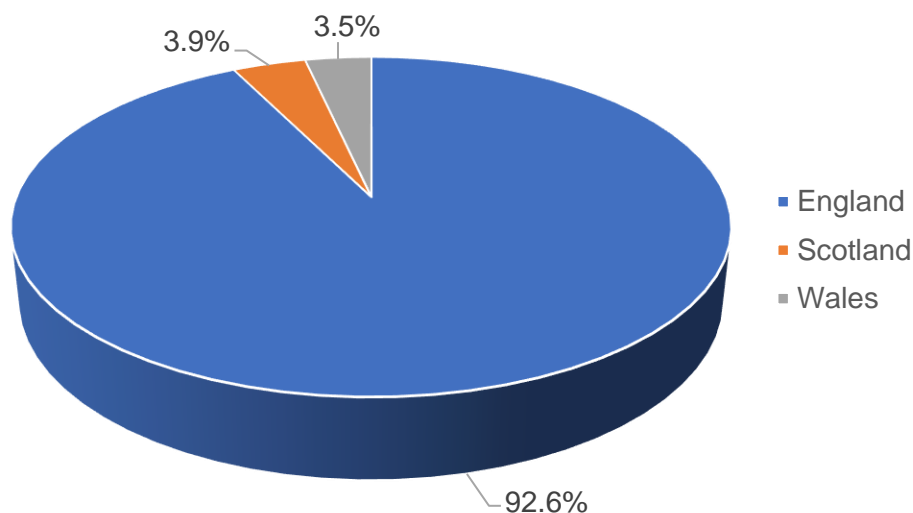
University Destinations

- 91.7% of COBIS leavers left to go on to University / HE.
- 53.2% went on to University in the UK.
- 14.1% went on to University in the schools' host countries.

Top UK University Destinations

University	Number of students	Proportion of UK leavers
University of Exeter	32	5.9%
University of Warwick	30	5.5%
University of Bristol	29	5.4%
University College London (UCL)	28	5.2%
University of Manchester	27	5.0%
King's College London	26	4.8%
University of Surrey	23	4.3%
Imperial College London	22	4.1%
London School of Economics (LSE)	22	4.1%
University of Leeds	17	3.1%
University of Bath	16	3.0%
University of Birmingham	14	2.6%
Cardiff University	12	2.2%
Queen Mary University of London	10	1.8%
Loughborough University	10	1.8%
University of Kent	9	1.7%
Cambridge University	9	1.7%
Durham University	9	1.7%
University of Edinburgh	9	1.7%
University of Nottingham	8	1.5%
City University, London	8	1.5%

Top UK University Destinations



Top Non-UK University Destinations (excluding host country)

Country	Number of students	Proportion of Non-UK leavers
USA	148	29.0%
Netherlands	74	14.5%
Canada	60	11.8%
Australia	33	6.5%
Brazil	24	4.7%
Czech Republic	24	4.7%
Spain	21	4.1%
Malaysia	17	3.3%
Italy	13	2.5%
South Korea	10	2.0%
Belgium	9	1.8%
Switzerland	8	1.6%
Indonesia	8	1.6%
Turkey	6	1.2%
Other countries	61	12.0%

Top Non-UK University Destinations by Region

