

Written evidence submitted by Mr. Qais Hussain

How accurate are predicted grades at GCSE?

In 2019, around two-thirds of GCSE History students achieved a different grade compared to the grade they were predicted.

A recent study by Peter Atherton (a data manager at a 11-18 college) on the "accuracy" of predicted GCSE grades in 2019 is generating lots of interest and debate on Twitter. Worth a look on his twitter account (@DataEducator).

The headline findings for the whole sample (27,200 students) are:

40% of GCSE students get the grade they were predicted (although for GCSE Maths this is over 50%)

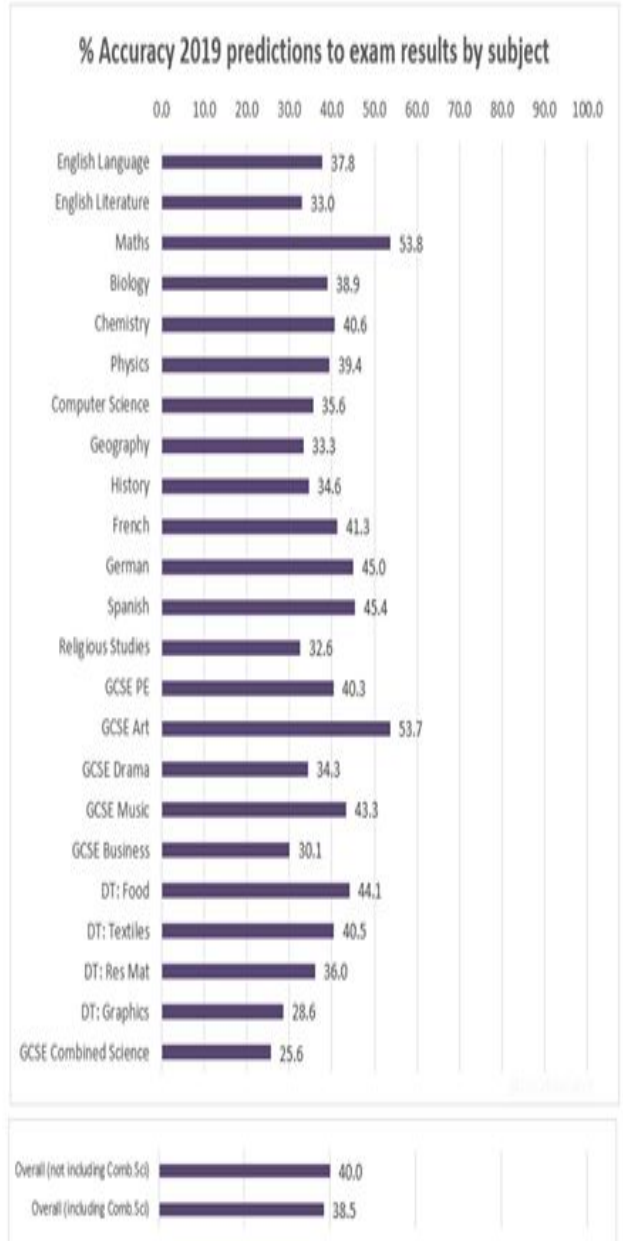
The variability of under/over predictions is broadly equal, with around 30% of students getting better grades than predicted and a similar percentage performing worse than predicted.

For GCSE History the "accuracy" of predicted grades in 2019 was 34.6% based on a sample of 1,936 students.

Of course, there are several factors that we might expect would lead to a more "accurate" calculated grading process this summer, not the least being that it really matters!

	Number of grades	% Accurate	% Within 1 grade	% 2+ grades out	% Predictions too positive	% Predictions too negative
English Language	4266	37.8	44.4	17.8	33.9	28.4
English Literature	3901	33.0	45.3	21.8	31.8	35.2
Maths	4298	53.8	39.9	6.3	22.1	24.2
Biology	1115	38.9	48.4	12.6	28.1	33.0
Chemistry	1095	40.6	45.1	14.2	24.1	35.3
Physics	1032	39.4	45.6	14.9	29.2	31.4
Computer Science	703	35.6	41.0	23.5	41.7	22.8
Geography	1850	33.3	48.9	17.8	36.9	29.8
History	1936	34.6	44.0	21.5	38.4	27.1
French	843	41.3	47.8	10.9	30.0	28.7
German	360	45.0	41.4	13.6	37.5	17.5
Spanish	746	45.4	43.8	10.7	29.1	25.5
Religious Studies	1157	32.6	42.5	24.9	34.7	32.7
GCSE PE	771	40.3	46.4	13.2	28.7	31.0
GCSE Art	956	53.7	37.2	9.1	23.2	23.1
GCSE Drama	361	34.3	50.7	15.0	35.5	30.2
GCSE Music	314	43.3	42.0	14.6	33.4	23.2
GCSE Business	648	30.1	47.2	22.7	45.1	24.8
DT: Food	363	44.1	40.2	15.7	25.6	30.3
DT: Textiles	79	40.5	45.6	13.9	12.7	46.8
DT: Res Mat	308	36.0	43.2	20.8	32.1	31.8
DT: Graphics	91	28.6	48.4	23.1	28.6	42.9
GCSE Combined Science	3020	25.6	40.2	34.1	34.4	40.0

Overall (not including Comb.Sci)	27193	40.0	44.1	15.9	31.0	29.0
Overall (including Comb.Sci)	30213	38.5	43.7	17.8	31.4	30.1



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