

LAT VA Ready Reckoner Guidance

2010/11 Amended Data v2.0

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Publication Intent – Not Protectively Marked

Note – This guidance relates to version 2.0 of the LAT VA Ready Reckoner for 2010/11 Amended Data

Introduction

- 1 The LAT VA tool allows providers to compare their levels of achievement for level 3 graded qualifications against national benchmarks taking into account the prior attainment of learners. The reports that are generated feature as part of the data used by Ofsted in their inspection of post 16 provision.
- 2 The LAT produces reports that are published in unamended format in the autumn and in amended format in the winter. A number of providers have advised that they would find it beneficial to have access to LAT Value Added data earlier in the year.
- 3 Production of the LAT information is part of a wider set of processes which include the production of the school and college achievement and attainment tables and is dependent upon receiving, checking and processing awarding body data. At a national level this is a lengthy process involving a very large set of data. This work is undertaken by a third party and they advise us that there is no scope to shorten the timescales at this time.
- 4 In response to this we have developed a 'ready reckoner' tool which enables institutions to model their LAT VA outcomes based on their own information about examination results. This tool is designed to be used to interrogate subgroups of 2010/11 data and to allow an early indication of 2011/12 value added results.
- 5 The scores shown in the ready reckoner should be treated as indicative results and used as a broad guide to what the official LAT VA scores will show when released.

How the ready reckoner works

- 6 The ready reckoner works by comparing information about how well a learner did against the national average result for learners who had a similar level of

achievement. The national averages are based on the 2010/11 amended examination results dataset. As such the results it gives will be consistent with the 2010/11 amended LAT VA data release and should give a good indication of the level of performance for examination results in 2010/11. The ready reckoner only works for level 3 graded qualifications.

- 7 As well as showing the expected attainment for individual enrolments the ready reckoner shows overall value added scores at subject and qualification level. Confidence intervals are also shown for these results to show whether any difference from the average is statistically significant.
- 8 Full information on understanding the LAT Value Added methodology can be found in the LAT handbook, which is available on the Quality Assurance and Intervention section of the YPLA website <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/aboutus/ourwork/qa/lat-va-tool/>.

System Requirements

- 9 The ready reckoner is an Excel spreadsheet. It should work with any copy of Microsoft Excel that dates from 1997 onwards. The spreadsheet has not been tested on other spreadsheet programmes and we cannot guarantee that it will work on these.

Information required to use the ready reckoner

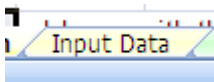
- 10 In order to use the ready reckoner you will need the following information for the data you wish to analyse:
 - Qualification code
 - Subject code
 - Average prior attainment (QCA points)
 - Outcome attainment (Rebased QCA points)
- 11 The qualification and subject codes that should be used in the ready reckoner are listed in the sheet named 'Qual Subj Codes'. If you cannot work out which category you should use you may wish to consult the LAT reports to check which categories your provision falls into. New qualifications that were not covered by the value added measure in 2010/11 are outside of the scope of the ready reckoner.
- 12 To get correct results from the ready reckoner you should include all learners who were entered for exams including those who fail. If you only include subsets of learners then the scores shown will not be representative.
- 13 The prior attainment is the average QCA points achieved in all subjects a learner has taken at key stage 4. If you need to calculate the average prior

attainment for your learners this can be done using the prior attainment calculator on the provider gateway. There is also a Batch Prior Attainment Calculator which can assist with doing this for large numbers of learners. This is a separate spreadsheet which is described later in this document.

- 14 The outcome attainment points for grades in different subjects can be found in the Outcome Attainment sheet. These are shown in rebased QCA points.
- 15 Further information on average prior attainment and outcome attainment points can be found in the LAT handbook, which is available on the Quality Assurance and Intervention section of the YPLA website <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/aboutus/ourwork/qa/lat-va-tool/>.

How to use the ready reckoner

- 16 To use the ready reckoner you need to enter the information for the achievements you wish to analyse into the Input Data sheet. You should enter details of all learners who were entered for the exam for a particular course including those who failed.



- 17 The ready reckoner is distributed with a set of fictional example data in the Input Data sheet to help users understand how they should complete it. In columns A & B the qualification and subject codes should be entered. The names of learners can be added into columns C and D. The tool will work if these fields are left blank or if you want to use a reference number instead of the learner's name.

Provider, learner and qualification details (the name fields can be left blank)			
Qualification Code	Subject Code	Forename	Surname
111	11000	Kristina	Chung
111	11030	Paige	Chen
111	11030	Sherri	Melton
111	11030	Gretchen	Hill
111	11030	Karen	Puckett

- 18 Finally enter the average key stage 4 prior attainment into column E and the points they achieved on the course in question into column F. The points should be rebased QCA points (see section on 'Information required to use the ready reckoner').

Prior Attainment & Outcome Points	
Prior Attainment	Outcome Points
40.1	60
51.6	120
44.1	90
52.1	120
50.4	150

- 19 As this information is entered for each line column G will show the expected achievement for that learner based on the “national lines” used in the 2010/11 LAT. The expected achievement is expressed in rebased QCA points.

Ready Reckoner Forecasts
Expected achievement
36.1
100.4
52.3
104.7
91.3

Results

- 20 The results are shown on two separate sheets. The Qualification Results sheet gives aggregated value added scores for A levels, AS levels, BTEC National Diplomas and other qualifications. Where the value added score is above zero this implies that the quality of provision is above average. Where the value added score is below zero it implies that the quality of provision is below the national average.
- 21 As well as the value added score a 95% confidence interval is shown. This represents the range of scores within which we can be confident that the provider’s true value added score lies. If this range is entirely above 0 then the result is statistically significant and means that the provider’s learners are performing above the national average in this area. Where this occurs the statistical significance column will say “*above average*”.
- 22 Conversely when the range is entirely below 0 the result is also statistically significant but it means that the provider’s learners are performing below the national average in this area. Where this occurs the statistical significance column will say “*below average*”.

- 23 Where the confidence interval crosses 0 we cannot be confident that the provider's performance is different from the national average.
- 24 The results table also shows the number of records that have been entered into the ready reckoner. Where there are few cases the confidence interval is likely to be larger.

Qualification Level Results					
Qualification Names		Ready Reckoner Forecast		95% Confidence Interval	
Qual Code	Qualification Name	Sample Cases	Value Added Score	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
111	A Level	56	7.1	0.4	13.8
121	AS Level	34	-1.4	-5.7	2.9
264	BTEC National Diploma	4	-84.4	-163.7	-5.1

- 25 The Subject Results sheet shows the same information but broken down by individual qualifications for each subject.
- 26 The results of the ready reckoner are based on comparisons with national data for 2010/11. Where you are entering data for years other than 2010/11 the results could be misleading. For example if the outcomes achieved in A Level English rose sharply between 2009/10 and 2010/11 then the ready reckoner may show a negative score for a provider who enters their 2009/10 data into the ready reckoner. This is because the providers 2009/10 A Level English results are being compared against the higher national performance the following year.
- 27 For more information on interpreting the results shown in the ready reckoner please refer to the LAT handbook, which is available on the Quality Assurance and Intervention section of the YPLA website <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/aboutus/ourwork/qa/lat-va-tool/>.

Warning Messages

- 28 The ready reckoner will show a warning message if too many subjects are entered or if the subject codes entered are not covered by the data. This message will appear on the Input Data sheet and both results sheets. The warning message will be as follows:

6	These results do not represent a providers official LAT Value Added		
7	WARNING - Please check input data for errors		
8	LEARNER DATA		
	Provider, learner and qualification details	Prior Attainment &	Ready

- 29 The ready reckoner tool can hold information on up to 1000 aims and will show results for 50 subjects. If more than 50 subjects are entered into the

tool a warning message will be shown. In this case enter the data from the 51st subject onwards into a separate copy of the spreadsheet. Ensure that all subjects for a given qualifications are entered into the same copy of the spreadsheet (i.e. all A levels are entered into the same copy of the spreadsheet).

- 30 If you enter a qualification code the ready reckoner does not recognize then the warning message will appear. The easiest way to identify if the qualification codes are not recognized by the tool is to look at the Expected Achievement column in the Input Data sheet. If there are blank cells then the qualification codes have not been recognized (see following diagram). Please check the Qual Subj Codes sheet to see what the correct code is. If the qualification is not shown in this list then it is not covered by the ready reckoner.
- 31 Please note that some subjects shown in the official LAT reports have been calculated against Sector Subject Area national performance due to there being small number of learners taking that specific subject. These cases are highlighted with an asterisk on the Provider Gateway summary reports. These subjects are not covered by the ready reckoner and should not be included in the input data. This will lead to results at qualification level differing from those on the Provider Gateway because a different group of learners are being used.

WARNING - Please check input data for errors						
LEARNER DATA						
Provider, learner and qualification details (the name fields can be left blank)				Prior Attainment & Outcome Points		Ready Reckoner Forecasts
Qualification Code	Subject Code	Forename	Surname	Prior Attainment	Outcome Points	Expected achievement
111	11030	Julia	Desai	46.1	90	83.4
111	11030	Jerome	Wallace	57.9	150	158.5
121	16070	Neal	Lawrence	53.9	120	
121	16070	Jean	Griffin	51.5	120	
121	16070	Kristine	Dougherty	54.8	150	
111	12610	stal	Powers	49.7	150	106.2
111	12610	Alex	May	43.2	90	66.1

Batch Prior Attainment Calculator

- 32 To make it easier for providers to enter data into the Ready Reckoner a spreadsheet has been developed to help providers convert their data into the right format. This Batch Prior Attainment Calculator spreadsheet calculates the average level of prior attainment at key stage 4 based on GCSE and GNVQ grades. You enter the number of passes that a learner achieved into

the relevant rows for each grade and it will show the average prior attainment in QCA points at the bottom.

- 33 For example, if a learner achieve one A* grade, three A grades and two C grades at GCSE then you would enter the value 1, 3 and 2 into the appropriate columns, as shown below.

GCSE grades								
A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Fail
1	3		2					

- 34 Please note that the LAT Value Added measure looks at level 2 aims other than GCSEs & GNVQs, however this tool is only able to look at GCSEs & GNVQs. As such the prior attainment may differ from values shown in the LAT reports. For learners who have taken aims other than GCSEs and GNVQs please refer to the Prior Attainment Calculator that is available in the LAT section of the Provider Gateway (<https://gateway.lsc.gov.uk/>).
- 35 The Batch Prior Attainment Calculator also contains a lookup from the qualification reference numbers shown on the Learning Aim Database to the qualification and subject codes used in the LAT VA measure.

Support And Feedback

- 36 If you are having problems with the tool please contact the Data Service Service Desk:
- Website: <http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/ContactUs/>
 - E-mail: [servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk](mailto: servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk)
 - Phone: 0870 2670001
- 37 If you have any comments on this tool or suggestions for further developments then please send these to the service desk and we will review them ahead of the development of any future versions of the tool.