

# Using the High/Middle/Low prior attainment comparison

Our new feature in Connect Interactive this term allows you to compare subject and teaching set performance by prior attainment. This briefing paper is designed as a guide to how you might use the comparison to get the most from your end-of-year or in-year analysis.

The High, Middle and Low filter is available across all key stages and qualification types. The tables on the reverse of this paper set out how Alps bands relate to each of the high, middle and low definitions across different qualifications.



## Turning on the High/Middle/Low comparison

- ➔ 1. In the subject analysis area, click Compare – EDIT
- ➔ 2. In the Quick Groups tab, click on High/Middle/Low PA
- ➔ 3. Tick which categories you want to compare. In **Fig. 1** all 3 comparison groups have been selected
- ➔ 4. Apply comparisons

## Overview for all subjects

Switch on the comparison in the subject overview to see how well each student group is performing across all subjects.

**Fig. 1** – all three PA bands are being shown in one table (tick appropriate box in top left-hand corner of the screen). For many subjects the high PA students are performing less well than those of middle and low prior attainment. This might lead to discussions over stretch and challenge strategies for the more able across the curriculum.

Subject	All			Mid			High			Low		
	Entries	Score	Grade	Entries	Score	Grade	Entries	Score	Grade	Entries	Score	Grade
GCSE - Art & Design	44	1.29	2	17	1.34	2	16	1.11	4	11	1.49	1
GCSE - Art & Design (Fine Art)	1	1.38	2	1	1.38	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
GCSE - Biology	72	1.14	3	7	1.38	1	64	1.11	4	1	1.42	1
GCSE - Business Studies (A*-G)	42	1.07	2	17	1.03	2	20	1.14	2	5	0.94	3
GCSE - Chemistry	72	1.04	5	7	1.29	2	64	1.01	5	1	1.02	5
GCSE - Computing	25	1.10	2	5	1.04	2	14	1.10	2	6	1.14	2
GCSE - Drama & Theatre Studies	41	1.12	3	17	1.24	2	21	1.03	4	3	1.11	3
GCSE - English Language	178	1.06	3	69	1.08	2	84	1.00	4	25	1.18	2
GCSE - English Literature	177	1.07	3	69	1.12	2	83	1.00	4	25	1.17	2
GCSE - French	30	0.67	7	10	0.76	6	20	0.62	8	-	-	-
GCSE - Geography	57	1.05	3	24	1.09	2	25	1.04	3	8	0.95	4

Fig. 1

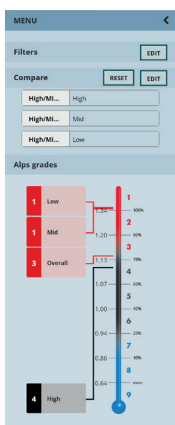


Fig. 2

## Individual subject/teaching set pages

Once the comparison is switched on, the thermometer will visually display how each group is performing in that subject or teaching set.

**Fig. 2** – here we see that the performance of the high prior attainers is slightly lower than those of lower prior attainment and is contributing to the overall value-added grade being lower than it might be otherwise. As the subject leader or teacher of this group of students, you might look at strategies which will have an impact on stretching them to attain top grades.

In the student tab of the subject area, the comparison will separate students into prior attainment groups. Teachers can perform 'What ifs' on specific students within a prior attainment group to model the impact that an increase of grade might have on the overall or comparison group's Alps grade.

## Definitions of Prior Attainment

1. KS4 England - The definitions of prior attainment follow the DfE guidance. The Alps bands which correspond to the Fine Grades and Scaled Scores from 2019.20 onwards are as follows:

PA definition	Alps Bands	KS2 Fine Grade	Scaled score
High	1-3	5.00+	107+
Middle	4-6	4.00+	96+
Low	7-10	0+	80+

2. Key Stage 5 England – the definitions vary across qualification types. The table below shows the banding groups for monitoring bands for 2019.20 onwards.

England		GCSE Score		
PA definition	Alps Bands	A/AS level	BTEC/CACHE	UAL
High	1-4	6.10+	5.23+	4.39+
Middle	5-7	4.77+	3.75+	3.67+
Low	8-11	>0	>0	>0

3. Key Stage 5 Wales - the definitions vary across qualification types. The table below shows the banding groups for 2019.20 onwards.

Wales/Northern Ireland		GCSE Score		
PA definition	Alps Bands	A/AS level	BTEC/CACHE	UAL
High	1-4	48.4+	44.8+	41.2+
Middle	5-7	43.0+	38.2+	37.6+
Low	8-11	>0	>0	>0

4. At Key Stage 4 in Wales, the following definitions apply:

PA definition	Alps Bands	Y8 WNT Score
High	1-3	108+
Middle	4-6	89+
Low	7-11	>0

### Contact Alps

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