



Developing systems analysis capability in Ofqual

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What is Ofqual?



- **Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation**
- **Established through the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009**
- **Set up to be independent of Ministers, to secure credibility on standards and public confidence**

- **We regulate:**
 - Qualifications in England taken at school and by adults, but not higher education qualifications
 - Vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland
 - National Curriculum and Early Years Foundation Stage Assessments in England



Why do we need to Regulate?

We want:

- **Qualifications and assessments that are fit-for-purpose and of a high quality**
 - Confidence that there is value in achieving qualifications
 - Confidence that qualifications and assessments are fair and that standards are protected

- **Integrity and efficiency across the qualifications system**
 - Efficiency and value for money



■ Ofqual's responsibilities:

- Standards of qualifications
- Efficiency and value for money of qualifications
- Regulatory oversight of the qualifications system

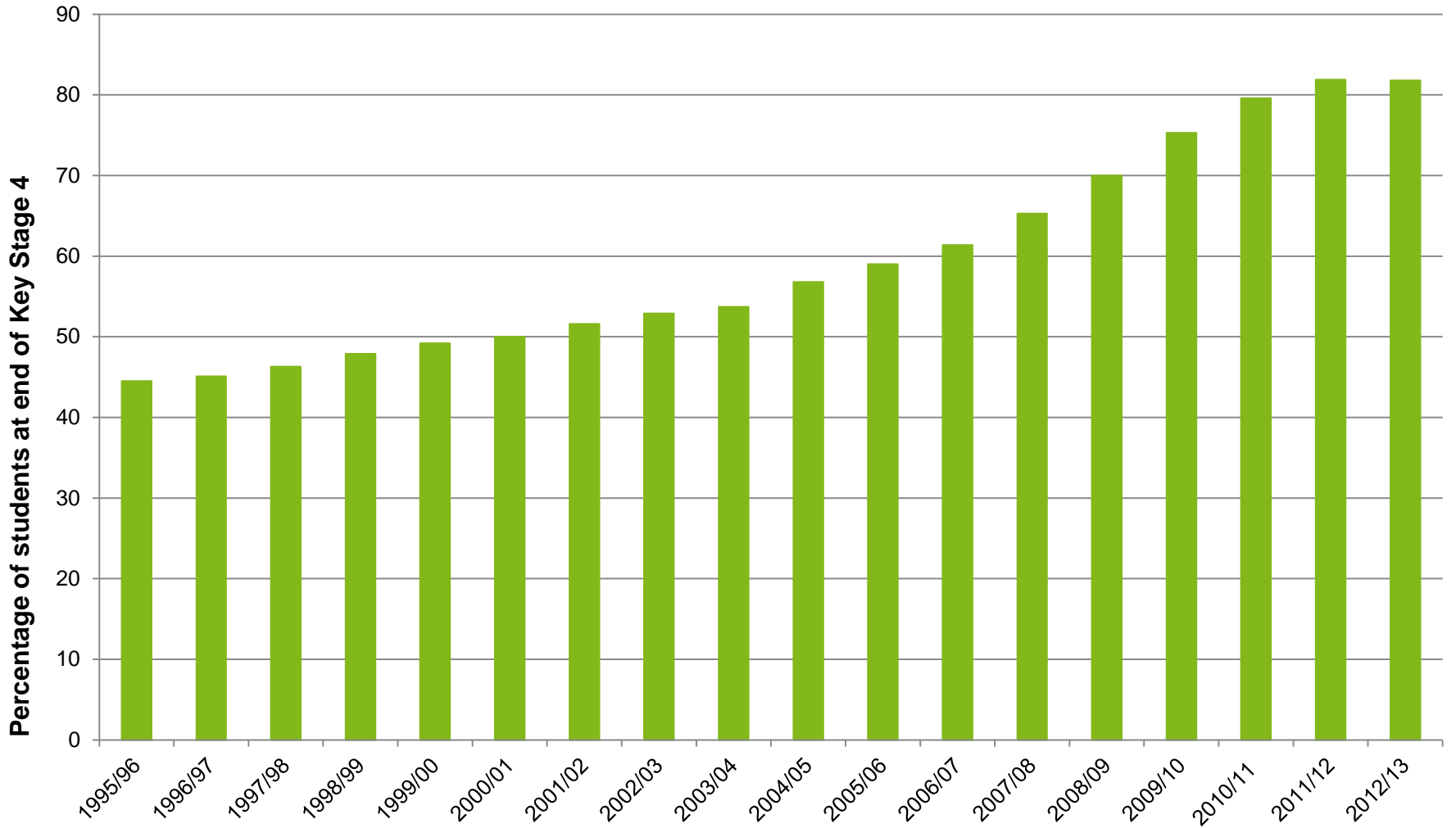
■ Ministerial responsibilities:

- Overall policy on qualifications – purposes, priorities
- How the curriculum is developed
- Link to wider policy agenda – teaching quality, funding, accountability arrangements etc

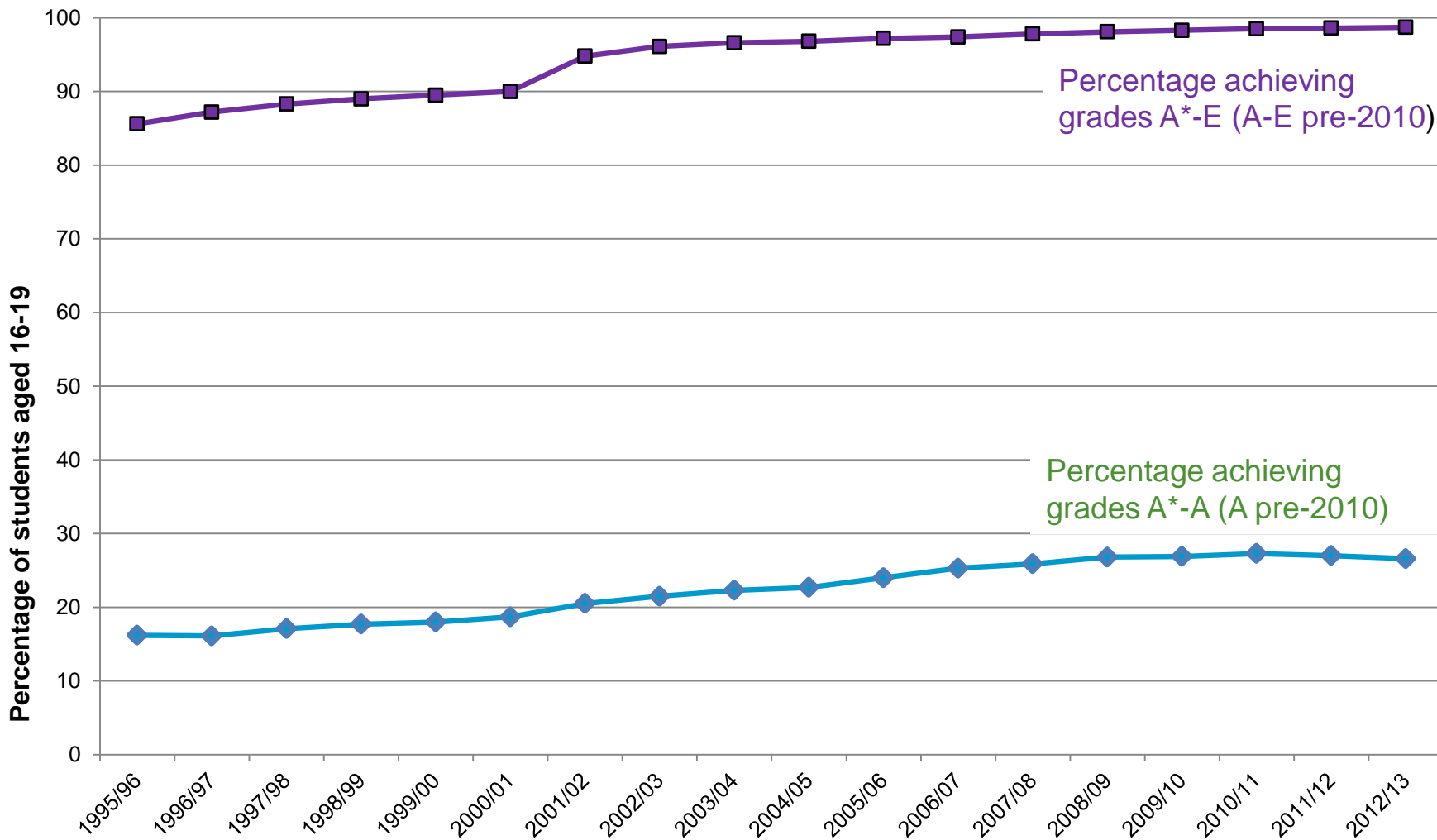
■ So qualifications reform is a shared responsibility – there are policy and regulatory aspects



Changes in proportion gaining 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent



A level achievement over time



Systems analysis – what we found

■ We knew it all already!

- But we hadn't thought about it in this way

■ Challenged us to consider how we achieve our objectives as the regulator

- Where we can apply our regulatory powers
- Where we have to use our influence rather than our powers

■ The regulator's place is a lonely one

- Most influences on qualifications work against maintaining standards
- This has informed our reform of qualifications



Reforming qualifications – how systems analysis has influenced our approach



- **Qualification design**
- **Developing a collaborative way of working with the exam boards**
- **Managing risk**
 - The accountabilities of the exam boards and Ofqual
 - Wider systemic risks we are managing

