



Understanding skills and qualification levels in Tower Hamlets

This briefing, produced by the Corporate Research Unit, represents the most comprehensive analysis to date of qualification data about the Tower Hamlets resident population taken from the Census 2011 and other sources.

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Summary – Key Facts

- **Qualification levels** of the resident population are **changing positively**. Residents with Level 4 and above qualifications nearly doubled from 41,500 in 2001 to around 82,000 in 2011.
- The number of **residents with no qualifications dropped significantly** by 22.9 per cent from 38,100 to 29,400 in 2011.
- Around **43.6 per cent of all residents held degree Level 4 qualifications**, outperforming London (40.5 per cent) and England (29.8 per cent).
- The **proportion of residents with no formal qualifications** (15.6 per cent) was the fifth highest in London. However, the rate is **down from 29.4 per cent back in 2001**.
- **Residents with no formal qualifications** had by far the **lowest employment rate with only 30 per cent**.
- The **unemployment rate of residents without a formal qualification** (25.9 per cent) was **5 times** the rate of **residents with a Level 4 and above qualification** (4.5 per cent).
- A **large proportion of highly qualified residents were employed in the low skilled sector**, eg 41.4 per cent of residents employed in the wholesale & retail industries held a Level 4 and above qualification, twice the England average of 18.8 per cent.

About this briefing

This briefing represents the most comprehensive analysis of qualification data about the Tower Hamlets resident population to date. The data is mainly taken from the ONS Census 2011 and is supported by some information from the Annual Population Survey (APS).

This paper focuses on different levels of qualification held by residents, concentrating on differences by gender, age, ethnicity, religion and country of birth. Various cross-tabulations are applied to understand important differences in the borough and especially the role of age.

The main challenge for Tower Hamlets residents is to compete effectively for high skilled jobs in the borough and London as a whole. While many employment opportunities exist in international growth industries in the borough, many of those require degree qualifications. In the past, residents lacked the right skills and NVQ / degree qualifications required to access many jobs in Canary Wharf, the City Fringe and other growth industries.

This briefing shows that age matters. While it is true that especially the older generation in Tower Hamlets struggled to compete for those new jobs in the borough, the future should look more positive. The younger generation aged 18 to 35 in the borough has developed many of those required skills and should be able to compete more effectively for those jobs, but might need other support to enter the labour market.

This briefing supports any projects and interventions by the council and partners to target the right people depending on specific needs related to qualifications and labour market access.

1 Understanding skills and qualification levels

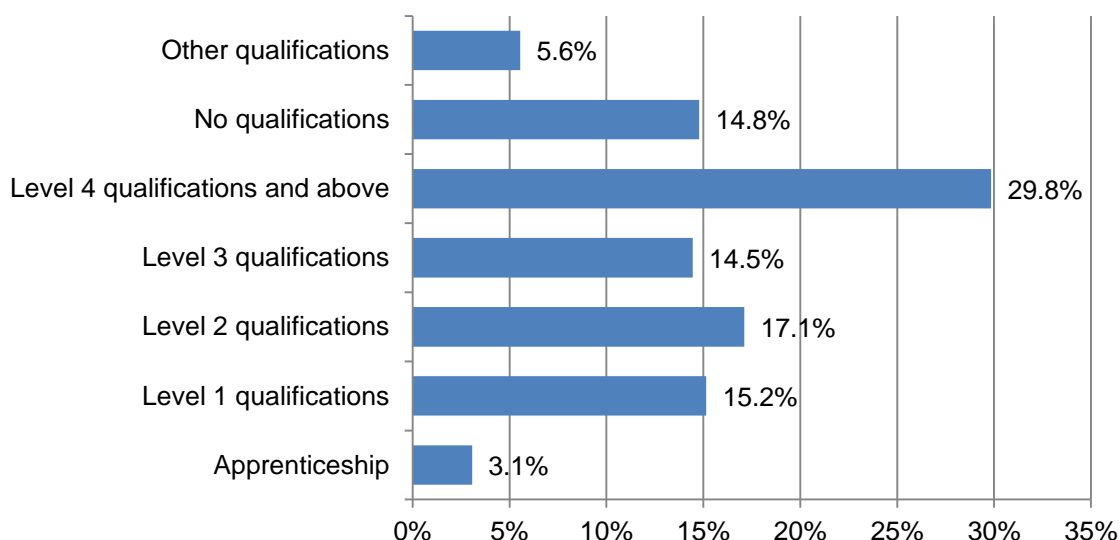
1.1 National and regional qualification levels

England

This section discusses the general qualification levels in England. On Census day 2011,¹ almost 3 in 10 (29.9 per cent) of the 16 to 64 population (total of 34,329,091) reported having a Level 4 or above qualification.²

There were almost equal proportions of the 16 to 64 population having Level 1 (15.2 per cent), no qualifications (14.8 per cent) and Level 3 qualifications (14.5 per cent), while those with Level 2 qualifications had a slightly higher rate (17.1 per cent). ‘Other’ qualifications and apprenticeships had the smallest proportions for highest level of qualification at 5.6 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively.

Figure 1: England qualification levels of 16 to 64 population (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Level 4 or above was the most common highest level of qualification reported across all age groups, with the exception of those aged 16 to 24, as some people in this age group are yet to complete their education. For those aged 25 to 34, 4 in 10 reported having a degree level or above qualification. Under the age of the 50, women were more likely to report having a degree level or above qualification compared with men.

Those aged 65 and over were more likely to have no qualifications than the other age groups. Over half of the population aged 65 and over (52.9 per cent) had no qualifications. This was the only age group with a higher proportion of people reporting no qualifications as opposed to at least one qualification. Up to the age of 50, there were a higher proportion of men with no qualifications

¹ Census day was 27th March 2011

² For a full definition of qualification levels see the glossary in the appendix.

than women, whereas for those aged 50 to 64 there were more women (27.0 per cent) than men (23.2 per cent) with no qualifications.³

Table 1: Qualification levels in England of 16 to 64 population (Total and %)

	Apprenticeship	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 and above	No qualifications	Other qualifications
England rate (%)	3.1%	15.2%	17.1%	14.5%	29.9%	14.8%	5.6%
England total	1,055,386	5,201,236	5,874,563	4,963,816	10,247,174	5,077,940	1,908,976

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

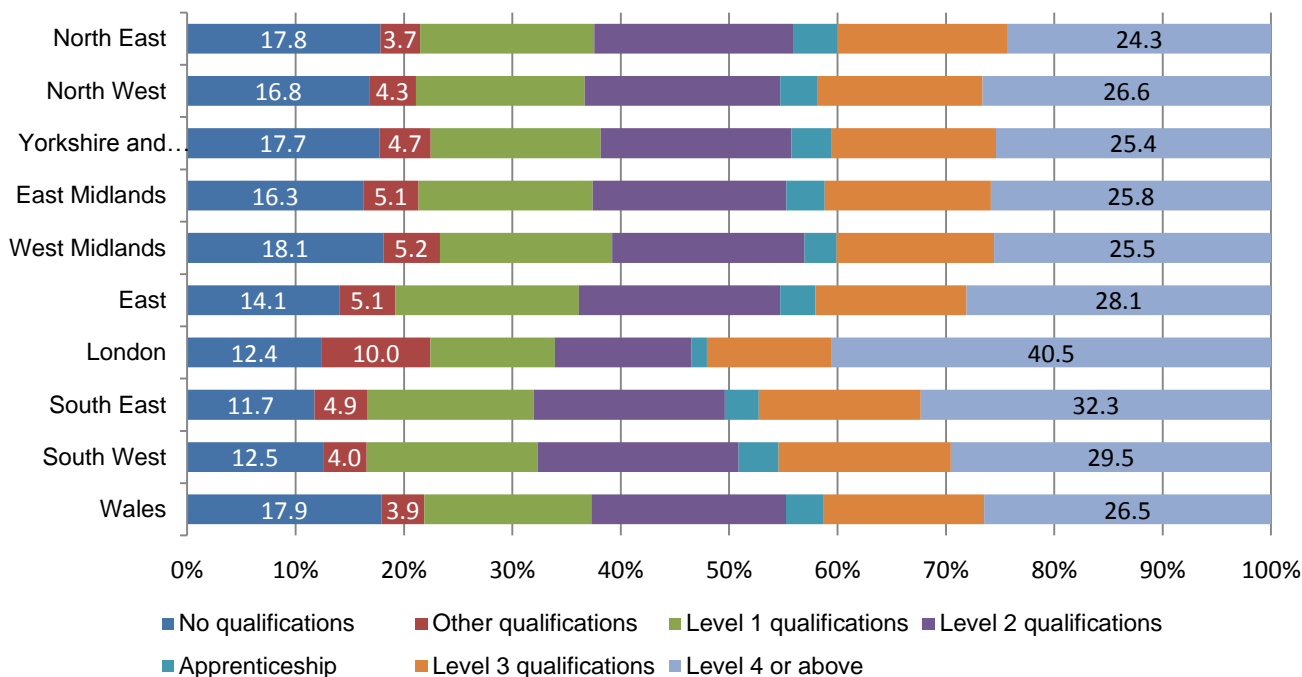
London

In comparison to other regions, London’s profile was very different in terms of qualifications. 2011 Census data showed that as a whole, Londoners were more highly qualified than the national average. Almost four in ten Londoners were qualified to Level 4 or above (broadly equivalent to degree level).

The higher share of Level 4 qualified individuals in London was offset by lower shares across every other category with the exception of those with other qualifications. People in London were almost twice as likely to report ‘Other’ qualifications as their highest level of qualification, compared with the other English regions and Wales. This is likely due to London’s relatively high number of migrants with overseas qualifications which would be included under this category.⁴

In terms of no qualifications, London (12.4 per cent) had the second lowest rate in England, a rate just behind the South East (11.7 per cent).

Figure 2: Qualification levels in London and other regions (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

³ ONS Census 2011 analysis highest qualification: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census-analysis/local-area-analysis-of-qualifications-across-england-and-wales/sty-qualification-levels.html>

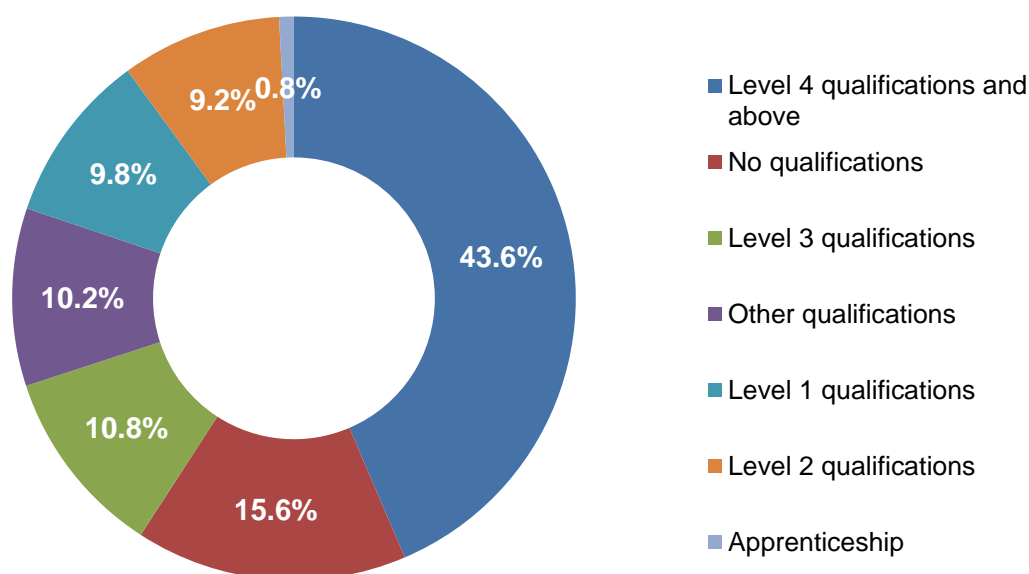
⁴ GLA: (Oct 2013) 2011 Census Snapshot: Labour Market

1.2 Qualification levels in Tower Hamlets

Level of qualification of Tower Hamlets working age population (aged 16 to 64)

On Census day, around 43.6 per cent or 82,000 working age residents held a Level 4 and above qualification. The second largest group were working age residents with no formal qualification, accounting for 29,366 residents or 15.6 per cent, followed by Level 3, Other qualifications, Level 1 and Level 2. Only 1,591 or 0.8 per cent held an apprenticeship qualification.

Figure 3: Level of qualification of Tower Hamlets working age population (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Table 2: Level of qualification of Tower Hamlets working age population (%)

	Apprentice-ship	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 and above	No qualifications	Other
Total	1,591	18,431	17,338	20,387	82,061	29,366	19,209
%	0.8%	9.8%	9.2%	10.8%	43.6%	15.6%	10.2%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Changing qualification levels in Tower Hamlets between 2001 and 2011

Table 3 below compares qualification levels in Tower Hamlets in 2001 and 2011. Some caveats need to be applied when comparing the data because of the changing retirement age and amended qualification level definitions between the Censuses.

However, it is clear that the proportion of residents with Level 4 and above qualifications has increased substantially between 2001 and 2011. The working age population with Level 4 and above qualifications nearly doubled from 41,511 in 2001 to 82,061 in 2011. At the same time, the number of residents with no qualifications dropped significantly by 22.9 per cent.

The number of working age residents with Level 3 qualifications and other qualifications also increased significantly which can be linked to the increase of the local student population.

The number of working age residents with an apprenticeship was 1,591 in 2011, a category introduced only with the latest Census.

The rise of the higher qualified population was stronger than the overall population growth, pointing towards an influx of professionals with higher qualifications into the borough. This trend is closely related to the increase of the age group 24 to 39 as discussed in the [Tower Hamlets population briefing](#).

Table 3: Change between 2001 and 2011 (Total and %) Working age residents Tower Hamlets

	2001	2001 total	2011	2011 total	Total Change in %
Level 4 qualifications and above	32.0%	41,511	43.6%	82,061	97.7%
No qualifications	29.4%	38,107	15.6%	29,366	-22.9%
Level 3 qualifications	10.3%	13,354	10.8%	20,387	52.7%
Other qualifications	4.0%	5,164	10.2%	19,209	272%
Level 1 qualifications	11.1%	14,375	9.8%	18,431	28.2%
Level 2 qualifications	13.3%	17,249	9.2%	17,338	0.5%
Apprenticeship	N/A	N/A	0.8%	1,591	-

(Source: Census 2001 and Census 2011)

Tower Hamlets in the London context

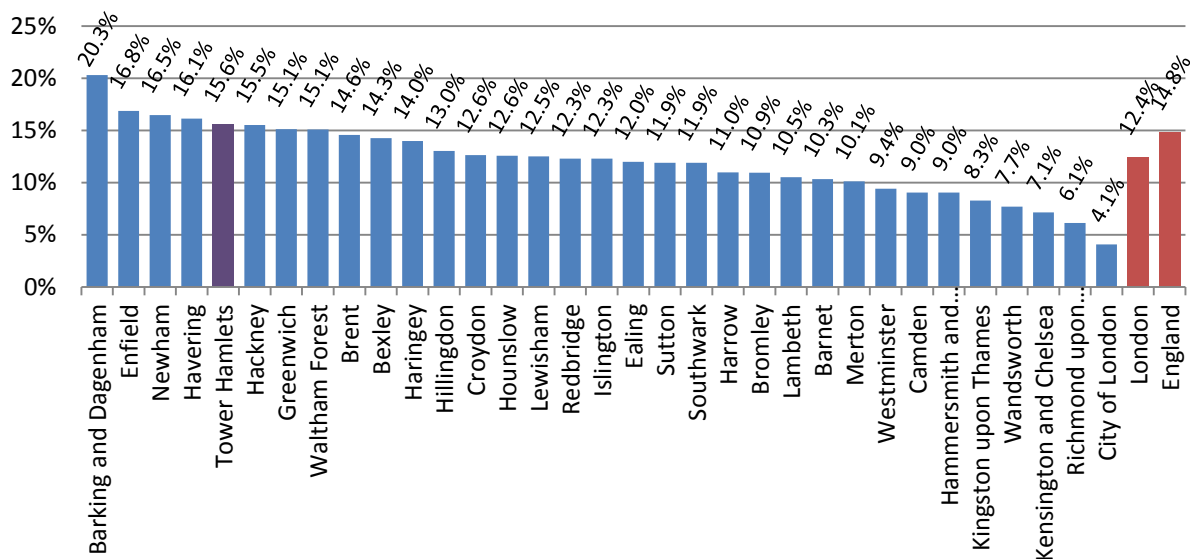
Level of no formal qualification

The proportion of working age residents in Tower Hamlets with no formal qualifications (15.6 per cent) was above the London (12.4 per cent) and England (14.8 per cent) averages. The borough rate was the fifth highest out of all London boroughs.

On Census day in March 2011, the largest proportion of working age residents with no qualification was recorded in Barking & Dagenham (20.3 per cent), Enfield (16.8 per cent) and Newham (16.5 per cent).

In London, the boroughs with the lowest proportion of residents with no qualifications were the City of London (4.1 per cent / total 233), Richmond upon Thames (6.1 per cent / total 7,658) and Kensington & Chelsea (7.1 per cent / total 8,213). Together with Cambridge and Isle of Scilly, all three boroughs also were in the Top 5 out of all local authorities in England and Wales.

Figure 4: Residents with No qualifications aged 16 to 64 in %



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age, 16 to 64 population)

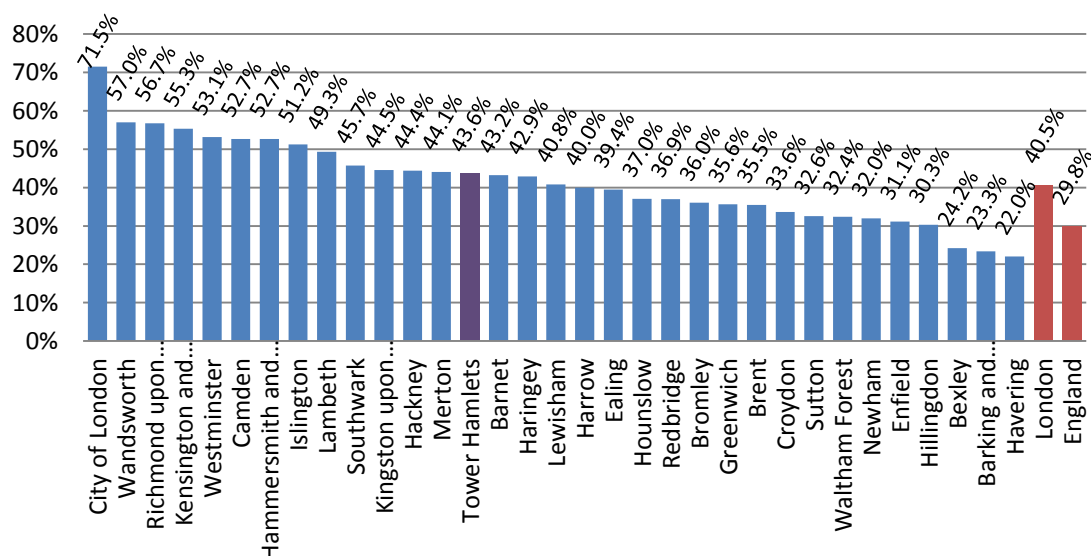
Level 4 qualifications and above

The proportion of working age residents in Tower Hamlets with Level 4 qualifications and above (43.6 per cent) was above the London (40.5 per cent) and England (29.8 per cent) averages. While the majority of inner London boroughs outperformed Tower Hamlets, the borough rate was high compared to other local authorities, representing the 19th highest rate in England and Wales.

The largest proportion of working age residents with Level 4 qualifications or above could be found in the City of London (71.5 per cent) followed by Wandsworth (57 per cent), Richmond upon Thames (56.7 per cent) and Kensington & Chelsea (55.3 per cent). Those boroughs were also the areas in the England and Wales with the largest proportion of highly educated residents.

In London, the boroughs with the lowest proportion of highly qualified residents were Havering (22 per cent), Barking & Dagenham (23.3 per cent) and Bexley (24.2 per cent). See Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Residents aged 16 to 64 with Level 4 qualifications and above (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age, 16 to 64 population)

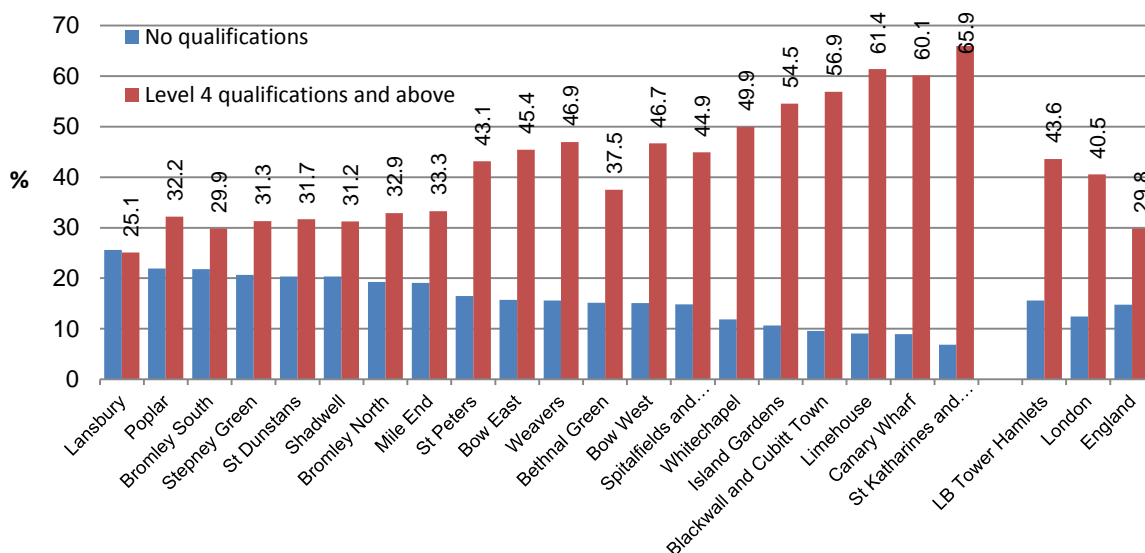
Qualification levels by wards in Tower Hamlets⁵

Qualification levels by ward show some significant differences. Data shows that in more affluent wards the proportion of those with Level 4 and above qualifications was very high including St Katharine’s (65.9 per cent), Limehouse (61.4 per cent) and Canary Wharf (60.1 per cent) outperforming London (40.5 per cent) and England (29.8 per cent) easily.

The areas with the lowest proportion of residents with Level 4 and above qualification were Lansbury (25.1 per cent) and Poplar (32.2 per cent). Both wards also had the highest proportion of residents with no formal qualifications, performing worse than the borough, London and England averages.

In Lansbury, around 2,482 (25.6 per cent) of residents aged 16 to 64 did not have a formal qualification. This rate was substantially above the Tower Hamlets average of 15.6 per cent and the London (12.4 per cent) and England rates (14.8 per cent). See figure below.

Figure 6: No qualification and Level 4 plus qualifications in Tower Hamlets wards, London and England (%)



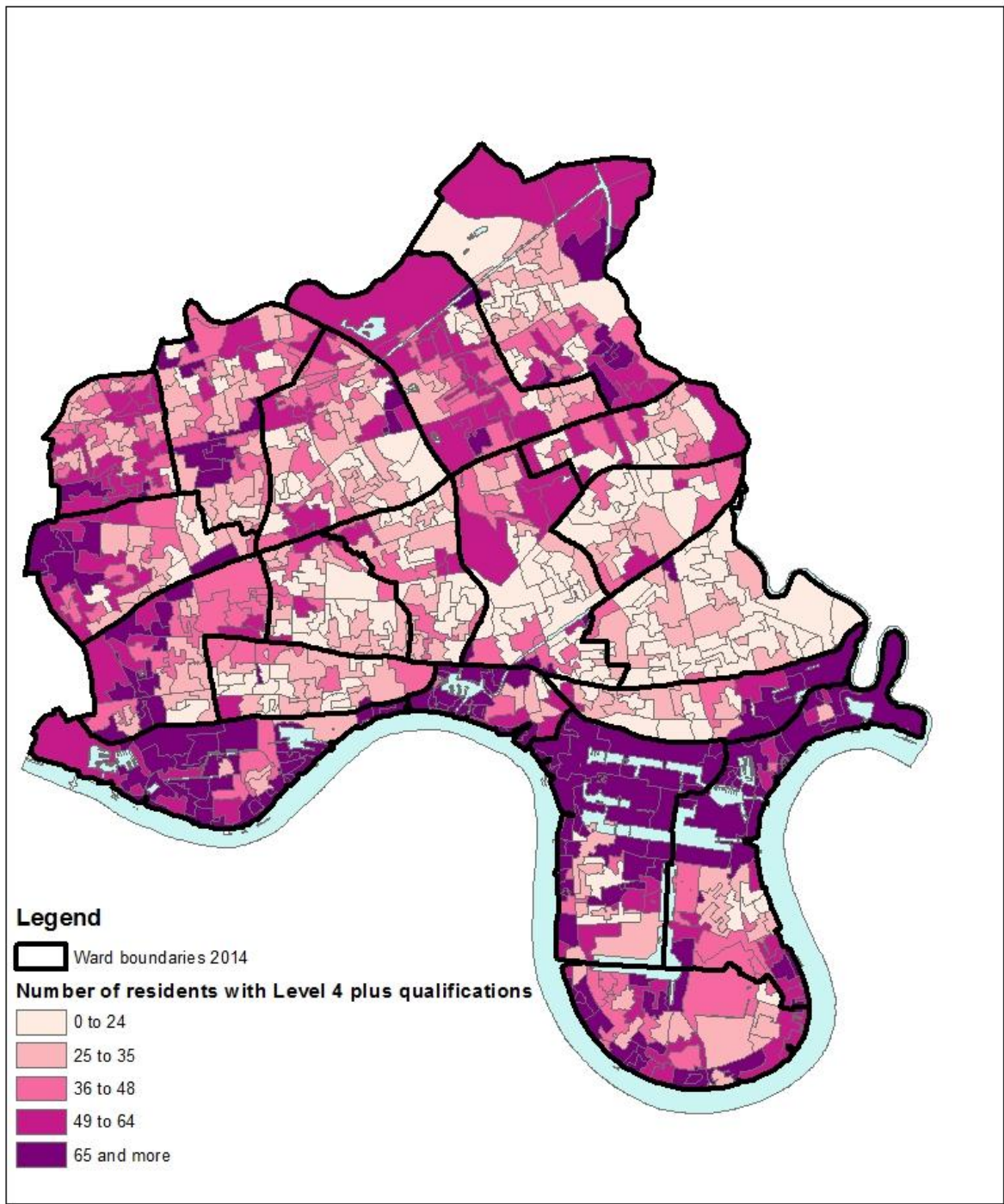
(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age, 16 to 64 population)

A further breakdown of the qualification data by smaller geographical units shows patterns similar to the ward data, demonstrating that residents with Level 4 and above qualifications were more likely to live in affluent areas of the City Fringe, the riverside and in close proximity to transport hubs.

Areas with higher numbers of residents with no qualifications were again LSOAs in the wards Lansbury, Poplar, Bromley South, Stepney Green and Shadwell.

However, both maps also show that wards with high numbers of residents with higher qualifications can include pockets of residents with no qualifications. For example, Map 2 clearly shows pockets of no qualifications on the Isle of Dogs, in Wapping and in Spitalfields & Banglatown.

⁵ Ward boundaries refer to the new 2014 wards.



Number of Tower Hamlets residents with Level 4 plus qualifications by OA in 2011 (Source: Census 2011)

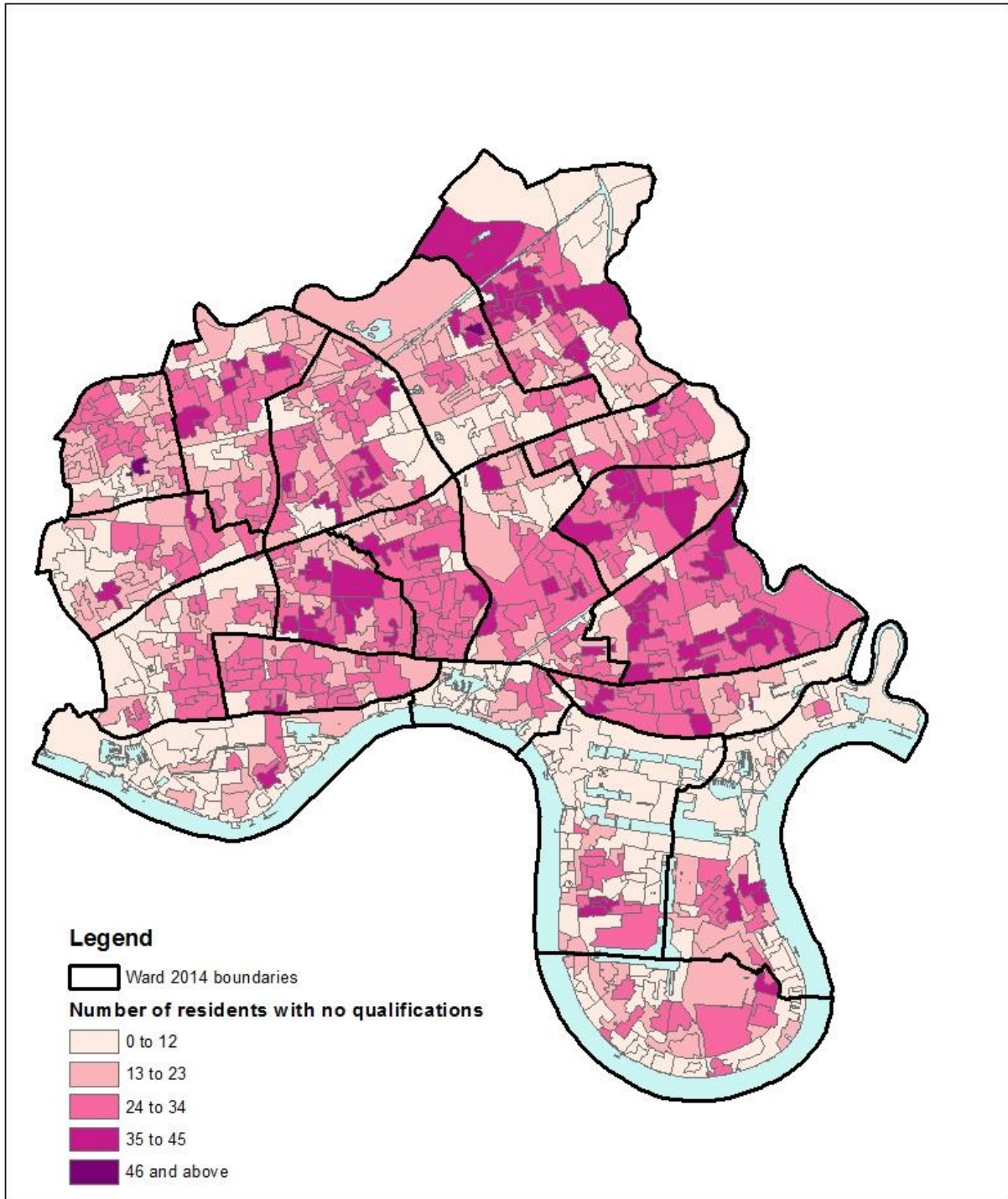


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0 290 580 1,160 1,740 2,320 metres



Map 2: Number of residents with no qualification in Tower Hamlets (All residents aged 16 plus)

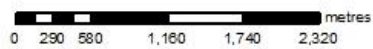


Number of Tower Hamlets residents with no qualifications above 16 plus by OA in 2011

(SOURCE: CENSUS 2011)



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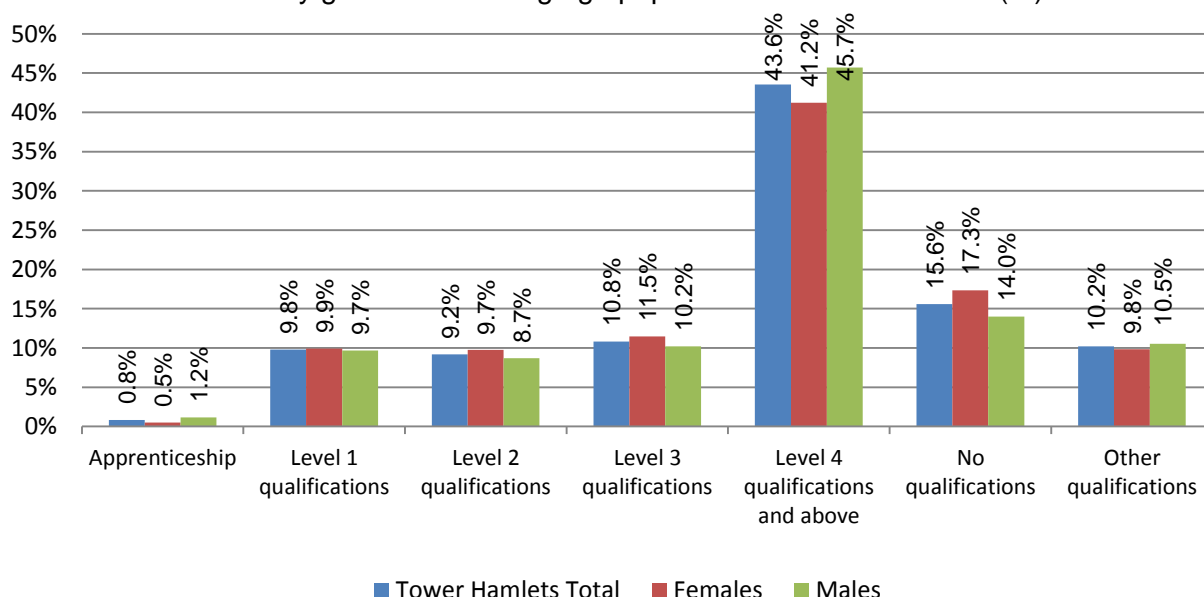
1.3 Qualification levels by sex and age

Males in Tower Hamlets were more likely to hold Level 4 qualifications, other qualifications and apprenticeships when compared to women.

The borough data showed that a large proportion of Tower Hamlets residents (43.6 per cent) had qualification levels of 4 and above. In terms of gender, the Level 4 qualification levels of male residents (45.7 per cent) outperformed the female average (41.2 per cent) by 4.5 percentage points.

In the no qualifications category, female working age residents (17.3 per cent) had a higher rate when compared to male residents (14 per cent), a gap of 3.3 percentage points. The Level 1 qualification category showed only marginal gender differences. However, the gender differences in Level 2 and 3 were slightly more pronounced in favour of women. See Figure 7 and table 4 below.

Figure 7: Qualification level by gender in working age population in Tower Hamlets (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Table 4: Levels of qualification in Tower Hamlets by gender (total number of working age population)

	Apprentice-ship	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 and above	No qualifications	Other qualifications
Total	1,591	18,431	17,338	20,387	82,061	29,366	19,209
Females	445	8,929	8,779	10,342	37,149	15,625	8,853
Males	1,146	9,502	8,559	10,045	44,912	13,741	10,356

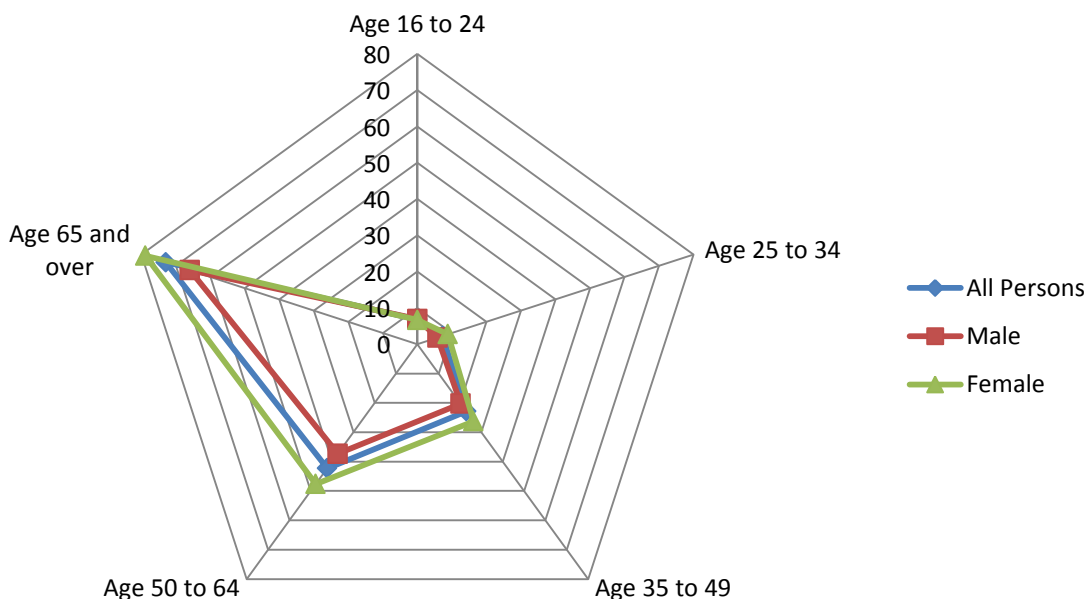
(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

When comparing the gender averages, age needs to be taken into account. It emerges, that young female residents are as educated as young males. The differences and gap in the working age population 16 to 64 are mainly caused by larger differences in the age groups 35 and above. See Figure 8 and 9 below.

No Qualification in Tower Hamlets by age and gender

The Census data for Tower Hamlets showed that female residents were more likely to have no formal qualification compared to males in the borough. This gender gap increases from the age group 25 to 34 to 65 year olds and above. However, in the age group 16 to 24 the gender gap is marginal with 6.7 per cent of females and 6.9 per cent of males holding no formal qualifications.

Figure 8: No qualification by gender in Tower Hamlets (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Table 5: No Qualification in Tower Hamlets by age and gender (%)

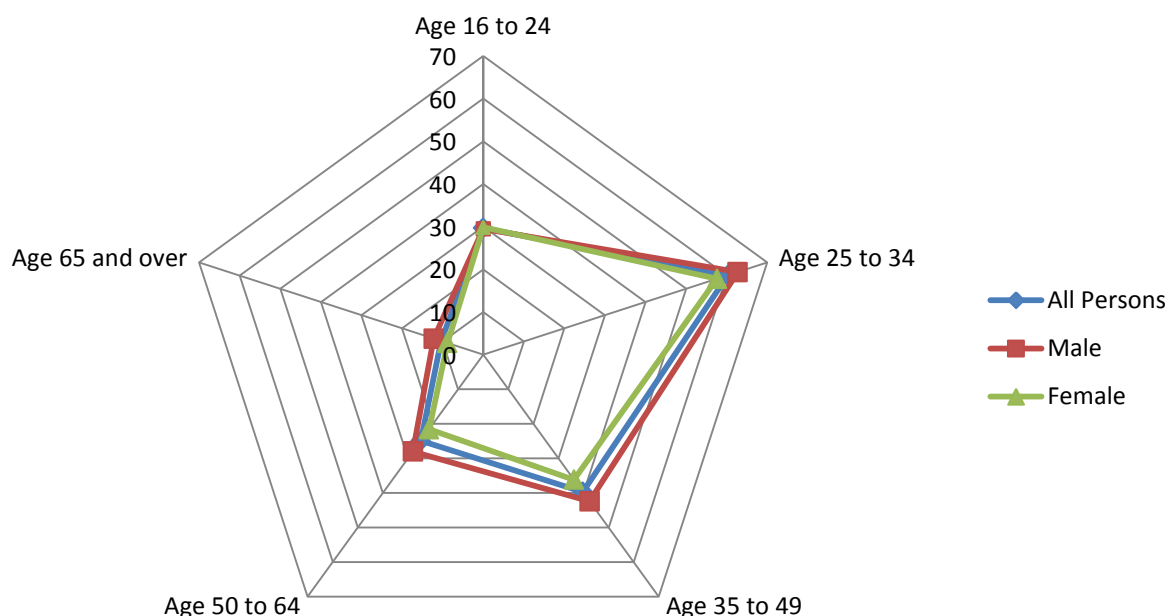
	All categories: Age 16 to 64	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over
All aged 16 to 64	15.6	6.8	7.3	22.9	42.3	72.9
Male	14.0	6.9	5.8	20.3	37.3	65.9
Female	17.3	6.7	8.8	26.3	47.6	78.8

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Level 4 and above qualification by age and gender

In Tower Hamlets, similar trends can be observed in the category Level 4 qualifications and above. Again, only in the age group 16 to 24, no gender gap was recorded with males (29.5 per cent) and females (29.8 per cent) rates being very similar. However, from the age 25 onwards, females were less likely to have a level 4 and above qualification when compared to males in the borough. The gender gap was pronounced most in the age groups 35 to 49 and 50 to 64.

Figure 9: Level 4 and above qualifications by gender in Tower Hamlets (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Table 6: Level 4 and above qualifications in Tower Hamlets by age and gender (%)

	Aged 16 - 64	Aged 16 to 24	Aged 25 to 34	Aged 35 to 49	Aged 50 to 64	Aged 65 and over
Residents aged 16 to 64	43.6	29.7	60.2	39.7	24.9	10.4
Male	45.7	29.5	62.7	42.5	28.0	12.2
Female	41.2	29.8	57.6	36.2	21.6	8.8

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Comparing Tower Hamlets trends to London and England

Compared to London and England, the gender differences in the category *No qualifications* showed some different trends.

In London as a whole, 16 to 24 year old males (9.5 per cent) were more likely to have no qualifications compared to females (8.3 per cent). In the age groups 25 to 49, both gender groups have similar No qualification levels. Only in the age group 50 to 64 and more strikingly in the age group 65 and above, the proportion of females with no qualifications were higher than the male averages.

A similar trend is replicated in the category *Level 4 and above qualifications*. While females have higher proportions of Level 4 qualifications in the age groups 16 to 24 and 25 to 34, the trend reverses to a male advantage in the age groups 35 and older.

Interestingly, this trend is further developed on England level. The female population is more likely to be Level 4 and above qualified if younger. Only from the age 50 plus, the male population was more likely to achieve a Level 4 and above qualification. This trend can also be observed in the no qualification category.

Males aged 16 to 49 are more likely to have no qualifications compared to females. The trend reverses again in the age group 50 to 64 and 65 plus where females are more likely to have no formal qualification compared to males.

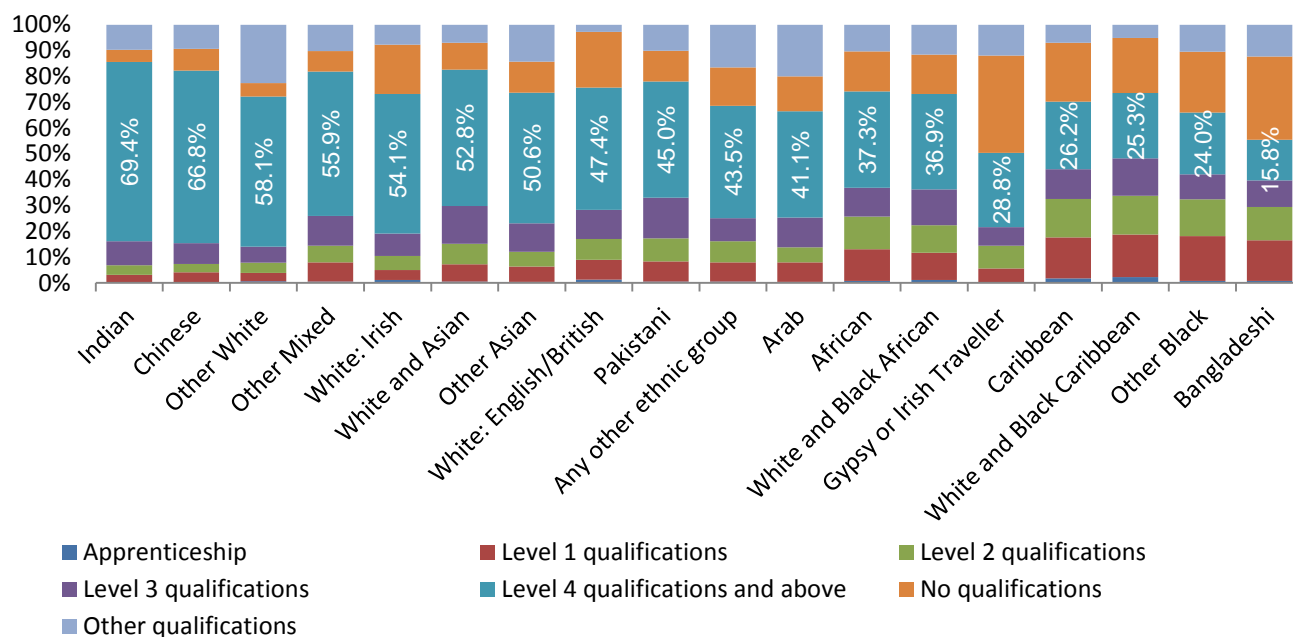
While the gender trends in Tower Hamlets were different to London and England, it can be argued that the general trends in Tower Hamlets of qualification levels by age and gender are moving towards London and England wide trends.⁶

1.4 Qualification levels by ethnicity

In this section we discuss qualification levels and ethnicity for the resident population 16 and over. Our analysis focuses on no qualifications and Level 4 and above qualifications.

Figure 10 below shows a summary of the Tower Hamlets population by qualification level and ethnic group ordered by Level 4 and above qualifications. The data shows that the Indian (69.4 per cent), Chinese (66.8 per cent) and Other White (58.1 per cent) groups had the highest Level 4 and above qualification.

Figure 10: Overview - Qualification levels in Tower Hamlets by ethnic group



(Source: Census 2011 DC5209EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group, all usual residents aged 16 and over)

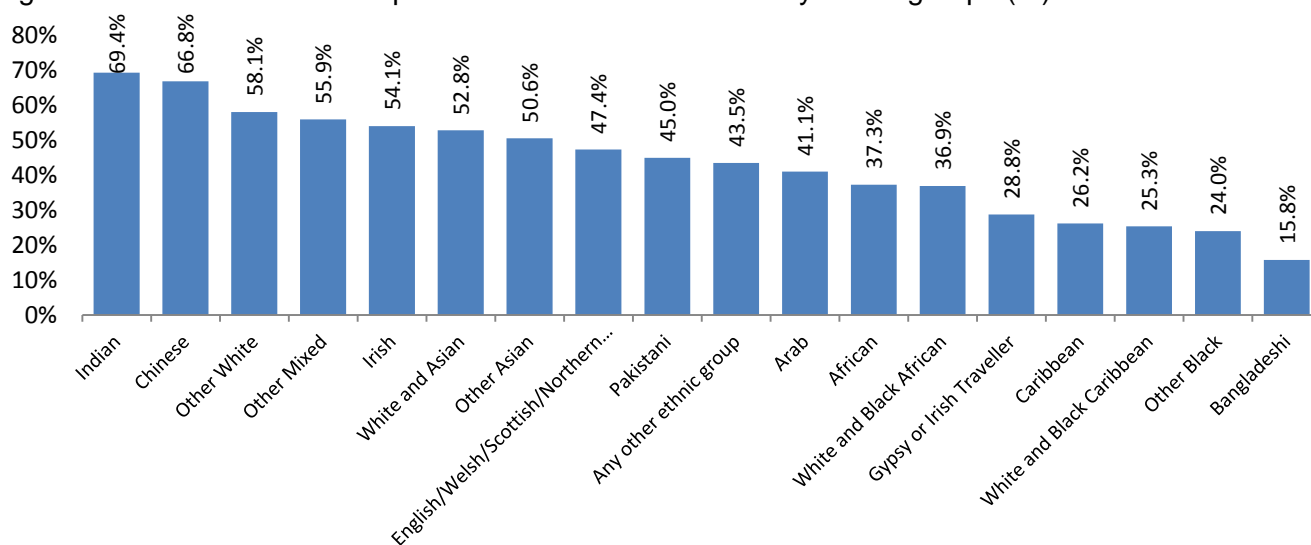
Highest qualification Level 4 plus by ethnic group in Tower Hamlets

The Indian group had the highest rate (69.4 per cent) followed by Chinese and Other white group. The Chinese and Indian groups were equally strong on Level 4 qualification in the whole of London. In England, the Chinese, Indian and African had the highest level of Level 4 plus qualifications.

⁶ For full Tower Hamlets, England and London data tables see appendix.

The lowest rates in the borough were recorded for the Bangladeshi (15.8 per cent), Other Black (24 per cent), White & Black Caribbean (25.3 per cent), Caribbean (26.2 per cent) and Gypsy or Irish travellers (28.8 per cent) population groups.

Figure 11: Level 4 and above qualification in Tower Hamlets by ethnic groups (%)



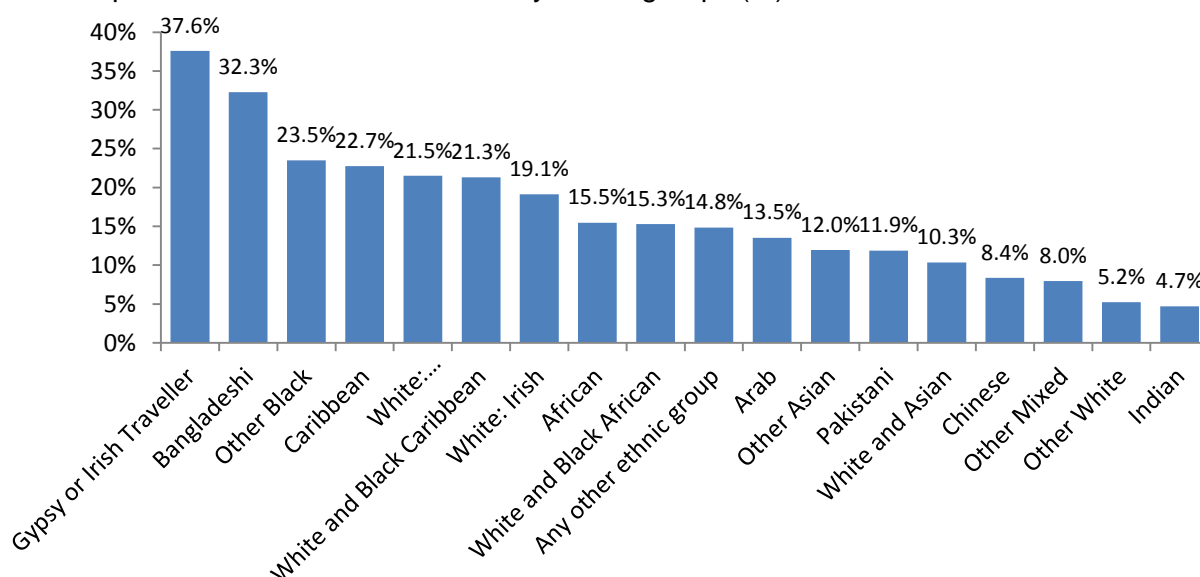
(Source: Census 2011 DC5209EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group, all usual residents aged 16 and over)

No qualifications by ethnic group in Tower Hamlets

In the borough, the group with the highest proportion of residents with no qualifications were the Gypsy or Irish Travellers group with 37.6 per cent, followed by the Bangladeshi group (32.3 per cent), Other Black (23.5 per cent) and Caribbean (22.7 per cent).

This situation was not dissimilar to the London and England trends where Gypsy or Irish Travellers, White Irish, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and White English / British formed the groups with the largest proportion of people with no formal qualification.

Figure 12: No qualifications in Tower Hamlets by ethnic groups (%)



(Source: Census 2011 DC5209EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group, all usual residents aged 16 and over)

More analysis is necessary to understand the fine differences between ethnic groups. For that reason, the next section focuses on the relationship between qualification, age and ethnicity.

1.5 Qualification levels by age and ethnic group

Analysis in this section focuses on qualification levels by ethnic group and age. Currently, only age breakdowns by the main ethnic groups are available; different to the analysis in section 1.4. The analysis will explain existing differences in qualification levels in the local working age population (aged 16 to 64 only). Removing the 65 plus population from the calculation helps to sharpen our understanding of how residents are equipped to compete on the labour market.

Highest qualifications - Working age population 16 to 64

As stated earlier in the report, the average of Level 4 qualifications was high in Tower Hamlets with 43.6 per cent. However, different ethnic groups showed strong differences in Level 4 and No qualification levels. For example, the Asian British and Black British groups performed worse in both categories compared to the White groups, Mixed and Other ethnic groups.

In the Other qualification category, which includes some foreign qualifications, the Other White and Other Ethnic groups showed higher rates compared to the working age average in Tower Hamlets.

While Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications in the borough were low in comparison, the Asian British, Black British and Mixed groups had rates above the working age average in the borough. See Table 7 below.

Table 7: Highest qualifications in Tower Hamlets by ethnic group (Working age population 16 to 64)

	All Ethnic groups / Borough average	Asian/ Asian British	Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	Mixed/ multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
Apprenticeship	0.8%	0.7%	1.0%	1.1%	0.5%	1.1%	0.9%	0.6%
Level 1	9.8%	13.2%	15.3%	10.2%	7.6%	8.3%	4.2%	3.4%
Level 2	9.2%	11.0%	14.6%	9.9%	7.3%	8.8%	5.6%	4.0%
Level 3	10.8%	10.7%	11.9%	13.8%	10.5%	12.6%	9.9%	6.3%
Level 4 and above	43.6%	30.0%	33.4%	45.3%	43.5%	52.4%	61.4%	58.7%
No qualifications	15.6%	22.6%	14.7%	11.6%	12.3%	14.2%	10.6%	4.4%
Other qualifications	10.2%	11.8%	9.0%	8.2%	18.3%	2.6%	7.5%	22.7%

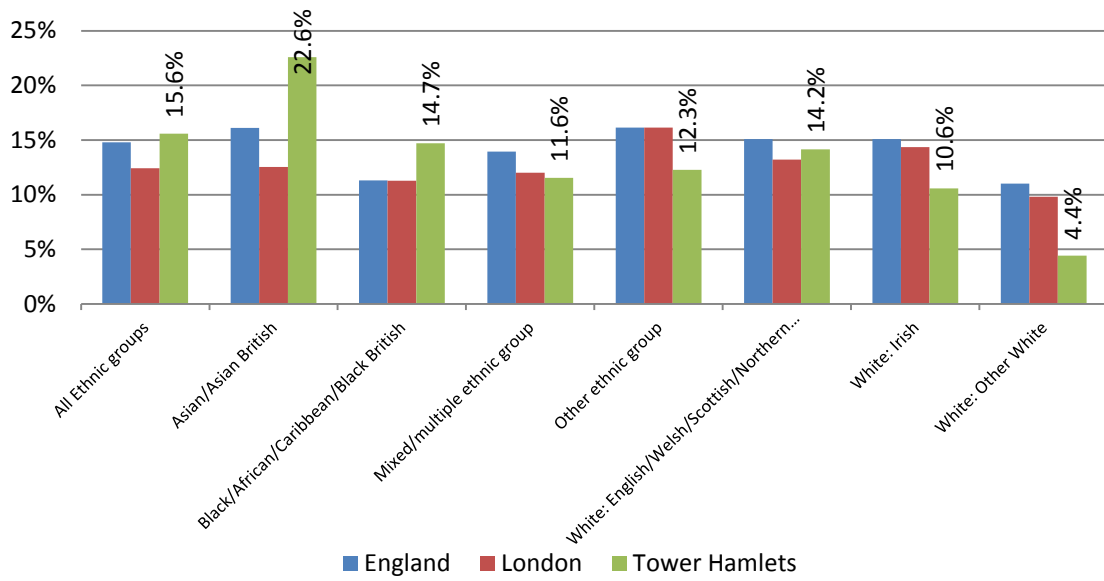
(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Working age population 16 to 64: No qualifications

In 2011, around 15.6 percent of the Tower Hamlets working age population had no formal qualifications. The rate was above the London rate of 12.4 per cent and slightly above the overall England rate of 14.8 per cent.

The Asian British group had a significantly worse No qualifications rate (22.6 per cent) compared to all other main ethnic groups in the borough, but also performed badly compared to the average Asian British rate in London (12.5 per cent) and England (16.1 per cent). The high no qualification rate of Asian British is significant and further analysis by age groups will follow on this in the next chapter.

Figure 13: No Qualifications in Tower Hamlets, London and England (working age population 16 to 64)

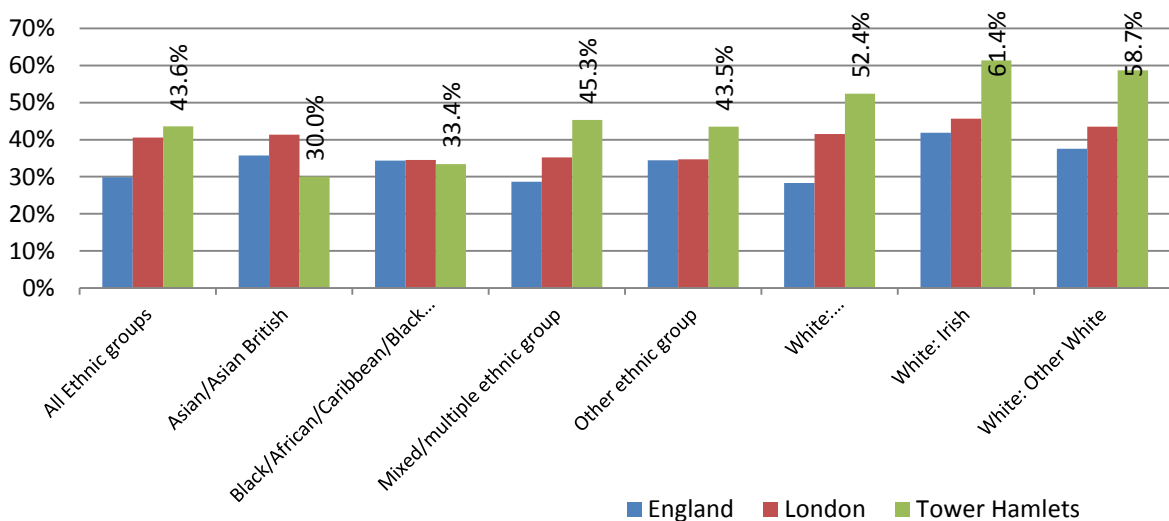


(Source: Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Working age population 16 to 64: Level 4 and above qualifications

Around 43.6 per cent of the overall Tower Hamlets working age population had a Level 4 or above qualification. The White Irish (61.4 per cent) and White Other (58.7 per cent) group had the highest rates in Tower Hamlets while the Asian British and Black British groups achieved the lowest rates. The British Asian group (30 per cent) stood out because it performed worse than the London (41.4 per cent) and England (35.8 per cent) rates. The Black British group (33.5 per cent) in Tower Hamlets achieved a low average very similar to the London and England rates. See Figure 14 below.

Figure 14: Level 4 plus qualifications in Tower Hamlets, London and England (working age population 16 to 64)



(Source: Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Age group - 16 to 24 year olds

In general, the qualification levels of the 16 to 24 year olds were lower compared to the working age population because young people are still progressing through the education system. However, disadvantages early in life can translated into further underachievement and higher risk of further exclusion from the labour market.

While nearly 30 per cent of all 16 to 24 year olds already held a Level 4 and above qualification, differences between the ethnic groups were already developed.

For example, only 21.7 per cent of the Asian British group and 21.6 per cent of the Black British held a Level 4 and above qualification. This was significantly below the White British rate of 39.7 per cent and the White Other rate of 38.1 per cent.

Strong differences between the ethnic groups were also recorded in the Other qualifications and Level 1, 2 and 3 qualifications categories. See Table 8 below.

Table 8: Highest qualifications in Tower Hamlets – Aged 16 to 24 by ethnic group (%)

	All Ethnic groups / Borough average	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Mixed/multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
Apprenticeship	1.4%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	0.9%	1.3%	0.4%	0.5%
Level 1	13.4%	18.2%	18.0%	12.7%	12.0%	8.2%	3.8%	6.8%
Level 2	16.1%	20.8%	22.9%	14.7%	15.1%	12.0%	4.7%	7.0%
Level 3	24.8%	23.8%	22.1%	25.1%	26.9%	30.4%	26.6%	15.4%
Level 4 and above	29.7%	21.7%	21.6%	30.7%	23.7%	39.7%	54.2%	38.1%
No qualifications	6.8%	7.5%	8.9%	8.0%	5.9%	6.4%	2.0%	4.0%
Other qualifications	7.7%	6.2%	4.8%	7.5%	15.6%	2.0%	8.3%	28.3%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Aged 16 to 24: No qualifications

Young people in Tower Hamlets were less likely to have no qualifications. The overall rate of young people (aged 16 to 24) with no formal qualification was according to the Census 2011 6.8 per cent, which was below the London (8.9 per cent) and England (10.4 per cent) averages.

The analysis of the main ethnic groups in this particular age group showed that young White Irish and White Other residents performed the best with only small proportions having no qualifications. The White British rate (6.4 per cent) was just around the borough average. The highest rates were recorded for the Black British (8.9 per cent), Mixed ethnic group (8 per cent) and Asian British (7.5 per cent) groups.

Compared to London and England, 16 to 24 year olds in Tower Hamlets are less likely to have no formal qualification. This is true for most ethnic groups excluding the Asian British. The rate in Tower Hamlets (7.5 per cent) was above the London rate (5.9 per cent) and was the same in England. See Table 9 below.

Table 9: No qualifications aged 16 to 24 in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	Mixed/ multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
England	10.4%	7.5%	9.2%	11.8%	10.6%	10.7%	6.4%	13.1%
London	8.9%	5.9%	9.2%	10.7%	9.2%	9.8%	6.7%	10.3%
Tower Hamlets	6.8%	7.5%	8.9%	8.0%	5.9%	6.4%	2.0%	4.0%

(Source: Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Aged 16 to 24: Level 4 qualifications and above

The overall rate for the 16 to 24 year olds in Tower Hamlets (29.7 per cent) was significantly above the England (13.7 per cent) and London (22.5 per cent) averages. However, the British Asian rate (21.7 per cent) performed below the rate for British Asians in England (22.1 per cent) and London (26.6 per cent).

All other main ethnic groups in Tower Hamlets performed better than the average rate of Level 4 and above qualifications of their particular ethnic group in London and England.

Table 10: Aged 16 to 24: Level 4 qualifications and above in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	Mixed/ multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/ Scottish/Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
England	13.7%	22.1%	14.5%	12.6%	17.4%	12.2%	26.9%	17.1%
London	22.5%	26.6%	15.8%	17.3%	19.7%	23.2%	35.9%	23.7%
Tower Hamlets	29.7%	21.7%	21.6%	30.7%	23.7%	39.7%	54.2%	38.1%

(Source: Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Age group - 25 to 49 year olds

In the borough, more than half of all 25 to 49 year olds were highly qualified. Many held other qualifications and around 13.5 per cent held no formal qualifications.

The ethnic differences were pronounced quite strongly, with the Black British holding the largest averages of Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications. The White Irish stood out with the highest rate of Level 4 and above qualifications in this age group. In comparison, the White Other groups held the largest proportion of Other qualifications. (Table 11 below)

Table 11: Highest qualifications in Tower Hamlets – Aged 25 to 49 by ethnic group (%)

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	Mixed/ multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
Apprenticeship	0.5%	0.3%	0.7%	0.8%	0.4%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%
Level 1	8.7%	12.1%	14.7%	8.8%	6.3%	7.7%	3.1%	2.6%
Level 2	7.2%	8.0%	12.0%	7.4%	5.1%	7.7%	5.1%	3.2%
Level 3	6.9%	6.4%	9.5%	8.4%	5.2%	8.3%	7.1%	4.4%
Level 4 and above	52.0%	36.6%	38.8%	55.8%	52.5%	63.5%	71.6%	64.2%
No qualifications	13.5%	22.9%	14.2%	10.3%	11.6%	9.6%	4.7%	3.6%
Other qualifications	11.2%	13.7%	10.1%	8.6%	18.9%	2.4%	7.6%	21.4%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Aged 25 to 49: No qualifications

In the age group 25 to 49, around 13.5 per cent did not have a formal qualification in Tower Hamlets. The Asian British (22.9 per cent) and the Black British (14.2 per cent) groups had higher rates compared to the average.

The Other White (3.6 per cent), White Irish (4.7 %) White English (9.6 per cent) groups and the Mixed and Other ethnic group performed better than the average in the age group 25 to 49 with no formal qualification.

Compared to the England and London average, all White groups, Mixed and Other ethnic groups performed better while the Asian and Black British groups performed worse compared to London and England averages. See Table 12 below.

Table 12: No qualification Aged 25 to 49 in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	Mixed/ multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
England	11.0%	14.7%	10.7%	13.4%	16.3%	10.6%	7.6%	9.5%
London	9.8%	11.0%	10.7%	11.0%	16.0%	9.1%	7.1%	8.3%
Tower Hamlets	13.5%	22.9%	14.2%	10.3%	11.6%	9.6%	4.7%	3.6%

(Source: Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Aged 25 to 49: Level 4 qualifications and above

Compared to London and England, the age group 25 to 49 in Tower Hamlets had a higher rate of residents qualified to Level 4 and above. However, differences within ethnic groups were noticeable. The White, Mixed and Other groups perform better and achieved higher averages of Level 4 plus qualifications.

While the Black British average (38.8 per cent) was relatively close to the England and London average, the British Asian rate (36.6 per cent) was noticeable below England and London rates.

The highest rates in Tower Hamlets were achieved by White Irish (71.6 per cent), White Other (64.2 per cent) and White British (63.5 per cent) residents.

Table 13: Aged 25 to 49: Level 4 qualifications and above in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	Mixed/ multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
England	36.4%	43.8%	40.4%	38.3%	39.5%	34.4%	52.6%	42.0%
London	48.4%	50.0%	40.7%	45.0%	40.1%	50.9%	56.6%	48.2%
Tower Hamlets	52.0%	36.6%	38.8%	55.8%	52.5%	63.5%	71.6%	64.2%

(Source: Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Age group - 50 to 64 year olds

People aged 50 to 64 were more likely to have no qualifications compared to the younger population and the overall working age population in the borough. The 59 to 64 year olds also were less likely to hold Level 4 and above qualifications.

Again, the Black British population held the highest proportion of Level 1 and 2 qualifications while the White Other and Other ethnic group were most likely to achieve Other qualifications. The Asian British population group stood out with the highest rate of No qualifications (65 per cent).

Table 14: Highest qualifications in Tower Hamlets – Aged 50 to 64 by ethnic group (%)

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Mixed/multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
Apprenticeship	1.4%	0.2%	1.6%	1.7%	0.0%	2.2%	1.6%	1.1%
Level 1	8.9%	5.6%	14.2%	12.0%	6.6%	10.4%	8.1%	3.7%
Level 2	7.2%	2.4%	13.4%	10.6%	3.8%	9.0%	7.9%	5.2%
Level 3	5.8%	1.5%	8.0%	11.0%	6.9%	7.5%	7.3%	6.0%
Level 4 and above	24.9%	9.6%	27.7%	20.7%	26.2%	29.9%	31.3%	44.3%
No qualifications	42.3%	65.0%	24.8%	36.6%	35.6%	37.0%	37.0%	17.3%
Other qualifications	9.4%	15.6%	10.4%	7.5%	20.9%	4.0%	6.8%	22.5%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Aged 50 to 64: No qualifications

People aged 50 to 64 were significantly more likely to have no formal qualification in Tower Hamlets (42.3 per cent) compared to London (23 per cent) and England (24.9 per cent). In this particular age group, Asian British had the highest rate of no formal qualifications with 65 per cent. This was significantly worse than the Asian British London (25.7 per cent) and England (33.2 per cent) averages.

However, it was also true that the older population was more likely to have higher levels of no qualifications in any ethnic group in Tower Hamlets compared to London and England averages. Only the White Other group in the borough (17.3 per cent) had a similar rate compared to London (18.3 per cent) and England (16.7 per cent).

Table 15: No qualification Aged 50 to 64 in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Mixed/multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
England	24.9%	33.2%	16.7%	24.1%	23.1%	24.9%	27.6%	16.7%
London	23.0%	25.7%	16.0%	21.5%	25.2%	23.8%	28.8%	18.3%
Tower Hamlets	42.3%	65.0%	24.8%	36.6%	35.6%	37.0%	37.0%	17.3%

(Source: Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Aged 50 to 64: Level 4 qualifications and above

The Census 2011 data showed that the rate of Tower Hamlets residents with Level 4 and above in the 50 to 65 year age group of 24.9 per cent was lower than the England (27.9 per cent) and London (32.7 per cent) averages.

Data broken down by main ethnic categories indicates a significant low rate for British Asians (9.6 per cent) and a lower rate for the mixed ethnic group (20.7 per cent). Significantly higher Level 4 qualification rates can be observed for the Other White group with 44.3 per cent.

Compared to Asian British in London and England, Asian British in Tower Hamlets performed most poorly, while Black British, Mixed groups and Other ethnic groups also had rates of Level 4 qualification below the England and London average.

In comparison, the Other White and White Irish group in the borough performed better than the London and England rates. However, the White British rate of 29.9 per cent was above the England average (27.4 per cent) but below the London average of 33.3 per cent. See Table 16 below.

Table 16: Aged 50 to 64: Level 4 qualifications and above in Tower Hamlets, London and England

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Mixed/multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
England	27.8%	24.7%	35.6%	30.4%	35.6%	27.4%	31.0%	37.2%
London	32.7%	28.0%	35.1%	31.5%	31.7%	33.3%	29.4%	37.0%
Tower Hamlets	24.9%	9.6%	27.7%	20.7%	26.2%	29.9%	31.3%	44.3%

(Source: Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Age group - 65 years and above

While residents aged 65 plus are mainly retired and qualification levels will not necessarily be used on the labour market, the data helps to understand how trends in the 65 plus population influence the overall qualification levels of the 16 plus population as discussed earlier on.

Table 17: Highest qualifications in Tower Hamlets – Residents aged 65 plus

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Mixed/multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
Apprenticeship	1.5%	0.2%	1.5%	0.5%	0.6%	2.0%	2.3%	1.5%
Level 1	3.2%	2.1%	4.2%	3.1%	3.1%	3.7%	2.3%	2.7%
Level 2	2.5%	1.3%	4.0%	2.6%	1.2%	2.8%	5.1%	1.8%
Level 3	1.6%	0.8%	1.8%	2.6%	0.0%	1.8%	1.7%	4.0%
Level 4 and above	10.4%	4.2%	11.5%	15.0%	11.2%	11.9%	13.3%	21.0%
No qualifications	72.9%	78.3%	64.9%	65.3%	72.0%	73.7%	66.8%	50.9%
Other qualifications	7.9%	13.2%	12.1%	10.9%	11.8%	4.0%	8.6%	18.1%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Aged 65 plus: No qualifications

Tower Hamlets residents' aged 65 and more were very likely not to hold any formal qualification. This trend can be observed in all ethnic groups where No qualification rates were substantially above the London and England rates. The low rates of formal qualification of the 65 plus population are evidence of the changing nature of work, local industries and the growing importance of formal qualification in society.

However, the data also showed some ethnic differences which help to explain the current situation in Tower Hamlets. For example, 78 per cent of Asian British aged 65 and above had no formal qualification compared to the average of the age group of 72.9 per cent or the White British rate of 73.7 per cent. 50.9 per cent of the White other population had no formal qualification in this age group. These high rates impact on overall average for the 16 plus population.

Table 18: No qualifications Aged 65 plus in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Mixed/multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
England	52.9%	51.8%	49.6%	45.3%	45.5%	53.2%	57.5%	40.4%
London	49.9%	43.3%	45.5%	38.9%	44.8%	52.3%	56.7%	40.2%
Tower Hamlets	72.9%	78.3%	64.9%	65.3%	72.0%	73.7%	66.8%	50.9%

(Source: Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

Aged 65 plus: Level 4 qualifications and above

Level 4 qualifications were very low in the population aged 65 plus in the borough with 10.4 per cent. This rate was significantly below the London (20.2 per cent) and England (17.6 per cent) averages.

This was mainly true for all ethnic groups. For example, only 4 per cent of the British Asians aged 65 plus are qualified to Level 4 compared to Asian British in England (18 per cent) or London (22 per cent). See Table 19 below.

Table 19: Aged 65 plus: Level 4 qualifications and above in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	All Ethnic groups	Asian/Asian British	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	Mixed/multiple ethnic group	Other ethnic group	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	White: Irish	White: Other White
England	17.6%	18.3%	20.7%	20.8%	24.1%	17.4%	16.5%	24.0%
London	20.2%	22.0%	22.7%	23.2%	23.1%	19.5%	15.6%	24.5%
Tower Hamlets	10.4%	4.2%	11.5%	15.0%	11.2%	11.9%	13.3%	21.0%

(Source: Census 2011 DC5202EW - Highest level of qualification by ethnic group by age)

1.6 Qualification levels by country of birth and age

The country of birth and different migration backgrounds can matter when discussing qualification levels and future employment opportunities.

Tower Hamlets residents born in the UK, the largest group, achieved close to average levels of Level 4 and above qualifications and no qualifications. The level of Other qualification which includes foreign qualification was, for the obvious reasons, low for UK born residents.

Significant, above the average, rates of Level 4 plus qualification can be observed for residents born in Australasia (67.9 per cent), pre EU Accession countries (60 per cent), Ireland (59.9 per cent), Americas and the Caribbean (56.9 per cent) and the rest of Europe, not including the Accession countries with 58.1 per cent.

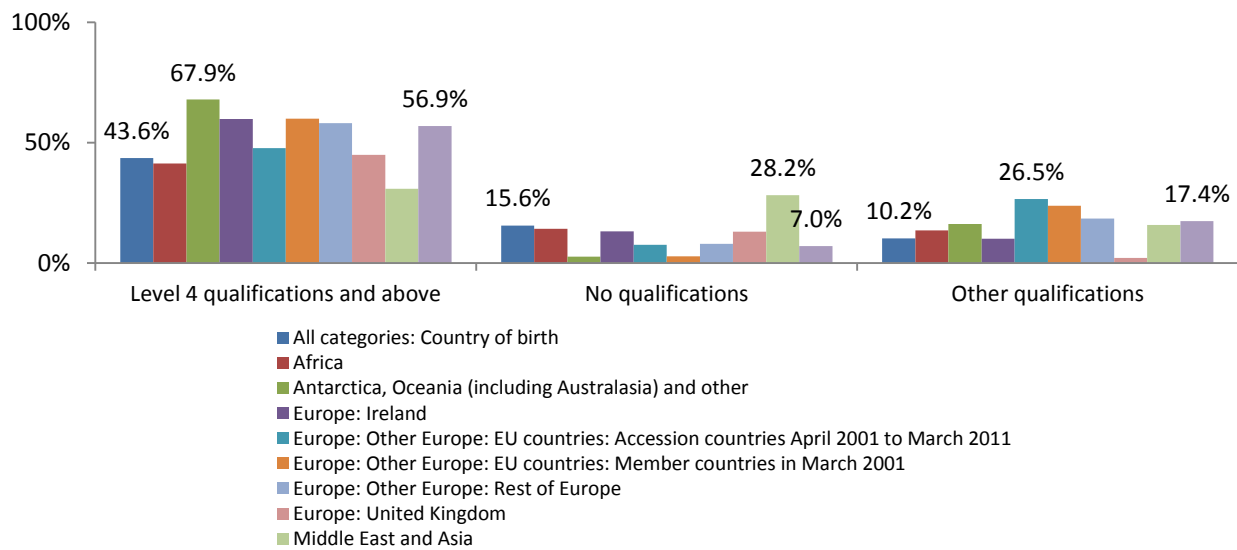
Low levels, below the average, Level 4 qualification rates were achieved by residents born in the Middle East and Asia (30.9 per cent). UK born residents (44.9 per cent), African (41.3 per cent) and residents born in EU countries: Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011 (47.7 per cent) held Level 4 qualification levels close to the overall average. See table and chart below.

Table 20: Highest level of qualification by country of birth by age in Tower Hamlets (%)

	Apprentice - ship	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 and above	No qualifications	Other qualification s
Africa	0.5%	10.8%	10.2%	9.4%	41.3%	14.3%	13.5%
Antarctica, Oceania (incl Australasia) & other	1.3%	1.9%	3.3%	6.9%	67.9%	2.6%	16.2%
Europe: Ireland	1.2%	3.7%	4.9%	7.1%	59.9%	13.1%	10.1%
EU countries: Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011	0.4%	4.6%	5.8%	7.5%	47.7%	7.6%	26.5%
EU countries: Member countries in March 2001	0.6%	3.0%	3.7%	6.2%	60.0%	2.7%	23.8%
Rest of Europe	0.5%	3.8%	3.9%	7.4%	58.1%	7.9%	18.5%
Europe: United Kingdom	1.3%	11.5%	12.4%	14.9%	44.9%	12.9%	2.1%
Middle East and Asia	0.3%	11.1%	6.9%	6.8%	30.9%	28.2%	15.8%
The Americas and the Caribbean	0.5%	5.8%	5.4%	7.0%	56.9%	7.0%	17.4%
All categories: Country of birth	0.8%	9.8%	9.2%	10.8%	43.6%	15.6%	10.2%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5203EW - Highest level of qualification by country of birth by age)

Figure 15: Qualifications by country of birth in Tower Hamlets: Level 4, No qualification and Other qualification only



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5203EW - Highest level of qualification by country of birth by age)

Age, qualification and country of birth

The country of birth data showed that residents born in the Middle East and Asia had relatively low levels of Level 4 qualifications. This is especially prominent for the older age groups (over 50 year olds), the first generation to arrive in Tower Hamlets.

In comparison, Census data shows that residents born in Australasia, Europe and America are well qualified.

The age group 16 to 24 shows some interesting trend, including that only UK born residents achieved below the average Level 4 plus qualification. Again, this can be explained with the large student population in the borough as significant numbers of those were born abroad.

Table 21: Level 4 and above qualifications in Tower Hamlets by age and country of birth (%)

	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over	All categories: Age 16 and over
Africa	28.5%	44.9%	36.3%	16.6%	39.7%
Antarctica, Oceania (including Australasia) and other	43.2%	70.9%	61.3%	51.0%	67.7%
Europe: Ireland	62.7%	71.1%	25.1%	11.0%	49.6%
Europe: Other Europe: EU countries: Accession countries April 2001 to March 2011	32.6%	54.0%	21.2%	9.6%	45.6%
Europe: Other Europe: EU countries: Member countries in March 2001	38.6%	66.4%	43.9%	23.0%	59.4%
Europe: Other Europe: Rest of Europe	47.2%	63.8%	37.4%	22.5%	57.4%
Europe: United Kingdom	27.0%	58.5%	28.8%	11.6%	42.0%
Middle East and Asia	30.5%	34.6%	10.3%	4.5%	29.0%
The Americas and the Caribbean	41.0%	65.6%	33.2%	12.5%	52.3%
All categories: Country of birth	29.7%	52.0%	24.9%	10.4%	41.0%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5203EW - Highest level of qualification by country of birth by age, aged 16 and over)

1.7 Qualification levels by disability

Overview Tower Hamlets qualification and disability

The Census 2011 asked about long term health problems or disabilities and offered options to choose if day to day activities are limited a little or limited a lot. In this section both categories are compared to residents without any limitations and their level of qualifications.

The overall data on disability and qualification levels shows a strong relationship between low levels of qualification and disabilities or poor health. For example, more than 65 per cent of residents with a disability limiting the person’s activities a lot had no formal qualification. While this rate falls to 48.9 per cent for residents with a disability limiting Day to day activities a little, both rates were significantly above the rate of residents without a disability (13 per cent). See Table 22 below.

Table 22: Qualification levels by disability status in Tower Hamlets (%)

	Apprenticeship	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 and above	No qualifications	Other qualifications
Day-to-day activities limited a little	1.1%	10.2%	7.2%	5.6%	17.0%	48.9%	9.9%
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	1.1%	8.6%	5.2%	3.3%	8.8%	65.1%	8.1%
Day-to-day activities not limited	0.9%	9.3%	9.2%	11.2%	46.3%	13.0%	10.2%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5301EW - Highest level of qualification by long-term health problem or disability - All usual residents aged 16 and over)

No qualifications by disability

The level of no qualifications of disabled residents in Tower Hamlets with day-to-day activities limited a lot of 65.1 per cent was significantly higher compared to the London (52 per cent) and England (56.7 per cent) averages. This also was the case for residents with a disability limiting Day to day activities a little.

Table 23: Level of No qualification by disability status in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	England	London	Tower Hamlets
Day-to-day activities limited a little	40.7%	37.0%	48.9%
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	56.7%	52.0%	65.1%
Day-to-day activities not limited	15.7%	12.2%	13.0%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5301EW - Highest level of qualification by long-term health problem or disability - All usual residents aged 16 and over)

Level 4 qualifications and above by disability

The Census 2011 results suggested that the proportion of residents with a disability and a Level 4 plus qualification was relatively low in Tower Hamlets with 8.8 per cent for residents with activities limited a lot and 17 per cent with activities limited a little. Both rates in the borough were below the London and England averages.

However, the Census 2011 data also shows that out of the 16 plus resident population, around 2,725 Tower Hamlets residents with a disability and little limited Day to day activities had a Level 4 qualification. In addition, there were also 1,431 residents who had a Level 4 and more qualification but had a disability, which limited Day to day activities a lot.

Table 24: Level 4 qualification and more in Tower Hamlets by disability (%)

	England	London	Tower Hamlets
Day-to-day activities limited a little	18.8%	22.2%	17.0%
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	11.8%	14.2%	8.8%
Day-to-day activities not limited	30.5%	41.6%	46.3%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5301EW - Highest level of qualification by long-term health problem or disability - All usual residents aged 16 and over)

1.8 Qualification levels by faith and age

Analysis in this section focuses on qualification levels of residents by age and faith. While the trends are related to the ethnic group analysis earlier on, it is useful to focus on some interesting differences between faith groups in the borough.

Highest qualification - Working age population 16 to 64

As stated earlier, the average of Level 4 qualification was high in Tower Hamlets with 43.6 per cent. However, different faith groups showed strong differences in Level 4 and No qualifications levels.

Interestingly, only the Muslim faith group (18.2 per cent) performed worse than the overall Tower Hamlets average of 43.6 per cent. All other faith groups in the borough achieved Level 4 qualifications above the Tower Hamlets average. The Hindu group has the largest proportion (74.2 per cent) of residents with a Level 4 and above qualification.

For residents with no qualifications, a similar trend can be observed as 28.1 per cent of Muslims had no formal qualification while only 2 per cent of the Hindu population had no formal qualification.

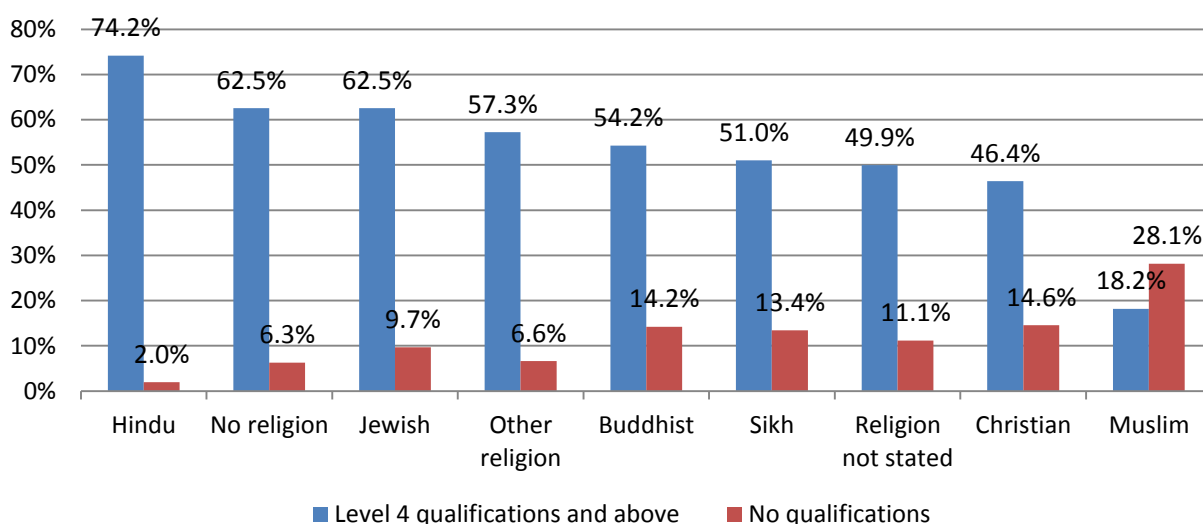
The proportion of residents with Other qualifications, which included some foreign qualifications, was around 10.2 per cent. However, the proportion of Buddhists (12.1 per cent) and Muslims (12.7 per cent) was slightly above the general average. See Table 25 and Figure 16 below.

Table 25: Highest qualifications in Tower Hamlets by faith group (working age population 16 to 64) (%)

	All 16 to 64	Buddhist	Christian	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	No religion	Other religion	Religion not stated	Sikh
Total 16 to 64	188,383	2,389	52,155	3,727	910	53,183	43,938	784	30,625	672
Apprenticeship	0.8%	0.5%	1.1%	0.1%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.1%
Level 1	9.8%	5.8%	9.3%	1.9%	5.8%	16.3%	5.0%	5.9%	7.8%	6.7%
Level 2	9.2%	4.8%	9.3%	2.8%	5.6%	13.1%	6.1%	7.0%	7.9%	8.6%
Level 3	10.8%	8.3%	9.7%	8.9%	7.7%	10.8%	11.6%	13.9%	11.9%	15.2%
Level 4 and above	43.6%	54.2%	46.4%	74.2%	62.5%	18.2%	62.5%	57.3%	49.9%	51.0%
No qualifications	15.6%	14.2%	14.6%	2.0%	9.7%	28.1%	6.3%	6.6%	11.1%	13.4%
Other qualification	10.2%	12.1%	9.6%	10.2%	7.8%	12.7%	7.8%	8.3%	10.5%	4.9%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5204EW - Highest level of qualification by religion by age)

Figure 16: Level 4 and above and No qualification by faith group in Tower Hamlets (Aged 16 to 64) (%)



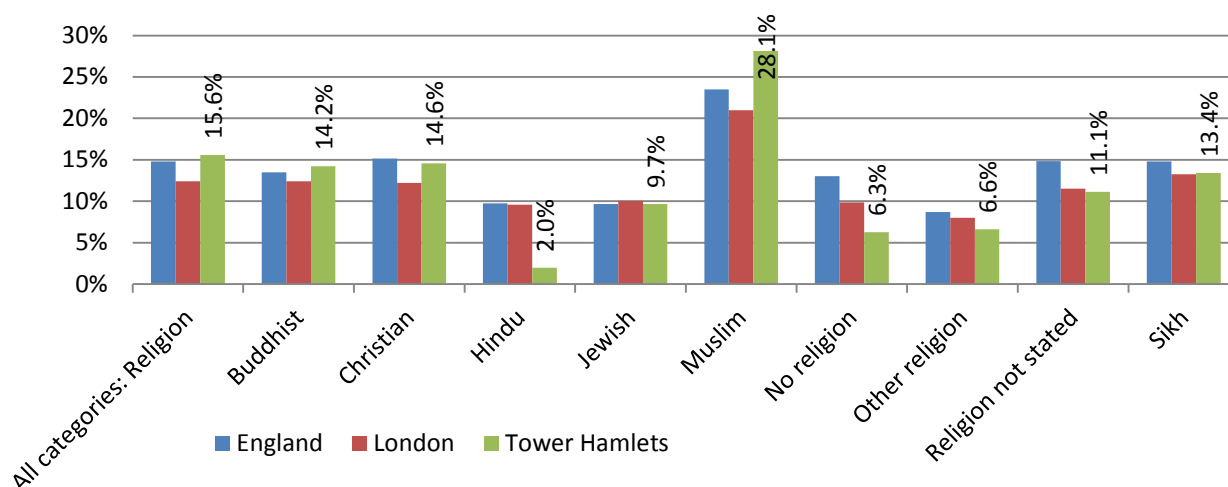
(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5204EW - Highest level of qualification by religion by age)

Working age population 16 to 64: No qualifications

Around 15.6 percent of the Tower Hamlets working age population had no formal qualification, a rate above the London rate of 12.4 per cent and slightly above the overall England rate of 14.8 per cent.

Compared to London and England, the Muslim faith group had significantly worse no qualification levels compared to all other faith groups in the borough and compared badly to the rate for the Muslim faith group in London (21 per cent) and England (23.5 per cent). See Figure 17 below.

Figure 17: No Qualification in Tower Hamlets, London and England by faith group (Working age population 16 to 64) (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5204EW - Highest level of qualification by religion by age)

Working age population 16 to 64: Level 4 and above qualifications

Around 43.6 per cent of the overall Tower Hamlets working age population had a Level 4 or above qualification. The highest proportion was achieved by the Hindu faith group with 74.2 per cent. While the Hindu group had also very high Level 4 and above qualification levels in London and England, the Hindu groups was outperformed by the Jewish group which had the highest proportion of Level 4 and above qualification levels in London (51.9 per cent) and England (47.3 per cent).

The Muslim faith group achieved the lowest proportion of Level 4 plus qualifications in Tower Hamlets (18.2 per cent), London (27.9 per cent) and England (24.6 per cent).

Table 26: Level 4 plus qualifications by religion in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	All categories 16 to 64	Buddhist	Christian	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	No religion	Other religion	Religion not stated	Sikh
England	29.8%	40.3%	28.4%	46.8%	47.3%	24.6%	31.5%	39.9%	31.5%	32.4%
London	40.5%	44.8%	38.0%	46.5%	51.9%	27.9%	48.6%	49.4%	43.2%	34.8%
Tower Hamlets	43.6%	54.2%	46.4%	74.2%	62.5%	18.2%	62.5%	57.3%	49.9%	51.0%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5204EW - Highest level of qualification by religion by age)

2 Labour market and qualification levels

2.1 Qualification and labour market participation

This section looks at how resident’s qualification levels relate to their employment and unemployment levels. The focus of the analysis is on residents aged 25 to 64. This is because it is difficult to draw conclusions from those aged 16 to 24 as many are still in the education system or in training, and will not yet have achieved their highest level of qualification. However, for those aged 25 to 64, most will have completed their education or training and as a result will have achieved their highest level of qualification.

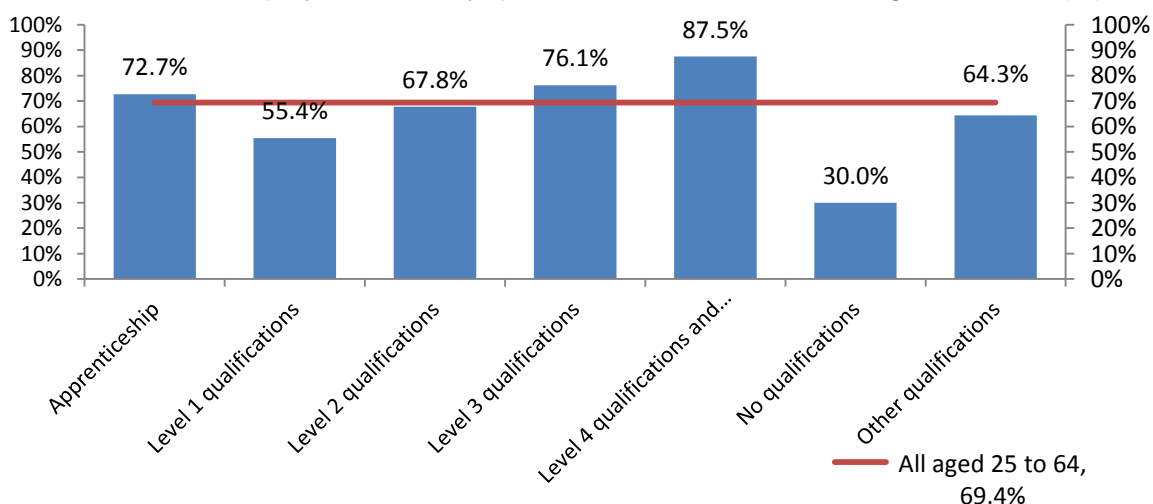
The overall employment rate for usual residents aged 16 to 64 in Tower Hamlets was 63.6 per cent, which is lower than the rate for those aged 25 to 64 (69.4 per cent), due to the low rate among those aged 16 to 24 (43.6 per cent).

Similarly, the unemployment rate for Tower Hamlets residents aged 16 to 64 was 12 per cent, higher than the rate for those aged 25 to 64 (9.2 per cent), due to a high rate among those aged 16 to 24 (24.3 per cent). For these reasons, the 25 to 64 age group is more appropriate for comparisons than the younger age group when looking at the effect of different levels of qualifications in the labour market.

Employment rate by qualification levels⁷

Examining the employment rates for each highest level of qualification category shows which qualifications lead to a higher likelihood of being in employment. The chart below demonstrates that residents with no formal qualifications had by far the lowest employment rate with 30 per cent. This rate was the lowest in the country for this particular group.⁸ The highest above the average employment rate was achieved by residents with a Level 4 and above qualification.

Figure 18: Tower Hamlets employment rate by qualification levels, residents aged 25 to 64 (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5601EW1a - Highest Level of Qualification by Economic Activity by age)

⁷ The employment rate is the proportion of those in employment out of all usual residents, both economically active and economically inactive.

⁸ For further analysis of the national context see ONS document: Qualifications and Labour Market Participation in England and Wales June 2014.

Census 2011 data shows that residents with Level 4 and above qualification were most likely to be in employment. The employment rate for this group was the highest in Tower Hamlets (87.5 per cent), London (85.2 per cent) and England (85.3 per cent).

Interestingly, most employment rates in Tower Hamlets by qualification levels were below the regional and national averages. Only the group with Level 4 and above qualification levels had an employment rate above the London and England rate. See Table 27 below.

Table 27: Employment rate by qualification levels aged 25 to 64 (% and total) in TH, London and England

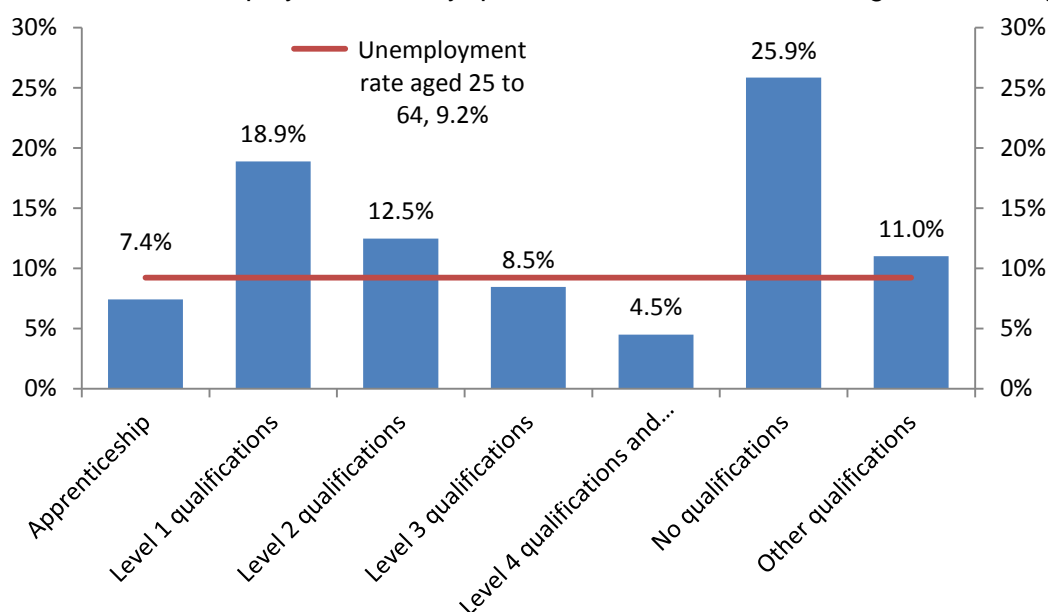
	Residents aged 25 to 64	Apprenticeship	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 and above	No qualifications	Other
England	75.7%	81.0%	73.9%	78.4%	83.5%	85.3%	48.7%	72.3%
London	74.7%	78.6%	68.5%	74.0%	78.9%	85.2%	44.8%	70.4%
Tower Hamlets	69.4%	72.7%	55.4%	67.8%	76.1%	87.5%	30.0%	64.3%
Tower Hamlets (Total)	101,101	711	7,039	7,073	7,426	60,686	7,935	10,231

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5601EWIa - Highest Level of Qualification by Economic Activity by age)

Unemployment rate by qualification levels⁹

Examining the unemployment rates for each level of qualification category shows which qualifications lead to a higher likelihood of being unemployed. Unsurprisingly, in the borough, those with no qualification had the highest unemployment rate of 25.9 per cent. In comparison, having a degree Level 4 or above qualification corresponded to the lowest unemployment rate in Tower Hamlets with only 4.5 per cent.

Figure 19: Tower Hamlets unemployment rate by qualification levels, residents aged 25 to 64 (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5601EWIa - Highest Level of Qualification by Economic Activity by age)

The unemployment rate for those with no qualifications in the borough was double the England average (12.1 per cent) and still significantly worse than the London average (14.8 per cent). In

⁹ The unemployment rate is the proportion of those unemployed out of all usual residents who are economically active (the unemployment rate does not include those who are economically inactive in the calculation).

general, having no formal qualifications doubled the likelihood of unemployment in England, London or Tower Hamlets.

Interestingly, even those with Level 4 qualifications and above had a poorer unemployment rate compared to those in England and London. See Table 28 below.

Table 28: Unemployment rate (including full-time students) by qualification level aged 25 to 64 (% and total) in TH, London and England

	All aged 25 to 64	Apprenticeship	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 and above	No qualifications	Other
England	5.6%	4.2%	7.3%	5.9%	4.3%	3.2%	12.1%	7.0%
London	7.0%	6.3%	10.4%	8.7%	6.7%	4.4%	14.8%	7.9%
Tower Hamlets	9.2%	7.4%	18.9%	12.5%	8.5%	4.5%	25.9%	11.0%
Tower Hamlets (Total)	10,289	57	1,641	1,009	688	2,859	2,767	1,268

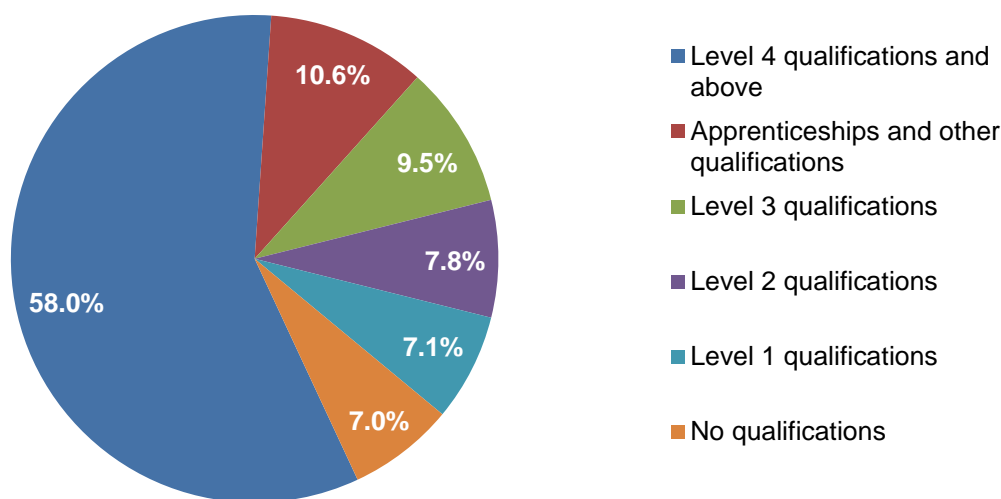
(Source: Census 2011 DC5601EW1a - Highest Level of Qualification by Economic Activity by age)

2.2 Industry by qualification level and age

This section explores the link between qualification levels of residents and the industries residents work in. The data discussed here refers to all usual residents aged 16 to 64 in employment the week before the Census 2011.

Figure 20 below shows that out of all residents in employment; nearly 58 per cent held a Level 4 and above qualification, around 10.6 per cent held an apprenticeship and any other qualification and 9.5 per cent had a Level 3 qualification. Only 7 per cent of employed residents had no formal qualification.

Figure 20: Working age Tower Hamlets residents aged 16 to 64 in employment by highest qualification (%)



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6503EW1a - Industry by highest level of qualification by age)

Overview Tower Hamlets - Qualification by industry

Different industries require different qualification levels; some might be more academic and degree based while others require greater job based learning and ‘practical’ skills.

The data in Table 29 below shows that the majority of residents employed in professional, scientific and technical activities (80.8 per cent); information & communications (76.3 per cent) and financial & insurance industries (79.7 per cent) held Level 4 and above qualifications.

The lowest proportions of residents with Level 4 and above qualifications were recorded in the transport & storage industries and accommodation & food services. While the rates were lower, they were still high compared to England averages as it is not unusual that people in London, while technically overqualified, still work in lower skilled sectors.

The sectors accommodation & food services (19.4 per cent) and transport & storage (21.6 per cent) had the highest proportion of residents in employment with no qualification. See Table 29.

Table 29: Tower Hamlets residents by industries of employment by qualifications (%)

	Apprenticeships and other qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 and above	No qualifications
All categories: Industry	10.6%	7.1%	7.8%	9.5%	58.0%	7.0%
A, B, D, E Agriculture, energy, water	11.3%	8.3%	8.0%	5.8%	49.3%	17.2%
C Manufacturing	14.6%	9.5%	8.2%	7.9%	41.7%	18.2%
F Construction	20.2%	10.4%	13.8%	11.9%	29.6%	14.1%
G Wholesale and retail trade	12.2%	11.6%	11.2%	14.5%	41.4%	9.1%
H Transport and storage	17.6%	16.2%	12.8%	8.3%	23.5%	21.6%
I Accommodation and food service	25.5%	11.5%	8.6%	10.7%	24.4%	19.4%
J Information and communication	8.1%	3.1%	4.0%	7.2%	76.3%	1.3%
K Financial and insurance	7.4%	2.8%	3.9%	5.1%	79.7%	1.1%
L Real estate activities	7.6%	10.8%	13.4%	13.6%	46.1%	8.5%
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	5.5%	2.7%	3.7%	5.9%	80.8%	1.5%
N Administrative and support	14.2%	11.4%	10.8%	11.1%	40.8%	11.6%
O Public administration and defence	4.1%	9.2%	12.0%	12.3%	58.0%	4.3%
P Education	5.7%	7.2%	8.8%	10.9%	61.9%	5.5%
Q Human health and social work activities	5.8%	5.9%	9.5%	11.4%	63.6%	3.8%
R, S, T, U Other	10.6%	5.8%	7.7%	11.9%	58.7%	5.2%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6503EW1a - Industry by highest level of qualification by age)

No qualifications by industries

As discussed above, of those Tower Hamlets residents in employment, only 7 per cent had no formal qualifications. This was close to the London average (7.5 per cent) but below the England rate (9.5 per cent).

The Tower Hamlets rates differed strongly by industry from 1.1 per cent in the financial & insurance industries to 21.6 per cent in transport & storage. This is not unusual, for example in London and England the highest proportion of people in employment with no qualifications were in transport & storage and accommodation & food services.

Similar trends were observed in the industries financial & insurance activities, information & communication and professional, scientific & technical activities which had the lowest proportions of employees with no qualification in Tower Hamlets, London and England.

More interestingly were the differences in the admin & support service sector and wholesale & retail activities. Tower Hamlets residents working in those industries were less likely to have no qualifications compared to the averages in England and London. However, the later discussion of level 4 and above qualifications will make these differences clearer. See Table 30 below.

Table 30: No qualifications by industries in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	England	London	Tower Hamlets
H Transport and storage	17.8%	15.9%	21.6%
I Accommodation and food service activities	15.0%	14.4%	19.4%
C Manufacturing	14.3%	13.5%	18.2%
A, B, D, E Agriculture, energy and water	14.3%	12.9%	17.2%
F Construction	13.0%	14.1%	14.1%
N Administrative and support service activities	16.7%	13.0%	11.6%
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	13.5%	11.3%	9.1%
L Real estate activities	6.4%	6.3%	8.5%
All categories: Industry	9.5%	7.5%	7.0%
P Education	4.2%	4.1%	5.5%
R, S, T, U Other	7.8%	6.7%	5.2%
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	3.7%	4.1%	4.3%
Q Human health and social work activities	5.4%	4.4%	3.8%
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	2.8%	1.9%	1.5%
J Information and communication	2.5%	1.9%	1.3%
K Financial and insurance activities	2.6%	1.8%	1.1%
All categories: Industry	9.5%	7.5%	7.0%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6503EWIa - Industry by highest level of qualification by age)

Level 4 and above qualifications by industries

Around 58 percent of Tower Hamlets residents in employment held a Level 4 and above qualification. This was significantly above the London (49 per cent) and England (35.4 per cent) averages.

The data shows that the majority of Tower Hamlets residents employed in professional, scientific and technical activities (80.8 per cent); information & communications (76.3 per cent) and financial & insurance industries (79.7 per cent) held Level 4 and above qualifications.

This sectoral qualification characteristic was close to the London average but outperformed England rates strongly. For example, only 49.1 per cent of employees in the financial & insurance activities in England held a level 4 plus qualification. While this is clearly based on the head quarter function of London and Tower Hamlets, it is a significant difference.

The four sectors with the lowest proportion of Level 4 and above qualifications in England, London and Tower Hamlets were: wholesale and retail trade; administrative and support service, construction and accommodation & food services.

It is notable that the qualification levels of London and Tower Hamlets residents were higher compared to England. This also means, especially in Tower Hamlets, the proportion of higher qualified residents in low skilled sectors was unusually high. For example, nearly 41.4 per cent of employed residents in the wholesale and retail industries held a Level 4 and above qualifications. This was twice the England average of 18.8 per cent. This phenomena can partly explained with newly arriving higher educated migrants, students and a general younger population. See Table 31 below.

Table 31: Level 4 and more qualifications by industries in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	England	London	Tower Hamlets
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	64.0%	74.5%	80.8%
K Financial and insurance activities	49.1%	67.4%	79.7%
J Information and communication	57.5%	69.5%	76.3%
Q Human health and social work activities	47.6%	58.6%	63.6%
P Education	60.7%	64.3%	61.9%
R, S, T, U Other	32.6%	47.0%	58.7%
All categories: Industry	35.4%	49.0%	58.0%
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	42.3%	51.8%	58.0%
A, B, D, E Agriculture, energy and water	25.6%	40.3%	49.3%
L Real estate activities	38.9%	47.9%	46.1%
C Manufacturing	24.2%	35.6%	41.7%
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	18.8%	32.3%	41.4%
N Administrative and support service activities	22.8%	33.6%	40.8%
F Construction	17.5%	21.5%	29.6%
I Accommodation and food service activities	16.3%	25.2%	24.4%
All categories: Industry	35.4%	49.0%	58.0%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6503EW1a - Industry by highest level of qualification by age)

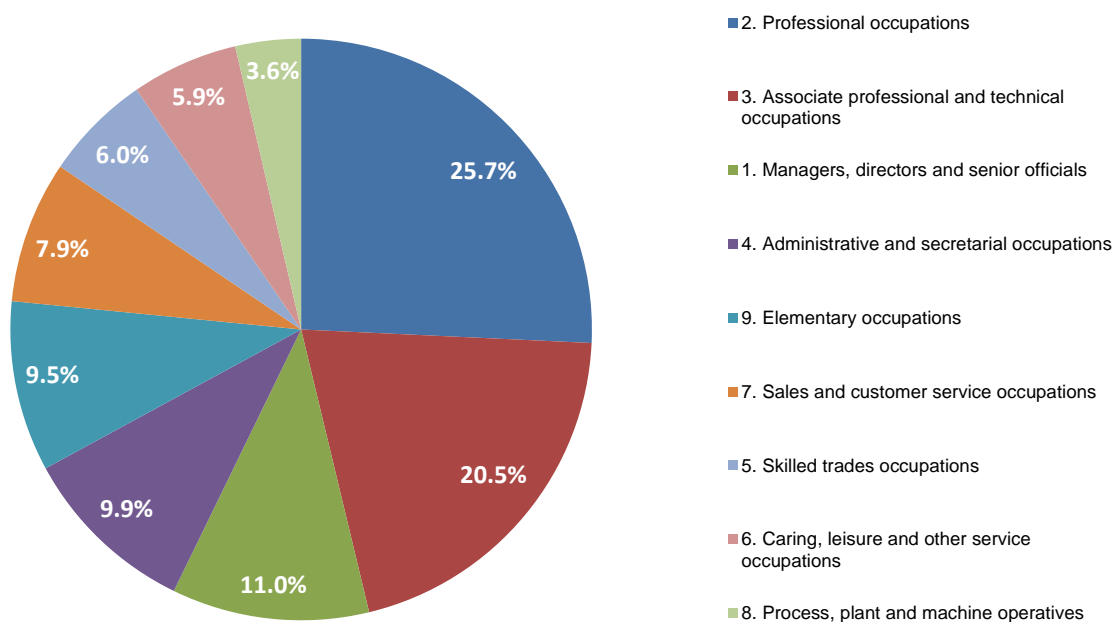
2.3 Qualification levels by occupation and age

Employment by occupation

Census data about the highest qualification and occupation is based on all usual residents aged 16 to 64 in employment the week before the census. The analysis here focuses on the relationship between qualification levels and the occupational group.

It is necessary to understand the overall occupational structure of residents in employment in the borough. Figure 21 below shows the size of occupational groups of residents in employment in Tower Hamlets. It shows that professional occupation (25.7 per cent) and associate professional and technical occupation (20.5 per cent) are the two largest groups in the borough. The smallest occupational groups were caring and leisure (5.9 per cent) and process, plant & machine operatives (3.6 per cent).

Figure 21: Working age residents 16 to 64 in employment by occupation



(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6501EW1a - Occupation by highest level of qualification by age)

This overall structure of occupational groups in the population is different when focusing on the qualification levels. The factor age will also play a central role because the growing importance of formal qualification in society as demonstrated earlier in the document.

Overview Tower Hamlets – Qualification level and occupation

It comes as no surprise those residents with qualification Levels 4 and above were less likely to work in occupations which don't require a higher formal qualification like caring & leisure, sales, process & machine operation and elementary occupations.

Residents in employment with Level 4 qualifications were mostly like to be employed in professional occupations (39.2 per cent), associate professionals (26.2 per cent and managerial occupations (12.6 per cent).

In contrast, residents with no qualification were employed in elementary occupations (27 per cent), skilled trade occupations (21.5 per cent) and process, plant & machine operatives (15.9 per cent). Only 6.3 per cent of those with no qualification held a management post.

The apprenticeship and other qualification category were merged in this particular Census table. However, it becomes clear that a large group of residents in this group worked in elementary occupations (19.7 per cent), skilled trades (14.6 per cent) and associate professional occupations (13.2 per cent).

Residents with Level 2 qualifications were most likely to work in admin and secretarial occupations (17.7 per cent) and associate professional & technical occupations (14.4 per cent). See Table 32 below.

Table 32: Overview Tower Hamlets – Qualification by occupation (%)

	1. Managers, directors and senior officials	2. Professional occupations	3. Associate professional and technical occupations	4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	5. Skilled trades occupations	6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	7. Sales and customer service occupations	8. Process, plant and machine operatives	9. Elementary occupations
Apprenticeships & other qualifications	10.2%	10.7%	13.2%	8.3%	14.6%	7.0%	9.3%	7.2%	19.7%
Level 1	8.4%	4.3%	10.6%	15.4%	8.7%	9.5%	14.1%	8.7%	20.2%
Level 2	8.3%	6.6%	14.4%	17.7%	7.9%	13.0%	13.6%	5.2%	13.3%
Level 3	9.7%	9.7%	18.8%	14.5%	6.3%	12.7%	14.0%	2.9%	11.4%
Level 4 and above	12.6%	39.2%	26.2%	8.1%	1.8%	3.0%	5.0%	0.8%	3.4%
No qualifications	6.3%	2.0%	3.6%	6.6%	21.5%	8.0%	9.1%	15.9%	27.0%
All aged 16 to 64	11%	25.7	20.5%	9.9%	6%	5.9%	7.9%	3.6%	9.5%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6501EW1a - Occupation by highest level of qualification by age)

No formal qualifications and occupation

In Tower Hamlets, residents with no qualification showed for most occupational groups a similar structure compared to London and England as a whole.

However, Tower Hamlets residents with no qualification were more likely to be employed in skilled trade occupations (21.5 per cent) compared to 16.4 per cent in England and London (17.6 per cent).

In comparison, Tower Hamlets residents with no formal qualifications were slightly less likely to be employed in elementary occupations, sales & customer service occupations and manager & director roles compared to England and London. See Table 33 below.

Table 33: Occupation with No qualification in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	England	London	Tower Hamlets
1. Managers, directors and senior officials	7.3%	7.6%	6.3%
2. Professional occupations	1.3%	2.0%	2.0%
3. Associate professional and technical occupations	3.5%	4.2%	3.6%
4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	6.8%	8.8%	6.6%
5. Skilled trades occupations	16.4%	17.6%	21.5%
6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	7.4%	8.3%	8.0%
7. Sales and customer service occupations	11.1%	10.3%	9.1%
8. Process, plant and machine operatives	17.5%	14.0%	15.9%
9. Elementary occupations	28.6%	27.2%	27.0%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6501EW1a - Occupation by highest level of qualification by age)

Level 4 and above qualifications and occupation

The Census data shows some noticeable differences in this category. Residents in Tower Hamlets in employment with a Level 4 and above qualification were slightly less likely to be managers (12.6 per cent) and professionals (39.2 per cent) when compared to England (13.5 per cent and 42 per cent respectively) and London (13.5 per cent and 39.9 per cent).

Employed residents with Level 4 qualifications also were more likely to work in sales (5 per cent) and elementary occupation. See Table 34 below.

One reason for this difference could be the age structure of Tower Hamlets and the influence of the student population.

Table 34: Occupation with Level 4 and above qualification in Tower Hamlets, London and England (%)

	England	London	Tower Hamlets
1. Managers, directors and senior officials	13.5%	13.5%	12.6%
2. Professional occupations	42.0%	39.9%	39.2%
3. Associate professional and technical occupations	18.4%	21.7%	26.2%
4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	8.3%	8.8%	8.1%
5. Skilled trades occupations	3.6%	2.6%	1.8%
6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	5.7%	4.4%	3.0%
7. Sales and customer service occupations	3.7%	4.3%	5.0%
8. Process, plant and machine operatives	1.9%	1.4%	0.8%
9. Elementary occupations	2.9%	3.3%	3.4%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6501EW1a - Occupation by highest level of qualification by age)

Occupation by age and qualifications

Younger workforce - Aged 16 to 24

Young people aged 16 to 24 from Tower Hamlets who achieved a Level 4 and above qualification worked mainly in a professional occupation (29 per cent) and associate professional & technical occupation (30 per cent). Those with no qualifications were most likely to work in elementary occupations (32 per cent), skilled trade (19 per cent) and sales & customer services (14 per cent). The majority of young people with a Level 3 qualification worked in sales & customer services (28 per cent) and elementary jobs (20 per cent). See Table 35 below.

Table 35: Occupation and qualification levels of age group 16 to 24 in Tower Hamlets (%)

	1. Managers, directors & senior officials	2. Professional occupations	3. Associate professional & technical occupations	4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	5. Skilled trades occupations	6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	7. Sales and customer service occupations	8. Process, plant and machine operatives	9. Elementary occupations
Apprenticeships & other qualifications	4%	6%	13%	12%	11%	8%	16%	1%	30%
Level 1	3%	3%	8%	16%	6%	9%	29%	2%	23%
Level 2	4%	4%	12%	17%	5%	12%	27%	2%	17%
Level 3	3%	6%	14%	13%	3%	11%	28%	1%	20%
Level 4 and above	6%	29%	30%	11%	2%	4%	11%	1%	7%
No qualifications	4%	4%	5%	7%	19%	11%	14%	5%	32%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6501EW1a - Occupation by highest level of qualification by age)

Middle aged workforce – Aged 25 to 49

The majority of those with a Level 4 and above qualifications worked in professional (40 per cent), associate professional and technical (26 per cent) and managerial occupations (13 per cent).

Only a minority of those with no qualifications worked in a higher occupation; however a large group were employed in the skilled trade occupations (25 per cent). See Table 36 below.

Table 36: Occupation and qualification levels of age group 25 to 49 in Tower Hamlets (%)

	1. Managers, directors & senior officials	2. Professional occupations	3. Associate professional & technical occupations	4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	5. Skilled trades occupations	6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	7. Sales and customer service occupations	8. Process, plant and machine operatives	9. Elementary occupations
Apprenticeships & other	11%	12%	14%	8%	15%	6%	9%	7%	18%
Level 1	9%	5%	11%	14%	9%	9%	12%	10%	20%
Level 2	9%	7%	16%	18%	9%	13%	10%	6%	12%
Level 3	13%	12%	22%	15%	7%	14%	7%	3%	7%
Level 4 and above	13%	40%	26%	8%	2%	3%	4%	1%	3%
No qual.	6%	2%	4%	5%	25%	7%	9%	16%	26%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6501EW1a - Occupation by highest level of qualification by age)

The older workforce - Aged 50 to 64

In the older workforce, those with lower and no qualifications were more likely to hold managerial and senior occupations. Residents in this age group holding Level 4 and above qualifications were again most likely to be in a professional occupation. However, the proportion of those who were managers and directors was the same as those with a Level 3 qualification.

The age differences are an indication of the changing importance of formal qualification over time and the ability to progress in employment over time, reducing the importance of formal employment.

Table 37: Occupation and qualification levels of age group 50 to 64 in Tower Hamlets (%)

	1. Managers, directors & senior officials	2. Professional occupations	3. Associate professional & technical occupations	4. Administrative and secretarial occupations	5. Skilled trades occupations	6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations	7. Sales and customer service occupations	8. Process, plant and machine operatives	9. Elementary occupations
Apprenticeships & other	9%	6%	8%	7%	18%	12%	4%	15%	20%
Level 1	10%	5%	10%	21%	8%	11%	7%	9%	18%
Level 2	11%	9%	12%	20%	11%	16%	4%	6%	12%
Level 3	17%	9%	17%	14%	11%	16%	4%	6%	7%
Level 4 and above	17%	44%	17%	8%	2%	4%	2%	2%	3%
No qual.	8%	2%	3%	10%	15%	9%	7%	18%	28%

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC6501EW1a - Occupation by highest level of qualification by age)

3 Skills and qualifications – Information from the Annual Population Survey

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a good resource to understand changing qualification levels over time. The qualification data is released annually and provides estimates for the period 2004 to 2013.

However, it is not recommended to compare Census 2011 and APS results directly¹⁰ because of the sample based nature of the APS. Analysis in this section focuses on NVQ levels in Tower Hamlets. For further information see the explanation in the appendix.

NVQ levels in Tower Hamlets – Residents aged 16 to 64

The table below covers qualification levels of the population taking into account that residents hold more than one qualification for example an individual who has a NVQ 4 qualification also holds NVQ 1, 2 and 3 level qualification. This data should not be compared to the Census 2011 qualification data.

In 2013, around 47 per cent of all residents aged 16 to 64 held an NVQ 4+ qualification and 61.1 per cent held a NVQ 3 qualification. Around 72 per cent held a NVQ 2+ qualification while around more than 80 per cent held a NVQ1 qualification.

Compared to London, Tower Hamlets qualification levels were lower in all four NVQ categories. However, levels of No qualification were higher in Tower Hamlets compared to London and England. See Table 39 below.

Table 39: NVQ levels people aged 16 to 64 in Tower Hamlets, London, England 2013 (%)

	NVQ4 plus	NVQ3 plus	NVQ2 plus	NVQ1 plus	Other qualifications	No qualifications
England	35.0	55.6	72.5	84.6	6.3	9.1
London	49.1	64.0	75.6	84.2	8.0	7.8
Tower Hamlets	46.9	61.1	72.2	80.7	7.5	11.8

(Source: APS NVQ Qualification Dec 2013)

Change over time in Tower Hamlets

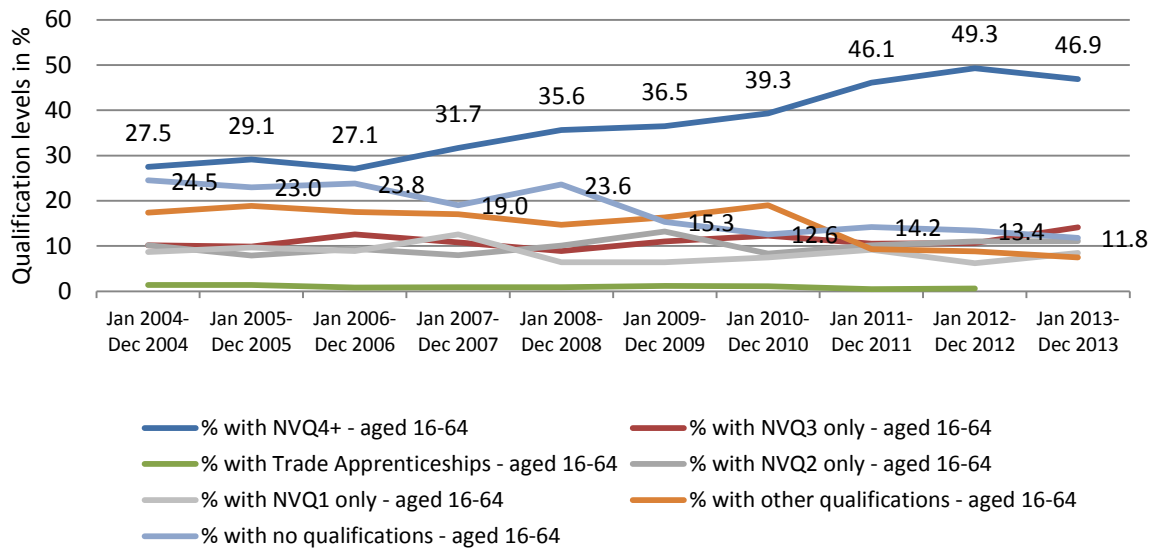
The annual data shows NVQ level trends between 2004 and 2013. The data indicates that the qualification levels of local residents are overall improving. The rate increased from 27.5 per cent in 2004 to 46.9 per cent in 2013.

The drop in NVQ4 plus qualification in 2013, compared to 2012, can potentially be explained with sampling errors of the APS. However, the data will need to be monitored closely over the next few years to understand the trend.

The second most important trend is that the proportion of 16 to 64 years with no qualification has been falling substantially over the last decade from 24.5 per cent in 2004 to 11.8 per cent in 2013.

¹⁰ The APS is a sample based survey and the size of the confidence interval needs to be taken into account when comparing the data.

Fig 22: NVQ levels of 16-64 population over time in Tower Hamlets (%)



(Source: APS NVQ Qualification Dec 2013)

NVQ Level 3 only has increased to 14.1 per cent in 2013, while NVQ1 only and NVQ2 only levels have remained on rates similar to the past on 11.1 per cent and 8.5 per cent respectively.

NVQ4 plus qualifications

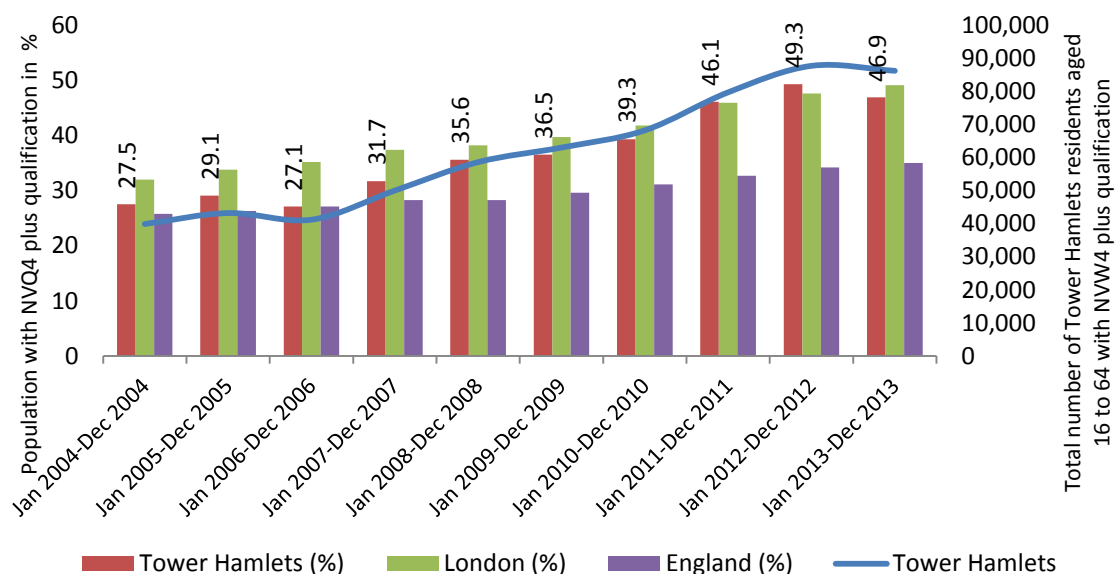
Overall NVQ 4 plus levels have seen a significant growth both in London and Tower Hamlets. Both rates in Tower Hamlets (46.9 per cent) and London (49.1 per cent) are above the England rate of 35 per cent. See Table 40 and Figure 23 below.

Table 40: NVQ4 plus qualifications in 2013 (%)

	Tower Hamlets	London	England
Jan 2013 - Dec 2013	46.9%	49.1%	35.0%

(Source: APS NVQ Qualification Dec 2013)

Fig 23: NVQ4 plus qualifications in Tower Hamlets (Total and %), London (%) and England (%)



(Source: APS NVQ Qualification Dec 2013)

APS - No qualifications

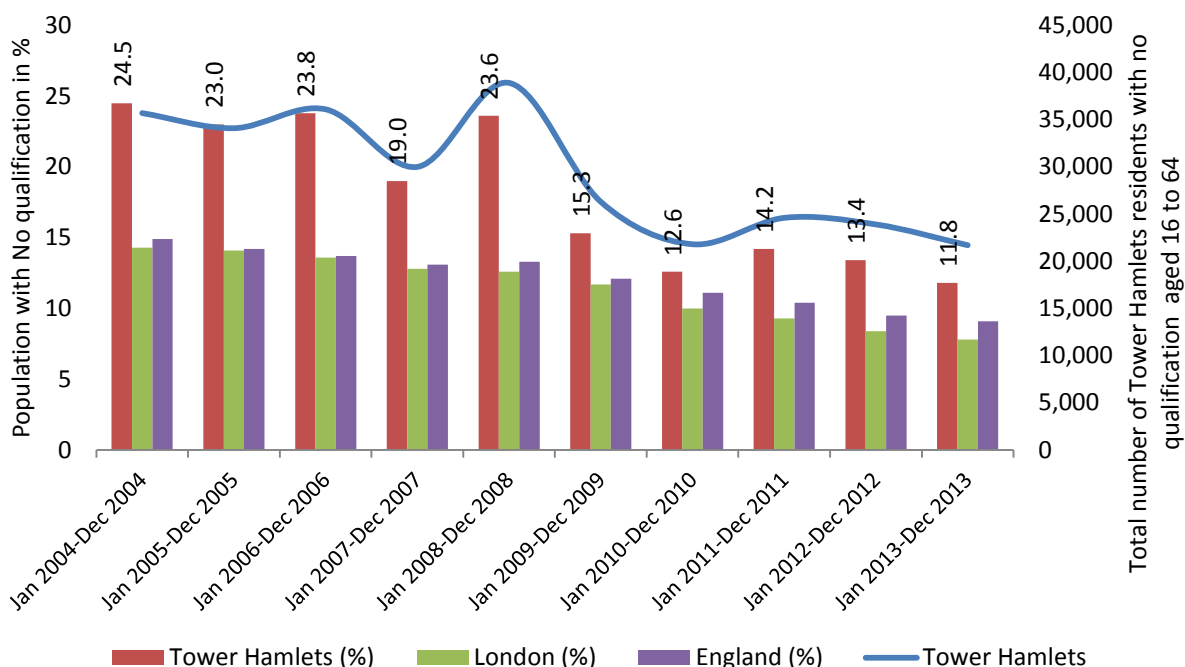
The percentage of people with no qualifications is still higher in Tower Hamlets when compared to London (7.8 per cent). However, the rate of 11.8 per cent has dropped over the last years substantially, bringing it closer to the England average (9.1 per cent).

Table 39: Levels of no qualifications in 2013 (%)

	Tower Hamlets	London	England
Jan 2013 - Dec 2013	11.8%	7.8%	9.1%

(Source: APS NVQ Qualification Dec 2013)

Figure 24: No qualifications in Tower Hamlets (Total and %), London (%) and England (%)



(Source: APS NVQ Qualification Dec 2013)

Appendices

Glossary

Definition of qualifications data used in ONS Census 2011

The highest level of qualification is derived from the question asking people to indicate all types of qualifications held. People were also asked if they held foreign qualifications and to indicate the closest equivalent.

There were 12 response options (plus 'no qualifications') covering professional and vocational qualifications, and a range of academic qualifications.

These are combined into five categories for the highest level of qualification, plus a category for no qualifications and one for other qualifications (which includes vocational or work related qualifications, and for foreign qualifications where an equivalent qualification was not indicated):

- No Qualifications: No academic or professional qualifications
- Qualifications are assigned the levels of 1 to 4 as follows:
- Level 1 qualifications: 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/Essential Skills
- Level 2 qualifications: 5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A*-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/ 2-3 AS Levels/VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Advanced Diploma
- Apprenticeship: can be any level but are usually level 2, 3, or 4.
- Level 3 qualifications: 2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma
- Level 4+ qualifications: Degree (for example BA, BSc), Higher Degree (for example MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Foundation degree (NI), Professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing, accountancy)
- Other qualifications: Vocational/Work-related Qualifications, Foreign Qualifications (Not stated/ level unknown).

Definition of qualifications data used in ONS Annual Population Survey (APS)

APS qualification data is only available for calendar year survey periods, i.e. periods ending in December. It is shown as missing in other survey periods. Data relate to all interviews conducted over a one year ending on the date selected. For example, selecting Dec 2013 will give data which covers the period Jan 2013 to Dec 2013.

- No qualifications: No formal qualifications held
- Other qualifications: includes foreign qualifications and some professional qualifications
- NVQ 1 equivalent: e.g. fewer than 5 GCSEs at grades A-C, foundation GNVQ, NVQ 1, intermediate 1 national qualification (Scotland) or equivalent
- NVQ 2 equivalent: e.g. 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C, intermediate GNVQ, NVQ 2, intermediate 2 national qualification (Scotland) or equivalent
- NVQ 3 equivalent: e.g. 2 or more A levels, advanced GNVQ, NVQ 3, 2 or more higher or advanced higher national qualifications (Scotland) or equivalent
- NVQ 4 equivalent and above: e.g. HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent

Data tables: Tower Hamlets qualifications by age

Table: Qualification levels in Tower Hamlets by age (%)

All Persons Highest Level of Qualification	All categories: Age 16 to 64	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over
No qualifications	15.6	6.8	7.3	22.9	42.3	72.9
Level 1 qualifications	9.8	13.4	7.4	10.6	8.9	3.2
Level 2 qualifications	9.2	16.1	6.9	7.5	7.2	2.5
Apprenticeship	0.8	1.4	0.4	0.7	1.4	1.5
Level 3 qualifications	10.8	24.8	7.3	6.3	5.8	1.6
Level 4 qualifications and above	43.6	29.7	60.2	39.7	24.9	10.4
Other qualifications	10.2	7.7	10.5	12.3	9.4	7.9

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Table: Male qualification levels in Tower Hamlets by age (%)

Male Highest Level of Qualification	All categories: Age 16 to 64	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over
No qualifications	14.0	6.9	5.8	20.3	37.3	65.9
Level 1 qualifications	9.7	14.7	7.1	9.8	8.5	3.8
Level 2 qualifications	8.7	16.4	6.4	6.8	7.1	2.9
Apprenticeship	1.2	1.7	0.6	0.9	2.6	2.9
Level 3 qualifications	10.2	23.3	7.1	6.2	6.6	1.9
Level 4 qualifications and above	45.7	29.5	62.7	42.5	28.0	12.2
Other qualifications	10.5	7.3	10.3	13.6	9.9	10.5

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Table: Female qualification levels in Tower Hamlets by age (%)

Understanding skills and qualification levels in Tower Hamlets

Female Highest Level of Qualification	All categories: Age 16 to 64	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over
No qualifications	17.3	6.7	8.8	26.3	47.6	78.8
Level 1 qualifications	9.9	12.1	7.7	11.7	9.2	2.7
Level 2 qualifications	9.7	15.9	7.5	8.5	7.4	2.3
Apprenticeship	0.5	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Level 3 qualifications	11.5	26.3	7.5	6.4	5.0	1.4
Level 4 qualifications and above	41.2	29.8	57.6	36.2	21.6	8.8
Other qualifications	9.8	8.1	10.7	10.7	8.9	5.7

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Data tables: London qualification by age

All Persons Highest Level of Qualification	All categories: Age 16 and over	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over
No qualifications	17.6	8.9	6.9	12.4	23.0	49.9
Level 1 qualifications	10.7	15.0	7.7	12.5	12.2	5.9
Level 2 qualifications	11.8	22.6	8.8	11.4	11.1	7.2
Apprenticeship	1.6	1.4	0.7	1.3	2.7	3.0
Level 3 qualifications	10.5	23.6	9.3	9.0	8.2	3.9
Level 4 qualifications and above	37.7	22.5	55.2	42.4	32.7	20.2
Other qualifications	10.0	5.9	11.5	10.9	10.0	9.9

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Male Highest Level of Qualification	All categories: Age 16 and over	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over
No qualifications	16.1	9.5	6.8	12.5	22.1	43.3
Level 1 qualifications	10.4	16.3	7.9	11.6	10.6	5.3
Level 2 qualifications	11.2	22.6	8.8	10.2	9.4	6.2
Apprenticeship	2.7	1.9	1.0	2.1	4.9	5.8
Level 3 qualifications	10.6	22.8	9.4	8.6	8.6	4.9
Level 4 qualifications and above	38.7	21.2	54.6	43.1	34.3	24.1
Other qualifications	10.3	5.7	11.6	11.9	10.1	10.4

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Female Highest Level of Qualification	All categories: Age 16 and over	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over
No qualifications	19.0	8.3	7.1	12.4	24.0	55.0
Level 1 qualifications	11.0	13.7	7.5	13.5	13.7	6.3
Level 2 qualifications	12.5	22.6	8.8	12.6	12.7	7.9
Apprenticeship	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8
Level 3 qualifications	10.4	24.4	9.2	9.4	7.9	3.1
Level 4 qualifications and above	36.8	23.8	55.8	41.7	31.2	17.2
Other qualifications	9.7	6.2	11.4	10.0	9.8	9.6

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Data tables - England qualification by age

All Persons Highest Level of Qualification	All categories: Age 16 and over	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over
No qualifications	22.5	10.4	9.0	12.3	24.9	52.9
Level 1 qualifications	13.3	17.4	12.0	17.6	13.2	5.9
Level 2 qualifications	15.2	26.5	15.1	16.5	13.2	7.7
Apprenticeship	3.6	2.6	1.3	2.5	5.4	5.5
Level 3 qualifications	12.4	25.9	14.9	12.0	9.5	4.0
Level 4 qualifications and above	27.4	13.7	40.6	33.7	27.8	17.6
Other qualifications	5.7	3.4	7.1	5.4	6.1	6.4

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Male Highest Level of Qualification	All categories: Age 16 and over	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over
No qualifications	20.1	11.3	9.4	13.0	23.0	44.3
Level 1 qualifications	12.9	18.8	12.9	16.8	10.9	4.9
Level 2 qualifications	13.8	26.0	14.8	14.5	10.4	6.2
Apprenticeship	6.3	3.5	2.1	4.4	9.7	11.1
Level 3 qualifications	12.7	24.4	14.8	11.6	10.4	5.6
Level 4 qualifications and above	28.0	12.6	38.5	33.5	29.3	21.2
Other qualifications	6.1	3.4	7.6	6.2	6.4	6.5

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Female Highest Level of Qualification	All categories: Age 16 and over	Age 16 to 24	Age 25 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 and over
No qualifications	24.7	9.6	8.7	11.6	26.8	59.7
Level 1 qualifications	13.6	16.0	11.0	18.4	15.4	6.7
Level 2 qualifications	16.5	27.1	15.3	18.6	15.9	9.0
Apprenticeship	1.0	1.6	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.0
Level 3 qualifications	12.0	27.5	15.0	12.4	8.7	2.7
Level 4 qualifications and above	26.8	14.9	42.8	34.0	26.3	14.6
Other qualifications	5.3	3.3	6.7	4.5	5.7	6.3

(Source: ONS Census 2011 DC5102EW - Highest level of qualification by sex by age)

Further information

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Readers can contact the research team via email: cru@towerhamlets.gov.uk

This briefing was written by **Matthias Schnepfel**.

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