

# SFCA

Are AGQs at risk? Should they be?

December 2020



# Technical and Vocational Education



Sixth Form Colleges  
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THE VOICE OF SIXTH FORM EDUCATION

# FE White Paper

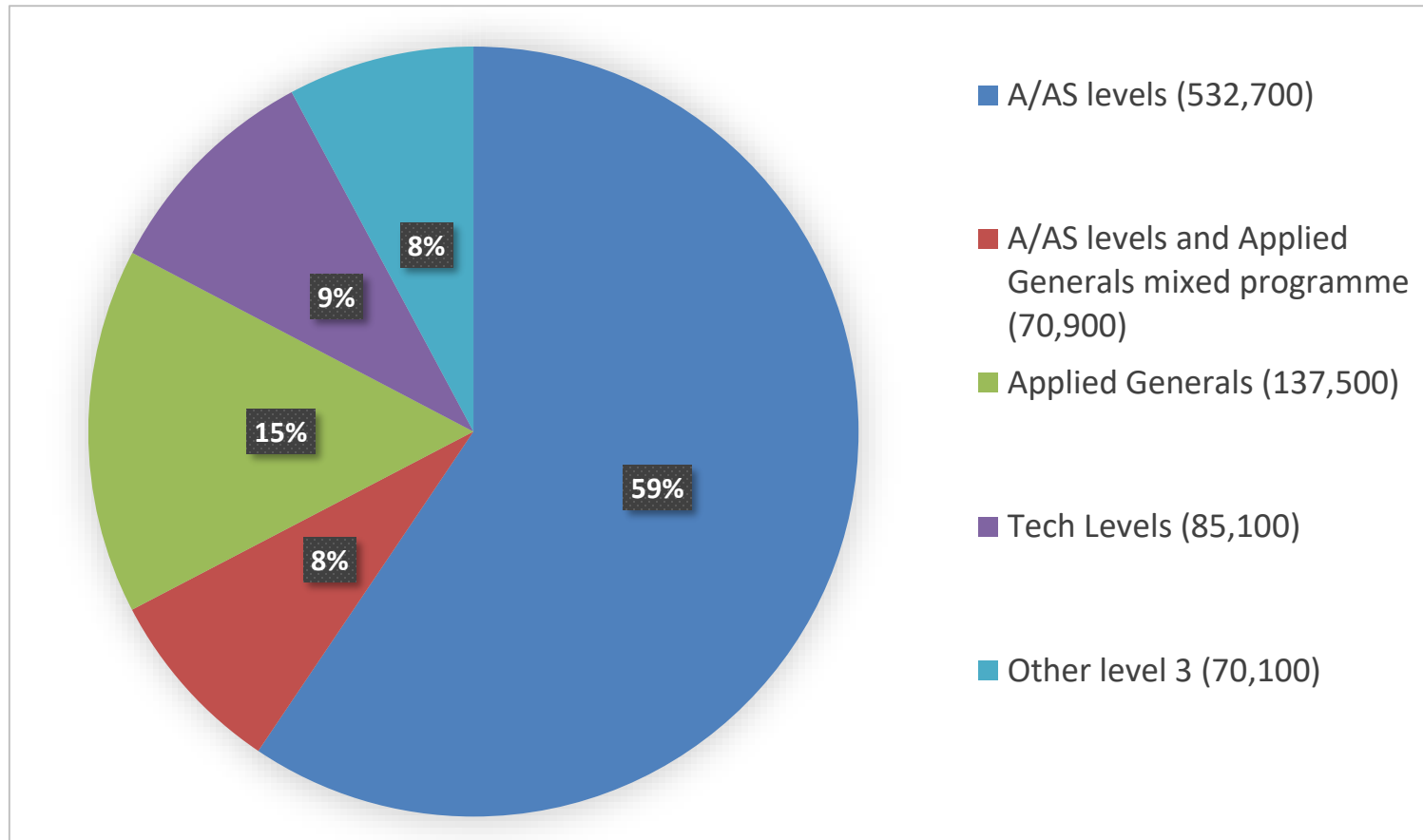
- Focus on 18+ and VTQs

But . . .

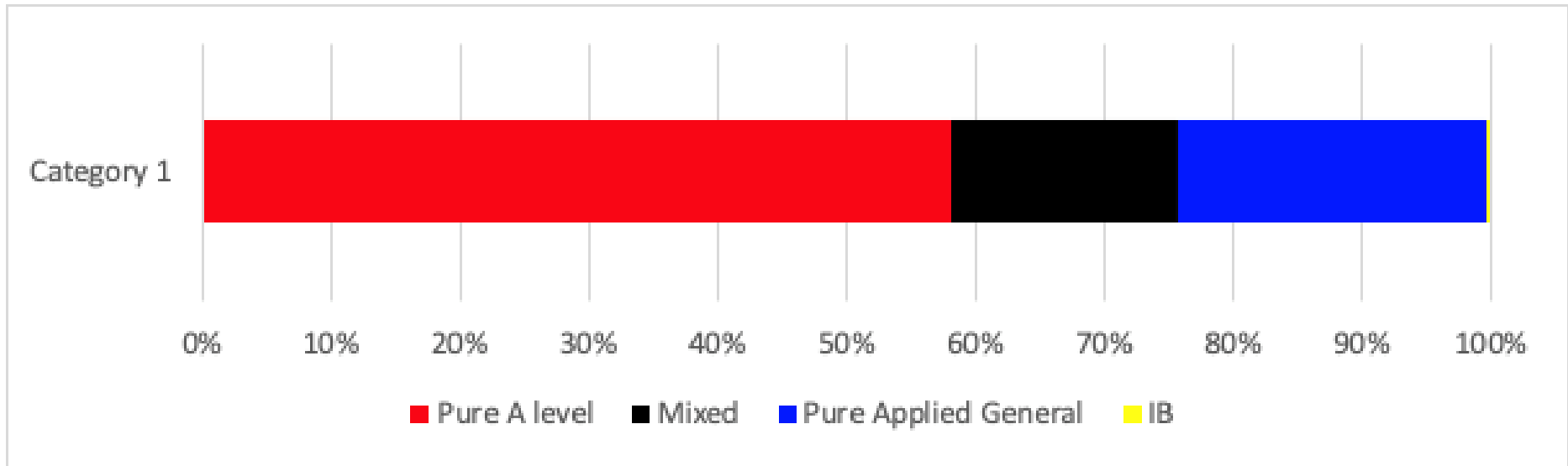
- AGQs and Local Area planning

Better to have a separate review of 16-19, with ALL providers in scope, including schools

# What Level 3 qualifications do 16-18 year olds study?



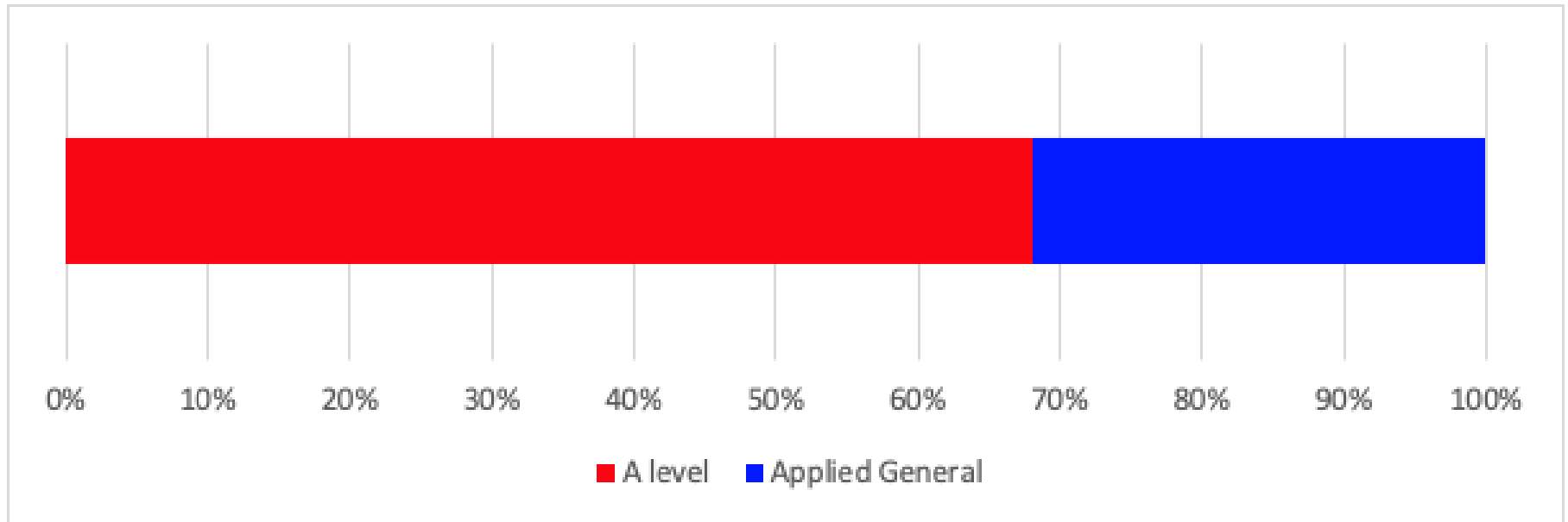
## qualification routes in sixth form colleges (2017-19 cohort)



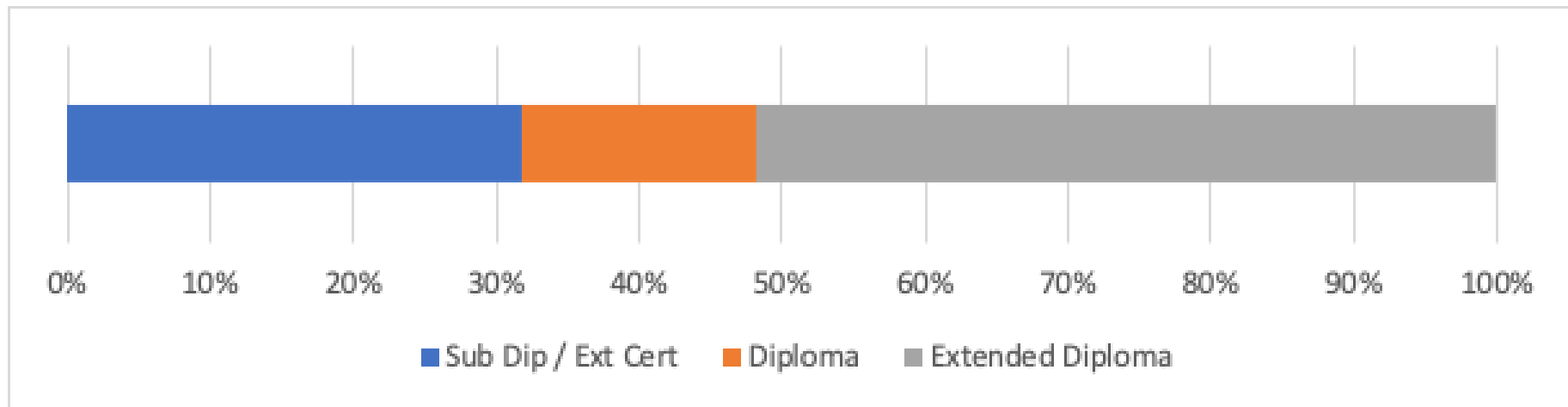
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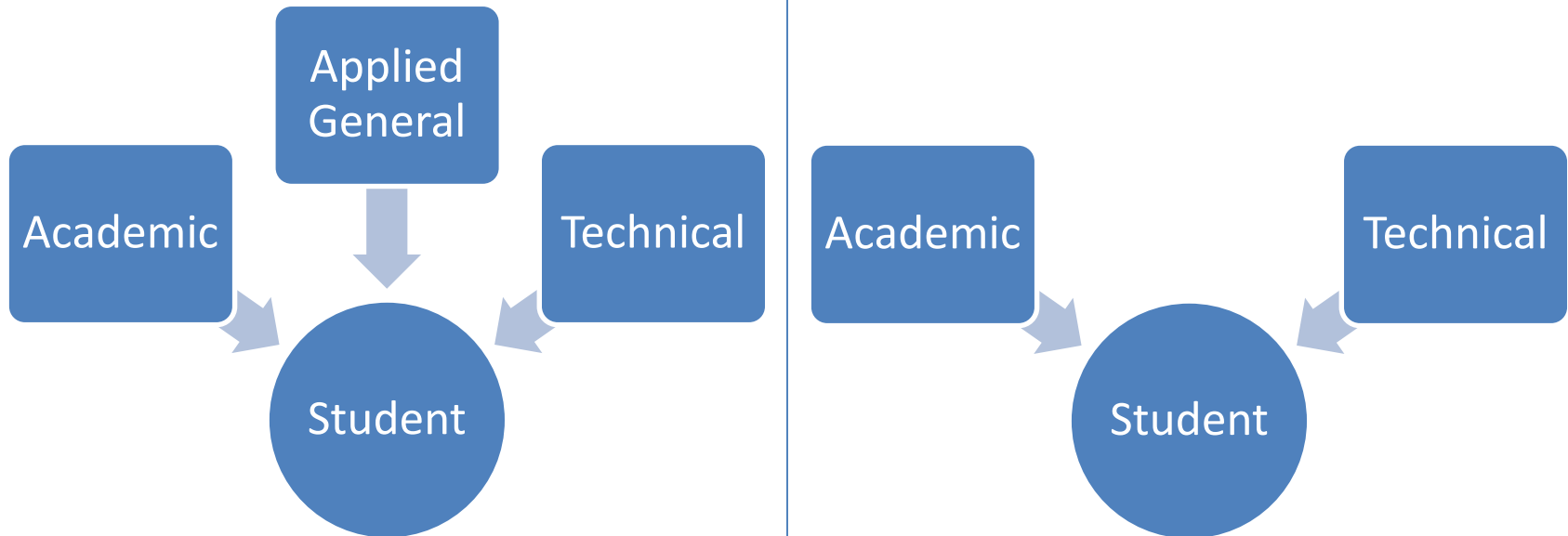
## activity in sixth form colleges



## applied general provision by width



# The not so cunning plan



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# Level 3 review: key proposals

- Only a “*small range*” of qualifications will be funded in addition to A levels or T levels.
- Funding will be removed for qualifications that “*exist to offer an applied or alternative form of study in an A level subject area*”.
- Large programmes (e.g. extended diploma) that ‘overlap’ with T levels will not be funded
- Defunding will begin in Sept 2023 (technical quals) and Sept 2024 (academic quals)



## And . . .

- The last date that you could start the study of a two year technical course that overlaps with a wave 1 and 2 T Level would be September 2022.
- “the rules allow a TL plus AL combination, but I don’t think that we would say that in reality this can’t be delivered” (DfE)

But do not be frightened into taking up T levels (1,700 out of 1.1m at the moment)



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## AGQs in SFCs

- There is a place for both T levels and applied generals.
- To remove too many AGQs would significantly impoverish the curriculum, damage social mobility, and do nothing to reduce the skills gap.
- While the DfE states that there are over 12,000 qualifications available to 16-18s, SFCs only offer AGQs in 39 subjects. There are A levels in over 40 subjects, while 24 T level subjects are planned.
- Level 3 AGQs were reformed by DfE to be more rigorous in 2015, only five years ago, and are now widely understood and accepted by universities and employers.



# The TL gap that AGQs can fill

1. If you study a T level in child care, that is your whole timetable; you cannot do an A level in music or psychology alongside it. The narrow focus may help you to specialise, but it will also mean you do not bring other skills and learning to your child care work and you cannot pursue other passions.
2. If you want to be an engineer and study maths and physics alongside your Level 3 engineering, you can only do this through a blended curriculum, not through a T level.
3. If you want to be an engineer, but you live in a community with no engineering employers, the T Level will not be available. If you could study a BTEC in engineering, you could get a qualification and move to a new community to follow your dream.



## Some arguments

Social mobility X

The slightly less able X

Skills ✓

Rigour ✓