

EDUCATION

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 16-17 year olds are more likely to have obtained good GCSEs and equivalent qualifications if they live in an area where a high proportion of their parents' generation (people generally aged 40-54) are well qualified.

Because children's achievement is so strongly related to that of their parents' generation, geographical inequalities in educational attainment across the country are maintained over time. However, this is not the case in Scotland, where there is much less geographical variability in the proportion of young people who have qualifications.



Both maps in each figure represent the same places, shaded identically. The map on the left is a cartogram – each area is shown in proportion to the size of its population in 2001. The largest area is London, since it has the highest population of any of the places. The map on the right shows the actual boundaries of the areas.

