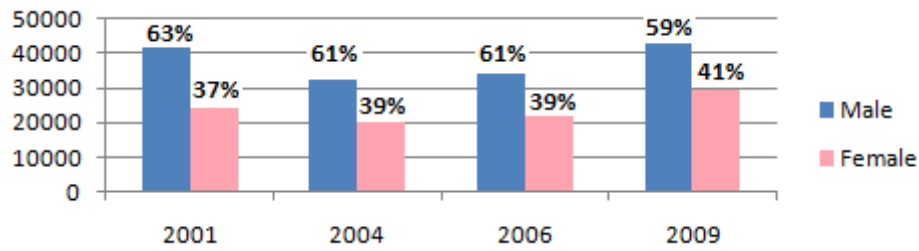


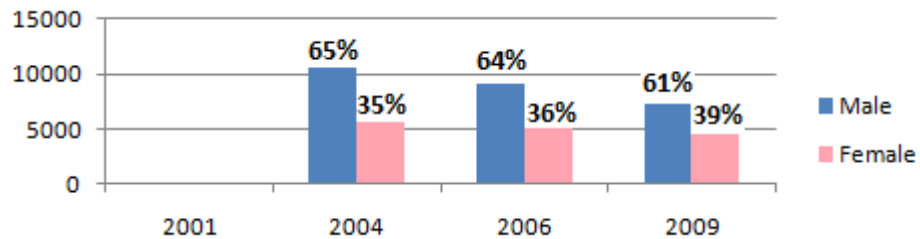
Appendix A: Secondary Data Informing Research

Table A.1 Number of students taking A-Level Mathematics between 2001 and 2009



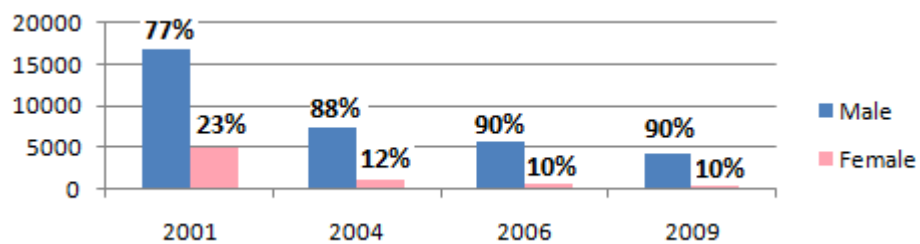
Figures from <http://www.icq.org.uk>

Table A.2 Number of students taking A-Level ICT between 2001 and 2009



Figures from <http://www.icq.org.uk>

Table A.3 Numbers taking A-Level Computer Science between 2001 and 2009



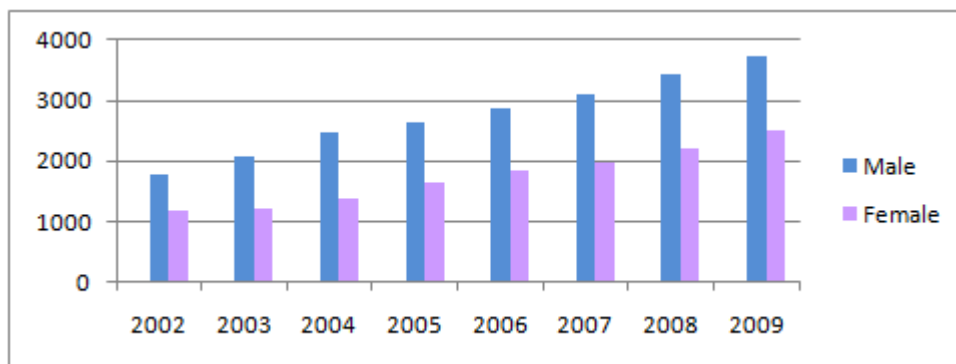
Figures from <http://www.icq.org.uk>

Table A.4 Percentage of students, gaining an “A” Grade at A-Level Mathematics, ICT and Computer

	2001		2004		2006		2009	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Mathematics	28.9	30	36.6	40.1	41.7	46.2	44.2	46.6
Further Maths			58.2	60.5	56.3	58.2	58.6	57.2
ICT			6.4	8.8	7.2	11.9	8.2	13.3
Computer Science	8.9	7.5	13.4	17.4	15	15.4	15.8	15

Figures from <http://www.jcq.org.uk>

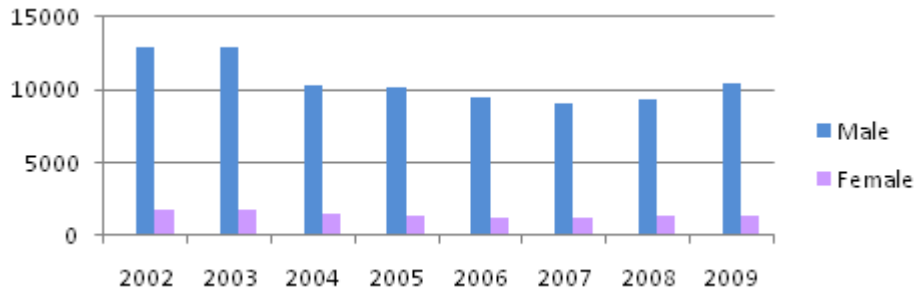
Table A.5 Number of UK applicants applying to UK Universities for a Degree in Mathematics



Figures from http://www.ucas.ac.uk/about_us/stat_services/stats_online/

Note: The percentage of females has remained at about 40% over the past decade.

Table A.6 Number of UK applicants applying to UK Universities for a Degree in Computer Science



Figures from http://www.ucas.ac.uk/about_us/stat_services/stats_online/

Note: The percentage of females has remained at about 12% over the past decade but the total figures have dropped

Table A.7 Proportion, according to gender, of UK applicants applying to do for a Degree in Computer Science compared to 1985

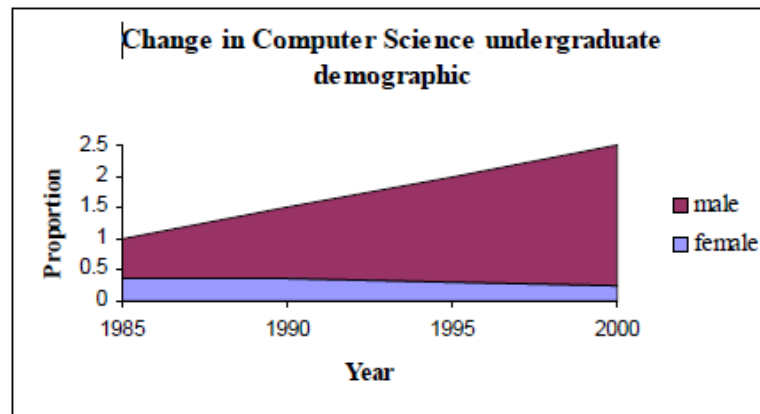


Image from <http://kar.kent.ac.uk/13596/>

Table A.8 Numbers of each gender who have registered to do the BTEC in ICT from 2008-2009

Year	Males	Females
2008	17	4
2009	23	0

Appendix B: Questionnaires

B.1 For School and College Students

I am currently studying for a PGCE in the Lifelong learning sector, specialising In Mathematics and I am working on a dissertation to research the factors which influence student's choice to study Mathematics or Computer Science. In particular I am looking at why there is a gender gap in the number of applications to university for these subjects and whether there are cultural influences.

To help me with my research could you please take a **few minutes** to fill in the following questionnaire, completing as much of the questionnaire as you feel able. All responses will remain anonymous. Please return the questionnaire to me by 31st March. Thank you.
Andrea Abraham

Please indicate, by ticking or putting a cross in the box on the right that you are happy for the information, which you have provided, to be used towards research for my dissertation.

Which age category do you fit into?

14-16 16-18 19-21 22+

Please indicate your gender?

Male Female

Which of these subjects are you currently studying and what qualification are you studying for?

	Key Skills	GCSE	AS/A2 level	BTEC	Diploma	Degree
English						
Foreign Languages						
Geography/History						
Business/Economics						
Mathematics						
*ICT						
**Computer Science						
Science						
Art/Design						

*ICT stands for Information and Communication Technologies. It includes the use of computers and the applications which run on them e.g. Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Email, Web Browsers and Access.

**Computer Science is to do with the study of computation, hardware and software. It includes writing of computer applications.

What is the highest qualification you have in Mathematics, ICT and Computer Science?

	Mathematics	ICT	Computer Science
Key Skills/ Numeracy Level 1			
Key Skills/ Numeracy Level 2			
Key Skills/ Numeracy Level 3			
GCSE or 'O Level' Grade D-G, CSE Grade 2-5			
GCSE or 'O Level' Grade C-A/A* CSE Grd 1			
AS or A Level, BTEC, Access Course			
None of above			

How easy do you find these subjects?

	Very Easy	Quite Easy	Difficult	Very Difficult	Not Studied
Mathematics					
ICT					
Computer Science					

Would you consider doing a degree in Mathematics?

Yes No

Please give your reasons

Would you consider doing a degree in ICT?

Yes No

Please give your reasons

Would you consider doing a degree in Computer Science?

Yes No

Please give your reasons

Which of the following do you use computers for?	
Online shopping	
Social Networking e.g. Facebook/Twitter	
Browsing for information of interest	
Reading online newspapers	
Watching YouTube	
Emailing	
Designing Web Pages	
Writing computer programs	
Documentation	
Using Applications Like Excel, PowerPoint	
Using Databases	
Playing online games	
Completing homework assignments	
Doing online homework	
Accessing online information about school/college/university	
Researching information for assignments	

Do you like using ICT during your lessons? Yes No

Please give your reasons

How confident do you feel about using computers at home? Very OK
Not very

Please give your reasons

How confident do you feel about using computers where you study?

Very OK Not very

Please give your reasons

Are you happy using computers when others are around? Yes No

Please give your reasons

What attributes do you think you need to be good at Mathematics, ICT and Computer Science? Can you also indicate if you think these attributes occur more in males or females.

Someone who	Maths	ICT	Computer Science	Male	Female
Is interested in technology					
Is good with number					
Is logical					
Is good at video games					
Is good at ball games					
Has a good memory for facts					
Is imaginative					
Is good at thinking things through					
Is good at solving puzzles					
Is creative					
Is social/enjoys being around other people.					
Is insular/enjoys their own company.					
Enjoys working alone					
Enjoys being part of a team					
Understands how people use computers.					
Is good at explaining					
Thinks about things in depth					
Is good at communication					
Is self confident					
Is someone who likes sci-fi (e.g. Star Trek)					
Is a Geek					

Although 57% of university applicants in 2008 from the UK were female, only 39% of the applications for Mathematics were from women. Can you give any reason as to why that might be the case?

In 2008, only 12.8% of the applications to study computer science from within the UK were from women. Why do you think that was?

B.2 For Those no Longer at School or College.

I am currently studying for a PGCE in the Lifelong Learning Sector, specialising In Mathematics and I am working on a dissertation to research the factors which influence student's choice to study Mathematics or Computer Science. In particular I am looking at why there is a gender gap in the number of applications to university for these subjects and whether there are cultural influences.

To help me with my research could you please take a **few minutes** to fill in the following questionnaire, completing as much of the questionnaire as you feel able. All responses will remain anonymous. Please return the questionnaire to me by 18st April. Thank you.

Andrea Abraham

Please indicate, by ticking or putting a cross in the box on the right that you are happy for the information, which you have provided, to be used towards research for my dissertation.

Which age category do you fit into?

18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 66+

Please indicate your gender?

Male Female

What is the highest qualification you have in Mathematics, ICT and Computer Science? Can you also indicate what the highest level qualification you have in any subject?

	Mathematics	*ICT	**Computer Science	Any Subject
Key Skills/ Numeracy Level 1				
Key Skills/ Numeracy Level 2				
Key Skills/ Numeracy Level 3				
GCSE or 'O Level' Grade D-G, CSE Grade 2-5				
GCSE or 'O Level' Grade C-A/A*, CSE Grade 1				
AS or A Level, BTEC, Access Course				
Degree				

If you have a degree in Mathematics, ICT or Computer Science, why did you choose to take this subject?

*ICT stands for Information and Communication Technologies. It includes the use of computers and the applications which run on them e.g. Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Email, Web Browsers and Access.

**Computer Science is to do with the study of computation, hardware and software. It includes writing of computer applications.

How easy did you find these subjects at school?

	Very Easy	Quite Easy	Difficult	Very Difficult	Not Studied
Mathematics					
ICT					
Computer Science					

Do you have access to a computer for your own use? Yes No

If you do, which of the following do you do?

Online shopping	
Social Networking e.g. Facebook/Twitter	
Browsing for information of interest	
Reading online newspapers	
Watching YouTube	
Emailing	
Designing Web Pages	
Writing computer programs	
Creating Documents	
Using Applications Like Excel, PowerPoint	
Using Databases	
Playing online games	
Recording finances	
Helping children with homework assignments	

How confident do you feel about using computers?

Very OK Not very

Please give your reasons

--

How confident do you feel about doing numerical calculations?

Very

OK

Not Very

Please give your reasons

Do you use a computer when you work?

Yes

No

If so, what is your occupation?

If you use a computer at work, which of the following do you use it for?

Administration

Data Input

Accessing work related information

Using applications specific to your work

Using Web Design programs

Working with producing computer software

Working with databases

For presentation (e.g. use PowerPoint)

Creating resources

Writing documentation

Writing reports

Use Finance software

Are you happy using computers when others are around?

Yes

No

Please give your reasons

What attributes do you think you need to be good at Mathematics, ICT and Computer Science? Can you also indicate if you think these attributes occur more in males or females.

Someone who	Maths	ICT	Computer Science	Male	Female
Is interested in technology					
Is good with number					
Is logical					
Is good at video games					
Is good at ball games					
Has a good memory for facts					
Is imaginative					
Is good at thinking things through					
Is good at solving puzzles					
Is creative					
Is social/enjoys being around other people.					
Is insular/enjoys their own company.					
Enjoys working alone					
Enjoy being part of a team					
Understands how people use computers.					
Is good at explaining					
Thinks about things in depth					
Is good at communication					
Is self confident					
Is someone who likes sci-fi (e.g. Star Trek)					
Is a Geek					

Although 57% of university applicants in 2008 from the UK were female, only 39% of the applications for Mathematics were from women. Can you give any reason as to why that might be the case?

--

In 2008, only 12.8% of the applications to study computer science from within the UK were from women. Why do you think that was?

--

Appendix C: Profile of Respondents

Table C.1 Profile of School and College Students by Age

Age	Male	Female
14-16	1	3
16-18	12	7
19-21	3	2
22+	1	
Total Students	17	12

Table C.2 Profile of School and College Students by Study Level

Level and Qualifications Currently Being Studied	Male	Female
GCSEs	6	6
Total level 2 Students	6	6
A Levels including Mathematics	3	3
BTEC in ICT and Computing	6	1
Other Level 3	2	2
Total Level 3 Students	11	6
Total Students	17	12

Table C.3 Profile of Other Respondents By Age

Age	Male	Female
18-25	8	8
26-35	3	0
36-45	2	5
46-55	7	14
56-65	2	2
Total Students	22	29

Table C.4 Profiles of Other Respondents By Occupation

Occupation	Male Under 26	Female Under 26	Male Over 25	Female Over 25	Total
In Higher Education	2	3		1	6
Teacher			4	6	10
PGCE Student	0	1	3	2	6
Software Engineer			5	1	6
Other Employment	3	3	2	9	17
Not At Work/Retired	3	1		2	6
Total Students	8	8	14	21	51

Table C.5 Profiles of Other Respondents by Qualification

Qualification	Male Under 26	Female Under 26	Male Over 25	Female Over 25	Total
Mathematics Degree	0		5	1	6
Computer Science Degree	1		2		3
Maths and CS Joint Degree		2		2	4
Other Degree		3	5	13	21
Other Qualifications	7	3	2	5	17
Total Students	8	8	14	21	51

Appendix D: Confidence of Respondents with Maths and ICT

Table D.1 Student Responses To The Question “How Easy Do You Find These Subjects?”

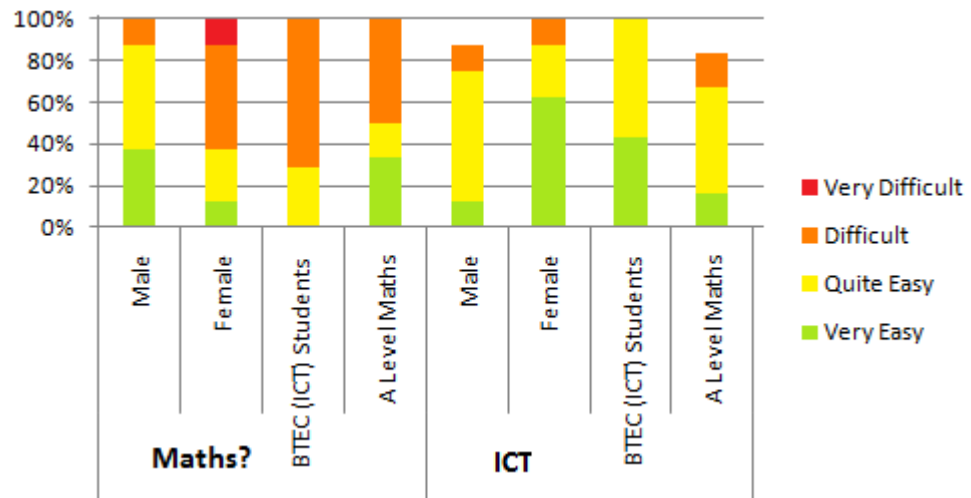
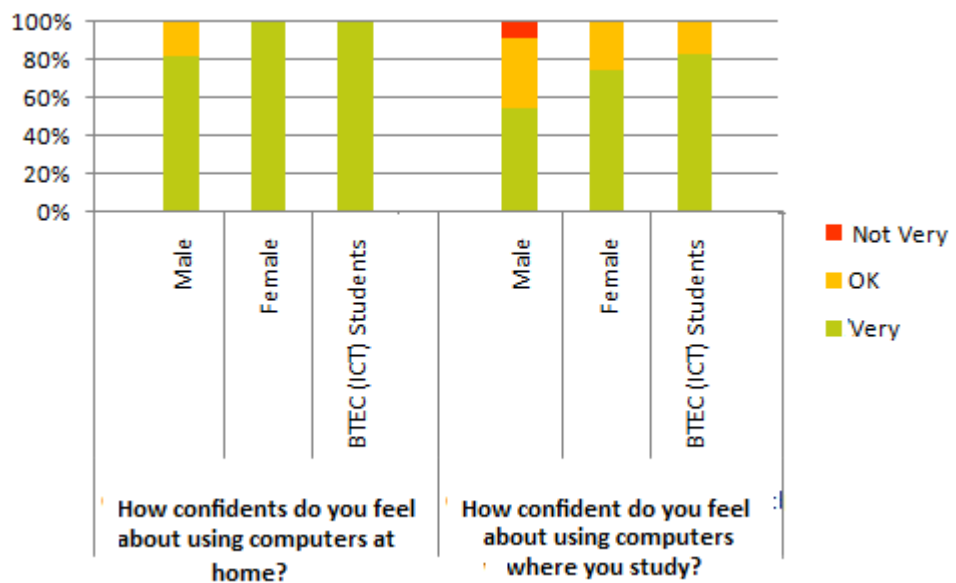


Table D.2 Student Responses to the Questions about Their Confidence with Using Computers



Note from written responses

The BTEC student who was not confident with using ICT where he studied was worried about security risks

Table D.3 Student Responses to the Questions about Using ICT in Class and Around Others

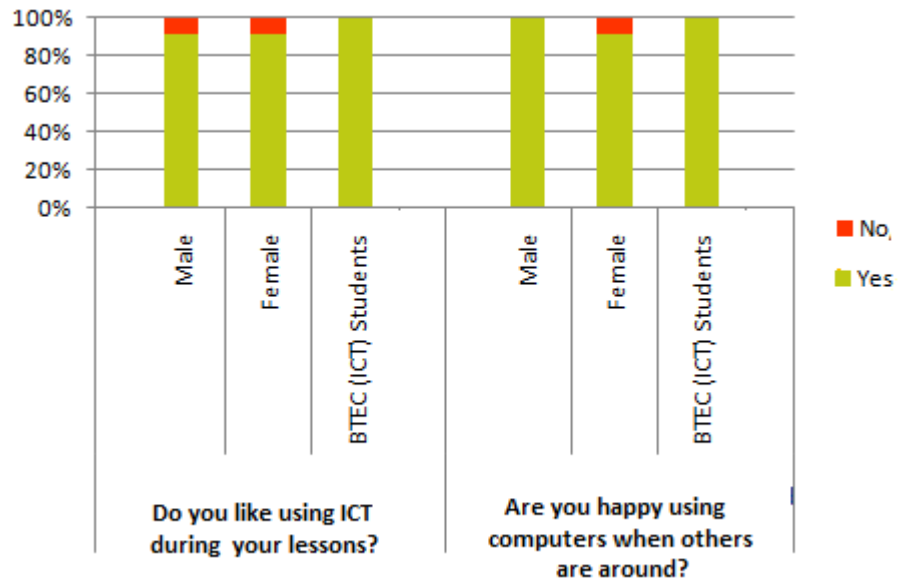
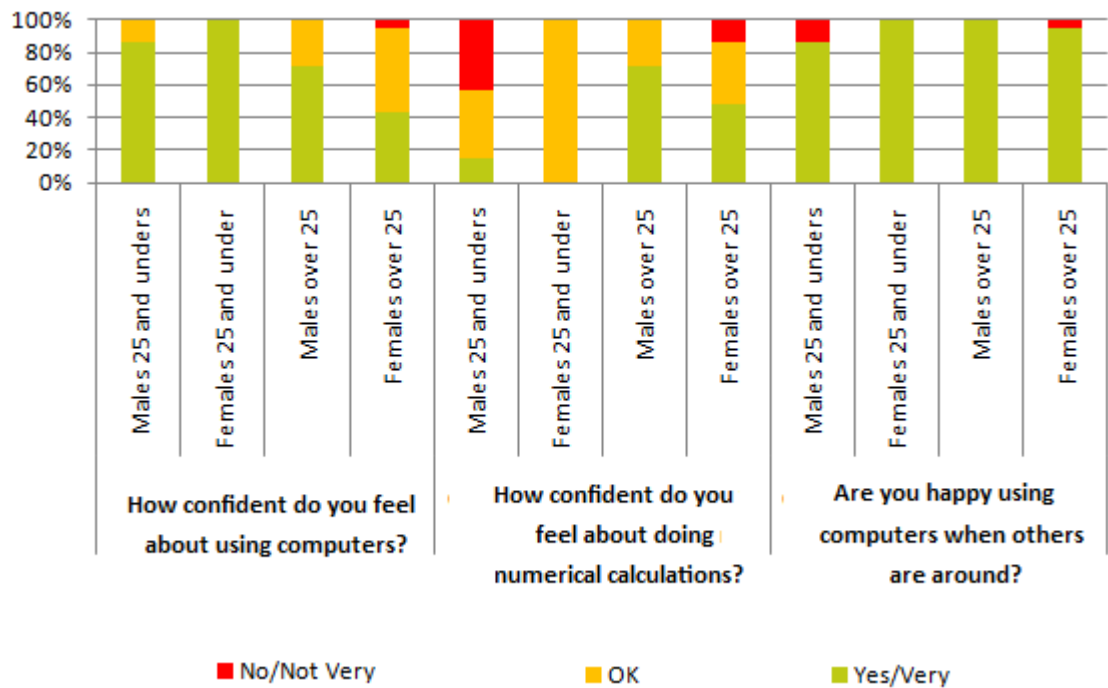


Table D.4 Responses of others to the Questions about Using ICT in Class and Around Others



Appendix E: Would Students Consider Doing A Degree In ICT or Computer Science?

Table E.1: Percentage of students who would consider doing a degree in ICT or Computer Science

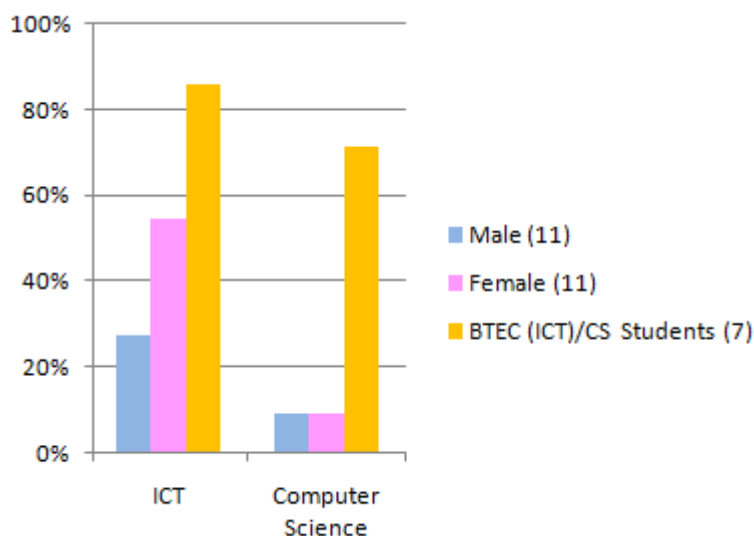


Table E.2: Numbers of students who would consider doing a degree in ICT and/or Computer Science

Would consider degrees in these subjects		Responses To Both Answers.		
ICT	Computer Science	Male	Female	BTEC (ICT)/CS Students
Yes	Yes		1	5
Yes	No	3	5	1
No	Yes	1		
No	No	7	5	1

Table E.3: Reasons for considering or not considering doing a degree in ICT or Computer Science

Responses from Students Not Currently Studying a Qualification with Computer Science Content	
Male Reponses	
ICT: No	Do not possess a strong enough interest
CS: No	Do not possess a strong enough interest
ICT: No	Teacher has put them off
CS: No	Boredom

ICT: No I dislike it
CS: No I dislike it

ICT: Yes It's a fun subject
CS: No Haven't studied it yet

ICT: No Because I feel that ICT is very black and white and does not allow much for variety. For this reason I also find it boring.
CS: Yes Because I enjoy to produce programs and other things on the internet. I am hoping to do some programming for future years.

Female Responses

ICT: Yes I enjoy it and use it every day in life
CS: No Never studied

ICT: Yes Maybe. I've done well in ICT so far and enjoy it.
CS: No Never studied

ICT: Yes To Learn new skills
CS: Yes To get further in education

ICT: No Because I don't need it for anything.
CS: No Because I don't need it for anything.

ICT: Yes Because I Enjoy doing ICT
CS: No

ICT: Yes For a lot of the jobs I am looking at in the future , I think that only basic computer skills are necessary
CS: No I don't really know anything about it.

ICT: No Not interested
CS: No Not interested

Responses from Students Studying BTCE ICT or Computer Science AS

Male Responses

ICT: Yes I would as I am very much into ICT. My life is surrounded by computers and networks not only in college but in my spare time. I'd love to involve myself in ICT
CS: Yes I love the way computer science works and computers work.

ICT: Yes	I am quite fond of ICT and have been working with it for some time.
CS: Yes	Yes, this would give me the opportunity to excel in my use with computers
ICT: Yes	(maybe) It may be needed for my field of interest
CS: Yes	(maybe) It may be needed for my field of interest
ICT: Yes	(maybe) It may be needed for my field of interest
CS: Yes	(maybe) It may be needed for the field which interests me
ICT: Yes	I am very confident whilst using computers and learn more as I progress. So I would do a degree
CS: Yes	I would do a degree in Computer Science because I want to know more about programming.
Female Responses	
ICT: No	I would like to study forensic science
CS: No	I would like to study forensic science

Table E.4: Reasons why people did a degree in computer science

Students – Not Currently Studying a Qualification with Computer Science Content
<p>Male Responses</p> <p>To further my career</p> <p>Was always interested in computers as a child and also thought Computer Science would be good for long-term career</p> <p>Because I like anything to do with computers and I think I work well on them</p>
<p>Female Responses</p> <p>I enjoyed maths at school, and the crash higher of computing. I was good at both subjects, I liked the broadness of scope I gained from a joint degree in both maths and computer science. One of my main concerns in choosing my degree was to choose something I could make a lucrative and secure career out of!</p> <p>I chose cs because it gives me more options in industry and I enjoy the software components, esp when it lets me be creative.</p>

Appendix F: Use of Computers

Table F.1: The percentage of people who use computers at home for a specific purpose.

Use of Computer	A	B	C	D	E	F
Total Respondents	11	12	6			
Online Shopping	43%	83%	83%	76%	81%	100%
Social Networking	100%	100%	83%	65%	62%	88%
Browsing For Information	73%	75%	100%	94%	96%	100%
Online Newspapers	27%	33%	83%	59%	58%	63%
Watching YouTube	100%	92%	100%	76%	58%	88%
Emailing	100%	92%	100%	94%	96%	100%
Designing Web Pages			83%	29%	15%	63%
Writing computer programs	27%		100%	29%	4%	88%
Documentation	73%	67%	100%	88%	83%	100%
Excel and Powerpoint	64%	83%	100%	82%	85%	100%
Using Databases	55%	17%	100%	41%	27%	38%
Playing Online games	55%	67%	100%	59%	31%	63%
Homework Assignments	73%	83%	100%			
Doing Online Homework	73%	75%	100%			
School/College Information	64%	92%	100%			
Research for Assignments	75%	67%	100%			
Recording Finances				35%	46%	75%
Helping Children With Homework				24%	38%	38%

A	Male Students
B	Female Students
C	BTEC(IT)/CS Students
D	Males – Other
E	Females – Other
F	Computer Scientists

B 80% - 100% Responded yes

D 60% - 79% Responded yes

Appendix G: Attributes Associated with People who are good at ICT and Computer Science

Table G.1: Percentage of Respondents who Associated each Attribute With People Who Are Good At ICT

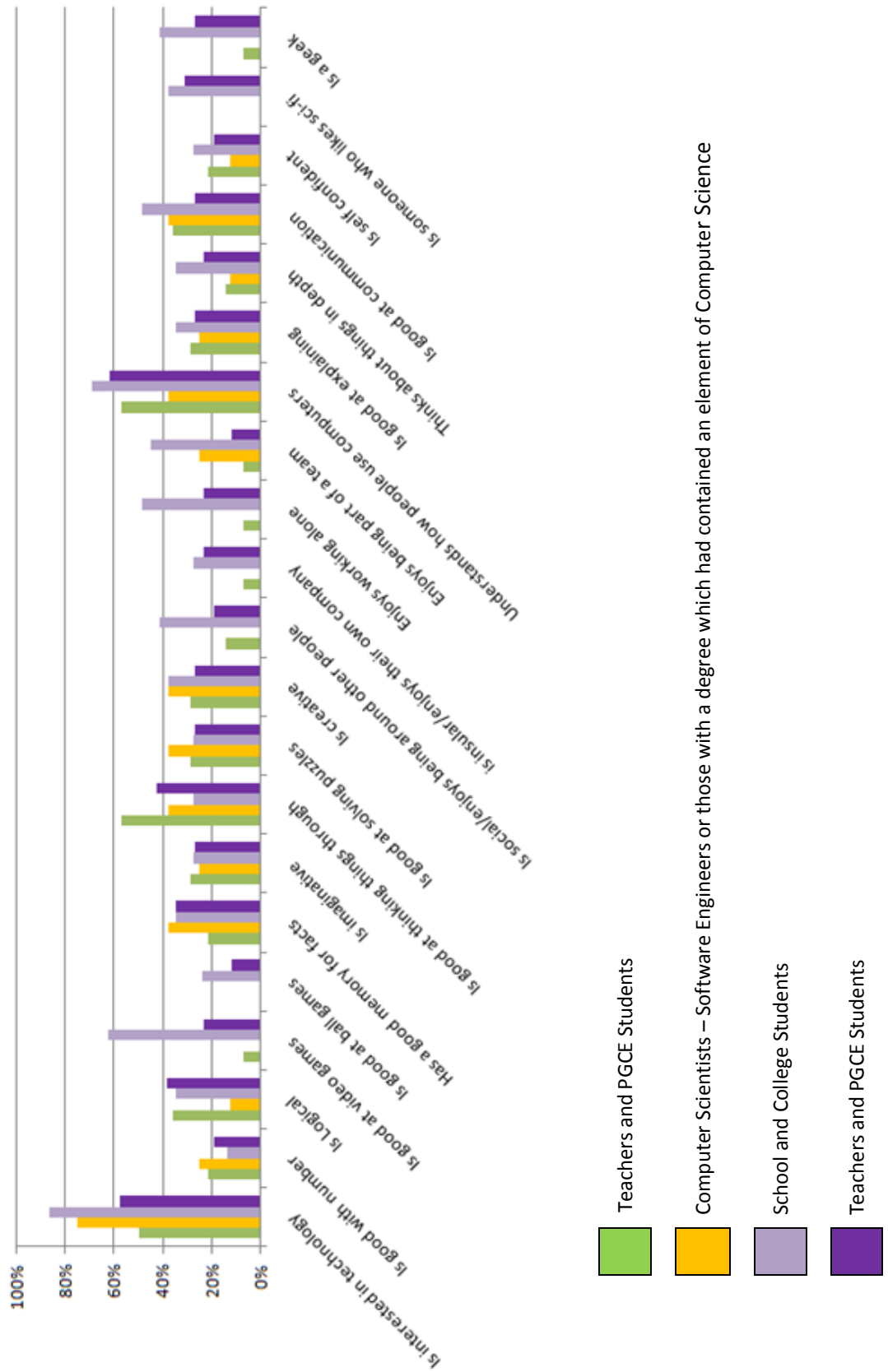


Table G.2: Percentage of Respondents who Associated each Attribute With People Who Are Good At Computer Science

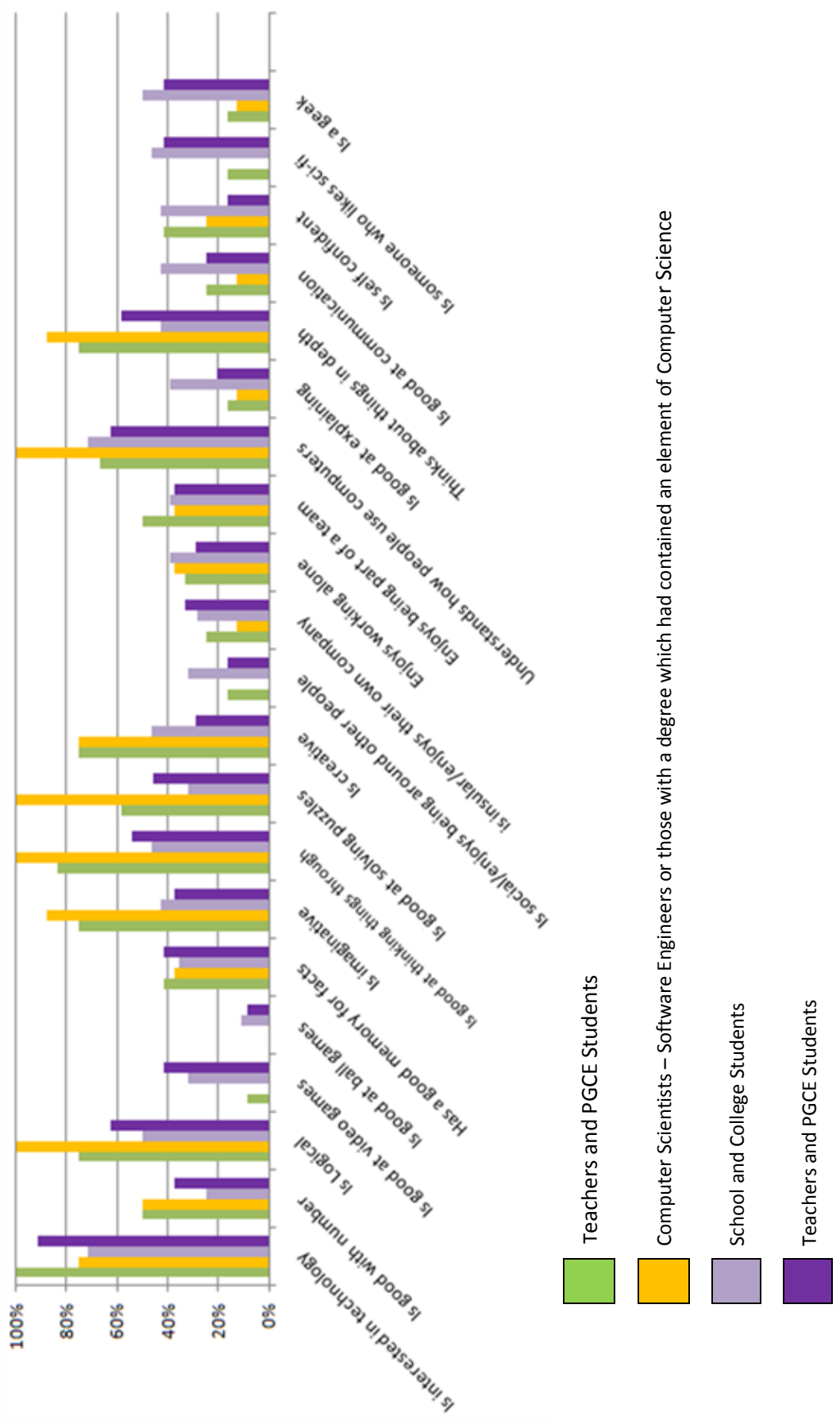


Table G.3 Top 8 Attributes Associated With People Who Are Good At ICT

Top 8 Attributes	Teachers/ PGCE Students	Computer Scientists	School/ College Students	Others	Total
Number of Responses	14	8	29	26	77
Is Interested in technology	7	6	25	15	53
Understands How People Use Computers	8	3	20	16	47
Thinks things through	8	3	8	11	30
Is Good at Communication	5	3	14	7	29
Is Logical	5	1	10	10	26
Good Memory for Facts	3	3	10	9	25
Good at Video Games	1	0	18	6	25
Is Creative	4	3	11	7	25

Table G.4 Top 8 Attributes Associated With People Who Are Good At Computer Science

Top 8 Attributes	Teachers/ PGCE Students	Computer Scientists	School/ College Students	Others	Total
Number of Responses	12	8	28	24	72
Is Interested in technology	12	6	20	22	60
Understands How People Use Computers	8	8	20	15	51
Is Logical	9	8	14	15	46
Thinks Things Through	10	8	13	13	44
Thinks About Thinks in Depth	9	7	12	14	42
Is Imaginative	9	7	12	9	37
Is Good At Solving Puzzles	7	8	9	22	35
Is Creative	9	6	13	7	35

Appendix H: Attributes Associated with Males and Females

Table H.1: Percentage of Respondents who Associated each Attribute With Males

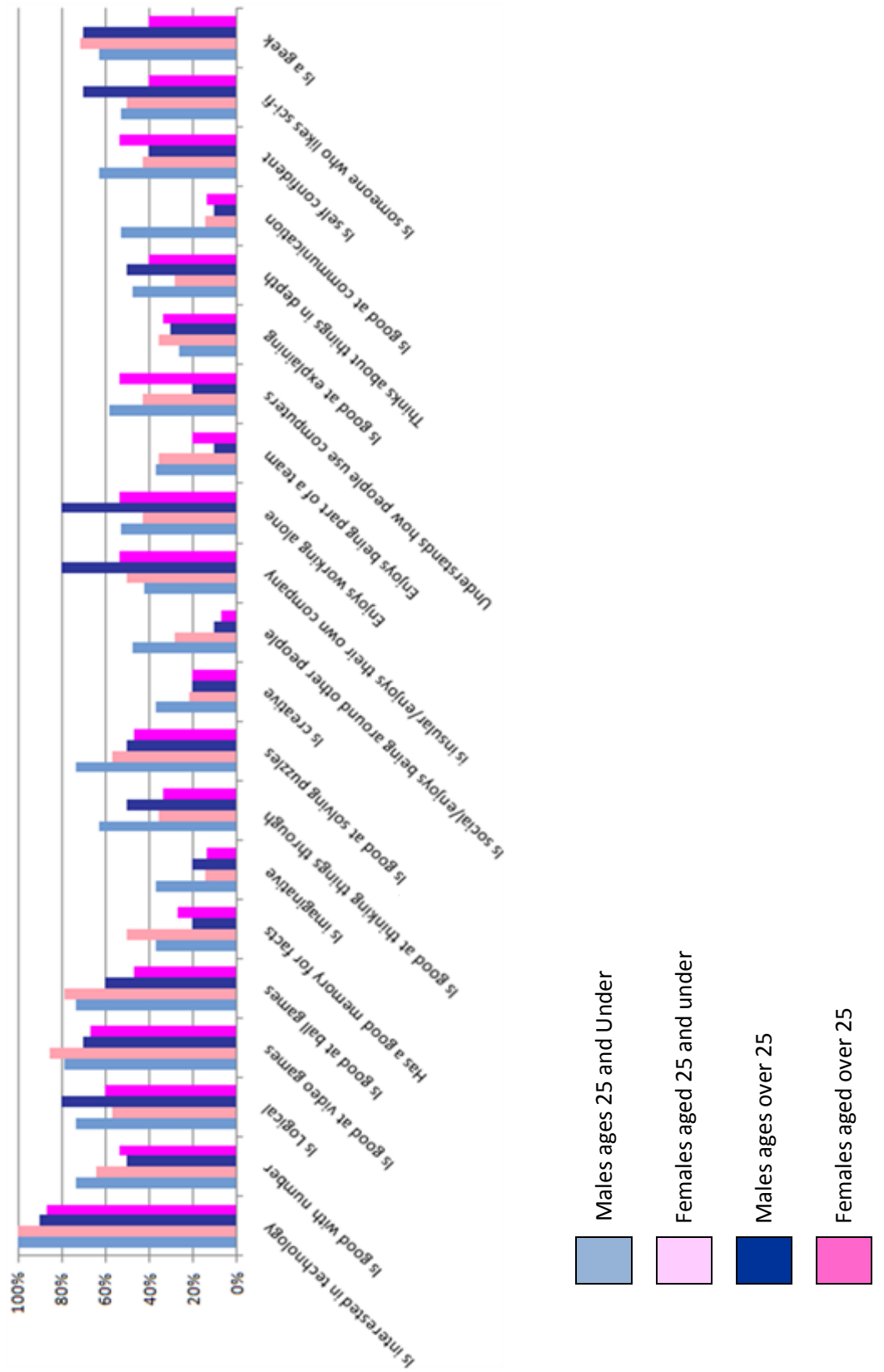


Table H.2: Percentage of Respondents who Associated each Attribute With Females

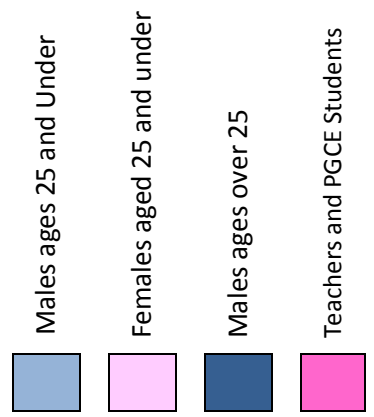
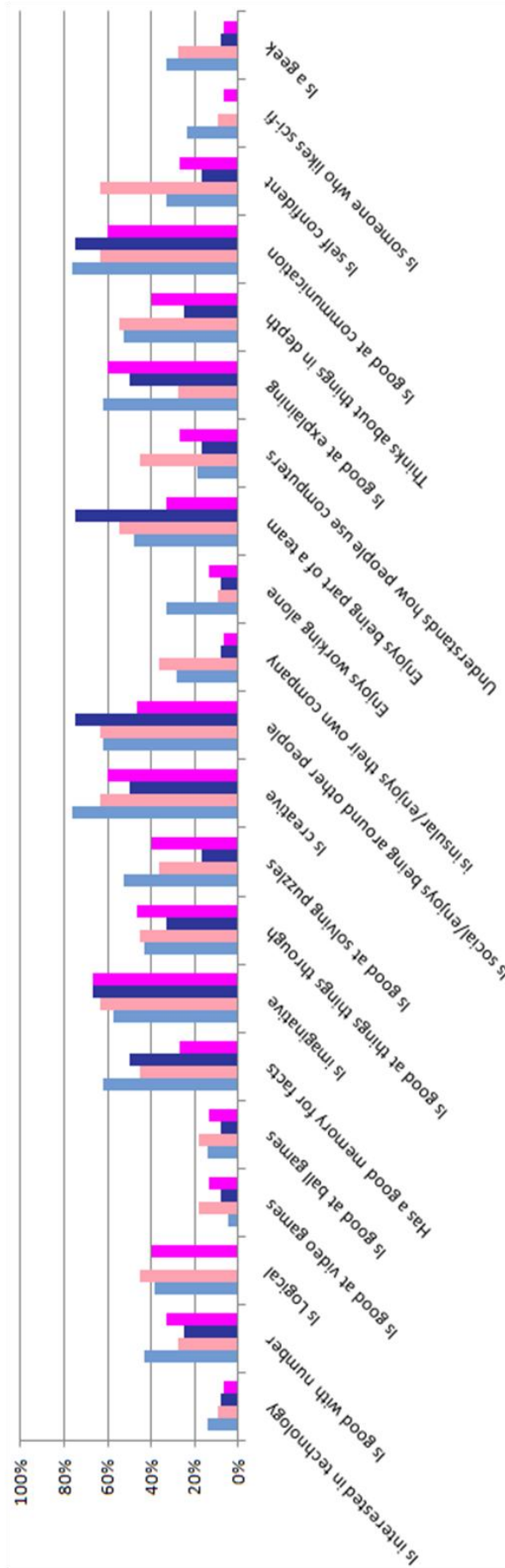


Table H.3 Top 8 Attributes Associated With Males

Top 8 Attributes	Male aged 25 and Under	Female ages 25 and under	Male aged over 25	Female aged over 25	Total
Number of Responses	19	14	10	16	77
Is Interested in technology	15	12	7	11	56
Good at Video Games	8	3	20	16	45
Logical	14	8	8	10	40
Good at Ball Games	14	11	6	8	39
Good with Number	14	9	5	9	37
Is a Geek	12	0	7	7	36
Is Good At Solving Puzzles	14	8	5	8	35

Table H.4 Top 8 Attributes Associated With Females

Top 8 Attributes	Male aged 25 and Under	Female ages 25 and under	Male aged over 25	Female aged over 25	Total
Number of Responses	12	8	28	24	72
Good At Communication	16	7	9	10	42
Creative	16	7	6	10	39
Imaginative	12	7	8	11	38
Social/Enjoy being around others	13	7	9	8	37
Good at Explaining	13	3	6	10	32
Enjoys being part of a team	10	6	9	6	31
Good memory For Facts	13	5	6	4	28













Appendix J: Why Don't Females Apply To Do Computer Science at University






Question asked in the questionnaire was: "In 2008, only 12.8% of the applications to study computer science from within the UK were from women. Why do you think that was?"










Table J.1: List of the types of reason given and the numbers whose responses aligned which it

Suggested Reasons	Responses from 26 Males	Responses From 28 Females
ICT Turns Girls of Computing and can get anxious when using computers. Girls enjoy using computers at home but find it uninteresting at school. Motivation factors in ICT packages often appeal to boys and not girls. Women get more anxious using computers.	1	1
Girls Less Likely To Risk Taking On A New Subject: There is a lack of awareness about what the subject involves and girls are less likely to specialise in a subject which they have no previous experience of.	3	2
Male stereotypes and CS seen as Male Dominated. Lack of female role models and geek male stereotypes. Culturally seen as more male thing.	6	9
Boys attracted to CS by Video Games: Boys spend twice as long as girls playing Video games.	1	4
Females are not as good as Males at Computer Science or their minds work differently.	2	4
Men are more interested in Computer Science and technology and women are less so:	9	4
Peer Pressure: Social pressure and environmental factors	5	2
Computer Science Careers: Women worry about career breaks and lack of flexible working arrangements. Don't know enough about the career options. Other careers more appealing	2	4
Women are more social and creative: Computer Science not seen as the sort of subject/career choice for those who are more social/creative. A Degree in CS won't lead to the sort of job Women Want To Do.	0	7
Women prefer to study other subjects or to be doing other things.	3	7

Table J.2: Responses and mapping to type of response given in Table J.1

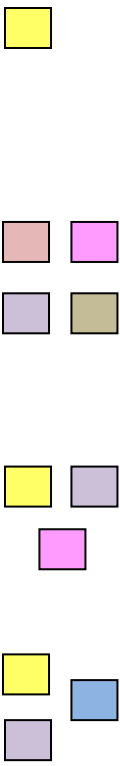
Students	Mapping
<p>Male Responses</p> <p>Men are better at Maths or more interested in Computer Science</p> <p>Not many women like computer science</p> <p>Women don't know much about it</p> <p>Mostly they were in fashion designing</p> <p>Because of stereotypes which influence women to not use computers as much and not be as interested in technology. These stereotypes come from media, entertainment and video games.</p> <p>Just something that doesn't interest many women.</p> <p>There is currently a lack of interest in technology from women</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p>
<p>Female Responses</p> <p>Males prefer it than women as they are more geeks</p> <p>Because Women are More Creative</p> <p>Most women don't enjoy computers</p> <p>Women are more creative than men and more interested in arty things.</p> <p>Because traditionally it is a male dominated area</p> <p>Not interested in the Subject</p> <p>Females are more creative and deep thinker. Therefore they are more attracted towards arts subjects.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p> </p>

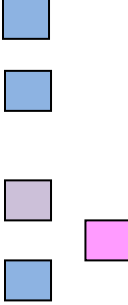
Students Studying Qualifications With Some Computer Science Content	
<p>Male Responses</p> <p>Because they get bored with technology</p> <p>The actual concept of the work was probably too boring?</p> <p>Many women may find computer science hard and like more active work</p>	  
<p>Female Responses</p> <p>I think working with computers is more of a male thing, I take computer science but I am the only female in the whole school taking it, which shows it is not very popular with the females. I think female and male minds work very differently because sometimes we will be being taught something and the males will get it straight away and I struggle to understand.</p>	 




















Teachers and PGCE Students	
<p>Male Responses</p> <p>Social/Peer pressure early on is reflected in later studies/career choice</p> <p>They like easy works with some joys.</p> <p>Because there are other career paths that women are drawn to, mainly due to prevailing sociological trends (i.e. not because women have any inherent aversion to such studies). It may be that there is some degree of inherent predisposition towards technical pursuits in males, but I would be surprised if it is enough to account for this level of differential. I expect the stronger influence is social/cultural.</p> <p>Perhaps the computing industry has a stereotype that women do not find attractive. Also, if other industries have more women in them then more women may be attracted to follow them and not do computing.</p> <p>Partly social pressure, partly natural differences in structure of the brain.</p>	        

<p>Female Responses</p> <p>Based on nurture/environment factors as opposed to natural ability/inability</p> <p>Stereotypes upon computer scientists I guess. Lower job schema for women in that field.</p> <p>Seen as a male industry – concern about career progression and glass ceiling?</p> <p>We have better things to do.</p> <p>The computer industry is seen as being male-dominated. In mixed schools, girls often get pushed to the back in ICT lessons and it's not "cool" to be into computers (apart from Facebook)</p> <p>Other subjects are generally more interesting to women.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">□</p> <p>■</p> <p>■ ■</p> <p>■ ■</p> <p>■</p> <p>■</p> <p>■</p>
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Software Engineers and Those Who Have Studied Computer Science as Part Of Their Degree	
<p>Male Responses</p> <p>Maybe it's perceived to be a male dominated subject, I don't know.</p> <p>I'm really surprised the figure is so low. My feeling is that Computer Science should be gender neutral – it requires a mix of skills from understanding problems through to developing solutions. However the perception is that it is limited to the technology (hardware/phones) or the usage (video games/running computations/ICT)</p> <p>I think it's mainly social and peer-pressure. Girls are generally more concerned about their image and how they appear to others and may be reluctant to specialise in a topic that is often seen as dry and technical, ie "non-feminine". Computer Science is often seen as a "geeky" topic. Also, there is something of a vicious circle given that the computing world tends to be male dominated, I think women sense (rightly or wrongly) some hostility if they try to enter this world and feel out-of-place. I believe women in computing are often judged by higher standards than their male peers and have to achieve more before they become accepted.</p> <p>Because they are more likely to recognise it is a waste of time</p> <p>Stereotyping (60%), Women's Fear (40%)</p>	<p>■</p> <p>■ ■</p> <p>■ ■</p> <p>■ ■</p> <p>■ ■</p> <p>■ ■</p>

<p>Female Responses</p> <p>I'm not sure. I think boys are more likely to cultivate an interest in technology and video games which are probably the main interests which lead to an interest in computer science. Which is a shame because as a girl I love technology and video games. I think things are changing now though, girls are being brought into the video game world a lot more now than a few years ago.</p> <p>Similarity to Maths (men are generally better at problem solving), but this has a greater difference which is probably the result of more than just the way the brain works. I think there is definitely stereotyping in Computer Science and little encouragement is really given to persue this course, partially due to the lack of schools that run computing, a lot of people don't get to experience this subject leaving judgements on it much more to hearsay, which is more influenced by social grouping.</p> <p>Most kids exposure to computing is in the form of online games which involve violence. This is not attractive to women – who are probably unaware that there is a lot more to computing than writing software for video games. Few well publicised female roll models. Seen as a geek activity.</p> <p>That is surprising. Then again I now work for a highly computer literate organisation and none of the expert computational scientists are women, and in recent recruitment rounds there were no women applicants. I can only surmise that computer games and technology in general are more compelling for young men! I definitely think you get more male computer geeks!</p>	
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<p>Those who are not students, teachers or have qualifications or a job relating to Computer Science</p>	
<p>Male Responses</p> <p>Men tend to have a greater interest in computers.</p> <p>Women don't tend to find working at computers interesting</p> <p>Perhaps the subject is seen as being more suited for loners, "geeky", and antisocial people, or at least no for people who are social. The subject is probably a tougher option than the social sciences, which would therefore attract people who were less committes to a specific subject. Perhaps there is insufficient knowledge of the content of the courses. Also, it may be that women are just not as interested in computer technology.</p>	

<p>Not seen as a subject of practical usefulness.</p> <p>Females tend to be more interested in human relationships than cold hard facts that don't appear relevant to them.</p> <p>The perception that CS is for 'geeks' ie spend all time alone with vast amounts of comic books and Star Trek collectiond. Again the subject matter isn't made to appeal to women or promoted to sound interesting.</p> <p>It does not have a very public job market compared with other subjects e.g. Marketing and PR, and women would prefer a more public orientated job role than just working in front of a computer.</p>	   
<p>Female Responses</p> <p>Women see Computer Science as a male area, probably somewhat unsociable and single track. Women are encouraged to see themselves as people people. Computers are not people.</p> <p>Portryed in the media as male dominated. Perhaps not seen as flexible enough for working mums. Also most IT jobs are not advertisted generally. They are targetted IT mags etc and therefore not as well known in general.</p> <p>It's a generalisation but women are often more "people people" and prefer face to face contact.</p> <p>I think women MAY also be that they are gravitating towards careers that would allow a career break for children.</p> <p>Culturally seen as more of a man's thing. Men tend to like electronic things and gadgets! Perhaps women prefer more interactive, people orientated kind of work.</p> <p>Because its a males best aspect</p> <p>They view it as being about computer games and have not considered the wider role of computer science in the real world. They may also see it as 'geeky'.</p> <p>It is a male dominated industry; fewer women are gifted in mathematics, computer skills and technology innovations.</p> <p>Majority of women would possibly be more interested in family life and relationships, therefore more intersted in areas where there is more interpersonal communication.</p> <p>They're more likely to apply to something else instead.</p>	              

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