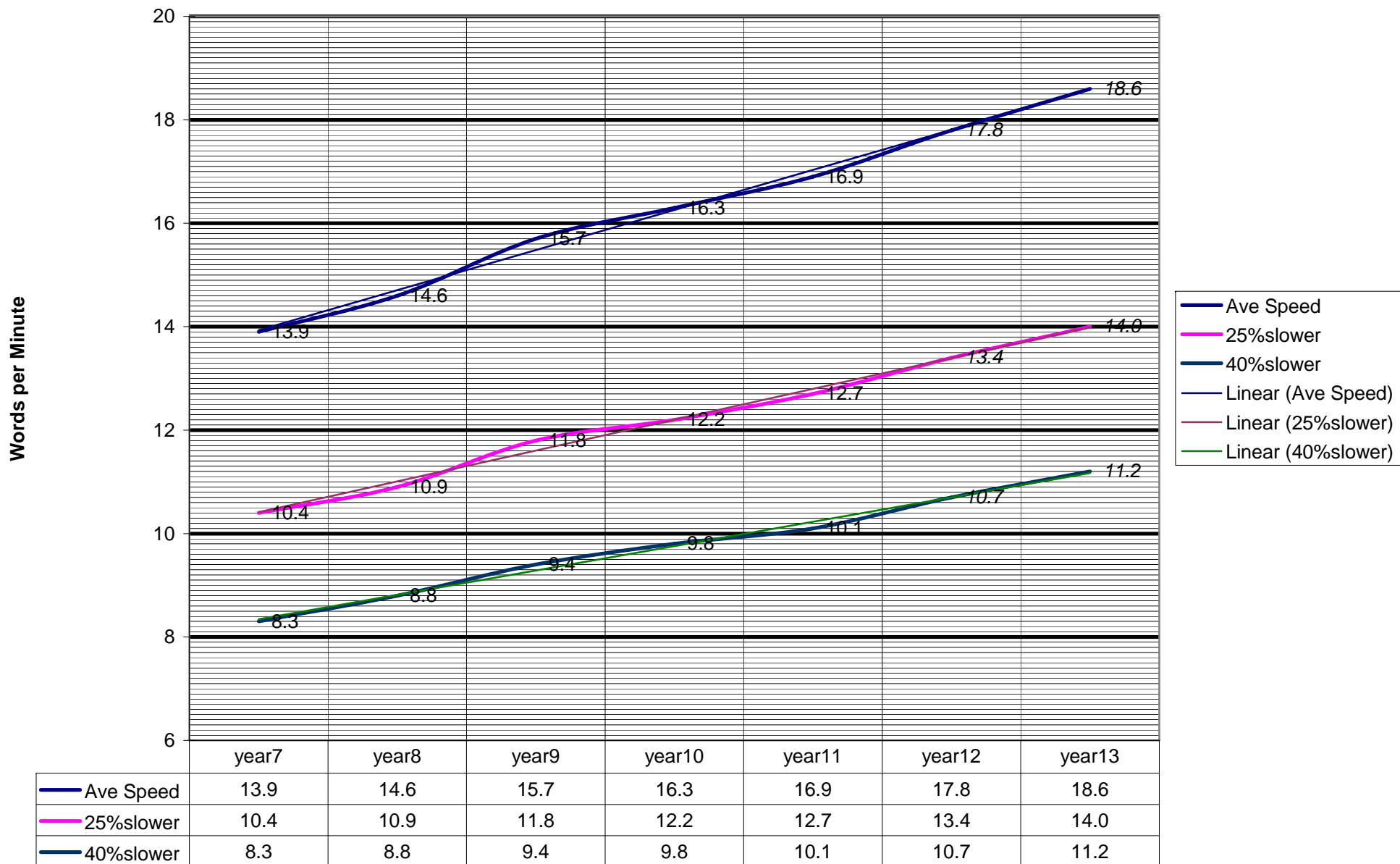


What is the average writing speed for GCE [A-level] candidates?

The average for Year 11 is 16.9 wpm, and only the more academically able go on to AS and A Level. The ART (Adult Reading Test), which uses a 2 minute writing task, gives 22-23 wpm as the average for adults. The main difficulty with using a 2 min test is that it bears little resemblance to answering an examination question and the speed over 20 minutes would be appreciably slower. No data has been collected, in a sample representative of the entire population for a 20 minute writing task, covering the older age range. Without hard data we can only fall back on the predicted increase in speed from Y11 as shown in the projection based on data collected by Allcock [2001]. This is shown in the chart reproduced below. On projected scores the average for Year 12 is 17.8 wpm and for year 13 it is 18.6 wpm. The average may seem low for A level students but they are only a minority, others do vocational courses, some go to work and some avoid writing if possible. Handwriting speed will only improve with continuing practice as with any other skill.

Graph to Predict Handwriting Speed for Years 12 and 13



NOTE: SCORES FOR YEAR 12 AND YEAR 13 ARE PROJECTED, USING ALLCOCK HANDWRITING ASSESSMENT.