

## News Release

**Strict embargo: 09.30 hours Thursday 16 August 2007**

### **Improvement in A-level results and increased entries in maths, science and modern foreign languages**

The motivation and commitment of young people and the skill and hard work of their teachers has produced another improvement in A-level results this year.

According to data published today (Thursday 16 August 2007) by the umbrella group for the UK awarding bodies, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCO), overall the cumulative percentage of candidates attaining A-level grades A-E increased by 0.3 percentage points from 96.6 per cent to 96.9 per cent. The results show an increase in the candidates achieving a grade A of 1.2 percentage points (from 24.1 per cent in 2006 to 25.3 per cent in 2007).

Girls continue to outperform boys at grades A-E in every major A-level subject, apart from modern foreign languages and further mathematics.

There were 805,657 entries for A-level this year (805,698 entries for 2006).

Traditional subjects such as biology, chemistry, English, geography, history and mathematics continue to be the most popular, with English and mathematics now the top two choices.

Mathematics continues its upward trend with an increase in entries for further mathematics of 8.3 per cent and mathematics of 7.3 per cent.

There were increases in entries for chemistry (0.6 per cent) and physics (0.4 per cent). Biology saw a decrease in entries (0.6 per cent).

Overall, entries to modern foreign languages are stable, with increases in German (1.6 per cent) and Spanish (6.6 per cent) but a decrease in French (1.2 per cent).

Commenting on the publication of the A-level entry and results data, Dr Jim Sinclair, Director, Joint Council for Qualifications, said:

“The improvement of the results at A-level reflects how well students have done this year. Candidates who have worked hard are getting the results they deserve.

“There are many positive signs and improvements and some of the highlights are the continued upward entry trend in mathematics, the physical sciences also seeing an improvement and modern foreign languages remaining stable.”

### **AS level**

There were 1,114,424 entries for all subjects at AS level in 2007, a 27,790 or 2.6 per cent increase (1,086,634 entries in 2006).

The top ten subject choices remain the same as in 2006. The results show an improvement overall, with a 0.1 percentage point increase at grade A (to 18.5 per cent) and 0.3 percentage point increase at grades A-E (to 87.8 per cent).

### **Applied AS and A-level**

There were 50,982 entries for the Applied AS Single Award in 2007, an increase of 11,826 or 30.2 per cent (39,156 entries in 2006). There were 15,556 entries for the Applied AS Double Award in 2007, an increase of 1,576 or 11.3 per cent (13,980 entries in 2006). Over both qualifications this represents a 25 per cent increase in their second year of operation.

This is the first year in which the new applied A-levels have been awarded. There were 33,466 entries for the Applied A-level Single Award and 15,298 entries for the Applied A-level Double Award.

### **AEA (Advanced Extension Awards)**

There were 11,251 entries for all subjects at AEA in 2007, an increase of 152 (1.4 per cent) on 2006 (11,099 entries).

Achievements at distinction rose by 0.9 per cent (from 17.1 percentage points to 18.0 per cent) and at merit by 1.6 percentage points (from 48.2 per cent to 49.8 per cent) in 2007.

## Notes for Editors

1. 'Results 2007'- detailed tabulations of the A, AS, Applied GCE AS, VCE and AEA examinations are published separately, also with the STRICT EMBARGO: 09.30 hours Thursday 16 August 2007.
2. These are the results for the above qualifications taken by students across the UK but predominantly in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.
3. The JCQ consists of AQA, CCEA, City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR, SQA and WJEC, the seven largest providers of qualifications in the UK, offering GCSE, GCE, AEA, Entry Level, Vocational and vocationally-related qualifications.
4. The JCQ was established in January 2004 and supersedes the Joint Council for General Qualifications (JCGQ, 1998-2003). The JCQ has been formed to enable member awarding bodies to act together in
  - providing, wherever possible, common administrative arrangements for the schools and colleges and other providers which offer their qualifications;
  - dealing with the Regulatory Authorities; in responding to proposals and initiatives on assessment and the curriculum;
  - dealing with the media on issues affecting all member Bodies.

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