



## GCSE Autumn 2020

These notes should be read before consulting the results tables as they put the results in context and provide explanation for some changes in reporting and outcomes. These notes apply to the exceptional autumn 2020 series available in England. JCQ results tables for the GCSE November series which is routinely available for GCSE English Language and Mathematics, were published on 14 January 2021.

The notes do not however attempt to outline the detail of every change that may influence results or entries in some way. The relevant government and regulatory websites give a more extensive overview of the approach to examinations.

### **Regulator links:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>

### **Education Department link:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

In response to the Global COVID-19 pandemic, the summer 2020 exam series was cancelled to help fight the spread of Coronavirus. Department for Education announced there would be an opportunity for students in England to sit the full suite of GCSE examinations in autumn 2020. (This was a variation to the normal rules that only allow GCSE English Language, and Mathematics to be available in a November series).

Students would be able to sit the exams if they were unhappy with their summer grade, or if they needed an improved result to move onto the next stage of their education. Additionally, there was a small group of students for whom there was not enough evidence for a grade to be awarded in the summer, and it was particularly important that those students were able to sit exams in autumn 2020. Exam Boards were asked to carry forward the generosity from summer 2020 grades, the majority of which were based on centre assessment.

Following consultation, the Regulator in England (Ofqual) announced that, with the exception of Art and Design, the autumn results would be based on students' exam performance alone and not on any non-examination assessment (NEA). The removal of NEA components for autumn 2020 meant that the weighting of the exam components was adjusted to make up 100% of the qualification. Exam Boards applied a scaling factor in accordance with the subject weighting to reflect the changes in relative weightings for each component. As the extraordinary autumn series was predominantly aimed at learners who were ready for assessment in summer 2020, apart from the removal of NEA, no further adaptations were made to assessments in autumn 2020.

All specifications are graded 9 to 1. The only exception to this is GCSE Combined Science (Double Award), which is graded 9-9, 9-8, 8-8.... 2-1, 1-1, U. In order to retain these outcomes in the main GCSE full course tables, we report outcomes at key grades 7-7, 4-4 and 1-1 as 7, 4, and 1. Each entry is doubled to reflect the achievement of two grades in the subject.

## Interpreting the UK tables

Entries for this exceptional series were relatively low and much smaller than we would expect in a summer series. With such small numbers, the students entering for each subject are likely to be unrepresentative of those in the summer cohort. These autumn results should not be compared to summer 2020 or to summer 2019 because the profile of students entering in autumn was so different from a summer cohort.

The JCQ tables calculate ages as of August 2021, the current academic year.

To protect candidate anonymity, data suppression (indicated by 0~) is applied to the results tables when the combined number of male and female candidates that sat a subject is fewer than 10. In this case all rows for the subject would be suppressed. Suppression is also applied to subjects when one of the gender breakdowns had fewer than 10 candidates sit. In this case the separate rows for male and female would be suppressed, but the combined 'male & female' row would not be suppressed. The following are examples of unsuppressed, and suppressed data using this criterion.

### 1. Combined number of male & female candidates that sat a subject is fewer than 10

<b>1a. Unsuppressed</b>							
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES by Grade</i>			
		<i>Sat</i>	<i>No. Sat</i>	<i>A/7</i>	<i>C/4</i>	<i>G/1</i>	<i>U</i>
Fictional Studies	Male	3	7.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Female	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Male & Female	3	3.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>1b. Suppressed</b>							
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES by Grade</i>			
		<i>Sat</i>	<i>No. Sat</i>	<i>A/7</i>	<i>C/4</i>	<i>G/1</i>	<i>U</i>
Fictional Studies	Male	0~	0~	0~	0~	0~	0~
	Female	0~	0~	0~	0~	0~	0~
	Male & Female	0~	0~	0~	0~	0~	0~

### 1. One of the gender breakdowns had fewer than 10 candidates sit

<b>2a. Unsuppressed data</b>							
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES by Grade</i>			
		<i>Sat</i>	<i>No. Sat</i>	<i>7/A</i>	<i>4/C</i>	<i>1/G</i>	<i>U</i>
Fictional Studies	Male	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
	Female	22	0.3	18.2	68.2	100.0	100.0
	Male & Female	22	0.1	0.0	68.2	100.0	100.0
<b>2b. Suppressed data</b>							
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES by Grade</i>			
		<i>Sat</i>	<i>No. Sat</i>	<i>7/A</i>	<i>4/C</i>	<i>1/G</i>	<i>U</i>
Fictional Studies	Male	0~	0~	0~	0~	0~	0~
	Female	0~	0~	0~	0~	0~	0~
	Male & Female	22	0.1	0.0	68.2	100.0	100.0

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**Limitations**

JCQ carries out quality assurance checks to ensure that the data received is, to the best of our knowledge, accurate.

The results tables are provisional. Results are updated after this point to include changes such as reviews of marking. Whilst provisional, we do not anticipate significant changes to outcomes to occur.

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