



GCE Autumn 2021: Notes for users of the JCQ results tables

GCE Introduction

In January 2021, the government announced that GCE exams would not be held in summer 2021, and learners would receive a teacher-assessed grade (TAG). In February 2021, the Secretary of State directed Ofqual to make provision for GCE exams in the autumn.

England

In England, there was an opportunity for learners to sit the full suite of GCE A level exams in the autumn. At AS level, exam boards were required to offer Biology, Chemistry, Further Maths, Maths, and Physics exams. Pre-pandemic, a GCE autumn series was not available. An autumn series was available for the first time in 2020.

Learners were eligible to enter the autumn series if they received a teacher-assessed grade in summer 2021 or if exam boards believed they had intended to sit an exam if they had not been cancelled.

The autumn 2021 series is a continuation of the summer series. Exam boards were asked to seek alignment with summer 2021 (the level of attainment that would generally be required to achieve the outcomes observed in summer 2021) as far as possible to ensure fairness to learners. However, because of differences in the cohorts, the actual cumulative percentage outcomes at each grade will likely differ relative to those in summer 2021.

As was the case for the autumn 2020 series, except for Art and Design, results are based on the learner's exam performance alone. Non-examination assessment (NEA) was not a feature of the series. The removal of NEA components meant that the weighting of the exam components was adjusted to make up 100% of the qualification.

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

Regulatory Link:

England

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

Education Department link:

England

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

Interpreting the UK tables

Entries for this series were relatively low and much smaller than we would expect in a summer series. The learners entering each subject are likely to be unrepresentative of the summer cohort with such small numbers. These autumn results should not be compared to summer 2021, autumn 2020 or any other series because the profile of learners entering was different to previous cohorts.

In summer 2021, Applied A/AS Levels were reported in the A/AS levels tables and not reported separately as in previous years. However, Applied A/AS Levels were not available in the autumn 2021 series, and they have not been included in this suite of tables.

To protect candidate anonymity, data suppression (indicated by 0~) is applied to the results tables when the combined number of male and female candidates, or one of the gender breakdowns, had fewer than ten candidates entered for a subject.

The JCQ tables calculate ages as of August 2022.

Limitations

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

The results tables are provisional, and 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.

The JCQ tables include breakdowns by male and female. JCQ and its member organisations are working in conjunction with stakeholders to explore options to include other genders.
