



## **GCSE November 2021:**

### **English Language, Mathematics, Mathematics-Numeracy and Welsh First Language**

## Notes for users of the JCQ results tables

These notes should be read before consulting the results tables as they put the results in context and explain some changes in reporting and outcomes. These notes apply to the November 2021 series only.

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

#### **Regulatory Link:**

England

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

Wales

<http://qualificationswales.org>

<https://qualificationswales.org/cymraeg/>

#### **Education Department links:**

England

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

Wales

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/?lang=en>

<https://llyw.cymru/addysg-a-sgiliau>

## England

GCSE English Language and Mathematics are routinely available for assessment in an annual November exam series for post-16 learners. However, as was the case for 2020, in 2021 younger learners could enter the November 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 in the summer.

GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics are awarded on a grade scale of 9-1. Exam boards were asked to seek to align autumn 2021 grading 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.

Full-time learners aged 16 to 18 and 19 to 25 with an education, health, and care (EHC) plan, who have not achieved a GCSE grade C/4 or above in English Language/English Literature or Mathematics are required to continue studying these subjects as part of their 16-19 study program. Learners who have previously achieved a GCSE grade 3/C must study GCSE only. From the academic year 2019/20, learners with a grade 2 or below in English Language/English Literature or Mathematics can study towards a pass in Functional Skills level 2 or still study towards a GCSE grade 9 to 4.

## Wales

GCSE English Language, Mathematics, Mathematics-Numeracy, and Welsh First Language are routinely available in the November series. Learners can enter regardless of their age.

In Wales, entry to the November series is not restricted and therefore, there is a high proportion of 16-year-old learners who enter these qualifications as well as resitters. For this reason, the approach to the November 2021 series was similar to the planned approach for the summer 2022 series. The standard set in both series will represent a point broadly midway between the summer 2019 and 2021 series.

GCSE English Language, Mathematics, Mathematics-Numeracy, and Welsh First Language are awarded on a grade scale of A\*- G.

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### Interpreting the tables (England and Wales)

Comparisons of outcomes in November 2021 to any other series are complicated by changing entry practices, assessment methods, and the pandemic effect.

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.

Post-16 tables include all learners in range and are not limited to those enrolled on 16-19 full-time study programs.

The JCQ tables calculate age as of August 2022.

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## **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.

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