



## **GCSE Autumn 2021: Notes for users of the JCQ results tables**

### **GCSE Introduction**

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

### **England**

In England, there was an opportunity for learners to sit the full suite of GCSE exams in the autumn. An autumn series was available for the first time in 2020. GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics were available as part of the November 2021 series, and results for these subjects were published on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022. All other GCSE subjects were offered in the autumn series.

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.

Exam boards were asked to align autumn 2021 grading with 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.

**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.**

**The notes do not, however, 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:**

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

#### **Education Department link:**

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

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## **Interpreting the tables (England and Wales)**

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

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.

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## **Limitations**

JCQ conducts 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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