



Strictly Embargoed until 09.30 HRS on Thursday 25 August 2022

Northern Ireland GCSE Results 2022

- Results reflect the return to summer examinations for the first time since 2019
- 37% of students received grade A/7 and above
- Outcomes at grade C/4 and above up 7.8 percentage points from 2019
- Adaptations and assessment burden reduced to take account of disruption
- STEM subjects continue to account for over 40% of entries

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published the provisional 2022 results for just under 30,000 GCSE students across Northern Ireland. This is the first-time GCSE students have taken public summer exams in three years, yet in circumstances very different to those of the pre-pandemic years.

The provisional figures released today show that in Northern Ireland 37% of students received a grade A/7 and above, compared to 30.5% when exams were last sat in 2019. Outcomes at grade C/4 and above were received by 90% of students, compared to 82.2%.

To support the transition back to examinations Awarding Organisations introduced a range of measures, as set out by the Education Departments and Examination Regulators. These measures included an optional reduction in the assessment burden and adaptations to mitigate the disruption to teaching and learning. The approach to grading, adopted by all awarding organisations, also took account of the challenges experienced.

To note, data comparisons¹ are made with 2019 as this was the last year of public examinations. This is the approach agreed by England, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure meaningful comparison of similar assessments. Evaluation of any previous years' results should be approached with caution due to the differing methods of assessments and circumstances.

GCSE

GCSE entries in Northern Ireland this year have decreased slightly from 166,172 in 2021 to 164,413, a 1.1% decrease. The Year 12 school population increased this year by 0.8%.

Those achieving grade C/4 and above increased by 7.8 percentage points to 90%. Grade A/7 increased to 37% up 6.5 percentage points from 2019.

¹ With the exception of the entries comparison, which is year on year.

English Language and Mathematics

In GCSE English Language, 88.7% achieved grade C/4 and above, up 8.0 percentage points from 80.7% in 2019. Those achieving the A/7 grade in English increased to 28.7%, up 5.8 percentage points from 2019.

For GCSE Mathematics, 79.8% achieved grade C/4 and above, an increase of 8.5 percentage points from 2019. Grade A/7 also showed an increase up 3.8 percentage points to 29.4%.

Male / female outcomes

Outcomes increased at A/7 for both males and females, by 6.9 percentage points for males and 6.2 percentage points for females. The results show the gap between genders has decreased at grade C/4 and above from 7.1 percentage points in 2019 to 3.7 percentage points this year.

Subject entries

Subject choices continue to be similar to previous years. The overall proportional entries for Languages remains steady from 2021 to 2022.

Over 41% of all GCSE entries taken in Northern Ireland are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects.

Ends

Media enquiries to:

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For information about the UK results, contact the JCQ^{CIC}'s press office on 020 7227 0671, or 07399 870337 or at pressoffice@jcq.org.uk

Further statistical details on the results for the UK, Wales, England and Northern Ireland may be found at www.jcq.org.uk

Notes to Editors

9-1 GCSEs

This is the fifth full year of the 9–1 grade scale offered by England based awarding organisations. A small percentage of students in Northern Ireland (3.1%) will receive a 9–1 grade, with the vast majority (96.9%) of students continuing to take A* - G graded GCSEs.

Standards remain anchored at grades A/7, C/4 and G/1. Comparisons across years, subjects and jurisdictions are possible at these anchor points.

Further information on the GCSE grade changes is available

http://ccea.org.uk/regulation/gcse_grading

Summer 2022: Assessment arrangements and adaptations

All Awarding Organisations were asked to implement a significant package of support for students taking exams this summer to take account of the ongoing disruption from the pandemic.

Further information on the assessment arrangements and adaptations is available below:

CCEA

Summer 2022 Assessment arrangements

www.ccea.org.uk/summer-2022

Key documents (graphic link)

[Assessment arrangements for CCEA Qualifications 2021/22](#)

[Student Guide to Assessment Arrangements, Optional Omissions and Contingencies for Summer 2022 Exams](#)

JCQ

[Summer 2022 arrangements](#)

Ofqual - www.gov.uk/ofqual
[Package of support](#)

Qualifications Wales - <https://www.qualificationswales.org/english/assessment-arrangements-20212022/>

WJEC

[WJEC Summer 2022](#)

GCSE Provisional results 2022

The statistics below represent the provisional Northern Ireland GCSE results from five JCQ awarding organisations: - AQA, CCEA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC.

To note, data comparisons² are made with 2019 as this was the last year of public examinations. This is the approach agreed by England, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure meaningful comparison of similar assessments. Evaluation of any previous years' results should be approached with caution due to the differing methods of assessments and circumstances.

Table 1: Northern Ireland GCSE entries and 2022 provisional results, compared to 2019:

	2022	2019
Entries	164,413	161,405
% A/7	37.0	30.5
%A/7 - C/4	90.0	82.2
% A/7 - G/1	99.4	98.8

² With the exception of the entries comparison, which is year on year.

Table 2: Northern Ireland GCSE entries and 2022 provisional results, compared to 2021:

In 2021 when students received grades determined by teacher assessment, 39.9% of students achieved grade A/7, and 89.6% grade A/7 - C/4.

	2022	2021
Entries	164,413	166,172
% A/7	37.0	39.9
%A/7 - C/4	90.0	89.6
% A/7 - G/1	99.4	99.2

Table 3: NI GCSE 2022 provisional results by gender, compared to 2019 (combined A*-G/9-1)

2022 Provisional	Males		Females	
	2022	2019	2022	2019
% A/7	31.9	25.0	41.9	35.7
%A/7 - C/4	88.1	78.5	91.8	85.6
% A/7 - G/1	99.3	98.6	99.5	99.1

Table 4: NI GCSE 2022 provisional results by gender, compared to 2021 (combined A*-G/9-1)

2022 Provisional	Males		Females	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
% A/7	31.9	32.7	41.9	46.6
%A/7 - C/4	88.1	87.1	91.8	91.9
% A/7 - G/1	99.3	99.0	99.5	99.3

1. The JCQ^{CIC} is a membership body and comprises AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC – the eight largest providers of qualifications in the UK.
2. Detailed tabulations of the GCSE Full Course, GCSE Short Course, GCSE Double Award, Entry Level Certification, Level 1, and Level 2 Project are published separately, with the STRICT EMBARGO OF 09.30 HOURS THURSDAY 25 AUGUST 2022 and will be available on the JCQ website from 09.30 on 25 August at www.jcq.org.uk
3. These results are for qualifications taken by students across the UK but predominantly in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
4. All awarding organisations are answerable to the regulatory authorities - Ofqual (England), Welsh Government (Wales) and CCEA Regulation (Northern Ireland) – for examinations standards. The regulatory authorities monitor the awarding bodies' standards. In addition, the awarding organisations themselves conduct a number of comparability studies to compare standards. Maintaining standards within and across all qualifications in order to ensure fairness to all candidates is the paramount concern of the awarding bodies.