



Joint Council for  
Qualifications<sup>CIC</sup>

## Press Notice

STRICTLY EMBARGOED

Until 09:30 BST, Thursday 25 August 2022

Produced on behalf of:



## GCSE results reflect successful return to summer exams

The Joint Council for Qualifications has published the 2022 UK results for GCSE and congratulates students receiving their grades, despite the challenges created by the pandemic.

- Students have had the opportunity to show what they have learned and what they can do through exams and coursework. Their GCSEs will now help them to make decisions about their next steps in education
- In line with the objective set out by regulators, overall outcomes† are higher than 2019, when exams were last sat, and lower than 2021 outcomes

Awarding bodies worked closely with government bodies and regulators, to introduce a package of support for students including more lenient grading, advance information, adaptations, exam aids and changes to timetabling arrangements to support the transition back to exams. This was put in place to support students, schools and colleges through another challenging year due to Covid.

### Highlights:

- 5,708,871 total entries - down by 0.6% from 2021
- Overall outcomes for female entries remain higher than for male entries
- No change in the rank order of the top ten highest entry subjects
- Most popular subject choices are unchanged from 2021
- Growth in science entries continues in Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Double Award Science

### Results compared with 2019 and 2021

#### Overall outcomes are higher than 2019, when exams were last sat

- 7/A increased by 5.5 percentage points (pp)
- 4/C increased by 5.9pp
- 1/G increased by 0.1pp

#### Overall outcomes are lower than 2021, when there was a different method of assessment

- 7/A decreased by 2.6pp
- 4/C decreased by 3.9pp
- 1/G decreased by 0.6pp

### Update on gender patterns

Overall outcomes for female entries continue to be higher at all key grades, than for male entries

- 30% of female entries achieved 7/A, compared with 22.6% of male entries
- 76.7% of female entries achieved 4/C, compared with 69.8% of male entries
- 98.8% of female entries achieved 1/G compared with 98.0% of male entries
- There are variations within subjects: Mathematics and Physics are examples of subjects where outcomes for male entries are higher at 7/A compared to outcomes for female entries

### **Subjects growing in popularity**

There has been an increase in entries in some subjects, including Business Studies (+4.6%), Geography (+2.7%) and Biology (+1.3%). Science continues to grow, with Biology (+1.3%), Physics (+1.0%), Chemistry (0.6%) and Double Award Science (0.9%) all seeing increases in entry.

### **Mathematics**

Outcomes for Mathematics increased at grade 7/A by 4.0pp and at grade 4/C by 5.4pp compared with 2019.

### **English and English Literature**

English entries from 16 year olds increased by 1.2% to 636,538 and English Literature entries were up 0.4% to 576,256.

Overall outcomes for English increased at grade 7/A by 6.4pp and at grade 4/C by 8.2pp compared with 2019.

Overall outcomes for English Literature increased at grade 7/A by 3.6pp and at grade 4/C by 3.8pp compared with 2019.

### **Science**

Entries increased in Biology (1.3%), Physics (1.0%), Double Award Science (0.9%) and Chemistry (0.6%) compared with 2021.

Outcomes in Science are higher at all key grades, compared to 2019.

- Double Science, 7/A increased by 2.9pp and 4/C increased by 5.0pp
- Biology, 7/A increased by 7.6pp and 4/C increased by 2.3pp
- Chemistry, 7/A increased by 5.9pp and 4/C increased by 2.9pp
- Physics, 7/A increased by 6.6pp and 4/C increased by 2.9pp

### **Modern Foreign Languages**

French remains most popular modern foreign language (MFL), despite a 1.9% decrease in entries. Spanish remains second most popular MFL subject, although it has seen a decrease

in entries (1.7%) for the first time since 2018. German remains third most popular MFL, despite a decrease of 5.1% in entries.

**Kath Thomas, Interim Chief Executive Officer of JCQ said:**

“Congratulations to all the students receiving their GCSE results today after lots of hard work and all the challenges of the pandemic.

“We’re pleased that exams are back, as they’re the fairest way to assess students and give everyone the chance to show what they know. This is the first time in three years that results have been based on formal exams and coursework, so it’s a welcome step back towards normality. These results will help them progress to the next stage of their education and make some important decisions about their future.

“As planned - and as with last week’s A level results, these results are higher than the last set of summer exams in 2019, but lower than last year’s teacher-assessed grades. This reflects the special arrangements that were put in place to support students, schools and colleges through another challenging year due to Covid.”

**END**

**Notes to Editors**

1. 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 published separately, also with the STRICT EMBARGO of 09.30 BST Thursday 25 August 2022 and will be available on the JCQ CIC website from 09:30 BST on 25 August 2022 – [www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk).
2. These results are for qualifications taken by students across the UK but predominantly in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
3. † ‘Outcomes’ means the percentage of entries achieving a given grade or higher.
4. Other modern languages are: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Dutch, Gujarati, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish, and Urdu.
5. More details about Ofqual’s [Extra support for Summer 2022 GCSE, AS and A levels](#).
6. All awarding organisations are answerable to the regulatory authorities - Ofqual (England), Qualifications Wales (Wales) and CCEA (Northern Ireland). 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.

7. The JCQ CIC comprises AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC – the eight largest providers of qualifications in the UK.
8. The JCQ CIC is a membership organisation and enables member awarding bodies to act together in providing, where possible, common administrative arrangements for the schools and colleges and other providers which offer their qualifications; and responding to proposals and initiatives in assessment and the curriculum.
9. Media contacts: The JCQ's press office can be contacted on: 020 7227 0671/020 7638 4132/07399 870 337