



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

# Notes for users of the JCQ results tables

GCE June 2022 series

## GCE June 2022: Notes for users of the JCQ results tables

These notes put the results in context and provide an explanation for some year-on-year changes in reporting and outcomes. The notes should be read before consulting the results tables.

The notes do not attempt to outline the detail of every change that may influence results or entries in some way. You should consult relevant regulatory and governmental websites for a more extensive overview of system changes.

You should also refer to the JCQ press notices, which have additional details regarding key features of this year's outcomes. The provisional results are only for the June 2022 series and do not include results for qualifications awarded earlier in the 2021/22 academic year.

### Regulator links

#### England

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

#### Northern Ireland

<https://ccea.org.uk/regulation>

#### Wales

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

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

### Education Department links

#### England

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

#### Northern Ireland

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/>

#### Wales

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

## Interpreting the UK tables

There has been a rise in the overall A level entry for the June 2022 series compared to last year, increasing by 2.9%. An increase in the 18-year-old population of 2.41% (England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, according to [ONS population estimates](#)) only partly explains this.

Overall, AS entries in the UK decreased slightly from 135,598 in 2021 to 135,397 in 2022.

For students across the UK, 2022 is the first year of summer exams since 2019. Centres and Teachers determined grades in the summer of 2020 and 2021, respectively.

Comparisons to the previous two years should be approached with caution due to the differing methods of assessments.

It is important to note that GCE qualifications differ in their design between the different nations. In particular, in England, AS results are decoupled from A level, and the subject content and requirements for assessment also differ.

## GCE in England

2022 is a transition year to reflect that we are in a pandemic recovery period, and students' education has been disrupted.

Exam Boards were asked to implement an unprecedented [package of support](#) for students taking exams this summer. As part of the package, Advance Information was made available on the focus of the content of summer 2022 exams. Advance Information was available for all subjects except Art and Design, where students were assessed on their portfolios only. There was also a range of adjustments to the arrangements for NEA and fieldwork and practical science requirements in some A/AS levels.

As in previous years, exam boards were asked to use data to align standards in a subject as a starting point for grading. Senior examiners recommended the grade boundaries for each specification after reviewing the work produced by students.

## Northern Ireland

Exceptional arrangements were implemented to take account of the effects of the pandemic. A [package of support](#) was put in place by CCEA Awarding to support students. In recognition of the effects of the pandemic, students had the option in most qualifications to omit an assessment unit, though all specification content had to be covered. However, all units were available for those students who wanted to take all the assessments. If a student opted to sit all units, they would receive the higher grade from their performance in all units or the mandated units only.

Senior examiners were asked to account for the significant disruption students taking exams in 2021/22 faced.

There is an open qualifications market in Northern Ireland, which means that schools can choose to offer AS/A levels from awarding organisations other than CCEA, provided these comply with Department of Education requirements.

## Wales

Similar to the approach in England, it is a transition year to reflect that we are in a pandemic recovery period.

A [package of support](#) was put in place for students taking exams this summer. GCE qualifications included varying adaptations to streamline the content subject to assessment in 2022, reduce NEA requirements and introduce optionality to assessments via a choice of units or a choice of questions within a unit. A Level grades are based only on the outcomes of the A2 level units.

Senior examiners were asked to recommend the grade boundaries for each specification after reviewing the work produced by students.

Only WJEC offers the AS and A levels designed and approved for Wales. Where WJEC does not provide a subject, Qualifications Wales may allow students to take qualifications from other exam boards.

## Changes to the tables

In addition to the standard tables comparing data to the previous year, a set of key tables has been made available in a machine-readable format allowing comparison of overall results between 2019, 2021, and 2022. These are classified on the JCQ website as 'Main Results Tables.'

The standard tables, including the gender breakdown (Male and Female only), are available on the website under 'Other Results Information.' An additional set of standard tables comparing 2022 results to 2019 have also been made available.

From summer 2021, Applied A/AS levels have been merged into the main A/AS levels results tables instead of being reported separately. The 2019 figures published in this year's results tables have been updated to reflect this change. Two subjects remain in the Applied Category: Health & Social Care and Applied ICT.

## Data Suppression

To protect candidate anonymity, data suppression (indicated by 0~) is applied to the results tables when the combined number of male and female candidates that entered a subject is fewer than 10. In this case, all rows for the subject would be suppressed.

Suppression is also applied to subjects when one of the gender breakdowns had fewer than ten candidates enter. In this case, the separate rows for male and female would be suppressed, but the combined 'male & female' row would not be suppressed.

## 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. Results are updated after this point to include changes such as appeals. Whilst provisional, we do not anticipate significant changes to outcomes will occur.

**The tables should be read in conjunction with the press notices in the news releases section of the JCQ website. The press notices outline the context of year-on-year changes in results.**