



Joint Council for
Qualifications ^{CIC}

Notes for users of the JCQ results tables

GCSE June 2022 series

GCSE 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://gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>

Northern Ireland

<http://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

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

Interpreting the UK tables

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.

There was an increase in the 16-year-old population of 4.04% (England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, according to ONS population estimates). As in previous years, most entries were from 16-year-olds.

It is important to note that GCSE qualifications differ in their design between the different nations.

The UK tables include students from England, Northern Ireland, Wales and the other UK regions.

GCSEs 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 for all GCSE subjects except English Literature, History, Geography, and Ancient History, where there was optional content, and Art and Design, where students were assessed on portfolio only. Exam aids were available in the exam for GCSE Mathematics, GCSE Physics, and Combined Science exams. There was also a range of adjustments to the arrangements for NEA and fieldwork and practical science requirements in some GCSEs.

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

Features of GCSEs in England

- All GCSE specifications are graded 9 to 1.
- GCSE Combined Science (Double Award) is graded 9-9, 9-8, 8-8, 7-7, 6-6, 5-5, 4-4, 3-3, 2-2, 1-1. To retain these outcomes in the GCSE full course tables, we report outcomes at key grades 7-7, 4-4 and 1-1 as 7, 4, and 1. Each entry is counted twice to reflect the achievement of *two* grades in the subject.
- GCSEs are linear qualifications with all exams taken at the end of the course.
- A November 2021 examination series was available for English Language and Maths resit students as per usual years.
- An additional autumn series was open for all other GCSE subjects for students who could not receive a grade in summer 2021, or those who wanted an opportunity to improve their grades from summer. These students could also enter for GCSE English Language and Maths.

- Students who do not achieve a GCSE grade 4 in English Language and/or Mathematics at age 16 must continue studying these subjects. This is a [condition of 16-19 funding](#).

GCSEs in Northern Ireland

Exceptional arrangements were implemented to take account of the effects of the pandemic. A [package](#) of support was implemented by CCEA Awarding for students, with the option to do fewer examinations and assessments in most qualifications, though the specification content was still 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 mandatory units only.

In cases where unit omissions were unavailable, alternative adaptations were implemented, such as exam aids in GCSE Mathematics and modifications to controlled assessment units.

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

Features of GCSEs in Northern Ireland

- CCEA GCSE qualifications are graded A* to G.
- In Northern Ireland, there is an open qualifications market which means that schools can choose to take GCSEs offered by awarding organisations other than CCEA, which are graded 9 to 1, provided they comply with Department of Education requirements.
- Some GCSEs are linear with all exams taken at the end of the course; some are modular.

GCSEs in 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. GCSE qualifications including 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 questions within a unit. Advance Information was available for a small number of qualifications where it was difficult to provide the adaptations described above.

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

Features of GCSEs in Wales

- GCSEs in Wales are graded A* to G. A few centres may offer 9 to 1 specifications. In Wales, this is confined to subjects in which no Wales-approved GCSE exists or to non-maintained centres.

- GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy is available alongside GCSE Mathematics. Most students take both.
- GCSE Mathematics, Mathematics – Numeracy, English Language and Welsh Language can be sat in November or the summer.
- The November series in Wales is open to all students and is not just a resit series.
- Overall year-on-year results comparisons are based just on the summer series. Therefore, careful interpretation is needed within Wales and other jurisdictions.
- GCSE Combined Science (Double Award) is graded A*A*, A*A, AA... FG, GG. In order to retain these outcomes in the GCSE full course tables, we report outcomes at key grades AA, CC, and GG as A, C, and G.
- Some GCSEs are linear with all exams taken at the end of the course; some are modular.

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.

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.

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