



## **Media release**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 09.30 HOURS  
THURSDAY, 18 AUGUST 2022**

### **Congratulations to students collecting their AS/A Level grades**

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications has published the 2022 Wales results for A and AS levels. This is the first-time students have taken summer exams marked and graded by exam boards since 2019, after two years of grades being determined by schools and colleges. Overall outcomes are higher than 2019, when exams were last sat.

Working closely with Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales, awarding bodies have introduced a package of measures to support the transition back to exams. This has included adaptations and advance information in relation to assessments to mitigate the disruption to teaching and learning caused by the pandemic. Measures were developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including school and college staff. In addition, Qualifications Wales confirmed that results will broadly reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019.

### **GCE A level Results**

The A level results for Wales show that 98.0% of students achieved A\* - E grades. 17.1% of candidates achieved an A\*, and 40.9% achieved A\*-A grades.

The total number of A level examination entries in Wales this year was 35,499, a decrease of 1.0% from 2021.

In Wales, the overall pass rate for males and females is broadly similar with 97.6% of subject entries by males achieving A\* - E grades, compared to 98.3% of entries by females. However, females now outperform males at grades A\*-A by 0.5 percentage points, although males outperform females by 1.8 percentage points at A\*.

### **Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Results**

There were 38,106 cash-in entries for AS in Wales this year, a reduction of 11.0% compared with 42,820 last year.

30.7% of all grades awarded were A in Wales this year. The percentage of candidates achieving A - E grades were 92.7%.

## **Trends in subject entries**

There has been an overall mixed pattern in entries for all subjects at A level. Geography (+77), History (+294), Law (+62), Physical Education (+65) and Psychology (+80) have seen an increase in entries. Whilst Chemistry (-146), English Literature (-288), French (-67), Mathematics (-310) and Further Mathematics (-65) have seen a reduction in entries.

For AS, overall there has been a downward entry pattern in most subjects, with significant reduction in entries for the following: Biology (-462), Chemistry (-494), History (-637), Mathematics (-368), Physics (-542) and Religious Studies (-357).

Mathematics remains the most popular A level and AS subject with 3,796 and 3,930 entries respectively.

There has been a decrease in entries for Welsh 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Language at AS (-84/-109) and A level (-17/-51).

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For information about the results in Wales, contact:

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For information about the UK results, contact JCQ<sup>CIC</sup>'s press office on 020 7227 0671, or 07905 683816 or at [pressoffice@jcq.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.jcq.org.uk)

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

### **General**

Detailed tabulations of the GCE AS and A-level are published with the STRICT EMBARGO of 09.30 THURSDAY 18 August 2022 and will be available on WJEC's website from 09.30 on 18 August 2022 – [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Results provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ<sup>CIC</sup>), representing awarding organisations in the UK, and presented in Wales on behalf of JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> by WJEC. Results for the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification are awarded by WJEC only.

The JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> comprises AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC – the seven largest providers of qualifications in the UK

The data provided in the main body of this media release represent the aggregate information for Wales across all awarding organisations, and are provisional, in the sense that they represent the position at the time that results are issued.

The qualifications framework is common across Wales, England and Northern Ireland. Comprehensive data for entries and results on a country-by-country basis are provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications - [www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk) - and may be accessed from 9:30 am on Thursday 18 August 2022.

Awarding organisations are regulated by Ofqual (England), Qualifications Wales and CCEA (Northern Ireland). The regulatory authorities monitor the awarding bodies' standards. Maintaining standards within and across all qualifications in order to ensure fairness to all candidates is the paramount concern of the awarding bodies.

In comparing the results of individual schools and colleges with any aggregate totals, it should be borne in mind that substantial variations are to be expected. A number of social, economic and educational factors have a bearing on the performance of pupils in examinations, of which the effectiveness of the school or college is only one.

### **GCE Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level**

The A level examination is made up of two parts, the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and the A2. The AS and the A2 combined in a single subject constitute the A level.

For students receiving their A2 grades in Summer 2022, their previous AS grades will not contribute towards their final grades. AS grades in Summer 2021 were determined based on school/college professional judgement, known as 'Centre-Determined Grades'. Qualifications Wales took the decision that for Summer 2022, A2 grades would be based solely on external assessments.

The standard set for the AS is that expected at the end of the first year of a two-year course. The AS covers the less demanding material in an A level course. The AS is not, therefore, of full Advanced level standard. The AS contributes 40% to the overall A level.

During the second year of the course, students develop greater understanding of the subjects they are studying, and the A2 covers the more demanding material in the specification.

### **Summer 2022: Approach to assessment and grading**

*The information below relates to the following Qualifications Wales approved qualifications:*

- *WJEC GCSE, AS and A level qualifications*
- *Skills Challenge Certificates*
- *Level 2 and Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts*
- *Level 2 and Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development*

In March 2021, Qualifications Wales confirmed that approved qualifications would be assessed via exams and non-examination assessments as normal, but with adaptations to account for the disruption to teaching and learning.

In support, WJEC published adaptations for each qualification, which included:

- streamlined content that would be subject to assessment in 2022
- reduced NEA requirements
- introduced optionality to assessments either via a choice of units or a choice of questions within a unit.

Advance Information was published for a small number of qualifications.

WJEC supported schools and colleges through the provision of additional guidance, training and resources. Examples of this support is available from the [WJEC Summer 2022 website](#).

Qualifications Wales confirmed in October 2021 that for 2022, results will broadly reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. WJEC has worked to implement this policy directive as part of their awarding process.

Please note schools and colleges delivering Ofqual regulated GCSE and AS/A levels followed arrangements as [outlined here](#).