



Joint Council for
Qualifications^{CIC}

Press Notice

STRICTLY EMBARGOED

Until 09:30 BST, Thursday 17 August 2023

Produced on behalf of:



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2023 AS/A level and VTQ results recognise students' achievements

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published the 2023 England, Northern Ireland and Wales results for AS and A level, alongside the release of Level 3 vocational and technical qualifications (VTQ) and T Level results in England. This year's A level results are similar to those that were awarded to students before the pandemic. JCQ congratulates all students receiving their results.

Ian Morgan, Chair of JCQ Board of Directors, said:

"On behalf of JCQ, I would like to congratulate A level and vocational students on their achievements today. Their results reflect the effort and determination they've demonstrated throughout their studies, and we wish them well as they take their next steps into higher education, training, and employment.

"We would like to thank teachers, tutors, and exams officers working at schools and colleges across the country for their hard work, and continued support and commitment to ensuring the successful delivery of this year's exam series. We also want to recognise the contribution of parents and carers who have played a huge role in supporting students achieve today's results."

Highlights include:

- Over 1 million A and AS level and, Vocational and Technical qualification results have been issued today
- A level entries have increased by 2.2% to 867,658 in 2023, compared to an increase of 0.5% in the 18-year-old population in 2023
- Mathematics remains the most popular A level subject
- Computing A level has biggest increase in number of entries; up 16.7% from 15,693 entries in 2022 to 18,306 in 2023
- Economics is now one of the ten most popular A level subjects.

Commenting on this summer's results, Margaret Farragher, JCQ's Chief Executive, said:

"This year's results recognise the fantastic achievements of students across the country. They have worked incredibly hard throughout the pandemic period to achieve these well-earned grades. The 2023 results show that students are well equipped to continue their studies or move into apprenticeships or employment.

"Alongside publishing A level results, JCQ has this year included Vocational and Technical Qualifications results. We are committed to continuing our support for vocational and technical qualifications."

Overall A level outcomes in comparison with 2019[†]:

- Results at A* up by 1.2pp from 7.7% to 8.9%
- Results at A*-A up by 1.8pp from 25.4% to 27.2%
- Results at A*-E down by 0.3pp from 97.6% to 97.3%.

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Entries for A level have increased by 2.2%; this means the number of students achieving A*-E grades has increased in 2023 in comparison with both 2019 and 2022.

AS entries were up by 4.2% from 135,397 to 141,096 due to increases in Northern Ireland and Wales.

Additional data

Mathematics remains the most popular subject, accounting for 11.2% of all entries at A level in 2023. Entries have increased by 1.3% from 95,635 in 2022 to 96,853 in 2023.

Computing A level has seen the biggest increase in the number of entries; up 16.7% from 15,693 in 2022 to 18,306 in 2023, while Economics is now one of the ten most popular A level subjects with 39,141 entries.

The ten most popular A level subjects in terms of entries are Mathematics (96,853), Psychology (80,493), Biology (74,650), Chemistry (61,284), History (48,378), Sociology (47,436), Business Studies (44,852), Art and Design (43,464), Economics (39,141) and Physics (38,379).

Total number of AS candidates, 66,601. This is up from 62,229 in 2022. Overall, AS entries are up by 4.2% from 135,397 in 2022 to 141,096 due to increases in Northern Ireland and Wales

END

Notes to Editors

†. Grading in 2023 is similar to how grades were awarded to students before the pandemic (in summer 2019), hence the comparison.

1. Detailed tabulations of the GCE AS and A-level, Applied GCE AS and A-level are published separately, also with the STRICT EMBARGO of 09.30 Thursday 17 August 2023 and will be available on the JCQ CIC website from 09.30 on 17 August 2023 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. 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.
4. The JCQ CIC is a membership organisation, comprising AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC – the eight largest providers of qualifications in the UK.

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5. JCQ 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 to respond to proposals and initiatives in assessment and the curriculum.

6. Media contacts: The JCQ's press office can be contacted on: 020 7227 0671/07399 870 337

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