



Joint Council for
Qualifications^{CIC}

Press Notice

STRICTLY EMBARGOED

Until 09:30 BST, Thursday 24 August 2023

Produced on behalf of:



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More than 6 million GCSE and Level 1 and 2 Vocational and Technical Qualification results issued to students

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published the 2023 England, Northern Ireland and Wales results for GCSE, alongside the release of Level 1 and 2 vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs). This year's GCSE results are similar to those that were awarded to students before the pandemic. JCQ congratulates all students receiving their results.

Highlights include:

- More than 6 million GCSE and Level 1 and 2 VTQ results issued today
- GCSE entries up 3.4% (total 5,905,000) compared to 2022 (5,708,871)
- Increase in overall GCSE entries is greater than population growth
- Since 2022, there have been big increases in other subjects with more than 100,000 entries; Business Studies up 14.8% from 107,283 to 123,166. Spanish up 11.3% from 112,845 to 125,651
- For subjects with under 100,000 entries, Computing is up 11.6% from 81,120 in 2022 to 90,558 in 2023
- Top 10 subjects with highest number of entries remain unchanged.

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

“On behalf of JCQ, I would like to congratulate all GCSE 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 education, training, or 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.”

Overall GCSE outcomes in comparison with 2019[†]:

- 7/A up 1.2pp from 20.8% to 22.0%
- 4/C up 0.9pp from 67.3% to 68.2%
- 1/G down 0.3pp from 98.3% to 98.0%.

Overall GCSE outcomes in comparison with 2022:

- 7/A down 4.3pp from 26.3% to 22.0%
- 4/C down 5.0pp from 73.2% to 68.2%
- 1/G down 0.4pp from 98.4% to 98.0%.

Entries for GCSE have increased by 3.4% (+196,129). This means the number of students achieving 7/A - 1/G has increased in 2023 in comparison with both 2019 and 2022.

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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 educational journey.

"Alongside the release of GCSE results, JCQ has this year included Vocational and Technical Qualifications results. We are committed to continuing our support for vocational and technical qualifications."

Additional data

The top ten GCSE subjects with the highest number of entries remains unchanged since 2022:

- Science Double Award†† 935,436 (+3.5%)
- Mathematics 821,322 (+4.9%)
- English 788,780 (+4.3%)
- English Literature 627,828 (+2.0%)
- History 311,146 (+6.5%)
- Geography 293,319 (+1.4%)
- Religious Studies 243,375, (+0.2%),
- Art and Design 198,302 (-3.6%)
- Biology 191,298 (+2.6%)
- Chemistry 184,069 (+3.5%)

There have also been significant increases in other subjects that are outside of the top ten and have more than 100,000 entries; these include Business Studies, which has seen the biggest increase in entries, up 14.8% from 107,283 in 2022 to 123,166 in 2023. Spanish is up 11.3% from 112,845 in 2022 to 125,651 in 2023.

For subjects with under 100,000 entries, Computing is up 11.6% from 81,120 in 2022 to 90,558 in 2023.

The 16-year-old population increased by 2.1%. Most entries for GCSE subjects were from 16-year-olds, totalling 92.1% of all entries, which is down 0.1pp from 2022. The average number of GCSE entries for 16-year-olds remains unchanged from 2022 at 7.78. Entries from students aged 17 and over are up 11.6% from 2022.

Overall outcomes at all GCSE grades (7/A, 4/C, 1/G) are higher for entries from female students compared to male students. However, the difference has decreased in 2023 in comparison with 2019.

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.

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††. Students are awarded two grades for the Science Double Award.

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, 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 24 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 standards of qualifications within their jurisdiction.
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.
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 contact: The JCQ's press office can be contacted on: 020 7227 0671/07399 870 337

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