



Joint Council for
Qualifications^{CIC}

Notes for users of the JCQ results tables

GCSE November 2023 Series

GCSE November 2023: Notes for users of the JCQ results tables

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

The notes do not, however, attempt to outline the details of every change that may influence results or entries in some way. The relevant government and regulatory websites give a more extensive overview of the approach to examinations.

Regulator links

England

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

Wales

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

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

Education Department links

England

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

Wales

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

England

GCSE English and Mathematics are routinely available for assessment in an annual November exam series. The November series is usually restricted to students aged at least 16 by the end of the preceding August.

As the November series is typically a resit series, Exam Boards were asked to align standards in subjects with summer 2023. Last summer saw a return to pre-pandemic grading, with protection in place to recognise the disruption students experienced. However, this does not mean that the cumulative percentage outcomes at each grade will be in line with those in summer 2023, as the cohort of students in November is very different from those in summer. Exam aids available in the summer series, were also provided for students sitting exams in the November series.

In England, 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.

All GCSE specifications are graded 9 to 1.

Wales

GCSE English, Mathematics, Mathematics-Numeracy and Welsh Language are routinely available for assessment in an annual November exam series.

In Wales, entry to the November series is not restricted, and therefore, there is a high proportion of 16-year-old students who enter for these qualifications as well as those re-sitting. For this reason, the approach to the November 2023 series was similar to the planned approach for the summer 2024 series. Due to the absence of Advance Information or exam aids in the summer 2024 series, these resources were unavailable for student's taking exams in the November 2023 series.

GCSEs in Wales are graded A* to G. A few non-maintained centres may offer 9-to-1 specifications.

Interpreting the tables (England and Wales)

Comparisons of outcomes in November 2023 to any other series are complicated by changing entry patterns and different assessment and grading arrangements over the last few years due to the pandemic. Therefore, meaningful comparisons between results in the current year and those from previous examination series are not feasible.

The JCQ tables calculate ages as of August 2024. Post-16 tables include all students in the age group and are not limited to those enrolled on 16-19 full-time study programs.

A set of key tables has been made available in a machine-readable format, allowing an overview of results from November 2019, 2022, and 2023. An additional set of results tables displaying 2023 results alongside those of 2019 has 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 students that entered a subject is fewer than 10.

Limitations

JCQ conducts quality assurance checks to ensure that the data received is accurate to the best of our knowledge.

The results tables are provisional, and results are updated after this point to include changes such as reviews of marking. Whilst provisional, we do not anticipate significant changes to outcomes to occur.