



Joint Council for
Qualifications ^{CIC}

Notes for users of the JCQ results tables

GCSE June 2024 series

GCSE June 2024: 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 details 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.

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 Tables

Interpretations by country

Each nation's respective governments and regulators determine education policy and regulatory arrangements.

It is important to note that GCSE qualifications differ in design and content between the nations. For example, in England, GCSEs are linear, with exams taken at the end of the course. In contrast, in Northern Ireland and Wales, some GCSEs are linear, and others are modular, meaning that students following a modular course are entered for each unit separately, allowing them to take some units before the end of the course.

Changes in entries

UK entries for GCSEs have increased by 4.8% to 6,186,879, compared with 5,905,000 in 2023. According to [ONS population projections](#) the 16-year-old population increased by 4.6% for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland combined. Entries from this age group account for 91.4% of all GCSE entries.

Entries from students aged 17 and over are up 20.5% to 430,377 compared with 357,207 in 2023. In 2024, students aged 17 and over represent 7.0% of all entries compared with 6.0% in 2023.

England

In summer 2023, grading in England for GCSEs returned to normal after pandemic-related disruptions. Normal grading arrangements will continue in future years, including in summer 2024.

Senior examiners recommended grade boundaries for each specification by reviewing students' work and considering all available evidence, including data. As in any year, grade boundaries may change due to variations in the difficulty of the assessments.

A formulae sheet for GCSE mathematics and additional equations for GCSE physics and combined science were provided to students.

Features of GCSEs in England

- All single award GCSE specifications are graded 9 to 1
- GCSE combined science (double award) is graded 9-9, 9-8, 8-8.... 2-1, 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 examination series is available for post-16 English language and mathematics resits.

- 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](#).

Northern Ireland

In October 2023, [CCEA Regulation](#) confirmed the return to pre-pandemic arrangements in the academic year 2023/24. No adaptations to specifications or assessments were made and grading outcomes reflect that of pre-pandemic years.

In establishing grade boundaries for each unit and specification, CCEA senior examiners considered a range of evidence, including student work and data.

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.

Features of GCSEs in Northern Ireland

- CCEA GCSE qualifications are graded on a nine lettered scale A* to G, including a C* grade.
- The majority of GCSE qualifications offered by CCEA are modular. There are a small number of GCSEs that are linear, where all assessments are taken at the end of the course.
- In addition to the summer series, GCSE mathematics and English language modules are available in December and science modules in November and March.

Wales

For GCSE qualifications taken this academic year, [Qualifications Wales](#) confirmed a return to pre-pandemic approaches. Advance information was not provided this summer. The aim was for outcomes to return to broadly pre-pandemic outcomes.

WJEC's senior examiners recommended grade boundaries for each specification by reviewing students' work and considering all available evidence, including data. As in any year, grade boundaries may have changed due to variations in the difficulty of the assessments.

Only WJEC offers GCSEs designed and approved for Wales. Where WJEC does not provide a subject, maintained schools and colleges can offer qualifications from other awarding organisations.

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 of these results is needed.
- 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. Each entry is counted twice to reflect the achievement of two grades in the subject.
- Some GCSEs are linear, with all exams taken at the end of the course; some are modular.

Data Presentation

A set of key tables is available in a machine-readable format, displaying overall results for 2019, 2023, and 2024. PDF tables, which include breakdowns by age and male/female, are also available.

Changes to the Results Tables

GCSE ICT has been renamed Digital Technology to reflect the subject specifications reported under this category more accurately. Historical data from 2019 and 2023, previously reported under ICT, will be displayed under Digital Technology in this year's tables. Similarly, GCSE English has been renamed GCSE English language.

Confidentiality and Data Suppression

Every effort is made to protect student anonymity and ensure that data does not identify individual students.

When the total number of student entries for a subject is fewer than 10, all rows for that subject have been suppressed.

When the number of entries by either male or female students is fewer than 10, the individual rows for male and female students have been suppressed, but the combined 'male & female' row remains available.

Quality Assurance and Limitations

JCQ carries out quality assurance checks to ensure that the data received is accurate to the best of its 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 and will not publish any updates to these results tables.

The provisional results are only for the June 2024 series and do not include results for qualifications awarded earlier in the 2023/24 academic year.