

Strictly Embargoed until 09:30am on Thursday 21 August 2025



JCQ summer results – Level 2 and level 1, 2 press notice

JCQ publishes GCSE and Level 1 and 2 Vocational and Technical Qualification results for 2025

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) publishes more than 6.5 million results (6,520,579) in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Issued across a broad range of GCSE, and Level 1 and 2 vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs), these results remain stable and similar to those awarded in 2024.

Entries for GCSE have decreased slightly by 0.4% to 6,160,034, compared with 6,186,879 in 2024.

The top ten subjects at GCSE remain unchanged. Among the largest subjects outside the top ten, statistics has seen the largest percentage increase in entries of 9.5% compared with 2024. Students continue to opt for a wide range of subjects. Other subjects with increased entries include Spanish, business studies, geography and physical education.

Results for GCSE students are stable and similar to previous years - with 21.9% of grades at 7/A and above (compared with 21.8% in 2024), and 67.4% of grades at 4/C and above (compared with 67.6% in 2024).

Today's results also show the range and quality of achievements of those studying for VTQs. JCQ awarding organisations have awarded 360,545 Level 1 and 2 results across 88% of the VTQ qualifications regulated by Ofqual that contribute to performance tables. For the second time these include Tech Awards, which account for the vast majority of results. The sector subject area where the largest number of VTQ results are awarded is Sport, leisure and recreation.

Jill Duffy, Chair of JCQ Board of Directors and Chief Executive of OCR, said:

“Looking at these results, it is hard not to be impressed by students’ breadth of skills and knowledge.

What I find most exciting about results day is seeing the diverse range of qualifications achieved, from maths to art to hospitality – and what that means to hundreds of

thousands of young people. The subjects may be very different, but every single qualification issued today is a passport to future success and opportunities.

These students have shown resilience and determination throughout their school years; they now have the chance to thrive in their next endeavours, whether that is in education, training or apprenticeships. Congratulations to you all on what you have achieved today."

Margaret Farragher, JCQ's Chief Executive, said:

"Well done to students across the UK who are today receiving their results. Marking their achievements in GCSE and vocational and technical qualifications is an important moment for them and those who have supported them throughout their education. We wish them every success as they build on these results.

As ever these results are enabled by the dedication of every leader, teacher, exams officer and all staff in schools and colleges who supported these students. On behalf of JCQ and our members, I thank them for their continued hard work."

Highlights include:

Vocational and Technical Qualifications

- 360,545 VTQ results have been issued today, across ten sector subject areas.
- 348,441 results were for Tech Awards – awarded for the second time this year.
- 12,104 were Tech Certificates.
- Sport, leisure and recreation is the most popular sector subject area.
- 14,347 (4%) of awards were at the top grade.

GCSEs

Overall entries:

- GCSE entries down by 0.4% (26,845) to 6,160,034, compared with 6,186,879 in 2024.
- The 16 year old population decreased by 0.3%. 90.5% of all entries for GCSE subjects were from 16 year olds. Entries decreased by 1.4 percentage points (pp) from 2024.
- The average number of GCSE entries for 16-year-olds remains stable at 7.8.

- Entries from students aged 17 and over are up 12.1% to 482,402 compared with 430,377 in 2024.
- In 2025, students aged 17 and over represent 7.8% of all entries compared with 7.0% in 2024.

Subject entries

Top 10 subjects with highest number of entries remain unchanged:

- Science Double Award†† (up 0.9% on 2024, to 989,264).
- Mathematics (up 1.7% on 2024, to 893,198).
- English language (up 2.4% on 2024, to 866,023).
- English literature (down 1.0% on 2024, to 649,481).
- History (down 5.7% on 2024, to 306,759).
- Geography (up 1.8% on 2024, to 302,706).
- Religious studies (down 3.1% on 2024, to 237,515).
- Art and design subjects (down 1.1% on 2024, to 206,598).
- Biology (down 5.8% on 2024, to 183,539).
- Chemistry (down 6.0% on 2024, to 174,088).

Since 2024, there have been continued increases in two subjects that are outside of the top 10 but also have more than 100,000 entries:

- Spanish +2.6%, from 133,395 to 136,871.
- Business studies +2.1%, from 135,090 to 137,924.

Subjects with under 100,000 entries which have also increased in popularity include:

- Statistics +9.5%, from 31,844 to 34,879.
- Music +6.1%, from 35,681 to 38,060.
- Physical Education +2.0%, from 87,799 to 89,584.

Results

Overall GCSE results in comparison with 2024 (all ages – cumulative percentages by grade):

- 7/A up 0.1pp from 21.8 to 21.9% (1,350,689 grades awarded in 2025, +1,714).
- 4/C down 0.2pp from 67.6% to 67.4% (4,149,953 grades awarded in 2025, - 32,390).
- 1/G similar to last year, remaining at 97.9% (6,032,655 grades awarded in 2025, - 26,859).

Overall results for 16-year-olds at all GCSE grades (7/A, 4/C, 1/G) remain higher for female students compared to male students. However, there has been a slight reduction in the difference:

- At 7/A the difference between females and males has reduced 0.5pp compared with 2024.
- At 4/C the difference between females and males has reduced 0.6pp compared with 2024.
- At 1/G the difference has reduced 0.1pp compared with 2024.

END

Notes to Editors

†† Science Double Award: two grades are awarded.

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. All data has a STRICT EMBARGO of 09.30 Thursday 21 August 2025 and will be available on the JCQ website from 09.30 on 21 August 2025 www.jcq.org.uk.
2. These results are for qualifications taken by students across the UK but predominantly in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.
3. All awarding organisations are accountable to UK qualification regulators - Ofqual (England), Qualifications Wales (Wales) and CCEA Regulation (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 leading providers of qualifications in the UK.
5. JCQ enables member awarding organisations 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.

Media contacts

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