



## **Media release**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 09.30 HOURS**

**THURSDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025**

### **A level and AS results show rise in top grades in Wales**

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published the 2025 Wales results for A and AS levels, alongside the release of Level 3 vocational and technical qualifications (VTQ).

#### **GCE A level Results**

The A level results for Wales show that 97.5% of students achieved A\* - E grades, 0.1 percentage point higher than 2024. 10.5% of candidates achieved an A\*, 0.4 percentage point increase on last year and 29.5% achieved A\* - A grades a decrease of 0.4 percentage point when compared with 2024.

The total number of A level examination entries in Wales this year was 31,791, a decrease of 1.4% from 2024.

At A level, mathematics remains the most popular subject, there has been an overall mixed entry pattern in most subjects compared with 2024, with the largest reduction in entries for the following: business studies (-182), computing (-87) and psychology (-195). However, biology (+77) and physics (+129) have seen an increase in entries.

In Wales, the overall pass rate for males and females is broadly similar with 96.9% of subject entries by males achieving A\* - E grades, compared to 97.9% of entries by females. However, females continue to outperform males at most grade points, for A\* - A by 0.6 percentage points and A\* - C by 4.8 percentage points, although males outperform females by 1.2 percentage points at A\*.

#### **Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Results**

22.7% of all grades awarded were A in Wales this year, a 0.6 percentage point increase on 2024. The percentage of candidates achieving A - E grades were 90.9%, a 0.7 percentage point increase when compared with last year.

There were 39,930 cash-in entries for AS in Wales this year, a decrease of 3.6% compared with 41,440 last year.

For AS, mathematics remains the most popular subject. Similarly to A level entries, there has been an overall mixed entry pattern for AS compared with 2024, there has been a decrease in entries for business studies (-129), law (-235), psychology (-291) and sociology (-221). However, there has been an increase in entries for the following: health & social care (single award) (+168) and physics (+135).

Females continue to outperform males at all grade points, for A by 1.0 percentage point, for A - C by 5.0 percentage points and A - E by 2.7 percentage points.

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

*“Results day is about rewarding hard work and unlocking future opportunities. This is a special day for hundreds of thousands of young people and their families, as they look ahead to further study, training or careers.*

*The popularity of vocational qualifications shows a generation of students who want practical experience in the fields they love. These qualifications have become sought after by savvy employers.*

*For students who have put in years of hard work, these results are a tangible demonstration of their skills, knowledge, and determination. Heartfelt congratulations to every student receiving results today and best wishes for the future.”*

**Margaret Farragher, JCQ’s Chief Executive, said:**

*“Well done to all students receiving their results today across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The superb range of vocational, technical and general qualifications show the extensive knowledge, understanding and skills these students will take with them into work, apprenticeships or higher and further education. A sincere thank you to the school and college staff, parents and carers who have worked with students across the UK to help them achieve the results awarded today.”*

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For information about the results in Wales, contact:

Jonathan Thomas, PR Manager, WJEC on 029 2026 5102 [jonathan.thomas@wjec.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.thomas@wjec.co.uk).

For information about the UK results, contact JCQ<sup>CIC</sup>’s press office on 020 7227 0671, or 07905 683816 or at [pressoffice@jcq.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@jcq.org.uk)

Further statistical details on the results for the UK, Wales, England and Northern Ireland may be found at [www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk)

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

### **General**

Detailed tabulations of the GCE AS and A-level are published with the STRICT EMBARGO of 09.30 THURSDAY 14 August 2025 and will be available on WJEC’s website from 09.30 on 14 August 2025 – [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

Results provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ<sup>CIC</sup>), representing awarding organisations in the UK, and presented in Wales on behalf of JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> by WJEC. Results for the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales are awarded by WJEC only.

The JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> comprises AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC – the seven largest providers of qualifications in the UK

The data provided in the main body of this media release represent the aggregate information for Wales across all awarding organisations, and are provisional, in the sense that they represent the position at the time that results are issued.

The qualifications framework is common across Wales, England and Northern Ireland. Comprehensive data for entries and results on a country-by-country basis are provided by

the Joint Council for Qualifications - [www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk) - and may be accessed from 9:30 am on Thursday 14 August 2025.

Awarding organisations are regulated by Ofqual (England), Qualifications Wales and CCEA (Northern Ireland). The regulatory authorities monitor the awarding bodies' standards. Maintaining standards within and across all qualifications in order to ensure fairness to all candidates is the paramount concern of the awarding bodies.

In comparing the results of individual schools and colleges with any aggregate totals, it should be borne in mind that substantial variations are to be expected. A number of social, economic and educational factors have a bearing on the performance of pupils in examinations, of which the effectiveness of the school or college is only one.

### **GCE Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level**

The A level examination is made up of two parts, the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and the A2. The AS and the A2 combined in a single subject constitute the A level.

The standard set for the AS is that expected at the end of the first year of a two-year course. The AS covers the less demanding material in an A level course. The AS is not, therefore, of full Advanced level standard. The AS contributes 40% to the overall A level.

During the second year of the course, students develop greater understanding of the subjects they are studying, and the A2 covers the more demanding material in the specification.