



JCQ summer results – Level 3, draft press notice

Students' achievement of over 1 million qualifications celebrated as JCQ issues 2025 Level 3 results for AS/A levels, Vocational and Technical Qualifications and T Levels

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) congratulates students across England, Northern Ireland and Wales as they receive their results for AS/A level, Level 3 vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) and T Levels.

A level and VTQ results are stable and similar to those awarded in 2024.

This year's results reflect the continued strong interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. Over 110,000 students took A level mathematics, just under 20,000 entered for further mathematics and over 15,000 took Core Maths. There is also growth in the numbers of students taking economics, as well as those taking physics and chemistry.

Today's results reflect the achievements of those studying VTQs and T Levels. Just over a quarter of a million VTQ results offered by JCQ awarding organisations have been awarded to students in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. JCQ awarding organisations provide around 90% of the VTQs regulated by Ofqual which count towards performance tables.

Now in their fourth year of being awarded, over 11,909 students have received their T Levels. This is a 61.4% increase on 2024.

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.”

Highlights include:

VTQs

- JCQ offers around 90% of the 233 VTQs performance table qualifications regulated by Ofqual.
- 220,553 results offered by JCQ awarding organisations were awarded for Applied Generals and 29,608 were for Tech Levels available in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.
- Business Management is the most popular VTQ subject area.[†]
- 23,959 top grades have been awarded by JCQ awarding organisations for VTQs in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

T Levels

- This is the fourth year T Levels have been awarded, with 11,909 students receiving overall results – 61.4% (7,380) increase on last year.
- 91.4% (10,888) have achieved a pass or above.
- T Level results data covers 18 individual T Levels, two of which are being awarded for the first time this year: Agriculture, Land Management and Production, and Legal.

AS/A levels

- Number of students taking A levels is stable, with 341,577 students taking A levels in 2025; 2024, 341,710 students took A levels.
- The number of A level entries at all ages is down slightly, with 882,509 A levels being taken compared to 2024, when there were 886,514 entries.
- The population of 18 year olds has increased by 2.6%.
- The average number of A levels taken per candidate is 2.6, the same as in 2024.

- Female students comprise 54% of A level entries, and 9.1% A level entries from female students achieved A*.
- Male students comprise 46% of A level entries and 9.9% A level entries from male students achieved A*.
- There is a 0.8 percentage point difference in achievement of A* grades between male and female students in 2025; in 2024 9.5% entries from males and 9.1% entries from females were awarded these top grades.
- 83,334 A* grades have been awarded, up 0.1 percentage point.
- At A*-A 249,675 grades were awarded, an increase of 0.5 percentage points compared to 2024.
- 860,106 A*-E grades have been awarded, an increase of 0.3 percentage points.
- At AS level 90.8% of all entrants achieved A* - E with 24.9% of entrants being awarded the top grade of A for these qualifications.
- Mathematics remains the most popular A level subject, now exceeding 110,00 entries (112,138 compared to 107,427 in 2024). There has been a 21.7% increase in entries for A level mathematics in last 10 years.
- Core Maths, which is aimed at students with GCSE Grade 4/C and above who want to strengthen their maths skills but do not intend to take mathematics A level, was taken by 15,316 candidates in 2025; in 2024 it was taken by 12,787.
- The ten most popular A level subjects in terms of entries in 2025 are: mathematics (112,138), psychology (75,943), biology (71,400), chemistry (63,538), business studies (45,235), physics (44,957), history (44,717), sociology (43,875), art & design subjects (43,124) and economics (42,667).
- Physics is the sixth most popular A level in 2025, moving from ninth in 2024, with an increase of 1,843 entries.
- Of the top 10 most popular subjects, economics has seen a 5.5% increase in entries, chemistry entries are up 1.5% and business studies entries have increased 0.6%.
- Decreases in entries can be seen in history (down 5.5%), biology (down 4.0%) and psychology (down 3.3%). Entries for art and design subjects dropped 1.2% and sociology entries dropped 1.1%.

END

Notes to Editors

†. A full list of Government defined Sector Subject Areas, can be found at <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/types-of-regulated-qualifications/qualification-descriptions>.

1. Detailed tabulations of the GCE AS and A level are published separately, also with the STRICT EMBARGO of 09.30 Thursday 14 August 2025 and will be available on the JCQ website from 09.30 on 14 August 2025 <http://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 accountable to the 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: The JCQ's press office can be contacted on:

pressoffice@jqc.org.uk

07534 156213