



Northern Ireland GCSE Results 2026

- **Summer 2026 outcomes are stable and similar to those of 2025.**
- **31.7% of students achieved grade A/7 and above (31.6% in 2025).**
- **83.6% of students achieved grade C/4 and above (83.5% in 2025).**

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published the 2026 Northern Ireland provisional results for over 32,000 GCSE students.

GCSE

The total number of GCSE entries in Northern Ireland have decreased by 0.1% from 173,675 in 2025 to 173,477 in 2026.

31.7% of students achieved grade A/7 and above in GCSE, compared to 31.6% in 2025. 83.6% received grades C/4 and above, an increase of 0.1 percentage points compared to 2025.

English Language

In GCSE English Language, 25.4% of students achieved A/7 and above, compared to 25.1% in 2025. 84.4% of students were awarded grade C/4 and above, in comparison to 84.0% in 2025.

Mathematics

The proportion of GCSE Mathematics students achieving grade A/7 and above was 27.1%, unchanged from 2025 while 72.3% of students were awarded a grade C/4 or above, a decrease on the 73.1% in 2025.

Subject entries

Overall, 41.0% of all GCSE entries are in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects in comparison to 40.8% in 2025.

ENDS

Notes to editors

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1. Further statistical details on the results for the UK, Wales, England, and Northern Ireland are available at www.jcq.org.uk
2. The data provided is for all Northern Ireland candidates, including those in schools and Further Education colleges.
3. Results are presented in provisional form. Results become final when the 'review of results' period ends.
4. There is an open qualifications market in Northern Ireland, which means that schools and colleges can choose to offer GCSEs from awarding organisations other than CCEA, such as AQA, Cambridge OCR, Pearson and WJEC (Eduqas). Qualifications delivered in schools must comply with the Department of Education requirements.
5. Types of GCSE Awards: AQA, Cambridge OCR Pearson and WJEC (Eduqas) offer qualifications in Northern Ireland awarded in a 9 - 1 grading scale. A small percentage of students in Northern Ireland (3.2%) will receive a 9 - 1 grade, with the vast majority (96.8%) of students continuing to take A* - G graded GCSEs.
6. About Qualification Regulators: All awarding organisations are answerable to the regulatory authorities. They are:
 - [Ofqual](#) (England)
 - [Qualifications Wales](#) (Wales)
 - [CCEA Regulation](#) (Northern Ireland).

The regulatory authorities monitor the awarding organisations' standards. In addition, the awarding organisations themselves conduct a number of comparability studies to compare standards. Maintaining standards within and across all qualifications to ensure fairness to all candidates is the paramount concern of the awarding organisations.

7. JCQ's mission is to provide clear and consistent administration arrangements for qualifications, supporting our member awarding organisations streamlining processes for schools, colleges and other educational establishments.

Strictly Embargoed until 09:30am on Thursday 20 August 2026



Data tables – Northern Ireland GCSE Provisional results

The statistics below represent the provisional Northern Ireland GCSE results from five JCQ awarding organisations: AQA, CCEA, Cambridge OCR, Pearson and WJEC.

Table 1: 2026 Northern Ireland GCSE provisional results compared to 2025

	2026	2025
% A/7 and above	31.7	31.6
% C/4 and above	83.6	83.5
% G/1 and above	99.2	99.1

Table 2: 2026 Northern Ireland GCSE provisional results segmented by males and females compared to 2025

(combined A* - G / 9 - 1)

2025 Provisional	Males			Females		
	2026	2025	Change	2026	2025	Change
% A/7 and above	26.8	26.9	-0.1	36.2	36.1	+0.1
% C/4 and above	81.5	81.2	+0.3	85.7	85.8	-0.1
% G/1 and above	99.0	98.9	+0.1	99.3	99.3	0

Detailed tabulations of the GCSE Full Course, GCSE Short Course, GCSE Double Award, Entry Level Certification, and Level 1 and Level 2 Project are published separately, also with the **STRICT EMBARGO of 09.30am Thursday 20 August 2026** and will be available on the JCQ website from 09.30am on 20 August 2026 www.jcq.org.uk.

These results are for qualifications taken by students across the UK but predominantly in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.