



JCQ summer results Level 1_2 press notice

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has today published data from across the UK representing more than 6.5 million results for Level 1_2 qualifications awarded in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Qualifications included are: GCSE Full Course, GCSE Short Course, GCSE Double Award, Entry Level Certification, Level 1 and Level 2 Project and Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs).

JCQ's member organisations are: AQA, Cambridge OCR, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, Pearson and WJEC/Eduqas.

GCSE

- The number of students taking GCSEs has increased 1.5%: 1,130,316 students in 2026 compared to 1,113,580 in 2025
- The number of GCSE entries at all ages has increased 0.6%: 6,199,256 in 2026 compared to 6,160,034 in 2025
- The population of 16-year-olds has increased by 1%: 787,135 in 2026 compared to 779,639 in 2025
- Entries from 16-year-olds make up 90.4% of all entries in 2026, compared to 90.5% in 2025
- 22% of GCSE results were awarded 7/A and above, compared to 21.9% in 2025
- 67.3% of GCSE results were awarded 4/C and above, compared to 67.4% in 2025
- 97.9% of GCSE results were awarded 1/G and above, the same as in 2025
- The top ten subjects at GCSE remain unchanged. Among the largest subjects outside the top ten, statistics continues to have the largest percentage increase in entries of 11.2% compared to 2025.

VTQs

- 445,349 VTQ results have been awarded across 308 qualifications offered by JCQ awarding organisations
- Of the results awarded, 338,923 VTQ results were for Tech Awards and 10,893 were Technical Certificates. The remaining 95,533 were for non-performance table qualifications (PTQs)
- Leisure, travel and tourism is the most popular VTQ sector subject area.

Margaret Farragher, JCQ's Chief Executive, said:

"Congratulations to all students across England, Northern Ireland and Wales who are receiving their results today. And a really big thank you to everyone who has supported them, especially their schools, colleges, parents and carers.

We have continued to make Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs) an integral part of our data and today we have published 445,349 VTQ results alongside results for GCSEs and other Level 1_2 qualifications. JCQ members are delighted that this has helped transform the language that people use to describe results days in August, so as to recognise and celebrate the achievements of young people across the many pathways they take.

We wish all staff in schools and colleges an enjoyable rest of the summer and look forward to working with them again in the new term."

Ends

Notes to editors

1. Detailed tabulations of GCSE Full Course, GCSE Short Course, GCSE Double Award, Entry Level Certification, Level 1 and Level 2 Project and VTQ 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: <http://www.jcq.org.uk>.

JCQ will today at 09.30am also publish a new interactive dashboard for GCSE results.

2. Qualifications are regulated by Ofqual (England), CCEA Regulation (Northern Ireland) and Qualifications Wales (Wales).

3. 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.

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