



## **Northern Ireland AS and A level results in 2026**

- **Summer 2026 outcomes are stable and comparable to those of 2025.**
- **30.7% of students achieved A\* - A grades.**
- **STEM subjects continue to count for over one third of A level entries.**
- **Mathematics retains top position as the most common A level choice.**

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published the 2026 Northern Ireland provisional results for AS and A level.

The provisional figures show that 30.7% of students received a grade A or above, in line with Summer 2025 (30.3% in 2025).

### **A level**

The total number of A level entries in Northern Ireland has remained stable with 33,824 entries this year.

8.8% of entries achieved the A\* grade, compared to 8.7% in 2025. 30.7% of entries achieved grades A\* - A, compared to 30.3% in 2025.

Overall, 98.9% of students in Northern Ireland achieved A\* - E grades, compared to 98.7% in 2025.

Over one third (38.2%) of A level entries in Northern Ireland continue to be in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Mathematics remains the most popular A level subject, accounting for 1 in 10 entries.

### **AS level**

This year, AS level entries are up from 43,499 in 2025 to 43,582 this year, an increase of 0.2%.

In provisional AS outcomes, 27.6% of students achieved grade A, compared to 27.1% in 2025. Overall, 96.6% achieved A - E grades, compared to 96.7% in 2025.

**ENDS**



## **Notes to editors**

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1. Figures for 2025 are not directly comparable with previous years due to a change in how Double Award Life and Health Science is recorded.
2. 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)
3. The data provided is for all Northern Ireland candidates, including those in schools and Further Education colleges.
4. Results are presented in provisional form. Results become final when the 'review of results' period ends.
5. There is an open qualifications market in Northern Ireland, which means that schools and colleges can choose to offer A levels and AS levels from awarding organisations other than CCEA, such as AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC. Qualifications delivered in schools must comply with the Department of Education requirements.
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. About JCQ: The Joint Council for Qualifications is a membership organisation comprising AQA, Cambridge OCR, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, Pearson, and WJEC. JCQ enables member awarding bodies to act together in providing, where possible, common administrative arrangements for the schools and colleges and other providers which offer their qualifications; and responding to proposals and initiatives in assessment and the curriculum.

## **Data tables – Northern Ireland GCE provisional results 2026**

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

**Table 1: Northern Ireland GCE A level entries and provisional results compared to 2025**

|                   | <b>2026</b> | <b>2025</b> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of entries | 33,824      | 32,419      |
| % A*              | 8.8         | 8.7         |
| % A* - A          | 30.7        | 30.3        |
| % A* - E          | 98.9        | 98.7        |

**Table 2: Five most popular subjects at GCE A level in Northern Ireland**

|   | <b>Overall</b>                   | <b>Male</b>             | <b>Female</b>                     |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Mathematics (10.9%)              | Mathematics (15.4%)     | Health & Social Care (SA) (11.9%) |
| 2 | Health & Social Care (SA) (8.1%) | Business Studies (8.6%) | Biology (8.7%)                    |
| 3 | Biology (7.6%)                   | History (7.7%)          | Mathematics (7.8%)                |
| 4 | Business Studies (6.7%)          | Physics (7.1%)          | English Literature (6.8%)         |
| 5 | History (6.4%)                   | Geography (6.2%)        | Chemistry (5.7%)                  |

Mathematics remains the top A level choice, accounting for 1 in 10 entries.

**Table 3: GCE AS levels entries and provisional results compared to 2025**

|                   | <b>2026</b> | <b>2025</b> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of entries | 43,582      | 43,499      |
| % A               | 27.6        | 27.1        |
| % A - E           | 96.6        | 96.7        |

Detailed tabulations of the GCE AS and A level, Applied GCE AS and A level are published separately, also with **the STRICT EMBARGO of 09.30 Thursday 13 August 2026** and will be available on the JCQ website from 09.30 on 13 August 2026 at [www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk)