



JCQ summer results Level 3 press notice

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has today published data from across the UK representing more than one million results for Level 3 qualifications awarded in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Qualifications included are: AS, A levels and Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs) provided by JCQ's member organisations: AQA, Cambridge OCR, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, Pearson and WJEC/Eduqas.

A levels and AS

- The number of students taking A levels has increased 2.4%: 349,917 students in 2026 compared to 341,577 in 2025.
- The number of A level entries at all ages has increased 2.7%: 906,425 in 2026 compared to 882,653 in 2025.
- The population of 18 year-olds has increased by 3.9%.
- 97.5% of A level results were awarded A*-E, the same as in 2025.
- 28.5% of A level results were awarded A*-A, compared to 28.3% in 2025.
- 9.6% of A level results were awarded A*, compared to 9.4% in 2025
- 24.7% of AS results were awarded A, compared with 24.9% in 2025.
- 90.8% of AS results were awarded A-E, the same as in 2025.
- Maths remains the most popular A level subject with economics seeing the largest rise in entries and is now the fifth most popular subject.

VTQs

- 300,005 VTQ results have been awarded across 421 qualifications offered by JCQ awarding organisations.
- Business, Administration and Law is the most popular VTQ sector subject area.
- 28,390 top grades have been awarded by JCQ awarding organisations for VTQs in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

T Level

- This is the fifth year T Levels have been awarded. This year 19,665 students are receiving overall results, compared with 11,909 students on results day in 2025.
- 92.6% (18,218) have achieved a pass or above.
- T Level results data covers 21 individual T Levels.
- The full breakdown of results for each T Level component, and individual T Level pathways will be available to view on explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk at 09.30am today.

Margaret Farragher, JCQ's Chief Executive, said:

“Well done to all students receiving their results today across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. And a sincere thank you to the school and college staff, parents and carers who have helped students achieve the results awarded today.

Today marks a milestone as it is the first time JCQ has published the results of 421 Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs) alongside results for AS and A levels. We hope this brings better transparency of the full range of qualifications schools and colleges offer to support students progress into work, apprenticeships or higher and further education.

JCQ is committed to making VTQs an integral part of our data so we can share and celebrate the results of all young people, whatever pathway they take.”

Ends

Notes to editors

1. Detailed tabulations of GCE AS and A level results and VTQ results are published separately, also with the STRICT EMBARGO of 09:30am on Thursday 13 August 2026 and will be available on the JCQ website from 09:30am on 13 August 2026: <http://www.jcq.org.uk>.

JCQ will today at 09:30am also publish a new interactive dashboard for A level 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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