



Media release

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 09.30 HOURS
THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 2026**

Wales Level 3 Results issued today

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published the 2026 Wales results for A and AS levels, alongside the release of Level 3 vocational and technical qualifications (VTQ).

GCE A level Results

The A level results for Wales show that 97.7% of students achieved A* - E grades, 0.2 percentage points higher than 2025. 10.7% of candidates achieved an A*, a 0.2 percentage point increase on last year, and 29.6% achieved A* - A grades an increase of 0.1 percentage points when compared with 2025.

The total number of A level examination entries in Wales this year was 32,633, an increase of 2.6% from 2025.

Most subjects in the top ten A Levels have increased in entry this series compared with 2025. The largest increases were seen in mathematics (+202), Chemistry (+131) and English Literature (+125). However, Biology (-20), Sociology (-19) and Psychology (-11) decreased in entries this series.

In Wales, the overall pass rate for males and females is broadly similar with 97.0% of subject entries by males achieving A* - E grades, compared to 98.2% of entries by females. However, females continue to outperform males at most grade points, for A* - A by 0.1 percentage points and A* - C by 4.1 percentage points, although males outperform females by 1.8 percentage points at A*.

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Results

22.5% of all grades awarded were A in Wales this year, a 0.2 percentage point decrease on 2025. The percentage of candidates achieving A - E grades were 90.7%, a 0.2 percentage point decrease when compared with last year.

There were 42,082 cash-in entries for AS in Wales this year, an increase of 5.4% compared with 39,930 last year.

For AS, mathematics remains the most popular subject. There has been an increase in entries for psychology (+380), mathematics (+277), sociology (+260) and law (+234). However, there has been a slight decrease in entries for chemistry (-87) and English literature (-51).

Females continue to outperform males at most grade points, for A - C by 5.4 percentage points and A - E by 2.2 percentage points. However, males outperformed females at A by 0.2 percentage points.

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."

FURTHER INFORMATION

For information about the results in Wales, contact:

Jonathan Thomas, PR Manager, WJEC on 029 2026 5102 jonathan.thomas@wjec.co.uk.

For information about the UK results, contact JCQ^{CIC}'s press office on 020 7227 0671, or 07905 683816 or at pressoffice@jcq.org.uk

Further statistical details on the results for the UK, Wales, England and Northern Ireland may be found at www.jcq.org.uk

NOTES FOR EDITORS

General

Detailed tabulations of the GCE AS and A-level are published with the STRICT EMBARGO of 09.30 THURSDAY 13 August 2026 and will be available on WJEC's website from 09.30 on 13 August 2026 – www.wjec.co.uk

Results provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ^{CIC}), representing awarding organisations in the UK, and presented in Wales on behalf of JCQ^{CIC} by WJEC. Results for the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales are awarded by WJEC only.

The JCQ^{CIC} comprises AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC – the seven largest providers of qualifications in the UK

The data provided in the main body of this media release represent the aggregate information for Wales across all awarding organisations, and are provisional, in the sense that they represent the position at the time that results are issued.

The qualifications framework is common across Wales, England and Northern Ireland. Comprehensive data for entries and results on a country-by-country basis are provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications - www.jcq.org.uk - and may be accessed from 9:30 am on Thursday 13 August 2026.

Awarding organisations are regulated by Ofqual (England), Qualifications Wales and CCEA (Northern Ireland). The regulatory authorities monitor the awarding bodies' standards. Maintaining standards within and across all qualifications in order to ensure fairness to all candidates is the paramount concern of the awarding bodies.

In comparing the results of individual schools and colleges with any aggregate totals, it should be borne in mind that substantial variations are to be expected. A number of social,

economic and educational factors have a bearing on the performance of pupils in examinations, of which the effectiveness of the school or college is only one.

GCE Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced Level

The A level examination is made up of two parts, the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and the A2. The AS and the A2 combined in a single subject constitute the A level.

The standard set for the AS is that expected at the end of the first year of a two-year course. The AS covers the less demanding material in an A level course. The AS is not, therefore, of full Advanced level standard. The AS contributes 40% to the overall A level.

During the second year of the course, students develop greater understanding of the subjects they are studying, and the A2 covers the more demanding material in the specification.