Notes for users of the JCQ results tables
AS and A level June 2024 series

These notes put the results in context and provide an explanation for some year-on-year changes in reporting and outcomes. The notes should be read before consulting the results tables.

The notes do not attempt to outline the details of every change that may influence results or entries in some way. You should consult relevant regulatory and governmental websites for a more extensive overview of system changes.

Regulator links

England

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual

Northern Ireland

https://ccea.org.uk/regulation

Wales

https://qualificationswales.org/english/

https://qualificationswales.org/cymraeg/

Education Department links

England

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education

Northern Ireland

https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/

Wales

https://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/?lang=en

Interpretations by country

Each nation's respective governments and regulators determine education policy and regulatory arrangements.

It is important to note that AS and A level qualifications differ in design and content between the nations. For example, A level qualifications are modular in Northern Ireland and Wales, with AS results contributing to the full A level award. In England, the AS and A levels qualifications are stand-alone, and all exams are taken at the end of the course.

Changes in entries – A level

A level UK entries are up 2.2%, increasing from 867,658 in 2023 to 886,514. According to ONS population projections, the 18-year-old population increased by 0.9% for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland combined. Entries from this age group account for 91.7% of UK A level entries.

Changes in entries – AS level

UK entries for AS qualifications are down 0.6% from 141,096 in 2023 to 140,287 in 2024. According to ONS population projections, the 17-year-old population increased by 2.8% for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland combined. Entries from this age group account for 78.1 % of UK AS entries.

England

In summer 2023, grading in England for AS and A levels returned to normal after pandemic-related disruptions. Normal grading arrangements will continue in future years, including in summer 2024.

Senior examiners recommended grade boundaries for each specification by reviewing students' work and considering all available evidence, including data. As in any year, grade boundaries may change due to variations in the difficulty of the assessments.

Northern Ireland

In October 2023, CCEA Regulation confirmed the return to pre-pandemic arrangements in the academic year 2023/24. As a result, no adaptations to specifications or assessments were made and grading outcomes reflect that of pre-pandemic years.

In establishing grade boundaries for each unit and specification, CCEA senior examiners considered a range of evidence, including student work and data.

There is an open qualifications market in Northern Ireland, meaning schools can choose to offer AS/A levels from awarding organisations other than CCEA, provided these comply with Department of Education requirements.

Wales

For AS and A level qualifications taken this academic year, Qualifications Wales confirmed a return to pre-pandemic approaches. Advance information was not provided this summer. The aim was for outcomes to return to broadly pre-pandemic outcomes.

WJEC's senior examiners recommended grade boundaries for each specification by reviewing students' work and considering all available evidence, including data. As in any year, grade boundaries may have changed due to variations in the difficulty of the assessments.

Only WJEC offers the AS and A levels designed and approved for Wales. Where WJEC does not provide a subject, maintained schools and colleges can offer qualifications from other awarding organisations.

Data Presentation

A set of key tables is available in a machine-readable format, displaying overall results for 2019, 2023, and 2024. PDF tables, which include breakdowns by age and male/female, are also available.

Changes to the Results Tables

AS and A level ICT have been renamed Digital Technology to reflect the subject specifications reported under this category more accurately. Historical data from 2019 and 2023, previously reported under ICT, will be displayed under Digital Technology in this year's tables.

Confidentiality and Data Suppression

Every effort is made to protect student anonymity and ensure that data does not identify individual students.

When the total number of student entries for a subject is fewer than 10, all rows for that subject have been suppressed.

When the number of entries by either male or female students is fewer than 10, the individual rows for male and female students have been suppressed, but the combined 'male & female' row remains available.

Quality Assurance and Limitations

JCQ conducts quality assurance checks to ensure that the data received is accurate to the best of its knowledge.

The results tables are provisional. Results are updated after this point to include changes such as appeals. Whilst provisional, we do not anticipate significant changes to outcomes will occur and will not publish any updates to these results tables.

The provisional results are only for the June 2024 series and do not include results for qualifications awarded earlier in the 2023/24 academic year.