



Strictly Embargoed until 09.30 HRS on Thursday 15 August 2024

Northern Ireland A level results in 2024

- **Summer 2024 completes the return to pre-pandemic arrangements, with outcomes similar to those of 2019**
- **30.3% of students achieved A*- A grades**
- **STEM subjects continue to count for over one third of A level entries**
- **Mathematics regains top position as the most common A level choice**

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published the 2024 Northern Ireland results for AS and A levels. This year's results reflect the completion of the return to pre-pandemic arrangements and are similar to those awarded to students in 2019.

The provisional figures show that 30.3% of students received a grade A or above, in line with pre-pandemic arrangements (29.4% in 2019).

A level

The total number of A level entries in Northern Ireland has remained stable with 32,873 entries this year.

At the A* grade, 8.2% of entries achieved the top grade, comparable to the 8.0% awarded in 2019. 30.3% of entries achieved A* - A grades, compared to 29.4% in 2019.

Overall, 98.5% of students in Northern Ireland achieved A*- E grade, similar to 98.4% in 2019.

Over one third of A level entries in Northern Ireland continue to be in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Mathematics returns as the top A level subject with the most entries, accounting for just under 1 in 10 entries.

AS level

This year, AS level entries are up from 39,336 in 2023 to 41,180 this year, an increase of 4.7%.

In provisional AS outcomes 26.7% of students achieved grade A, compared to 26.4% in 2019). Overall, 96.4% achieved A-E grade, compared to 95.7% in 2019.

ENDS



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For information about the UK results, contact the JCQ^{CIC}'s press office on 020 7227 0671, or 07534 156213 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 to Editors

The data provided is for all Northern Ireland candidates, including those in schools and Further Education colleges.

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. This includes AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC. Qualifications to be delivered in schools must comply with the Department of Education requirements.

Regulators

CCEA Regulation - <https://ccea.org.uk/regulation/news/2023/october/ccea-confirms-approach-awarding-qualifications-202324-academic-year>

Ofqual - www.gov.uk/ofqual

Qualifications Wales - [Exams and assessments 2023-2024 | Qualifications Wales](#)

A / AS level provisional results 2024

The statistics* below represent the provisional Northern Ireland GCE 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 2019

	2024*	2019*
Entries	32,873	31,332
%A*	8.2	8.0
%A* - A	30.3	29.4
%A* - E	98.5	98.4



**Table 2:
Northern Ireland GCE A level entries and provisional results, compared to 2023**

	2024*	2023*
Entries	32,873	32,925
%A*	8.2	11.6
%A* - A	30.3	37.5
%A* - E	98.5	98.8

**Table 3:
Five most popular subjects at GCE A level in Northern Ireland**

	OVERALL	MALES	FEMALES
1	Mathematics (9.6%)	Mathematics (13.8%)	Health & Social Care (SA) (11.8%)
2	Biology (8.7%)	Business Studies (9.0%)	Biology (9.5%)
3	Health & Social Care (SA) (7.9%)	History (7.8%)	Mathematics (6.8%)
4	Business Studies (7.0%)	Biology (7.7%)	English Literature (6.2%)
5	History (6.4%)	Physics (6.7%)	Chemistry (5.9%)

- Mathematics returns as the top A level choice, accounting for 1 in 10 entries.
- GCE Physics is now in the top five subject choices for males.

**Table 4:
Northern Ireland GCE AS levels entries and provisional results compared to 2019**

	2024*	2019 *
Entries	41,180	41,803
%A	26.7	26.4
%A - E	96.4	95.7

**Table 5:
GCE AS levels entries and provisional results compared to 2023**

	2024*	2023*
Entries	41,180	39,336
%A	26.7	33.5
%A - E	96.4	97.5

** Note – prior to 2021 Health and Social Care (Single Award and Double Award) outcomes were not included in the JCQ provisional data sheets. The 2019 outcomes have also been revised to include the Health & Social Care outcomes.*



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 15 August 2024** and will be available on the JCQ website from 09.30 on 15 August 2024 at www.jcq.org.uk

All awarding organisations are answerable to the regulatory authorities Ofqual (England), Qualifications Wales (Wales) and CCEA Regulation (Northern Ireland) for examinations standards.

The regulatory authorities monitor the awarding bodies' standards. In addition, the awarding organisations themselves conduct a number of comparability studies to compare standards. Maintaining standards within and across all qualifications in order to ensure fairness to all candidates is the paramount concern of the awarding bodies.

The JCQ^{CIC} is a membership organisation, comprising AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC – the eight largest providers of qualifications in the UK.

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.