



Joint Council for
Qualifications^{CIC}

Press Notice

STRICTLY EMBARGOED

Until 09:30 BST, Thursday 15 August 2024

Over 1 million qualifications achieved as JCQ issues 2024 Level 3 results for AS/A levels, VTQs and T Levels

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) congratulates students in England, Northern Ireland and Wales for results received today. These include AS/A level, Level 3 vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs), and T Levels.

Results for this year's A levels are similar to those awarded in 2023. The approach to grading returned to pre-pandemic arrangements in England last year, and this year Northern Ireland and Wales have completed their transition to pre-pandemic arrangements.

This year's awards show a strong interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects – with the number of students taking mathematics A level exceeding 100,000, along with increased entries for further mathematics, physics and computer science A levels.

Today's results show the range and quality of achievements of those studying for VTQs and T Levels.

Exam boards have awarded 250,000 VTQ results in over 245 qualifications. The largest sector subject area is business, administration and law.

More than 7,000 students have passed T Levels – over twice as many as last year - across 16 pathways, including for six new T Levels.

Jill Duffy, Chair of JCQ Board of Directors and Chief Executive of OCR, said:

“Results day is the culmination of years of dedication from students, teachers, and parents and carers. With A level grades similar to last year, Gen Z students and their teachers will see some much needed continuity and stability after the disruptions of the pandemic.

“Whether going to university or into training or straight into a career, their qualifications help them move on to their next stage, and we wish them every success in the future.”

Margaret Farragher, JCQ's Chief Executive, said:

“Huge congratulations to students on their achievements, spanning a range of vocational, technical and academic qualifications. While the pandemic is now behind us, we must acknowledge that this group of students faced disruption during their education and pay tribute to their resilience. I would also like to recognise and thank exams officers and teachers for supporting students with their assessments. They have once again helped to deliver a smooth and successful exam series, evident from today's results.”

Highlights include:

VTQs

- 250,000 VTQ results have been issued today, across 15 subjects.
- 217,600 results were for Applied Generals, 32,400 were for Tech Levels.
- Business, administration and law is the most popular sector subject area.
- Nearly 22,100 top grades have been awarded.

T Levels

- This is the third year T Levels have been awarded, with 7,380 students receiving overall results – over twice as many as last year.
- 88.7% (6,543) have achieved a pass or above.
- T Level results data covers 16 individual T Levels, six of which are being awarded for the first time.

AS/A levels

- A level entries for all ages increased by 2.2% to 886,514 in 2024.
 - AS entries down by 0.6% from 141,096 in 2023 to 140,287 in 2024.
- A level entries include an increase of 1.3% for 18 year olds, but also an increase of 5.0% for students aged 17 and under, and an increase of 14.7% for aged 19 and over.
- The 18 year old population is up by 0.9% from 729,024 to 735,259; the 19 year old population is up by 1.4% from 743,747 to 753,892 (according to [ONS population projections](#))
- Female students make up 54.1% of A level entries.
- 82,081 A* grades were awarded:
 - male students have achieved more A* grades (9.5% of grades awarded to males were A*, 9.1% of grades awarded to females).
- 246,637 A*-A grades were awarded
 - female students achieved more A*-A grades (28.0% of grades awarded to females were A* to A, 27.6% of grades awarded to males).
- When compared with 2023, results at A* up by 0.4 percentage points from 8.9% to 9.3%
 - when compared with 2019, up by 1.6 percentage points from 7.7% to 9.3%
- When compared with 2023, results at A* to A up by 0.6 percentage points from 27.2% to 27.8%
 - when compared with 2019, up by 2.4 percentage points from 25.4% to 27.8%
- When compared with 2023, results at A* to E down by 0.1 percentage point from 97.3% to 97.2%
 - when compared with 2019, down by 0.4 percentage point from 97.6% to 97.2%
- The number of students achieving A* to E grades has increased in 2024 in comparison with both 2023 and 2019.
- Mathematics remains the most popular A level subject, accounting for 12.1% of all entries in 2024. Entries have exceeded 100,000 for the first time (107,427, up by 10.9% from 96,853 in 2023).
- Further mathematics A level has biggest percentage increase in entries; up 19.9% from 15,080 entries in 2023 to 18,082 in 2024.
- There has been a large increase in physics entries this year – up 12.3% to 43,114.
- The ten most popular A level subjects in terms of entries in 2024 are: mathematics (107,427), psychology (78,556), biology (74,367), chemistry (62,583), history (47,297), business studies (44,961), sociology (44,359), art and design subjects (43,668), physics (43,114) and economics (40,451).
- Psychology entries are down by 2.4% this year but this remains the second most popular subject.
- Entries for history are also down by 2.2% but the subject has held position as the fifth most popular.
- Economics entries have gone up by 3.3%, though the subject has dropped one position to tenth most popular, because of the increase in physics entries.

END

Notes to Editors

†. The approach to grading returned to pre-pandemic arrangements in England last year, and this year Northern Ireland and Wales have completed their transition to pre-pandemic arrangements.

1. 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 www.jcq.org.uk.
2. These results are for qualifications taken by students across the UK but predominantly in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
3. All awarding organisations are accountable to the UK qualification regulators - Ofqual (England), Qualifications Wales (Wales) and CCEA Regulation (Northern Ireland). The regulatory authorities monitor the standards of qualifications within their jurisdiction.
4. 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.

5. 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 to respond to proposals and initiatives in assessment and the curriculum.

Media contacts: The JCQ's press office can be contacted on:

pressoffice@jcq.org.uk

07534 156213