



Strictly Embargoed until 09.30 HRS on Thursday 24 August 2023

Northern Ireland GCSE Results 2023

- GCSE results reflect the continuing journey to pre-pandemic grading.
- Results are higher than 2019, lower than 2022.
- 86.8% of students received grade C/4 and above.
- 34.5% received grade A/7 and above.

Today, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published the provisional 2023 results for over 30,800 GCSE students across Northern Ireland. This is the second-time students have undertaken summer exams marked and graded by exam boards since 2019.

The overall provisional figures show that grades this year are higher than 2019, but lower than in 2022, reflecting the continued return to pre-pandemic grading.

GCSE

GCSE entries in Northern Ireland have increased slightly to 168,118 from 164,413 in 2022. A 2.3 percentage point increase, in line with the rise in school population this year.

The GCSE results in Northern Ireland show that 86.8% of students received grade C/4 and above, and 34.5% achieved grade A/7 and above.

Girls continue to have higher outcomes at A/7 and above by 10% points, and at C/4 and above by 3.7% points.

English Language & Mathematics

In GCSE English Language, 27.3% of entries achieved A/7 and above, and 86.5% achieved grade C/4 and above.

This year's figures for GCSE Mathematics show that 29.2% of entries achieved A/7 grade and above, whilst 76.4% of entries were awarded a grade C/4 or above.

Subject entries

Subject choices reflect no change in the top five, with 41.6% of all GCSE entries in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects. This year, STEM entries rose by 2.5%.

Ends

Media enquiries to:

For information about the results in Northern Ireland, contact

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For information about the UK results, contact the JCQ^{CIC} press office on 020 7227 0671, or 07399 870337 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

9-1 GCSEs

In Northern Ireland, there is an open qualifications market, which means that schools can choose to take GCSEs offered by awarding organisations other than CCEA, which are graded 9 to 1, provided they comply with Department of Education requirements.

A small percentage of students in Northern Ireland (3.3%) will receive a 9–1 grade, with the vast majority (96.7%) of students continuing to take A* - G graded GCSEs.

Further information on the GCSE grading is available at:

http://ccea.org.uk/regulation/gcse_grading

Summer 2023: Arrangements

Further information on the Summer 2023 assessment arrangements is available at:

CCEA

[CCEA Summer 2023](#)

Northern Ireland is on a journey back to pre-pandemic awarding arrangements, and this is reflected in this year's summer 2023 awards. CCEA expects to return to pre-pandemic standards across all subjects by the summer of 2024.

Students were provided with high-level Advance Information for the majority of CCEA GCSE summer 2023 examinations to recognise the disruption students may have faced.

WJEC

[WJEC Summer 2023](#)

Regulators

CCEA Regulation - <https://ccea.org.uk/regulation/news/2022/october/ccea-announces-approach-awarding-grades-202223-academic-year>

Ofqual - www.gov.uk/ofqual

Qualifications Wales - <https://qualifications.wales/en/exam-arrangements-2022-23/>

GCSE Provisional results 2023

The statistics below represent the provisional Northern Ireland GCSE results from five JCQ awarding organisations: - AQA, CCEA, OCR, Pearson, WJEC Eduqas.

Comparisons to any previous years' results should be approached with caution due to the differing methods of assessments and circumstances.

Table 1: Northern Ireland GCSE entries and provisional results compared to 2022

In 2022, all Awarding Organisations implemented a significant package of support for students taking exams in summer 2022 to take account of the ongoing disruption from the pandemic.

	2023	2022
Entries	168,118	164,413
% A/7 and above	34.5	37.0
% C/4 and above	86.8	90.0
% G/1 and above	99.5	99.4

Table 2: Northern Ireland GCSE entries and provisional results compared to 2019

	2023	2019
Entries	168,118	161,405
% A/7 and above	34.5	30.5
% C/4 and above	86.8	82.2
% G/1 and above	99.5	98.8

Table 3: Northern Ireland GCSE provisional results by gender (combined A*-G/9-1)

2023 Provisional	Males			Females		
	2023	2022	2019	2023	2022	2019
% A/7 and above	29.4	31.9	25.0	39.3	41.9	35.7
% C/4 and above	84.9	88.1	78.5	88.6	91.8	85.6
% G/1 and above	99.4	99.3	98.6	99.5	99.5	99.1

1. Detailed tabulations of the GCSE Full Course, GCSE Short Course, GCSE Double Award, Entry Level Certification, Level 1 and Level 2 Project, are published separately, also with the STRICT EMBARGO of 09.30 Thursday 24 August 2023 and will be available on the JCQ CIC website from 09.30 on 24 August 2023 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 answerable to the regulatory authorities - Ofqual (England), Qualifications Wales (Wales) and CCEA (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.