

Out of Tolerance Summary Summer 2015 GCSE, AS and A Level Awards



August 2015

Ofqual/15/5768

1. Reporting Procedures

Wherever actual and predicted outcomes differed beyond a given reporting tolerance, depending on entry size, the relevant exam board informed the regulators and other exam boards of the details.¹

The reporting tolerances are given in the following table.

Matched entry	Reporting tolerance*
500 or less	Not applicable
501 – 1,000	3%
1,001 – 3,000	2%
3,001 or more	1%

*The reporting tolerances applied at grade A for AS and A level and at grades A and C for GCSE.

For A*, the allowable tolerance between predicted and actual outcomes was $\pm 2\%$.²

Where outcomes were outside the reporting tolerance, at one or more grades, these were reported with a full technical explanation

¹ More detail on the reporting procedures can be found in our data exchange procedures document here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-gcse-and-a-level-grade-standards-in-summer-2014-and-2015>

² For qualifications where there were more than 500 matched entries and more than 100 of the matched entries obtained grade A cumulative overall.

2. Overall figures

	Overall	A level	AS	GCSE
Number of awards reviewed	743	216	225	302
Number of awards reviewed against a reporting tolerance	517	140	157	220
Number of awards outside of reporting tolerances	51	9	5	37

3. Figures per qualification type

A level subjects outside of reporting tolerances

Subject	No. of awards out of tolerance	Above or below predictions for the grade(s) reported out of tolerance
Art and design	1	Below at A*
Biology	1	Above at A
Business studies	1	Above at A
Geography	1	Above at A*
German	1	Above at A
History	1	Above at A
ICT	1	Above at A
Mathematics	1	Above at A
Religious studies	1	Above at A

AS subjects outside of reporting tolerances

Subject	No. of awards out of tolerance	Above or below predictions for the grade(s) reported out of tolerance
Art and Design	1	Above at A
History	1	Above at A
ICT	1	Above at A
Law	1	Above at A
Mathematics	1	Above at A
Religious Studies	1	Above at A

GCSE subjects outside of reporting tolerances

Subject	No. of awards out of tolerance	Above or below predictions for the grade(s) reported out of tolerance
Art and design	1	Above at C
Biology	2	Above at A
Chemistry	2	Above at A*
Computer science	1	Below at C
Citizenship studies	1	Below at A
Classical civilisation	1	Above at A*, A and C
Dance	1	Below at C
Design and technology – textiles	1	Below at A*
Economics	2	Above at A* and A
Environmental and land based science	1	Above at C
English language	3	Below at A Above and below at C
Health and social care	2	Above at C
Home economics	1	Above at C
History	1	Above at A Below at C
ICT	1	Below at A* Below at C
Irish	1	Above at A
Latin	1	Above at A*, A and C
Learning for life and work	2	Above at A* and A

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Applications of mathematics	2	Above at A
Mathematics	3	Above and below at A*, A and C
Methods in mathematics	1	Above at A* and A
Music	1	Below at C
Physical education	1	Below at A
Physics	1	Above at A*
Religious studies	2	Above at A* and A
Welsh	1	Above at C

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